

Frederick City, Maryland

Mrs. Henry Cook

Respected Friend,

Permit a stranger to acknowledge the receipt of your kind donation from the Ladies which arrived safe at this Agency & will be distributed impartially to the needy soldiers by our Loyal Ladies composing the Union Relief Association & the delegates of our Commission. Donation as follows, 24 pocket handkerchiefs, 3 vests, 2 pr. Pants, y pr. Cotton hose, 6 pr woolen hose, 12 towels, 15 bandages & some crackers & dried fruit, Also 41 comfort bags. This was a very nice and acceptable donation, more especially so, being the free will offering of children, of your primary school. They have made up the articles from their own resources as a present to our noble, wounded, and sick soldiers, confined in our hospital. Many of whom, have been brought here by the casualties of war. The rebels having paid us three visites during the war. Three times we were the unwilling subjects of Jeff Davis, though only for a day and a half, yet, it was too long a time, for a free and loyal people, to have a rebel to reign over them, Even for this short time, it cost us \$200,000 and a large amount of Merchandise, Manufactures, horses Etc. Considerable of a battle very destructive to the rebs was fought here, only 3 miles from our City. The rebs had engaged some 16,000 men and 40 cannons. We had about 3500 men, 6 pieces of artillery, the rebs had killed, as the graves show 2 commanding officers, Gen. Evans & Leung, 2 Majors, quite a number of subordinate officers, 150 privates & 1700 wounded, that were attended to in one day, all that could be were forwarded south, 450 were left when they evacuated this section, we had 175 wounded & 70 killed, Yet nothing has ever been said about it in print. From the army of Virginia we have many wounded and sick, continually coming and going to and from our hospital. Last week we had 1637 inmates, 23 of whom have paid the debt of nature, during the week, 1120 remaining this week, the remainder forwarded to their regiments or their hospitals. You will perceive we have yet a great many to attend to, whose wants are faithfully supplied by our ladies, who do not grow weary in well doing. Were you here, you would see 50 ladies, carrying various delicacies, the workmanship of their own hands, and administering to these unfortunate brave men, who have bared their breasts in defence of our once happy country. They bind their wounds after being well washed, comb their heads, administer nourishment, sit by their bedsides, comforting them, wipe the death sweat from off their brow, place the bouquet on their coffins, follow their remains to our cemetery, their final resting place on earth, when loved ones at home are little thinking of the change taking place in earthly prospects, of those near and dear to them. Such has been the daily account in our midst ever since the war began in our City. We being (unfortunately) only 12 miles from the line of Dixie. Rather uncomfortably near but so it is. Could you Northern ladies, pay us a visit, you would wonder at the patience & perseverance of our self sacrificing women, who think they are doing their duty, to do all they can to make the soldier feel at home by rendering all the kindness that those at home would were they here. I thank you and the dear children of your school, in the name of the sick and wounded soldiers and say to

them, long as this war lasts, we shall be pleased to receive from their hands, whatever they are disposed to forward, as much is needed in a large hospital, to meet the minutely demands.

Truly your friend,
Gideon Bantz, Agent,
Of Christian Commission.

For more than a month, the soldiers occupies my undivided time. Have been in the service three years in September.

[On front—side]

This evening distributed your comfort bags to one branch of Sheridan's cavalry. Thankfully did they receive them.

[On front—Upside down at top]

I was once in Danvers, am intimately acquainted with Elijah T. Hanson, Tanner of your City.]