

person can conceive who has not experienced it, besides when their tents and baggage
can't attend them, they must be injured, much, by lying in the open air at this
Season and in this place where heavy dew prevails so much, and I may justly
say our corps have had a greater protection of this duty than any in this army, for we
have generally acted in Brigade under Northern Brigadiers General, who have seldom
failed to favor their own and put the laboring oar on our Regiment, but it has perhaps
made us the better soldiers, Our commander in chief is an excellent man and it
would be happy for the United States if there was as much propriety in the
appointments in every department below him. It is not owing to any want of pre-
caution in him that discipline is not exacted with more rigour, much must
depend respecting this, on the superior officers next under him in command; and
here there seems to be a total ignorance of and inattention to this system, so
necessary to render an army formidable.

Our next greatest suffering proceeds from the great neglect of the sick, and
his orders relative to this Department are most salutary were they to be duly at-
tended to, but here too there is not only a shameful but even an inhuman
neglect daily exhibited. The Directors of the General Hospitals supply and provide
for the sick, who are extremely remiss and inattentive to the well being and comfort
of these unhappy men, out of this train they cannot be taken. I have withdrawn
all mine long ago and had them placed in a comfortable house in the country,
and supplied with only the common rations, even this is preferable to the fare
of a General Hospital, two of these Regimental Hospitals after I have had them
put in order, one has been taken away by the Directors for a General Hospital
and my people turned out of doors, and the other would have been taken in the same
manner, had I not have applied to Genl Washington who told me to keep it the
misfortune is that every supply to the Regimental Hospitals of necessities suit-
able for the sick, must come from an order from these Directors and is very
seldom obtained. I have more than once applied that my Director Master
might furnish and make a charge for what was supplied, by which
means I could have rendered the situation of the sick much more comf-
ortable, at a less expense, but could not be allowed. I wish this could be obtained.
I foresee the evils arising from the shameful neglect in this Department. One good
seasoned and well trained soldier recovered to health, is worth a dozen new recruits,
and is often easier recovered, than to get a recruit, exclusive of which, this
neglect is very discouraging to the soldiery and must injure the service upon the
new enlistments; after the troops go into winter quarters, if the Convention &
Council should judge it consistent with the interests of the province, and
the good of the service, I could wish the regular troops might return home
to refresh themselves in good winter quarters, and recruit the complement
wanting, this I don't urge altogether this inclination tho' I believe nothing
would be more desirable to both officers and men who would more readily
than ever return in the Spring but should it be necessary could point out
the expediency of their return, upon a favorable that it would contribute much
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