

this kind, on the part of their State would, I think, have a happy effect in stimulating the efforts of them all.

Having frequently received applications on behalf of our sick and wounded soldiers confined in different hospitals, and who, on various accounts, sought some interposition or relief which could only be effectually rendered by personal attention, I appointed, in March last, Sebastian F. Streeter, Esq., of Baltimore, an agent to take such cases in charge.

Mr. Streeter very generously offered to discharge the duties of such an office without compensation, on being paid his necessary expenses. These expenses, which have been very moderate, have so far been paid out of the Executive Contingent Fund.

A copy of the letter notifying the Agent of his appointment, together with a report recently received of his proceedings, which are herewith submitted, will enable you the better to understand the duties that such an Agent is expected to discharge. Daily experience convinces me of the necessity for his employment; but scattered as our sick and wounded are among Hospitals in different States, it cannot be expected that any one can effectually attend to their wants without some compensation, and I would, therefore, recommend that an adequate provision be made for that purpose which will establish such an Agency upon a more permanent and effective basis.

A part of the battle-field of Gettysburg has been purchased by the authorities of Pennsylvania, and recently consecrated as a Cemetery for the Union soldiers who fell on that memorable field. At the request of those authorities, I recently appointed Col. John S. Berry, a Commissioner to consult with similar Commissioners from other States, and to arrange for the completion of that Cemetery, and for the apportionment of its cost among the States interested. The estimate of that cost, and the manner of its apportionment, are set forth in a report of their proceedings herewith communicated and commended to your favor. It will bring to your attention the necessity of some provision on the part of this State towards defraying her share of the expenses connected with that patriotic purpose. It is only necessary, I know, to make this suggestion to secure upon your part all that is required. It is not merely that Maryland's dead, in common with those of her loyal sisters, sleep on that battle ground; or that the Regiments to which they belonged distinguished themselves by a gallantry worthy of the occasion, but the obligation upon us is one of a National character, your share of which you would not, I am sure, hesitate to discharge, though our citizens had