

pose to submit subscription books to our citizens in every portion of the city, so that every person could have the opportunity to subscribe a certain sum payable immediately or by the month as long as the war should last.

The action of the committee was immediate and energetic. The subscription books were headed by prominent merchants, firms, individuals, and incorporated companies with sums worthy of the loyalty and generosity of a people who thoroughly sympathized with the sacred cause. It was the absorbing topic of the street, the office, and the drawing-room. There was a wide-spread generous rivalry to out-do each other in noble giving. The fervor of charity spread into every class of the people, into every business and station in life. There was no nation represented here, whether American, English, German, French, Italian, Chinese, Russian, or Hungarian, from whose representatives most worthy gifts did not come; no sect in religion that did not find its adherents coming into the ranks of this noble army of givers. The Christians gave with sympathizers with the suffering, the Jews gave with unbounded loyalty and liberality, heretics gave as citizens of a Republic to be saved, and men of no religion gave with generous self-forgetfulness. Rich men and poor widows, the little children in the schools and the employés of the U. S. Government, of large firms and incorporated companies denied themselves alike for the sake of the bleeding soldier. The success of the canvassing sub-committees was such that at the end of one week the Chairman and Treasurer, under the direction of the committee, sent by telegraph the sum of \$100,000 to the President and Treasurer of the U. S. Sanitary Commission in New York.

The committee wished to excite the whole State to a sympathetic movement with San Francisco, and consequently circulars were immediately prepared and sent to prominent citizens in all portions of the State. The work of the committee in this city was still vigorously pursued and by the steamer of Oct. 1st, another sum, \$100,000, was sent to the U. S. Sanitary Commission. The President and Treasurer in New York were notified of the fact by telegraph and directed to give \$50,000 of the whole sum sent, \$200,000, to the Western Sanitary Commission, whose head-quarters were at St. Louis. The people still continued to give, a considerable number subscribing to pay monthly. Soon the whole State caught the enthusiasm of the city and sums of money, according to the ability of the various towns, began and continued to flow into the treasury of the Soldiers' Relief Fund Committee for transmission to the treasury of the U. S. Sanitary Commission. From the commencement of the enterprise in Sept., 1863, during the year following funds continued to be received from the city and country. The Treasurer remitted to the East for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers from Sept. 20th, 1862, to Oct. 2d, 1862, currency drafts for \$414,995.58, and one draft payable in gold coin for \$15,000, making a total of \$429,995.58.

In the middle of October, 1863, the committee, whose active labors had long since ceased, and whose numbers had been decimated by death and absence from the State, deemed it requisite to reorganize for labor anew, that the city might be again canvassed and the fund for the relief of the soldiers replenished. The committee accordingly called together a number of citizens to consider the matter and to aid them in reorganization. Twenty-nine gentlemen were then added to the committee. Communication was had with Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D.D., President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, in regard to the condition and wants of the Treasury. Answer was received which indicated that the funds were low and that "\$25,000 a month paid regularly while the war lasts from California would make

the continuance of our present magnificent scale of beneficence a certainty." The committee again commenced its work with vigor, circulars were prepared and sent into all portions of the State. A mass meeting was called and an audience assembled with equal fervor and enthusiasm to that of a year ago. Addresses full of spirit and eloquence were made by Hon. H. P. Coon, Mayor, Hon. F. F. Low, Governor of the State, Rev. D. B. Cheney, W. T. Coleman, Commander Selim E. Woodward, Edward Tompkins, Esq., and the late Rev. Thos. Starr King, and a report made of the receipt and transmission of funds by the Treasurer, James Otis, Esq. The city was again thoroughly canvassed and a large number of subscribers obtained, who either paid a large sum in cash or a smaller sum in monthly contributions. Money was given with equal liberality by citizens of every class, and the towns and cities of the State liberally answered the calls made by the city. From Sept. 12th, 1863, to Aug. 13th, 1864, the Treasurer remitted to the U. S. Sanitary Commission in New York in currency drafts the sum of \$210,000, in gold the sum of \$21,236.71, and to the Western Sanitary Commission at St. Louis a gold draft for \$7,500, making a total of \$278,236.71, and a total from the beginning of the movement in Sept. 1862, of \$657,495.58.

The presence of the Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D.D., President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, in this city and the still continuing need of money for the relief of our suffering soldiers, has prompted again a reorganization of the committee. Under his authority the committee has ceased to be a strictly local but has become a State organization of which persons residing in different portions of the State have been invited to be members. It has become and assumed the name of the California Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission. Its work will be hereafter continued vigorously and more thoroughly. Hon. F. F. Low, Governor of the State has been made President; an Executive Committee, upon whom the chief labor of the conduct of affairs will devolve, has been chosen, composed of D. C. McRuer, Chairman, R. G. Sneath, A. Seligman, F. A. Woodward, Albert Miller, Geo. W. Gibbs, and A. L. Tubbs. R. G. Sneath has been made Treasurer. An office has been opened at 240 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, where all communications and remittances should be addressed, care of O. C. Wheeler, Secretary.

CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

The object of the Christian Commission is to continue the exercise of home influences over our soldiers who have gone into the field, and to furnish a channel through which the kind offices of Christian and benevolent people may be extended to them.

The Commission does its work through a system of volunteer and unpaid agents, who visit the soldier both in the camp and field—supplying him in the camp and hospital with such comforts as he may need, and with such practical religious reading and instruction as shall fit and prepare him to be a faithful soldier under the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Captain of our salvation.

In the cities and towns of the East, also, hundreds of minute men are organized and prepared, the moment that the telegraph reports the existence of an engagement, to hurry at once to the field with proper stores, and following the line of battle, to search out the wounded and dying, and drawing them out from under the enemy's fire, to staunch their wounds, and administer cordials and refreshments, and by prompt and timely aid, at the very moment when the question of life and death seems balanced, decide the question for life, and in this manner save thousands of our heroes for their coun-