

## REPORT OF DR. HENRY.

QUINCY, March 20th, 1863.

His Excellency JOHN MILTON,  
Governor of Florida:

In obedience to instructions received from you at Tallahassee, on the 27th of January last, I visited Gen. BRAGG's headquarters at Tullahoma, presented your letter and other papers pertaining to my mission, had an interesting interview with Gen. BRAGG upon the subject, who expressed much gratification at the action of the Legislature of this State in regard to her sick and wounded soldiers, also, that there was now no need of State or individual aid to the hospital department. He directed me to his Medical Director, Dr. E. A. Flewelling, a gentleman of high character and attainments. I learned from him that the medical department of the army of the west was now in good working order, from the liberal appropriations Congress had made to the hospital fund, and that large sums were returned monthly to the treasury, being more than ample for all necessary expenditures. Under the authority and direction of the Medical Director, Dr. Flewelling, a car has been comfortably fitted up specially to convey the sick and wounded men over the railroads to the several hospitals. A surgeon is detailed to travel over the road in this car, and to render such assistance as the sick and wounded require before reaching the receiving hospitals at Chattanooga, where all the comforts a hospital can afford are to be found there. So soon as they recover sufficiently, they are moved to the other hospitals at other points, so that the receiving hospital may be kept in a proper condition for the reception of those for whom it is intended.

The hospitals in the Department of the West are as well managed now as it is possible under the many difficulties attending such institutions. By authority of the accompanying letter, marked "A," from Dr. Flewelling, Medical Director, I visited the several hospitals at Knoxville, Chattanooga, &c. Although I had been lead to believe them in good condition, I found them in far better than I had anticipated. The number of patients remaining were daily diminishing, leaving several wards vacant, affording good opportunities for a thorough inspection. The buildings are large and commodious, well ventilated and adapted to the purposes to which they are applied. The floors are clean and dry; the walls newly whitewashed; the beds are very comfortable and abundantly supplied with warm, heavy blankets, counterpanes, sheets, pillow cases, &c., and not crowded in the wards. As soon as a ward is vacated, the floors are all thor-

oughly washed and the walls whitewashed. This practice is kept up in all the hospitals so long as they are occupied as such.

Everything the country affords in the way of supplies is bought up by the hospital agents, who are sent out along the railroads in every direction with instructions to purchase at any cost. The supplies have precedence over all other freights, so that very few articles are lost by delay on the roads, nor do the sick and wounded suffer for proper articles of diet. By this means each hospital is enabled to keep constantly on hand a sufficient supply for several days. The cooking wards are all well furnished with an abundance of utensils and crockery ware. They are presided over by good and tried cooks, and not details. All meals are required to be promptly and well served, and their department kept in good order. This is a part of the duty of the Surgeon in charge, to inspect regularly the culinary department. The Surgeons with whom I met in the several hospitals I found to be polite and intelligent gentlemen, prompt and assiduous in the discharge of their onerous duties, evincing an intimate knowledge with all the cases in their wards and feeling the same responsibilities they would in their private practice.

From the above facts I deemed it entirely useless to establish a separate Hospital for the Florida troops. The Medical Director told me that any of the hospitals from Atlanta to Knoxville might be selected and designated the "*Florida Hospital*." I chose the one at Ringgold, Geo., so that our people having friends in Gen. BRAGG's army will know how and where to direct whatever donations they may wish to make. There are some article that cannot be purchased there, and I would urge upon those having lemons, limes, oranges, dried figs, wines, cordials, catsups, spices, peppers, brandies, and, in short, everything that is included among seasonings, to send them to Ringgold.—Florida alone produces many of these articles, and it is to be hoped that her people will still manifest the same liberality they have on former similar occasions.

Our troops are now in most excellent health and spirits, having passed through camp diseases. They are well clad and shod, which ought to be gratifying and encouraging to every one to persevere in their efforts to keep the men constantly well provided in all articles needed for their comfort and wants. Our troops are in Gen. HARDEE's corps. He manifests much interest in them and compliments them highly for their unflinching valor under all circumstances and situations.

The above is respectfully submitted, hoping it may meet with your approbation.

I am, very respectfully, your ob't. serv't,  
THOMAS Y. HENRY.