

most of my time from May to September was spent with the Army of the Potomac, where we had nine Regiments, and the vicissitudes of war made greater demands upon our sympathies and service.

Yet since that time we have visited many others, and also some of our men in Hospitals in other States. The inadequacy of the means in our hands for the work before us has been a great and constant difficulty. If it were practicable for the members of the present Legislature to do as you and some few others have done, see for themselves our men in the front of the enemy in trenches, forts and camps, how cheerfully they would give up home and friends, and endure the hardships of a soldier's life, and become a bulwark between our State and its enemies, offering up their lives daily that we may be safe from his attacks.

I am sure an appropriation would be made worthy of our State and of them. The agency from a small beginning has grown in the confidence of the men, and consequently in usefulness and the calls upon it for service.

Communication between the soldiers and their homes, or the cities or depots of supplies is most constant and urgent, and the service is most cheerfully rendered and most gratefully received and appreciated. I would specially call your attention to the wants of the families of our soldiers, of which large numbers call on me.

No soldier who has re-enlisted and received bounty needs or asks aid from any one. But there are a large number who have had the misfortune to be captured, and are now pining away in Rebel prisons, who are on their company's rolls as missing. The families of such cannot draw their pay without the fact being known that they are prisoners.

Others have been sick in Hospitals in other States and have not received pay for months.

Others have been killed and their loved ones are suffering for some of the necessaries of life.

Others States have made large appropriations to the needy families of troops in the field, and we think if the matter is thoroughly understood, something will be done for them in our State. That they deserve it is beyond a doubt. For with pride we say it, on every side in corps and brigades to which our troops are attached, we hear of the bravery and noble bearing of the Maryland soldiers. Our lists of martyrs plainly show that they have well sustained the honor of the Old Maryland Line.

The foregoing may afford some idea of what has been done at a very small expenditure of funds during the past eight months.