

# THE CRUTCH.

Charles N. Burnham, Publisher.

U. S. GEN'L HOSPITAL, DIV. 1, SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1864.

In order to publish the list of patients admitted from the last Flag-of-Truce Boat, we are compelled to leave out all editorial matter this week.

EDWARD KELSEY, Private, Company C, 7th Ohio Volunteers, has received the appointment of Hospital Steward, U. S. A., and is ordered to report to the Surgeon-General's Office, Washington.

DR. A. V. CHERBONNIER, A. A. Surg., U. S. A., will lecture before the Vanderkief Literary Association on next Tuesday Evening. Subject—"The future of our Country".

Troops are still pouring in to the rendezvous near Annapolis, for the expected expedition of General BURNSIDE: Every day two or three regiments arrive by transports, and march through. We will no doubt have a busy time for the next six weeks.

Mr. MURDOCK the great tragedian is expected to give soon, one, or more readings, in this Hospital, for the benefit of our band. The admirers of Mr. MURDOCK will then have an opportunity to refresh themselves with the beauties of his rare talents. Particulars will be given in future advertisements.

Tuesday opened with a cold north east wind, which was followed, in the evening, by a heavy, blinding snow storm. The wind howled terribly all that night, and gave us a specimen of winter again, in all its bitterness and earnestness. Wednesday morning was bright, chilly, and clear; the storm had passed, only a few white wind-clouds remained in the sky, but the ground wore a new mantle, whose brightness was dazzling to the eye. We hope this is the last roar of old winter, and that we shall soon welcome back the soft, and balmy Spring-time, with its birds and warm sunshine and fresh flowers.

The Flag-of-Truce Steamer *New York*, Capt. CHISHOLM, arrived at our wharf on Thursday morning, from City Point, with paroled prisoners. Two hundred and ninety patients were admitted in this Hospital. The most of them were in a very low, wretched condition—weak, emaciated, and diseased. It was a heart-sickening, pitiable sight. Several have died already, and before another week is out, it is more than probable many more will go to their last resting places. We have chronicled these sad events often; would that this might be the last; and yet from present appearances, we see no hope that it may be so. We cannot choose, but perform our melancholy duty.

It was rumored on the day of the arrival of the last Flag-of-Truce Boat, that the Rebels has refused to accede to any proposition looking to a continuance of the exchange of prisoners; and had actually refused to exchange any more. We are not sure that such a rumor had any good foundation, but we hope and trust that it had none, and that the exchange may go on unmolested till every one of our men are liberated and brought from those places of horror, and death, in which they have been incarcerated so long. We hope General BUTLER will continue his efforts, with unabated ardor, and we have great confidence that he will accomplish all we could desire.

## A Rebel Letter.

One of the field officers lately released from Libby Prison, has furnished us with the copy of a part of the correspondence between them—Major TURNER, commanding officer of the C. S. Military Prisons, at Richmond, and C. McRAL SELPH, Commissary of Libby Prison—relating to private boxes sent to Union prisoners by their Northern friends; most of those boxes having been broken open, and their contents partly, and sometimes entirely abstracted.

The tone of the letter shows plainly what our poor prisoners have to expect from "Southern chivalry."

OFFICE, C. S. MILITARY PRISONS,  
RICHMOND, VA., March 7th, 1864.

MAJOR:—The Complaint of eighteen Federal Officers

in the Libby Prison "for themselves and their comrades," with your accompanying endorsement for reference, has been looked into with the attention, which the nature of the allegations required.

In answer to your communication of the complaint, I have the honor to state, "in limine," that no shadow of suspicion can justly attach to the uprightness of Mr. Holland, the young man who issues the boxes. I have known him for a long time—he was once in my employment, and my experience of him justifies my conviction of his integrity.

A singular state of circumstances, in times like these, is revealed in the paper, which exhibits in strong contrast, the assumption of ignorance, and the want of truth of the signing Federal Officers, and the candor and honesty of a Southern soldier in referring the paper for inquiry. The initial complaint of the memorial of the honorable gentlemen, turns on the "manner, in which supplies from their homes and friends are delivered and distributed to them." It is highly to be regretted, Major, that the manner, in which the boxes are issued, should have failed to meet with their approval. More than this, it is refreshing to find our prisoners of war, rebuking our deficiencies and prescribing the better mode, or system, which we shall pursue in the distribution. I am willing, however, to extend to them some information on that head, with the hope that it will prove as satisfactory to them, as did my former management, which, to use their own expression, was "entirely satisfactory."

The system of issues (now pursued) was adopted by suggestion from Col. Robert Ould; who directed me in the first instance, not to issue any of the boxes. On representation to him, however, that some of the articles were of a perishable nature, he instructed me to issue all articles of that character. In the pursuance of this course, and for the ascertainment of the character of the material, the boxes had, necessarily, to be opened and inspected. It will hardly be required that I should remind the scrupulous gentlemen, who "for themselves and on behalf of their comrades," reveal a chary regard for facts, that you deemed it proper not to permit them and their suffering comrades to come over to my warehouse and see their boxes opened, nor, need I say that any such thing was ever contemplated as catering to their suspicions of Southern gentlemen, by carrying the boxes over to them, that they might take out the perishable articles, and then return the box to the common depot. At the time when I received permission to issue the perishable articles, I was not without some misgivings that it would open the way for vicious, groundless and endless complaints—that men of vicious minds would make an opportunity of setting up complaints, of wrongs never committed and of goods abstracted, which, if not received by them, were never in existence here. When the discharge of this duty was first devolved upon me, I was present at the opening of several hundred boxes, and with the exception of about a half dozen of them, none were in accordance with the invoices sent. The sequel has not much varied the case.

The inveterate habit of plunder and robbery, which marks the people, to whom these officers belong, has betrayed them into a perverted and perverse application of the terms to Southern soldiers, who have been stimulated into keener vigilance from a sad familiarity with the craft and subterfuges of the race. Hence they reduce us to the necessity of opening every box, can and jar, in order to the detection of their artfully disguised contraband articles. The skill of the mechanic, the connivance of the purveyor, and the deceit of the consignor, all combine in grand efforts at deception, and on examination—an examination which cannot be had, without opening the boxes—cans of fresh peaches, gooseberries, coast beef, condensed milk, jellies and jams, are suddenly converted into cunning snuggeries for whiskey, brandy and rum. Indeed, many a pound of innocent butter has proved the outward wrapping of many a prohibited bottle of whiskey, or goose quill stuffed with green-backs.

It is needless Major, to suggest to you who have so long been officially dealing with Federal captives, that, from some of them at least, an observance of the strictness of truth is not, at any time, to be justly expected in their allegations, relative to the employees of the Confederate States. Could your own experience have failed, that of others of their functionaries should sufficiently warn against the acceptance of any of their statements.

In the matter in hand one of the allegations, which are signed, among others, by Brigadier General Neal Dow, Brigadier General E. B. Scammon, Col. Louis di Cesnola, Col. Wm. G. Ely, Col. A. N. Tiffin, Major W. H. Beatty, and Lieut. Col. O. C. Johnson, is worded thus, "Indeed the instances are not few in which the entire contents have been abstracted."

Now, one box only has been received for Gen. Neal Dow, and that was delivered to him in its integrity.—The value of his signature to the statement may be duly tested in the balance of truth. E. P. Scammon, a co-signing Brigadier General, has been but a short time tenant of the Libby; not a single box has been received for him; he could know nothing of what had occurred previous to his enforced arrival in Richmond, and the appearance of his name to the paper can only and charitably be looked upon as a thoughtless indiscretion.

But neither could Colonels Louis di Cesnola and Wm. G. Ely sign the statement with any, the slightest, claim

to a regard for veracity; for they, at least, were indulged in the privilege of going to the ware house and taking articles from their respective boxes. So far, therefore, as lies in their conscience, and in as much as their case is concerned, they must know that their signature to the paper is a violent protest against the truth. In the same category with Brigadier General Scammon, are Col. Tiffin, Lieut. Col. Johnson and Major Beatty. No boxes have been forwarded to them, or, if forwarded, none have been received for them at the depot of articles.—Extending to them even the utmost measure of indulgence, some might rightly suppose that these volunteer vouchers for grievances that have no existence, out of spite for their neglect at home, adopted the signing process for venting their revenge abroad. With the advertisement that, had not sickness confined me to my bed when the complaints were referred to me, the matter would have been attended to at an earlier opportunity.

I have the honor to be, Major, very respectfully your obedient servant,

C. McRAL SELPH,  
Commissary of Libby Prison.

To Major T. P. TURNER,  
Commanding C. S. Military Prisons, Richmond, Va.

## List of Patients Admitted from the Flag-of-Truce Boat New York, March 24th.

### Division No. 1.

W. W. Van Buren, Hospital Steward, 94th N. Y. Vols.  
Joseph W. Wheat, Drum Major, B, 104th Ill. Vols.  
John W. Harrington, Com. Sergeant, 11th Tenn. Cav.  
Marcean McManners, Sergeant, H, 4th Me. Vols.  
John Haubauer, Sergeant, D, 45th N. Y. Vols.  
Martin Highlands, Sergeant, E, 8th Pa. Reserve Corps.  
Wm. H. Miller, Sergeant, F, 54th Pa. Vols.  
John W. Bryson, Sergeant, A, 77th Pa. Vols.  
Charles Rodeback, Sergeant, B, 62d Ohio Vols.  
Robert F. Pryor, Sergeant, M, 5th Iowa Cav.  
W. H. Driver, Sergeant, D, 2d Tenn. Vols.  
Michael Campbell, Sergeant, A, 2d Va. Cav.  
Winslow J. Spaulding, Corporal, H, 7th N. H. Vols.  
Michel Mulligan, Corporal, I, 7th N. H. Vols.  
Ambrose F. Clark, Corporal, B, 13th N. Y. Cav.  
James S. Graham, Corporal, E, 139th Pa. Vols.  
J. S. Clark, Corporal, A, 4th Ohio Cav.  
Thomas Legget, Corporal, 20th Ohio Vols.  
Lewis C. Garcer, Corporal, K, 34th Ohio Vols.  
Wm. Wilson, Corporal, E, 35th Ohio Vols.  
Daniel Rex, Corporal, B, 45th Ohio Vols.  
Emanuel Zimmerman, Corporal, D, 45 Ohio Vols.  
John R. Grover, Corporal, F, 7th Mich. Cav.  
Henry Miller, Corporal, L, 4th Mo. Cav.  
John Owen, Corporal, C, 18th Mo. Vols.  
Mason J. Palmer, Corporal, I, 58th Ind. Vols.  
N. D. C. King, Corporal, F, 18th Ky. Vols.  
Joseph Pritt, Corporal, K, 1st Eastern Tenn. Vols.  
Henry H. Butler, Corporal, B, 2d Tenn. Cav.  
S. Adkins, Corporal, H, 2d Tenn. Vols.  
B. F. Underwood, Corporal, B, 11th Tenn. Cav.  
W. S. Cowden, Corporal, D, 11th Tenn. Cav.  
J. B. Hinds, Corporal, D, 11th Tenn. Cav.  
Wm. P. Lonenick, Corporal, E, 11th Tenn. Cav.  
George Little, Corporal, A, 2d Md. Vols.  
Benj. T. Shubrook, Corporal, K, 6th Md. Vols.  
Joseph Waters, Corporal, A, Louden Rangers.  
Preston Peggs, Corporal, H, 1st Va. Vols.  
Robert Monson, Corporal, A, 2d N. C. Vols.  
Lewis Dofitt, Bugler, C, 6th Conn. Vols.  
Charles Schmidt, Drummer, A, 52d N. Y. Vols.  
Albert Weese, Drummer, C, 27th Mich. Vols.  
James Connor, Private, G, 27th Mich. Vols.  
Francis M. Gibbs, Private, I, 4th Iowa Vols.  
Alfred L. Corbin, Private, I, 5th Iowa Vols.  
M. T. Sincal, Private, D, 6th Mo. Vols.  
Horace Wade, Private, I, 6th Mo. Vols.  
Wm. Stone, Private, K, 29th Mo. Vols.  
Jacob S. Batton, Private, I, 1st Ky. Cav.  
John Munnion, Private, H, 4th do  
Stephen James, Private, I, 6th do  
Edward S. Hall, Private, M, 6th do  
George Krakan, Private, F, 11th do  
John Willis, Private, H, 11th do  
Simon Pace, Private, — 2d Ky. Vols.  
James M. Wood, Private, A, 40th Ky. Vols.  
Madison Cate, Private, Tenn. State Guard.  
H. Fox, Private, Tenn. State Guard.  
John Abscher, Private, A, 1st Tenn. Art.  
John Harlow, Private, G, 1st Tenn. Mt. Vols.  
Jacob May, Private, K, 1st E. Tenn. do  
Wm. Carroll, Private, K, 1st E. Tenn. do  
George G. Robenson, Private, B, 2d Tenn. Cav.  
A. Miller, Private, B, 2d do  
Joel C. Ross, Private, G, 2d do  
John Pagett, Private, D, 2d E. Tenn. Vols.  
W. G. Ward, Private, A, 2d do do  
J. M. Eads, Private, B, 2d do do  
W. F. Floyd, Private, F, 2d do do  
Joseph Brannon, Private, D, 2d Tenn. do  
W. G. Price, Private, B, 2d do do  
Marion Clark, Private, D, 2d do do