

Washington City Sept. 24, 1862

My Dear Mrs. Cook,

I take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of "five dollars and fifty cents, contributed by the Baptist Sabbath School" in South Danvers, for the sick and wounded soldiers. In behalf of the soldiers I thank the dear children, and will appropriate the amount so that the hearts of many of the soldiers may be made glad, not only for the refreshment furnished, but with the thought that they are remembered by even the children at home. I meet with Mass. Boys daily, in the hospitals and by the wayside exhausted. To them, and all of every state, I do what I can for their comfort.

The paroled prisoners are arriving here by thousands, in a destitute and almost starved condition and then there are about 18,000 in the hospitals in this city and vicinity, so that all that will work for their benefit can find much to do. I am doing more than ever and need more than ever to do with. The government furnishes me with an ambulance, two horses and a driver and all the army rations that I can use which enables me to go to the distant hospitals and to aid the stragglers on the outskirts of the city, so that every day I can feed or furnish some comfort to many hundreds, speaking to each one personally.

Last week Col. Sandford, Supervisor of Gov. Tel Dispatches furnished me with \$50 worth of excellent grapes; these I distributed to 3100 sick and wounded men in the hospitals, and yesterday Adams Express Co. furnished \$100 worth of grapes, and I shall commence the distribution today, a lady going with me to assist.

I want more clothing of every kind, but principally shirts and drawers. When a soldier is wounded in battle, and his clothing becomes very bloody, it has to be thrown away if there is no opportunity to wash it, as it becomes very offensive. I have supplied hundreds of men with shirts that had none for weeks and months. Two paroled prisoners came to my door last night both barefooted and sick. They had no shoes for months. One was Sergeant Richardson of the 2nd Reg. Mass., the other was of the 5th Conn. They had just arrived from Richmond where they had been nearly starved. Two men from Maine were with them. I made them a good supper, lodged them in a tent I have in my front door yard and gave them a breakfast this morning, got some shoes and socks for the barefooted but in doing this I had to take a pair of my own stockings and my slippers for the sick sergeant who I had put in the Trinity Ch. Hospital which is across the street. I give you these facts, that you may see what work there is to do here, and as soon as I finish this I must get fifty loaves of bread from the bakery at the Capitol, and with cheese, ham, fruits etc. go among the hungry and sick, and to several hospitals to distribute grapes. Please remember me kindly to all my friends in your town, and tell them to send me everything.

Yours Truly
Mrs. J. T. Fales.

Last week I received 14 barrels and large boxes of goods and could have put to good use double that amount if I had them.

