

I deem it of great importance that large appropriations be made for the purpose of carrying out that which seems to be but justly due to our soldiers in the field. Sometime since, at my suggestion, Mr. C. C. Fulton, Editor of the "Baltimore American," determined to attempt the getting up of a Christmas dinner for all the Maryland soldiers in the field, by public subscription, and at once commenced calling on our citizens to aid in the matter. It was a perfect success, and a few days before Christmas, I had the honor of taking personally to the nine regiments in the Army of the Potomac and the James an abundant supply of the means for the enjoyment of Christmas festival. While Messrs. Milton, Kuhn and Taylor, late of the Purnell Legion, attended to those in the Valley of the Shenandoah and on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The soldiers felt this to be an earnest of good will from their fellow-citizens at home, and we think the Christmas of 1864 will long be remembered by our Maryland Soldiers. With many thanks to our citizens for their assistance to them through me,

Very respectfully,

RICHARD KING,

*Military Relief Agent for the State of Maryland.*

For an account of the disbursement of the funds drawn from the Treasury on your warrants, payable to other Agents and myself, under appropriation made by the Act of 1864, chapter 393, I beg leave to refer to the vouchers heretofore presented and now on file in the Executive Department.

RICHARD KING.