

LETTER FROM DR. T. M. PALMER.

(COPY.)

FLORIDA HOSPITAL,
Richmond, Va., Nov. 2nd, 1863. }

Gov. JOHN MILTON:

Dear Sir—As the Legislature meets very soon, I consider it my duty to send you a statement of the expenditure of money sent by you for the use of this Hospital. The account is copied from the books of the Hospital and is correct. You will see what a difference there is in prices here and in Florida, many articles selling for three or four times as much, and all rising every day. I do not see how we can keep up if prices continue to advance as they have done in the last few months. Our friends at home will have to open their hearts and hands still wider, for it will never do for our sick and wounded soldiers to suffer for the want of supplies. Bacon, pork and beef could be put up in such a manner as to be transported, and Government will furnish transportation for all supplies for Hospitals, and they are glad to get them. Beef should be corned or jerked, and pork pickled, &c.

The Confederate Government is closing up most of the small Hospitals on account of the rent and other expenses, in the city, and transferring them to large establishments in the suburbs. I do not think it would be at all to the interest of our soldiers to have our hospitals merged into some of these large institutions, nor have I heard any talk of it, but such a thing might take place, unless the State agrees to pay the rent. North Carolina, Alabama, and some of the other States, are paying the rent of hospitals in the city, to prevent their being closed, and I would like for you to authorize me, in case such a contingency arises, to pay the rent, if by doing so I can prevent the hospital being closed. The rent is three hundred dollars a month. As evidence that this hospital is beneficial to our sick and wounded, I state the fact that we have not had a death in it, from disease, since the 9th of June, a period of almost five months, and during part of that time we had as high one hundred and fifty patients; nor have we had a death from any cause since the 27th of August.—I attribute this success in a great measure to the faithful and skillful attention of my assistant, Dr. W. H. Babcock, (formerly of Fernandina,) and to the good nursing of Mrs. Reid. It has been our endeavor to make it a home for all of our Florida soldiers, and many of them stop with us passing through Richmond, either going or returning from furlough, instead of going to other pla-

ces, and we expect and desire them to stop with us, as a night's lodging here, without meals, is five dollars a night, which would soon take the eleven dollars a month.

You will see by the papers that I have agreed to collect the pay due to discharged and deceased soldiers, which I will do very cheerfully and free of charge to them. Gen. Perry, perhaps, wrote you on the subject, stating to you that it would be necessary for me to have a clerk, as the manual labor in this business is considerable—too much for me to do justice to my other duties—and I would therefore ask if you could allow me a sufficient sum to provide a clerk. The State would, probably, do that much towards the collection of these claims. I have already collected some, and I know it requires a good deal of work. Those having claims had better send them on as soon as possible, prepared strictly according to the published regulation, and I will attend to them. There is very frequently delay in collecting these claims, because the muster rolls of the company have not been sent to the Adjutant General's office, where the auditor gets his information before paying them.

I would also ask, if you can, to furnish me with a small sum for telegrams, postage, &c., for business relating to these matters.—I have already paid out of my own pocket about fifty dollars, in sending telegrams to you and others, as to casualties, &c., and in answering the inquiries of anxious friends after each battle, and about the same amount in postage, answering letters of inquiry. The small sum of each individual letter, &c., is very little in itself, but in the aggregate it amounts up to quite a considerable sum. Perhaps this might be allowed to come out of the contingent fund, which you always have control of. The withholding these amounts will not prevent my sending telegrams, or answering inquiries of friends. I will at all times take pleasure in satisfying the anxiety of friends, even at my own expense.

We are nearly out of sugar, and quite out of syrup, and would like to get a supply. Could not some of our friends send us four or five barrels, by a trusty agent? It is no use to send anything, unless it is in the care of an agent, as it would probably never reach here.

The period for preparing lime and lemon juice is now at hand, and I have been requested by the Surgeon General to ask you, if you could make a contract for four or five barrels, and at what price. There is a very great difference in its preparation, which affects its properties and keeping. We received twelve gallons last spring, from some friend in East Florida, which is the best we have ever had. I have a bottle of it put away to see how long it will keep. It is perfectly good now, and I would like to find

out who sent it, and how it was prepared. It was sent through by Messrs. Denham & Palmer, of Monticello.

Please answer the above at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully, your ob't sv't,

THOMAS M. PALMER,
Surgeon in charge Florida Hospital.

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LETTER FROM SAMUEL PULESTON.

(COPY.)

MONTICELLO, Nov. 10th, 1863.

To his Excellency JOHN MILTON,
Governor of Florida:

DEAR SIR: I have just returned from a visit to our troops in Gen. Bragg's army, as agent for the State, my contribution mostly from Jefferson county; and, as it was impossible to reach the Florida troops, I was directed by Col. Dilworth and Mrs. Harrison to dispose of them as follows: Part went to *our troops* in the field, a portion to the Marietta hospitals and the balance I carried to Newnan, Ga., at which point Dr. Carey B. Gamble is Surgeon of the Post, and we also have there, as matrons, Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Harris, who are doing all they can for the general good. In a conversation with Dr. Gamble, he said that it would be almost impossible for Florida to have a separate hospital, no other State having one connected with the Western army. He however said, that as far as possible the Florida troops would be sent to him and would in some sense be the same as having a separate hospital, although I found them on my late visit scattered in every hospital that I visited, as is the case of soldiers from States now in the possession of the enemy, say from Missouri, Arkansas, and other States, for whom, it seems to me, that Florida, as well as other States, ought to be willing to have some of the delicacies intended for our own men, as it is impossible for them to have any private contributions from their own sections.

The articles left by me at Newnan arrived at a time when much needed, and was most gladly received by the sick and wounded at the late battle of Chickamauga, and productive of much good, and I am well satisfied that our people that have so

generally contributed would in no case withhold giving in the future, could they be convinced, as I have been, of the immense amount of suffering they have been instrumental of relieving.

Respectfully, your obedient sv't,

SAMUEL PULESTON.
State Agent for Hospitals.

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LETTER OF REV. WM. E. HAMILTON.

(COPY.)

MONTICELLO, Nov. 16, 1863.

To His Excellency JOHN MILTON,
Governor of Florida:

MY DEAR SIR: I have just returned from a second visit to our noble, self-sacrificing and uncomplaining army, and to many of their sick and wounded soldiers, scattered as they are from the recent battle-field nearly all over the State of Georgia.

In these visits, one of which was to aid in caring for the sick and wounded, and the other to carry supplies to them, I have received the most marked kindness from all concerned who knew my object; and, inasmuch as it was through your endorsement and recommendation, which I was so kindly permitted to bear with me, that I received so much attention, I felt that it was but right and proper that I should express my gratitude therefor; and as I have been so bold as to take this step, perhaps it would not be amiss to state some of my feelings and observations growing out of my visits, and, first, as to the importance of the spirit of liberality, already manifested by our people, being continued. It is impossible for the government, with such a tremendous army to feed, to do any more than furnish the mere substantial of living, and oftentimes these are so scarce that the surgeons have found on the day of battle that their wounded have been destitute of rations for days. I saw myself some three hundred of the wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, brought in at Ringgold for transportation to more remote hospitals, hungry and thirsty almost to exhaustion; and these would have been compelled, in that condition, to proceed upon their journey without refreshment, only that two noble women from Thomas county had that morning

arrived with some sixteen thousand pounds of cooked provisions, wines and preserves. These were distributed by the ladies who brought them, assisted by my noble and self-sacrificing friend and fellow-townsmen, the Rev. Mr. Thackara and myself from morning till in the dark hour of night; and thus the blessing of many, literally ready to perish, came down upon the heads of those who gave and those who brought that noble benefaction to the place of hunger and suffering.

The next thing to be considered is, what is needed? In reply to this, I would say that all the delicacies needed for the sick room are needed for the hospital. The following articles were spoken of as extremely important: sugar, syrup and butter.—Corned beef and salt-fish would be very good articles also to send; and Dr. Stout, of Marietta, says that the best thing of the kind for their use is our bitter sweet oranges. This information would be quite important to our liberal friends of East Florida, provided those wild orange groves about Ocala and other places are as prolific as in days past.

Now the question comes up, "will our donations reach the persons for whom they are designed, or will they be devoured by others?" This is a very important question, and we do not re-buke the anxiety which has been felt and expressed upon the subject. I can say that the people of Florida may dismiss all care as to their good things when directed in proper channels. At Newnan everything is under the eye of Dr. Gamble, who, by the way, is immensely popular with all classes, and would be much more disposed to do injustice to himself than to others; and they will be under the inspection also of Mrs. Dr. Harrison, whose labor of love and soul devotion is the subject of praise in the mouth of all who know her.

I have but one more thing to speak of in this letter, already drawn out too long for the patience of one with so many official cares pressing upon him as yourself, and that is, in regard to a *Florida Hospital*. This is a subject that lays very near the hearts of many of our citizens and soldiers, but yet a matter difficult of realization. The wounded and the sick at the present time must be sent indiscriminately to the first hospital. It is impossible that it should be otherwise in the nature of the case.—However, all the ends of such an enterprise can be reached by having our sick, as far as possible, sent to Newnan and there they will receive all the advantages of a home hospital. But if our citizens need the stimulus of this matter to prompt them in their benefactions, let them think of the hundreds and thousands of youth in the army from beyond the Mississippi, as delicately brought up as any of our own sons, who with those from Tampa and other places in the hands of the enemy, are pouring out their

blood in the good cause, and I am sure they will not hesitate to throw their benefactions into the common current of liberality and want.

Your humble servant,
WM. E. HAMILTON.

LETTER FROM COL. THOS. T. LONG.

(COPY.)

To his Excellency JOHN MILTON,
Governor of Florida:

In compliance with the wishes of a number of the citizens of the Eastern portion of the State, and in obedience to the order of your Excellency, I have, as faithfully as the circumstances would permit, attempted to carry out the wishes of the citizens and your Excellency.

The immense amount of transportation burden the cars with supplies for the army, and articles of traffic for the speculators make it akin to an impossibility to procure transportation for small packages, (unless by express,) and then it is not safe, without it be accompanied by some agent who will give his whole attention to prevent it remaining over at the junction or being stolen, for there are any number of loafers, provision speculators and thieves within sight of the camp fires of our army.

The articles sent were divided amongst the soldiers of Florida, at the Hospitals of Augusta, Griffin, Newnan, Atlanta and the army at Chickamauga, the kindness and generosity of the citizens of Marietta making it unnecessary at that point.

I have provided for your Excellency a list, as perfect as it could be procured, from the Hospitals at the several named points, which I beg may be taken as a part of this report.

To the ladies of Georgia Floridians are under a heavy debt of gratitude, for the kindness and attention bestowed upon our absent sick and wounded soldiers, and whilst it may be considered invidious to discriminate in favor of particular officers connected with the service, yet I am incapable of using language in the way of praise that should be considered flattery to Dr. Gamble, of Florida.

As to the necessity of Florida having a Hospital for the sick

and wounded, should not be questioned and cannot be by any one who will look at the practical working of this General Hospital system, and, whilst it is true that as a State we should not be selfish, we should be just to our own before we are generous to others. Florida, in proportion to her wealth and population, has contributed more largely in men and supplies than any other State, yet her gallantry, liberality and energies seem not the least abated.

It would, perhaps, be imprudent for me to enter into the reasons why we should procure a separate Hospital for our troops. It is proper, however, to state that, whilst many *Surgeons* think it unnecessary, other officers of the army deem it as the proper course to pursue, and our gallant men expect it.

I have carefully considered the question of locality, and, after visiting several points on the railroads leading to Macon, Augusta and Montgomery from Atlanta, and suggest either Madison, Newnan or Brownsville as the most eligible points.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

THOS. T. LONG,
Agent State of Florida.