

visit a suffering family was desired ; in others, some especial articles or additional supplies of clothing were asked for ; and these and other wants were carefully noted and as far as possible attended to.

Besides the visitation of hospitals and the communications made necessary by the wants of the inmates, I have maintained a correspondence with the commanders of regiments, with the War and Medical Departments, and the soldiers and their families, on subjects connected with the service and their comfort and welfare.

In some cases, I have made personal application to the Surgeon General and other medical officers, to obtain transfers, furloughs, or similar favors from that Department. Various applications and communications transferred to me by your Excellency, have also received my prompt attention.

The relief of the soldiers in hospital in Baltimore, and of the families of men in Maryland regiments has commanded my particular attention. In the former object, I have been materially aided by the Union Relief Association, whose free hospital, containing about fifty beds, and in most admirable condition, has been ever open for the entertainment and kind care of those commended to the attention of the Association. In several instances, discharged soldiers, who were languishing in our midst in the deepest poverty and distress, without means and without hope, have been received into this hospital, most kindly cared for, their last hours soothed and made comparatively comfortable, and their remains at last borne with respect to the grave.

My severest trial has arisen from the misapprehension of the title of "Military Relief Agent," assumed by me. It was at once inferred that I was provided with abundant means of relief by the State, and the wives and mothers of our absent soldiers came in considerable numbers for assistance. Persons who did not know my precise position, and even some who did, directed the needy ones to me to obtain relief. Many I was obliged to disappoint ; but in some cases I could not refuse to give, and therefore contributed quite up to the extent of my humble resources for their assistance.