

for themselves, and the exigency of the public service rendered it impossible for their comrades to perform for them, was constant and urgent.

When the base was again changed to City Point June 19th, we immediately returned to Baltimore and obtaining a larger supply of needed articles, pitched our tents at the general hospital at that place, where we still have our field headquarters. After visiting and doing what we could for the sick and wounded at the hospital, I visited the different Maryland regiments at the front, dispensing to them articles of comfort or necessity, such as the government does not furnish and the soldiers in the field are unable to buy, which have always been most gladly received. From about July the 4th, one-third of our time has been spent with the different regiments.

We have found that our presence, as well as the fact that we had some articles to give them from home, has had the happiest effect on the men. All have received us most kindly, and we have been enabled to be a medium of direct and constant communication between the men and their families. The fact of keeping up such direct communication between them and home, we are persuaded, is one great cause of the cheerfulness and efficiency of the Maryland soldier.

Besides this aid and comfort thus given to the sick and wounded, and this moral influence thus exerted upon the well men in the field, a most important material result has been attained. Relieved from the inducement to buy at the exorbitant prices which rule in the tents of the sutlers, and being always provided with a safe, expeditious mode of transmitting money to their families, much more of the pay of the soldiers is saved, and many families are relieved from want or dependence upon precarious charity.

Between the 15th of July and the 15th of October, the agency was the bearer of more than sixty thousand dollars from the soldiers in the field to the families at home, while, during the same, considerable sums were sent to and deposited in the Savings Banks, and remittances were made through other channels, as a result of the influence of the agency.

We have also brought home to their families the bodies of a number of our heroes who have fallen in the defence of liberty and right.

We have rendered aid to the families of deceased soldiers in securing their pay, &c.

And so far as possible visited Hospitals in different States. In this we have received valuable aid from Mr. Corsan, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Downey, of Washington, and others in different places, and with their assistance been able to see