

The same amount of money paid in a different manner might, as it seems to me, be much more advantageously employed.

Let us suppose that we are required to raise a given number of soldiers by a certain day, or that otherwise they will be drafted, and that we have a sum of money to disburse which will enable us on reasonable calculations, by paying a certain bounty in advance to each Volunteer, to provide one-half the number required. Will it be better to do so and then let the draft proceed for the residue, or—awaiting the draft, to then disburse among the helpless and the destitute, whether they volunteer or are drafted, the amount we have to give? By the first plan, although the aggregate of the draft may be reduced fifty per cent., yet the residue still required, must be made up from all classes alike, and all consequently will be alike benefitted by the bounties thus advanced. The rich and the poor, the man with no family and the man with a large one, the rebellious and the loyal will, by the first plan share alike in the benefit of the bounty; whereas by withholding our disbursements until the Volunteer or drafted man is mustered into service, and then by a just discrimination dispensing what we have to give among the dependent, the destitute and the worthy, and paying it then, not in a single sum, but in liberal monthly provisions graduated according to the soldier's necessities or the size of his family, we are not only making the best use of our money by distributing it among those only who really need it, but are securing the fidelity of the soldier himself by paying him in these monthly allowances only so long as he continues to discharge his duty.

Another reason that would seem to favor such a distribution as I have indicated is that it will better enable us to embrace in our appropriation the case of men already in the service, whose pecuniary condition may as much require such assistance as those now just called upon to serve, and who, coming in, as we have reason to hope, at the eleventh hour of this Rebellion, should not be more liberally dealt with than those who have endured the heat and burden of the day.

Great caution will be required in disbursing a fund upon the principle suggested, to secure its faithful payment and impartial distribution, the details of which I leave to your sound judgment and discretion.

I would also recommend that a small appropriation be made for the purchase and presentation, on behalf of the State, of Regimental Flags to such of her Regiments as have borne or shall hereafter bear a distinguished part in any of the battles of the war. There are several, as I am pleased to know, who have already earned that distinction, and a slight token of