

OFFICE OF MILITARY RELIEF AGENT

FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND,

Baltimore, Jan. 9, 1864.

GOV. BRADFORD,

Dear Sir :—I have to report that in compliance with your suggestion, I visited Philadelphia last week, and saw a portion of the Maryland men in the Hospitals. Mr. Corson has kindly offered to visit those whom I did not see and report to me. It require 25 or 30 miles travel to visit all the Hospitals. The men were gratified, and my visit was pleasant, with the exception that on my return I got frozen up in the Susquehanna river.

I am also in correspondence with the wounded Maryland men at Alexandria, and with Lieut. Col. McKellip, to obtain a full list of them. For one I am applying for a transfer to a Baltimore Hospital. I intend, if possible, to visit Alexandria next week.

I visited the Jarvis Hospital on the 1st of January, but many of the men were out on passes, and I shall go again. I intend to make the rounds of the city Hospitals as soon as practicable.

The Ladies' Aid Society, for the relief of soldiers' families is doing a most benevolent and patriotic work. They have already on their books about 500 families, the larger part of whom have been visited and relieved. In this inclement season, the value of their labors can hardly be overestimated. They find families without fuel, clothing, shoes or bread, and they relieve their most pressing wants, get them work, find employment for the children, and assure the wives and families of our soldiers of the active sympathy of the people. Unless this is done, how shall we get recruits, or prevent desertion? Gen. Kenly tells me that some of the best men desert from sheer desperation at the condition of their families. I am thankful that something is being done to meet this great need.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

S. F. STREETER,

*Military Relief Agent,**State of Maryland.*