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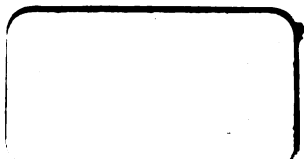
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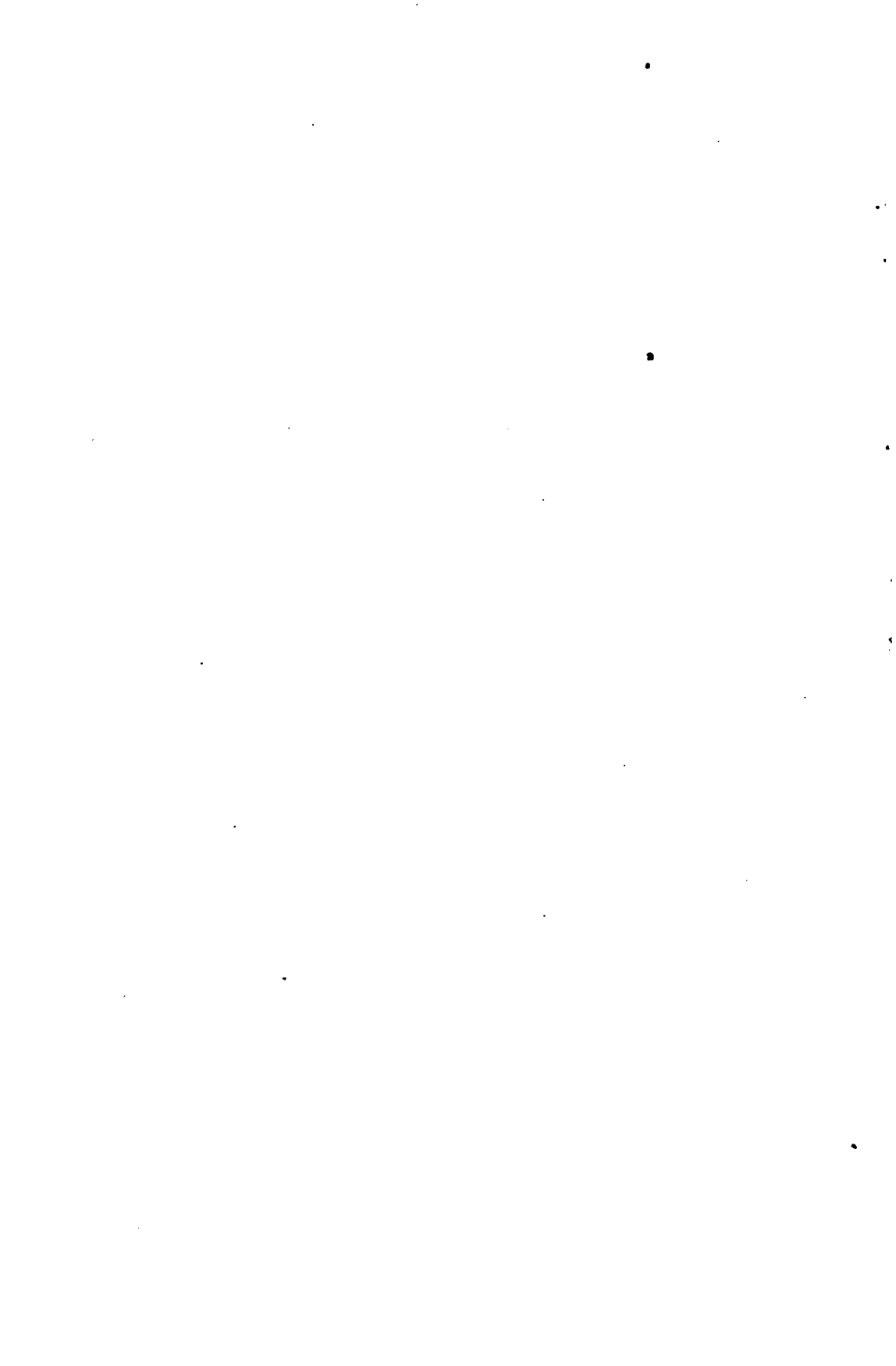
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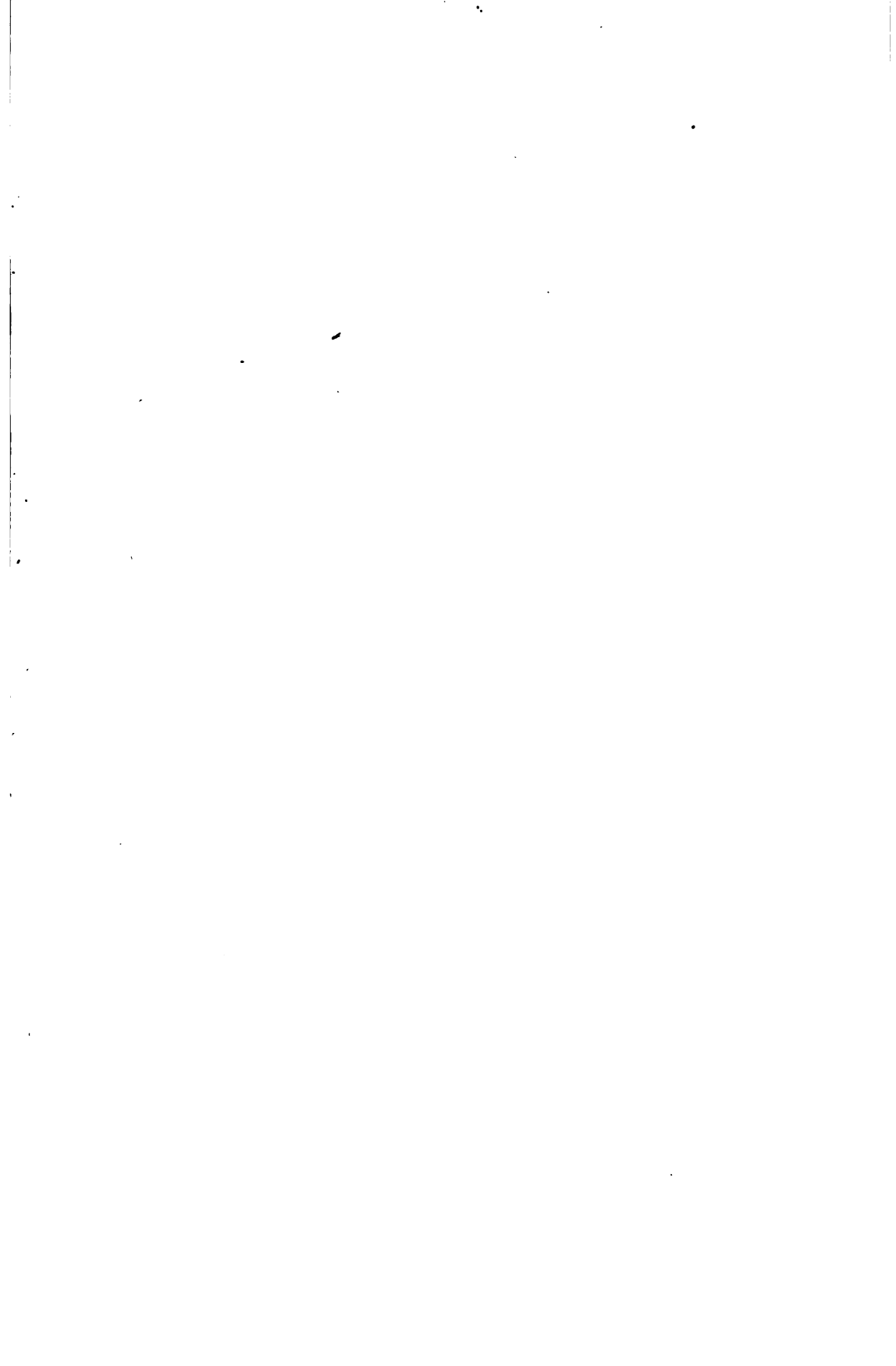
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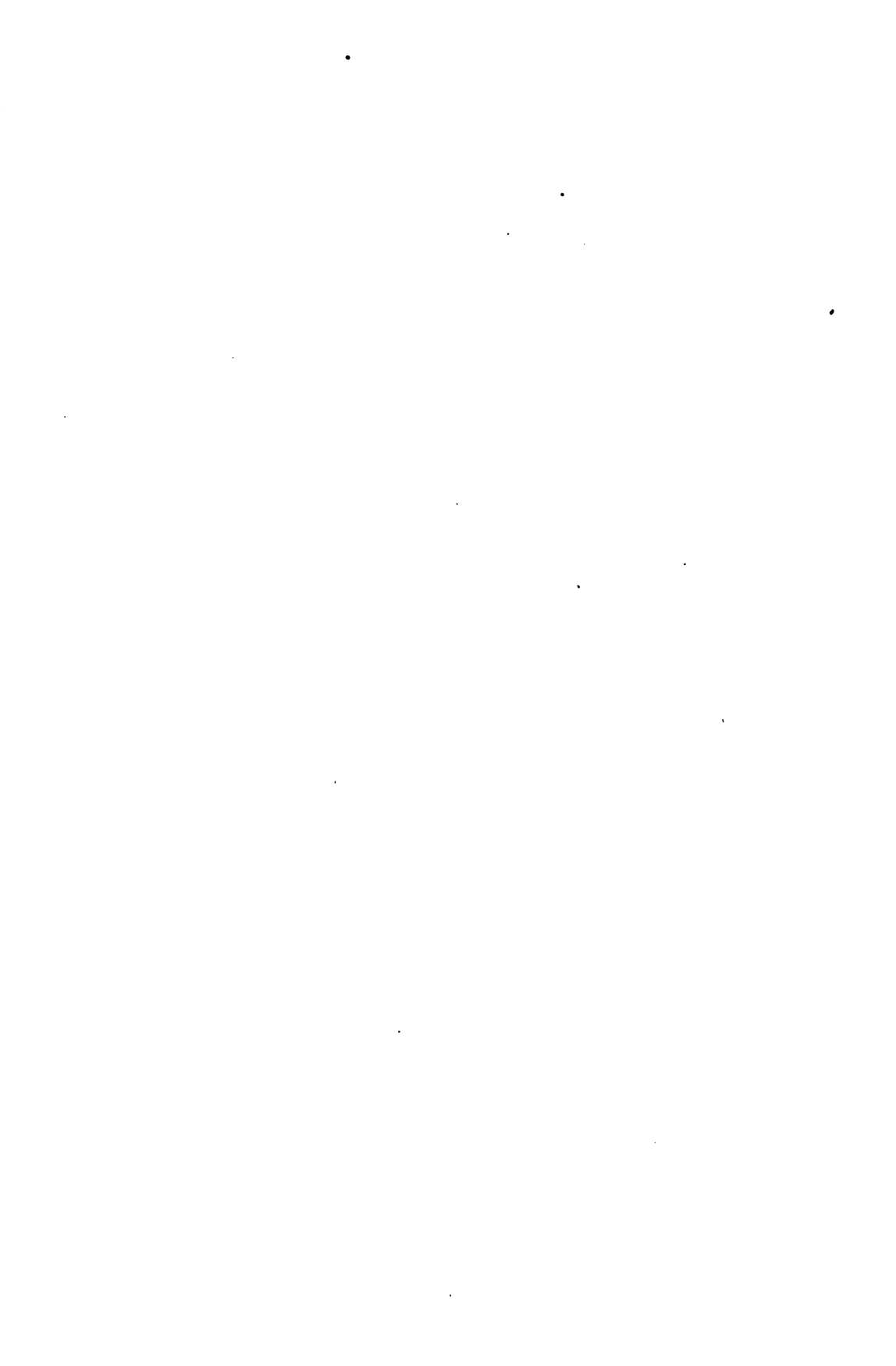
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History of
The "Soldiers' Home"
Washington, D. C.

Edited by
Eba Anderson Lawton
(Mrs. James M. Lawton)

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To
THE MEMORY OF
LT.-COLONEL RICHARD CLOUGH ANDERSON
OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
AND OF HIS SON
BREVET MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT ANDERSON
U. S. ARMY

From his home, the "Soldiers' Retreat," Kentucky, the former, as Surveyor General, devoted his life from 1784 to the day of his death in 1826, to locating the Soldiers of the Revolutionary War on the Bounty Lands given to them by the State of Virginia in the new State of Kentucky.

His son, Robert Anderson, as a Lieutenant of Artillery, began, in the early thirties, planning a "Retreat" for the soldiers of the Regular Army, and on March 3, 1851, brought to a triumphant finish his labors in their behalf, when the Bill authorizing the founding of the "Soldiers' Home" in Washington, as embodied in his *original plan*, passed Congress.

Stephen Spaulding Coll.
Landerhill
2-24-27

04-20-27
M.R.

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History of the Soldiers' Home

IN publishing the History of what is now known as the "Soldiers' Home," I lay before the Officers of the Army, the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the American people, photographic reproductions of PROOFS that "Major Robert Anderson was the Originator and Founder," of that Institution. These proofs consist of Bills introduced into Congress, Petitions, Papers, and a few of the very many original letters I have to and from him in this connection, with as few words of my own as possible to connect them in sequence. These will be preceded by extracts from Histories by various authors, unpublished, but of which I have the MSS. and Editorials from newspapers of various dates from 1840.

In this preface, I turn back to a page of Ancient History, the close of the Revolutionary War, and show when and whence arose Major Anderson's idea of devoting so many years of his life to the welfare of the Old Soldiers. Implanted in every human soul lies imbedded the seed which in future years develops into the full-blown flower or the

ripened grain. In the chapter entitled "Home Life in Kentucky," by General Vielé, we see that the conception of the Home for Old Soldiers, was, as it were, *born* in Robert Anderson. Who will say that there is no heredity? Every child of the staunch old patriot, Colonel Richard Clough Anderson, was loyal to the core, and in Robert, the only one who devoted his life to the service of his country, was born the impulse to carry out the work to which his father had consecrated his life from 1784 to the day of his death, October 16, 1826.

In developing this impulse to its full fruition, Robert *built* upon the Corner Stone of the "Soldiers' Retreat." The exquisite and touching sentiment evinced by naming *his* "Soldiers' Home" after his father's home in Kentucky and his own birthplace, and so commemorating and continuing his grand old father's work, associating and binding together the Revolutionary Soldiers and those of the present day, was lost to posterity, and I can well imagine how it pained his affectionate nature. The Bill for the "Soldiers' Retreat" passed through Congress in 1851 as a "Military Asylum!"

HOME LIFE IN KENTUCKY

"Kentucky was literally the offspring of Virginia, its territory formed a part of that State, and its

people were pioneers from the Old Dominion, now tri-sected, but once the largest and most influential of the Thirteen States that formed the Union. When, however, the several States, in the interest of the public welfare, ceded to the General Government all the outlying territory which they had obtained through various royal grants, Virginia was reduced to the area now known as East and West Virginia, with the present State of Kentucky as its western county. The rapid settlement of that section, and the difficulty of communication, soon led to an earnest desire for a separate government, and with the consent of Virginia the County of Kentucky was formed into a State. But in all its character and association, political and domestic, it remained essentially Virginian.

At the close of the War of the Revolution, when the Army was disbanded, large arrearages of pay were due to both officers and men. In fact, after all their sacrifices and sufferings, after all their heroism and fortitude, after giving freedom to their Country, they were turned adrift without homes or even the means of existence. A terrible instance of cruelty and injustice! Virginia undertook to repair this wrong in some degree. And by an act of the General Assembly of that State, there were reserved and set apart certain tracts of land pertain-

ing to her public domain for the sole use and benefit of the survivors of the soldiers which she had contributed to the Revolutionary Army, both of the Continental and State lines, *i.e.*, Regulars and Militia.

A convention of the officers of the Virginia troops was called, to elect a principal surveyor to locate and divide these lands among the soldiers. This Convention unanimously selected Col. Richard Clough Anderson, late of the 3d Virginia Regiment, for this responsible duty, which position Colonel Anderson accepted, and here we find the exhibition of the same disinterested spirit, love of country and of her defenders, that in after years actuated Robert Anderson in his successful efforts to provide a home for old soldiers. Very many officers of the Revolutionary Army, at the close of that War, entered public life in a civil capacity. George Washington became President of the United States, General Knox became Secretary of War, General Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, etc., etc. James Monroe, who like Colonel Anderson, was a captain in the 3d Virginia Regiment, subsequently became President of the United States, but Colonel Anderson saw in this call of his old comrades in arms an opportunity for the exercise of those kindly and sympathetic impulses

which formed so large a part of his nature, and the remainder of his days was devoted to the interests of these old comrades. The lands reserved for the Continental line, were in two separate and distinct districts. For greater convenience in the administration of these important duties in the districts so far apart, Colonel Anderson selected for his office, a point about midway between the two, viz., the banks of the Ohio, now the beautiful City of Louisville; he arrived in the Spring of 1784, and in June of that year established an office at what is now the corner of Main and Fifth Streets, Louisville, for the entry of soldiers' warrants. On August 14, 1787, Colonel Anderson was married to Elizabeth Clark, sister of Col. George Rogers Clark, who had been appointed to locate the lands reserved for the State Troops, there being two distinct reservations for the two classes of troops. In 1789, Colonel Anderson purchased a tract of land of 500 acres in the immediate neighborhood known as Lynn Station, at the head of Bear Grass Creek, and built himself a home, which he called the "Soldiers' Retreat."¹ Here all his brother officers were guests, and

¹ The old log house was built the same year (1789), but the big stone house was not completed before 1798, after the death of the first wife.

the old soldiers knew that at Colonel Anderson's they were always welcome; it was truly a "Retreat" for all. After the death of his first wife, Colonel Anderson married Sarah Marshall, a cousin of the Chief Justice, September 17, 1797. And here on the soil of this new State, the first daughter of the Republic, in the County of Jefferson, was the birthplace of Robert Anderson."

Robert Anderson graduated from West Point in 1825, and in the early thirties he had already begun gathering information, translating and planning for what was to be *one* of the great works of his life. Self-effacement was always one of his characteristics. In this his "Hobby," his whole thought was how he might best secure, *not a reputation for himself*, but a Home for Old Soldiers, and until 1851, when the Bill passed through Congress, he never ceased to advocate the plan which he had mapped out.

In the Petitions sent to Congress his name never appears. They are sent through the Commanding Officers of the various Posts, or through the Adjutant-General to be signed by all the officers at the Posts. It is only through the letters to him from the Commanding Officers, acknowledging the receipt of

these Petitions, etc., and sending *him* the Reports, that we know it to be his work. Therefore I am willing to concede that it is through ignorance that the officers and soldiers of the present day know nothing of his connection with the founding of the Home. In this year of our Lord 1914, some eighty years after its inception by Major Anderson, the *present* Board of the "Soldiers' Home" refuse to acknowledge that he was the "Originator and Founder of the Home."—That a Resolution was introduced into Congress in 1828, and that the Secretary of War made a Report in 1833 (see Resolution and Report), and that these antedating Major Anderson's letter to Governor Reynolds in 1840 (which was introduced as a Report to Congress), deprives him of all claim of being the Originator. A sentence from the Harrodsburg paper—that "This task will stand as a Monument to the enlarged philanthropy of the present Governor of the Asylum"—as seen in the light of present History is a most severe criticism on the gratitude of Republics. Not only is there no Monument, but they have taken away from him even what he made for himself.

I submit both sides of the question, and publish this History apart from the "Life of General Anderson" that the Officers and Soldiers may know the Truth. God grant that in the near

8 History of the Soldiers' Home

future his unselfish devotion to the welfare of the old soldiers may meet the recognition so long denied him, and that on the Tablet at the "Soldiers' Home" may be inscribed:

**THE SOLDIERS' FRIEND
ROBERT ANDERSON
ORIGINATOR AND FOUNDER OF THE
"SOLDIERS' HOME."**

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

IN presenting these newspaper cuttings, I have copied only from a few found among my Father's papers, and have tried to avoid repetition. In those days Bureaus for newspaper clippings did not exist, and I presume that many hundreds on the subject never reached my father.

“‘THE DAILY DELTA,’ NEW ORLEANS,
“Sunday Morning, March 12, 1848.

“THE SOLDIERS’ RETREAT

“Ever since the Mexican war began, our city has been the depot of all the sick and disabled soldiers who have been discharged from the service, and many melancholy and discouraging spectacles of suffering and want have daily forced themselves upon our notice. Every ship and steamer from Mexico lands on our wharves whole companies of unfortunate men, who have been cut down, in the service of their country, by disease or wounds, and who are thrown out of employment in a state of destitution, abandoned by the country which they have served at such severe sacrifices. Whilst those who have the fortune to bear com-

missions are received, on their return home, with every demonstration of applause and sympathy, are fêted all over the country, and rewarded by promotions and appointments, the poor rank and file, who have borne the brunt of the fight, drag home their shattered frames, only to lie down and die of poverty, or barely to support existence upon the charity of passers-by. This is a deplorable contrast—one revolting to the sensibilities of every republican—of every man. To remove these painful scenes—these disgraceful stains upon the character of our Government—is certainly an object worthy of the highest effort of every philanthropic legislator and patriot.

“The establishment of institutions similar to those of Chelsea, in England, and of Les Invalides, in France, would go far to effect this object, and would remove some of the strongest objections to enlistment in our Army. If men knew that, in case of disability in the service, they would be taken care of, there would be a much greater alacrity in joining our Army than exists at present. The present usage of the service is to discharge all men who are unable to perform duty. It makes no difference if their disability was incurred by hard service, exposure, or in the performance of their duties, they are dismissed to the cold and uncertain

charities of the world. When the disability arises from wounds received in battle, the soldier is entitled to a pension proportioned to the degree of his disability, but in no case can it exceed the pay proper to which the wounded man was entitled whilst in service.

“These great defects in our military establishment might be easily removed, and incentives to enlistment created among a class more respectable than those of which our Army has been made up for many years past, by the establishment of a retreat for disabled soldiers of good character, where they might be sheltered and taken care of, as long as they were unfit for labor, and not in a condition to provide for themselves. Such an establishment could be handsomely supported, without drawing upon the Treasury for any addition to the Army expenditures.

“It has been proposed in a plan which has already been before Congress and met with the approval of military committees, the conception of which belongs to that intelligent and philanthropic officer, Captain Robert Anderson of the 3d Artillery, to create and support an establishment of the character referred to entirely out of the savings of the soldier. The moneys derived from stoppages by sentences of court-martials; for-

feitures on account of desertions; moneys belonging to deceased soldiers, never demanded by the heirs; together with a monthly contribution of 20 cts. by every soldier, would afford an ample revenue to support a retreat capable of receiving and maintaining all the disabled soldiers of our Army. We saw a calculation made out by Captain Anderson, from actual returns of nearly all our regiments, showing that from these sources a very large sum could be derived yearly—a sum abundantly large for the objects indicated. There is a manifest propriety in applying the fines incurred by the negligent or unworthy soldiers, to the relief and support of the meritorious, who have suffered by their devotion to duty. It is, too, a commendable provision that the soldier in the vigor of his age and health should be required to lay aside a small sum to afford him a shelter when old age or infirmity shall overtake him.

“We have not the information which would enable us to go into details of the plan proposed; but they are of such a plain and practical character that we are much surprised at the remissness of Congress, hitherto, in not carrying them into effect. The usual objection of expense, of the necessity of additional appropriations to a service which is but barely tolerated in times of peace, being removed,

we marvel that the humanity and philanthropic character of such an institution did not urge its adoption upon our national legislators. If they could witness as much distress and desolation as we have seen in one day in New Orleans among the poor, shattered, broken-down, abandoned servants of their country, and sufferers in her cause, they would turn aside for a moment from their party squabbles, to bestow some little consideration upon a measure, which aims at the relief and removal of so much unmerited suffering and ungrateful desertion."

"CINCINNATI,
"Tuesday Morning, May 16, 1848.

"THE SOLDIERS' RETREAT

"We are glad to perceive that a committee of the House of Representatives have in charge a bill for a law to establish a "Soldiers' Retreat"—a hospital for superannuated and disabled soldiers. It is strange that an army should have existed so long in our country without this necessary adjunct. Justice, humanity, expediency, all require that in a service where men devote a series of the best years of their manhood to their country, exposed to disease in unhealthy posts, and to mutilation and death in battle, a provision shall

be made to support the worn-out public servant, when disabled by wounds or old age.

“The bill before Congress, we understand, provides for a permanent institution of this kind, to be supported by a slight tax on the soldier’s monthly pay—so small as not to be felt by him—but sufficient to afford an ample endowment for this noble charity, and by which investment he provides a staff to lean upon, in the day of his decrepitude. We sincerely hope the bill will become a law. We have legislated much, spent much to acquire territory—‘to seek the bubble reputation at the cannon’s mouth’; let us do something for humanity, for the comfort of those who have served us, and for the true honor of the country.

“This project is not now for the first time before Congress. It has been pressed for several years, by the Army, and by those who are friendly to the service. Our gallant Kentucky friend, Capt. Robert Anderson, of the 3d U. S. Artillery, has been the mover in this measure of justice and benevolence, and has been untiring in his exertions to bring it to a successful issue. In such an enterprise success will be as honorable to the generous advocate of the old soldier as the wounds gained by him in storming the defences of the Mexican capital.”

The Louisville Journal

“Major Robert Anderson.—This distinguished officer arrived yesterday in our city. He is, we understand, looking well, though the ball he received in the desperate attack in the Molino del Rey, and which he still bears in his shoulder, causes a slight stoop in the form which was always before so proudly erect. He has perilled his life and shed his blood on the battle-fields of Mexico. Now he is doing his country good service as governor of the Military Asylum, which is located at Harrodsburg in this State. This institution owes its origin to the benevolence and philanthropy of Major Anderson.

“He has been untiring in his efforts since 1841 to get it established, and he has our best wishes for its success and prosperity. How is it that while other States have shown their appreciation of gallant deeds by the presentation of silver plate, swords, etc., to those of their sons who signally distinguished themselves in Mexico, Kentucky has never evinced in any way her approbation of this gallant, noble fellow. He is a Kentuckian, born within a few miles of our prosperous and wealthy city of Louisville, and Kentucky has reason to be proud of him. Every act of his life

reflects honor on the State which bore him. His fellow-citizens must show to the world that Kentucky, like her sisters, knows how to reward the brave deeds of her sons."

The Harrodsburg Ploughboy

"WESTERN MILITARY ASYLUM

"We have been several times requested to furnish such information in regard to the Military Asylum located in the suburbs of this place as might be of general interest to the public, and of special interest to the soldiers in this region, but not having the necessary information at hand, we have heretofore been unable to give the Institution such a notice as it deserves. At our request, however, Dr. J. A. Thompson, Surgeon of the Asylum, has put us in possession of some important papers from which we glean the following interesting facts. It appears that for the establishment of this institution, so creditable to our government, we are mainly indebted to the indomitable energy of its present Governor, Major Robert Anderson, of the U. S. Army, a native of Jefferson Co., Ky., and a brother of Richard Anderson, so justly distinguished in the political history of this State. The

short historical sketch, which we propose to give of the Asylum, is so closely connected with the life of its originator, that the details of the one amount to the history of the other. [Details not necessary for this article.] As far back as 1840¹, and while he was yet a young man, the condition of the worn-out and invalid soldier had attracted his attention, and enlisted his ardent sympathies. After years of deep investigation, during which time he had translated several works upon the organization of the various institutions in Europe for the amelioration of the condition of the unfortunate, such as the 'Hôtel des Invalides', etc., he was induced to attempt the foundation of one upon a similar plan for the soldiers of the United States Army, to be termed a 'Military Retreat,' and to be, as its title would indicate, a comfortable home for the disabled soldier.

"To effect this great object Major Anderson encountered labor and disappointment that few men would have had the nerve to overcome. His first Bill was referred to a Military Committee, March 6, 1840 (see Robert Anderson's plan to provide for old soldiers, Doc. 138, 1st Session, twenty-sixth Congress) and again on the 7th of January, 1841 (see Rept. No. 74, H. R. 588;

¹ Note by Major A.: "*Very much* farther back than that."

twenty-sixth Congress, 2d Session), a bill reported by Mr. Monroe from the Committee upon Military Affairs. There was also a bill reported by General Clinch, of Georgia; both of which bills passed to a second reading.

“In addition to the labor of effecting this commencement of the great work he had in contemplation, Major Anderson addressed a circular to every officer in the Army asking their names to a petition memorializing Congress for the establishment of an Asylum; whereupon Mr. Burt, on the 19th of January, 1848, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill, thirtieth Congress, 1st Session (see Rept. 100) to accompany a bill, H. R. No. 95, which passed to a 3d reading; but want of time prevented its again being brought forward. A part of the bill referred to was as follows: ‘It is a striking feature of this Institution, and one that cannot fail to recommend itself to the favorable regard of Congress, that it does not ask any contributions from the Treasury of the Government but relies upon resources of the Service alone, to wit: (1st) a monthly contribution of 20 cents by each soldier; (2d) the use of all monies belonging to soldiers uncalled for at the time of their death; (3d) stoppages by Courts Martial; (4th) forfeitures by reason of desertion; (5th)

surplus of Hospital Funds; (6th) proceeds of the sale of articles manufactured by the beneficiaries.'

"We have said that Major Anderson labored long in endeavoring to consummate his praiseworthy object, and for a considerable length of time, almost hopelessly; but after all his toil and exertion, he at length had the gratification of seeing his labors crowned with success; for in the U. S. Senate during the second session of the thirty-first Congress, Mr. Davis of Mississippi, from the Committee of Military Affairs, submitted a Report (No. 227) accompanied by a bill embracing Major Anderson's views which was passed to a second reading and finally approved March 3, 1851, by a large majority. And thus was accomplished a task that will stand as a monument to the enlarged philanthropy of the present Governor of the Asylum, a high eulogium upon our government—providing a home for our gallant but worn-out veterans throughout all coming time.

"The following are the conditions upon which persons may become inmates of the Asylum:

"The organization of the inmates of the Military Asylum will be into veteran companies, and the rank and position of the officers composing the Board, whose lives have been identified with the Army, is the best guaranty that those who

avail themselves of the provisions of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1851, to found a Military Asylum, will receive every consideration that a proper regard to their comfort and the welfare of the Institution may dictate.

“The classes of persons entitled to the benefits of the Asylum are:

“1. All soldiers, and discharged soldiers of the Army of the United States, who may have served honestly and faithfully for twenty years.

“2. All soldiers, and discharged soldiers of the regular Army, and of the volunteers who served in the War with Mexico, and were disabled by disease or wounds contracted in that service and in the line of their duty and who are by their disability incapable of further military service. This class includes the portion of the Marine Corps that served with the Army in Mexico.

“3. Every soldier, and discharged soldier who may have contributed to the funds of the Military Asylum since the passage of the act to found the same March 3, 1851, according to the restrictions and provisions, and who may have been disabled by disease or wounds incurred in the service in the line of his duty, rendering him incapable of military service.

“4. Every pensioner on account of wounds or

disability incurred in the military service—though not a contributor to the funds of the institution—who shall transfer his pension to the Military Asylum during the period he voluntarily continues to receive its benefits.

“No provision can be made for the wives and children of those admitted, as no such provision is contemplated in the law; but to such invalids as can prosecute a trade or handicraft, facilities will be afforded for so doing.

“No deserter, mutineer, or habitual drunkard, will be admitted, without such evidence of subsequent service, good conduct, and reformation of character, as the Commissioners shall deem sufficient to authorize his admission; nor do the provisions of the act to found the Military Asylum apply to any soldier in the regular or volunteer service, who shall have been convicted of felony, or other disgraceful or infamous crime of a civil nature, since he shall have been admitted into the service of the United States.

“All discharged soldiers (regulars, marines, or volunteers) included in any of the above classes, will make application directly to Brevet-Major Geo. Deas, Secretary to the Board of Commissioners, Washington City, D. C., who in reply to their application, will inform the applicant, in

each case, of the facilities afforded by the board for their transportation from their homes to the nearest site of the Military Asylum."

The Louisville Times

"THE MILITARY ASYLUM AT HARRODSBURG,
1851-52

"The last number of *The Harrodsburg Ploughboy* contains an interesting notice of this excellent institution, which has recently been located in this State, and which reflects the highest credit upon our government, and especially upon those at whose suggestion and by whose exertions this comfortable retreat for the invalid and worn-out soldier of the republic has been established. It appears from this account that this Asylum was the conception of its present worthy and distinguished Governor, Major Robert Anderson of the United States Army, and that its establishment is due in the greatest measure to his persevering exertions to that end, continued unremittingly since he first suggested it in 1840, up to the last Congress, when it finally received the authority of the law. The humane sentiment which impelled Major Anderson to urge the establishment of such an institution, and the unceasing and labori-

ous zeal and perseverance with which he has pursued his conception to its final consummation, confer undying honor on him, and form a beautiful appendix to the glory his sword has so gallantly won in fighting the battles of his country. We copy from the *Ploughboy's* article the conditions upon which persons may become inmates of the Asylum."

"New York Military Magazine," vol. i., November 13, 1841

"Asylum for Soldiers.—We believe that a strong effort will be made at the coming session of Congress to provide a retreat for meritorious soldiers who may be worn out or disabled in the service of the United States. It is a shame that no such institution has been before provided for the faithful defenders of our country upon whom, in case of emergency, we are ever ready to call. Can any one wonder that so much dread is felt on entering the service, when it is known that in old age, or in case of premature infirmity, they are left to suffer from want and privation, being discharged from the Army, and permitted most peaceably to end their days in some parish poor-house? How can it be expected that, as long as such a state of things exists, we shall ever be enabled to raise an

army of good soldiers? We have seen instances of men, who have bravely fought for their country, wandering about as vagrants, begging from door to door the scanty pittance which was necessary to keep soul and body together; nor did they upbraid us for a want of feeling, but in most instances appeared as full of youthful enthusiasm as ever, and possessed the same warm glow of attachment to their country. This is a state of things which is not suffered to exist in any other country.

“Our Southern slaveholders, who are charged with so much inhumanity, are not guilty of so great a want of feeling to their aged slaves as our government is to the war-worn and infirm soldier. He does not suffer his slave to perish with hunger and neglect when he has become too old to perform his daily task; but he provides for him with great care, and the slave is permitted to enjoy the short twilight of life in comparative ease. Shall it be that the condition of the soldier is worse than that of the slave? Shall the life of the bond be preferable to that of the free? Certainly not; nor do we think that the people of the United States would begrudge an ample appropriation for the support of the aged and infirm soldier. Colonel James Monroe, a member from this city,

introduced a report and bill in the twenty-sixth Congress; but it was not acted upon, we presume, from want of time, though we sincerely hope the object will be accomplished during the present winter.

“Much credit is likewise due to the humane exertions of Captain Robert Anderson, United States Army, for the strong interest he has felt in the subject; and at this moment he is using all his interest to bring about so laudable a design. Our veteran soldiers will no doubt hold his memory very dear to them, and it will certainly be a great gratification to his generous feelings should he succeed in an object so near his heart.

“Let our members of Congress reflect seriously upon the subject—let them give it due consideration; and when it is presented to them to act upon, we hope that they will not let it lie over, but give it immediate action, and let the Journal of the House bear honorable testimony that the representatives of the people have not been wanting in a sense of humanity and kind feeling toward those, upon whom, in the event of a great struggle, we are obliged to look for protection. Let the valor and the services of the American soldier meet its encouragement and reward, so that the stigma, which has grown into an adage, that

'republics are ungrateful,' be destroyed, and we, as a people, be no longer charged with the baseness of ingratitude."

"THE OLD SOLDIERS' HOME"

"There is no feature in the policy or the administration of the Government of the United States more just and more beneficent than that of the establishment and maintenance of homes for the old soldiers who, after an honorable term of service in the Army, are by reason of age or infirmities incapable of providing themselves with the necessities and comforts of life. No wiser or more generous laws have ever been enacted than this salutary provision for the defenders of the Flag. There are at the present time, besides the Home in Washington for soldiers of the Regular Army, many established throughout the United States for Veterans of the Civil War. And yet the time was when no thought of what was due to these war-worn and faithful servitors of the country in its time of need occupied the minds of Government or individuals. It was left to the humane impulses, and sympathetic heart of one man, and he, only at that time, a mere subaltern in the Army with little influence and less encouragement,

¹ Cutting from newspaper, name not given.

to initiate and secure this great benefaction to the rank and file of the Army, with whose services he was familiar, and whose wants and necessities had been his watchful and loving] care. This man was Robert Anderson. For years he had made a careful, patient study of the subject until he had evolved a complete system for the government of the 'Retreat' and in 1840 the Bill, made out in his own hand, was ready to be introduced into Congress. It was not until 1851, that it became a law. But the same rules and regulations are still observed." [Then follow in detail the various reports and bills introduced into Congress. As these will be presented in their proper sequence, it is not necessary to give them here.]

*From a Washington Paper Containing an
Interview with my Mother¹*

"And, when we were married in 1842, I found him—then a Captain of the Artillery—still in close correspondence with the Adjutant of every Army Post in the service, and hard at work in every direction, trying to ascertain what legitimate sources of revenue could be properly appropriated

¹ I have been unable to find out when this was written, and the first part has been mislaid. I am therefore, able to give the last part only, and do not know the date. It was after 1887, and not later than 1905.

to the maintenance of a 'Soldiers' Home' like Chelsea Hospital in England, and the Hôtel des Invalides in France. He copied hundreds of pages from data relating to the first, and translated from the French everything he could obtain in relation to the management and means of support of the latter. Then he worked it all out and planned and put it into shape and had it printed and had a copy put on the desk of every senator and member of the House, calling their attention at the same time to the urgent need of such an institution, and showing how, instead of its being a dead weight on the Government, it might be made to a great extent, self-sustaining. He never omitted an opportunity of discussing with, and impressing upon, the prominent men of the nation his views—always so clear and profound on this, to him, all-important question. Indeed, he did not hesitate to say that there would be a blot on the fair fame of our country until proper provision was made for the maintenance and comfort of our worn-out and disabled soldiers. Still he talked and argued and worked in vain. Year after year, through his untiring efforts one bill after another was introduced only to meet the same fate. At last one bright March morning in 1851, while we were stationed at Fort Preble in the Harbor of Portland,

Maine, he received a Document from Washington—his own original Bill sent back to him—with endorsement.

“‘8 P.M. Monday Night, March 3, 1851.

“‘Dear Major, this Bill has just passed the House by quite a majority.

“‘Yours truly,

“‘WYSE. [Hon. Henry A. Wyse of Virginia.]

“His labor of love was at last accomplished—for all time the honorably discharged soldier would be cared for as he deserved to be.

“And yet, after all these years there is nothing about this beautiful ‘Home’ to remind his old friends and comrades of him to whom they owe so much. My heart beats fast, and my eyes fill with tears, as I drive through its charming grounds and feel that he, who would have so gloried in it all, is nowhere recognized. But I know that some day, sooner or later, honor will be given where honor is so justly due, and I can safely leave my gallant husband enshrined in the hearts of his comrades and his countrymen.

“E. B. ANDERSON.”

[This is from a copy corrected by my mother.]

CAPTAIN ANDERSON AND HIS CONNECTION WITH THE FOUNDING OF THE "HOME" BY VARIOUS AUTHORS—FROM MSS.

THE "SOLDIER'S RETREAT"¹

"THERE are a number of interesting incidents in the life of General Anderson that exhibit his character apart from those mere official surroundings which with the majority of military men dominate their daily lives. There was with him always an irresistible impulse to reach out for fields of usefulness beyond the limited horizon of a life of routine. There was one of these impulses in particular that took possession of his thoughts to such a degree, that out of it came an unalterable determination to accomplish what seemed almost impossible to those with whom he took council.

"The crowning act of any man's life is when he proves himself equal to a great occasion, and few recognize the opportunity when it arrives, and fully apprehend its significance. Hence few are so crowned. But they become leaders of men,

¹ From General Vielé's unpublished *Life of General Anderson*.

and their words and deeds are the examples for the many who follow, but do not lead. Not many would suppose that in the simple filling in the facts necessary to complete officially a soldier's honorable discharge from the service there could be formed the germ of a great idea. Yet Anderson discovered one. It is the duty of a Commander of a Company to keep the official record of a soldier's entry into the service with time, date, and circumstances, also a careful description of his person and a full account of all transactions with which he is connected. From this he derives the data necessary to the preparation of a correct official discharge when the time for this shall arrive.

“Year after year, men had joined his Company, served their term, had left the service or perhaps were sooner discharged for disability due to the nature of the service. When the soldier's connection with the Army thus ceases from any cause he is at once thrown upon the world, perhaps unfitted for otherwise earning his living, and want and suffering are almost sure to follow the earnest and faithful discharge of patriotic duty. In a nature keenly alive to the calls of humanity, and a deep sense of responsibility to his fellow-*man* Anderson added a sense of personal consideration for others which awoke within him an earnest desire to

obviate an unintentional, although none the less cruel, act of injustice in thus turning loose upon public charity a host of deserving men. And out of the lessons of his early youth at "Soldiers' Retreat" he conceived a plan by which reward and not punishment should follow years of faithful service to their country on the part of these old soldiers. Long and anxiously he pondered over the problems involved, for it was indeed a grand opportunity that had thus presented itself to his mind, the realization of which would be of lasting benefit and full of unnumbered blessings to thousands in the years to come. Not for one moment did it occur to him that he would, by its success, be building a monument to himself. There were long and weary months and years of persistent labor, the careful collection of facts and statistics and innumerable data of every description pertaining to the subject. And more than all else was the labor of raising up friends to co-operate in the undertaking. And then came the almost discouraging efforts to interest the President, the Head of the Army and Congress. No need to follow out all the details.

"In spite of innumerable and apparently insurmountable obstacles, after years of persistent effort and patient labor, he met with a success

Washington City, February 12, 1861

Dear Sir,

In compliance with your request, I shall briefly present the views I offered yesterday in our conversation on the subject of establishing a home for the discharged, older or invalid soldiers.

1. The U. S. Government to allow the use of quarters and lands furnished medical attendants, furnish, at cost value, medical, quackery, Messes, Company and Ordnance Stores.

2. The Soldiers' Retreat, or institution for the reception of honorably discharged soldiers, to be governed by the Rules and Articles of War, and such regulations as may be approved by the Secretary of War. Officers for the government of the Retreat to be selected by the Secretary of War, to whom monthly returns, and accounts current of its financial concerns will be regularly forwarded.

3. All valiant men, wishing to avail themselves of the benefits of this institution, must subscribe one dollar & fifty cents (\$1.50) per annum, during their continuance in service—Contributors, having honorable discharge, after twenty-year service, or, who may be discharged, at any period of their service, on Major's certificate of disability for wounds, ^{or other injuries} received, or disease contracted, in service, to be admitted into the institution.

16,651) 323.099 \$ 2.55

249 02

152 077

5 170

6 230

7 400

4. All kinds of Laboratory Stores to be fabricated and prepared according to the requirements of the Ordnance Department. These Stores, when required by the U. S. to be furnished at the actual cost of material & value of labor bestowed. They may also be disposed of to the State authorities, who ~~will~~ always obtain Cartridges, Stands of ammunition, portfires, rockets, tubes, quick matches & other kinds of the best material & prepared in the best manner.

5. The U. S. Govt. to allow this institution, the use of until legally

claimed

No. 1. Photographed Letter from Captain Anderson to Governor Reynolds

Summed (by the States) of all services belonging to the states of descent within the
States or the institution, are ^{figures of value} ~~summed~~ that may therefore be done to sustain who
may arise from the service of the States, all stoppage by Courts Marshal when
such stoppage is not made to sustain the States, or individuals so to be
sustained - in some, that may be actually reported by the various Courts as being
summed arising from the difference between the values of the various of the such
sum of the articles purchased for them and clothing left by them, after being kept on for a time

It is necessary, that will come from carrying the volume - a hundred
and out of operation, and so enormous and important, that, you will excuse me for
the long and a few of them - The effect on the service, in giving us a better
class of men, than we can now obtain, will be very great - The latter was known
that, when he is worn out in service, destroyed in revolution, and supplanted by his
heir to embark in a new pursuit, he must be discharged and thrown on
the world in society. ~~From which he has been habituated to be~~ ^{summed to sustain} ~~and~~
~~the return to the sum of the goods and find it in the possession of a stranger~~
~~perhaps delivered him of these members of his family who find him a~~
~~in property with respect to the nation -~~ ^{in fact - further in the present nature to manage}
~~find that he has no home sent to the bottle and his a downward -~~ ^{Let the nation}
has known that a home is prepared for him when he will be well taken care
of, and he will have zeal in the discharge of his duties, more willingly incur
fatigue and danger, than ~~can now be the case,~~ ^{to can now} when the greater the sufferings
he incurs in the service of his country the sooner is his constitution broken,
and he, by discharge, deprived of his means of obtaining his daily bread.

The use of the lands for agricultural purposes, the sale (if ever a
good market) of surplus vegetables, the raising of cattle, hogs, poultry or will
under the purchase of Company's Hens ready, or altogether unnecessary.

It may be said that the means indicated ^{may} will not suffice
for the support of all who will be entitled to enjoy the benefits of the institution,
I think otherwise - I believe that a judicious management of the funds above alluded

is, with the fruit, arising from the ^{months & money} labor required for keeping the invalids in health, will more than support them. The amount unclaimed of monies, in the Treasury, belonging to the estates of deceased soldiers, would be great. As these sums are not claimed by legal representatives or heirs, who are more justly entitled to enjoy the benefits of their property than their ~~heirs~~ ^{fellows} soldiers, those who lived as brothers in arms and fought and died together.

Stoppages, by Court Martial, of portions of the soldiers allowances, is a common and efficient means of punishment ~~used~~ in nearly every service, & better use can be made of these sums than making them contribute to the support of the good old soldier, on whom additional duties and labors have been imposed by the misconduct of the bad men who are thus punished.

But if we can not take care of all, let us receive and support as many as our means will enable us. Let us not withhold the helping hand of charity because we can not relieve all who are in misery or distress.

The selections of the pensions for these Veterans (I think, there should be two, one on the Ohio or Mississippi, the other some where at the North or East). I am willing to leave to the Secretary of War.

I have thus, my dear Sir, given you my crude views on this subject, can you, with the wise and good men in Congress carry them into effect? By accomplishing this measure, you will make them happy and contented, who would otherwise have been without homes or penons watched & unhappy - you will confer a merited boon on those who have saved the state some sorrow and who must otherwise regret that they wasted the days of their youth & strength in the service of their country -

The Hon. John Reynolds

I am Dear Sir

Washington D.C.

Respectfully & sincerely yours
Wm. L. G. Davidson



far beyond his most sanguine expectations. And withal it was a grand achievement that has produced an incalculable amount of good and blessings to thousands. This was the establishment of a National Home for old soldiers—intended at first for honorably discharged soldiers of the Regular Army, but which has grown into a gigantic system of relief for many thousands of the soldiers of the Civil War; both State and National in character, and all modelled upon the successfully executed plans that were first conceived by General Anderson when he was a Lieutenant of Artillery."

Anderson's plan fully outlined was first presented to Major Cooper on September 9, 1839, in a letter, to which Major Cooper replied on October 4th, endorsing it most heartily. In December 1839, he asked Colonel Cross to present this plan to Congress for him, but he replied that "the Bill would call for a great deal of nursing in its passage through the House," and that "he was not one who could do any nursing of that kind." His plan as embodied in a communication to the Chairman of the Military Committee was as follows.¹ Immediately after his letter to Mr.

Photographed letter, E. D. Keyes, No. 1 in end of book.

¹ See photographed letter to the Hon. John Reynolds, February 12, 1840, in beginning of book.

Reynolds the plan on which he had labored for so many years was introduced by the Hon. James Monroe, on January 27, 1841.

From Notes Sent to me by my Uncle, Col. Charles Anderson, to be Incorporated in a History of the "Soldiers' Home"—should One ever be Written.

E. A. L.

"It was only a short time after his graduation, when Robert Anderson, inheriting his father's deep interest and love for the Defenders of his Country and guided by the impulses of a benevolent nature, conceived the idea of providing a Shelter for old soldiers of the Regular Army, who having served their terms of service and being unfitted by age or infirmities for active duty, were honorably discharged and left to shift for themselves. 'He builded better than he knew.' The time came when legions of men who had sacrificed everything for their Country and were reduced to want, must be provided for, or exposed to a lingering death. Then it was that the 'Soldiers' Retreat' for which Anderson had laboured during a period of many years under the most adverse circumstances, encountering obstacles and discouragements in all directions, but what he at last saw an accomplished fact, that this Soldiers' Home for the

Regular Army with its years of experience and careful administration, became a model for all the homes that have been erected for the disabled soldiers of the Union throughout the land. Few men have lived to see the fulfilment of such a noble desire. It was the growth of a long concentration and study of the personnel of those under his command. In the discharge of his duties as an officer he was not satisfied with fulfilling in a perfunctory manner the routine prescribed by the rules and regulations; he felt a higher degree of personal responsibility towards his soldiers as *men*, and lost no opportunity to inculcate in them the principles which were his own guide in life. So deeply interested did he become in their welfare that the discharge of a soldier for disability on account of wounds, sickness, or advancing years became to him a matter of deep pain and solicitude, and caused him a great deal of thought and study. '*They must have a HOME,*' and the *first step* to make it self-supporting was to have monthly contributions of a small amount from the soldier's pay, which would entitle him at the end of his term of service, if he so desired it, to become an inmate of the Home. He conferred with many from whom he hoped to derive encouragement and support. In 1839, we find the idea had taken form

and substance, and had evolved itself into a Report and Bill to be presented to Congress. Before writing to the Hon. Mr. Reynolds he had tried to interest several Members of Congress, to present the Bill, but was met with 'courteous refusals.' So the first public and published move was his letter to the Hon. John Reynolds, February 12, 1840. From that date until the passage of the Bill in 1851, he never ceased his efforts."

From letter of Mrs. Eba Anderson Lawton, requesting General Vielé to present the portrait.¹

.....

"My beloved Father's greatest pride was in the Army—he had devoted his whole life, energies, and talents to its service. At last, worn out and enfeebled he crowned his life's work by leaving to that army the 'Association of the Graduates of West Point,' fit complement to the work of his youth, 'The Soldiers' Retreat.'"

From Address by General Vielé Presenting Portrait of General Anderson to the Alumni of West Point, June 9, 1893.¹

.....

"He rendered conspicuous service in every war

¹ See Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy, page 155.

and Indian disturbance that occurred during his life having been severely wounded in the Mexican War, and was especially honored with the esteem and confidence of his Commander-in-Chief, General Scott.

“Underlying his whole character was an intense humanity that compelled him with an undeviating purpose to love others more than himself.

“For years he devoted himself with a marvellous assiduity to secure the foundation of a home for old soldiers, under constant and repeated discouragements, until at last success crowned his efforts, and the Soldiers' Home at Washington was established on a lasting basis, and became a model for all those homes of a similar character that now afford shelter for so many thousands of the soldiers of the Civil War. It was this same love for others that suggested to him our Association, where the impulses of a noble profession and the memories of early companionship would find a perennial renewal.”

NOTES IN REGARD TO EARLY HISTORY OF THE RETREAT

I find in a very old package marked 1834 or 5, “The History of the Naval Hospital System,” with the query “.. has done for ..e Navy,

why not Army? (the spaces are for letters that are effaced) which should read, "If this has been done for the Navy, why not for the Army?" What I judge to be the History of the Hôtel des Invalides, as it is in French, and the name occurs frequently, jottings from the History of Chelsea Hospital, notes about Old Soldiers, some reduced to begging, some dying of starvation, etc. Then "Soldiers' Retreat linking ... soldierse.-lu....ary Warose .. the present day" (Soldiers' Retreat linking the soldiers of the Revolutionary War with those of the present day). With the exception of the "Naval Hospital System," the jottings are so defaced that some cannot be read at all, others only with a magnifying glass—so I cannot have them photographed. The Resolution of Mr. Ramsay (1828) and the Report of the Secretary of War (1833), sent to me through the courtesy of General Young, are most valuable, particularly in connection with the memorandum of the "Early History of the Home," and I tender him my thanks.

This last is not in my Father's writing, and I do not know where it came from. The wording of the Resolution of Mr. Ramsay is not at all what Captain Anderson advocated. We see by the Mem., however, that five officers wrote advocating

the formation of an Asylum. The whole matter was then dropped *until* in 1833 the Secretary of War (Cass) made his report, which was a most excellent one, *but was never acted upon!* This shows most emphatically, that though others had *thought* that some provision should be made, some Asylum provided for old soldiers, it was not until 1839, six years after, that Captain Anderson had so planned and organized *his thought* that he had it introduced as a Bill into Congress, and in 1851 had carried to a triumphant finish *his own original plan* for the "Soldiers' Retreat" begun in his early youth.

Two years before my Mother's death, I began, with her permission, my feeble efforts to have my Father's services and labor of love acknowledged.

I submit two letters, one from General Corbin and the other from General Hawkins, agreeing with us that there was *absolutely* no doubt that Captain Anderson was the Organizer of the Home. His family were never informed that there was any Memorial of him at the Home. From a letter from General Hawkins, Governor of the Home, dated, Sept. 1, 1906, I quote the following:

"It appears that eighteen years ago, the Board officially named the several Buildings, part of the Resolution reading as follows:

““The Building known as the “Mansion” will be called “Anderson Building,” after the late Brigadier-General, Robert Anderson, U.S. Army (Brevet Major-General.)’” This takes it back to 1888. My Mother died in 1905. Even had there been no Memorial of him, I would never have asked the Board to put one up. I wished whatever it might be, to be my memorial not theirs.¹ I shall not go into the history of my failures. The Board have given me a panel, for which my heart goes out in gratitude, and now I want recognition of his services. As seen by the letter of the present Governor of the Home, General Young, my Father’s claim is not allowed.

THEREFORE THIS PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY.

HISTORY OF THE NAVAL HOSPITAL SYSTEM

“On the 16th of January, 1798, Congress enacted a Statute for the relief of sick and disabled Seamen. The Act authorized the President to nominate and appoint Directors of the Marine Hospital of the United States for the accommodation of the sick and disabled.

¹ The Anderson Building is the only Memorial bearing his name in his beloved country, and I am most truly thankful that it was so named by the Board of the Home. My only regret is that my Father had not the recognition during his life-time, and that my Mother did not know of it.



No. 2. Anderson Building
"Soldier's Home," Washington, D. C.



“ On the 2d of March, 1799, a supplemental Act was passed directing the Secretary of the Navy to cause to be deducted from the pay of every Officer, Seaman, and Marine of the Navy of the United States the sum of 20 cents per month, and to pay the same quarter-annually to the Secretary of the Treasury to be applied to the support of the Naval Hospital System.

“ It provided that these parties shall be entitled to receive the benefits and advantages of the institution in cases of sickness, and of temporary or permanent disability.

“ In 1811, under a special Act establishing Naval Hospitals, a Board of Commissioners was appointed and a Fund created for the Marine Hospital. It authorized the Board to provide proper Sites, and erect suitable Buildings for a permanent Asylum. The rules and regulations for the government of the Institution were to be prepared by the Secretary of the Navy. The Act also required that the ration of the Officer, Seaman, or Marine admitted into the Hospital should be deducted for the benefit of the Fund during continuance therein, and that any invalid pensioner admitted should forfeit during his stay the amount of his pension for the benefit of the same Fund.

“ Subsequently Acts were passed establishing

Hospitals at Charleston, Brooklyn, Pensacola, etc. The average sum paid into the Fund arising from the deduction of 20 cents per month, the ration, and the stopping of the Pension, is about \$40,000 per annum. It will be perceived by this hasty sketch of the establishment and practical workings of this system, of a self-sustaining Hospital, that it has been in successful operation for more than a half century—that the income accruing from this trifling deduction from the Salary of each Officer and man holding a position in the Navy, has been found ample to support the Fund. It is simply a mutual aid society, in which all who are employed in the service are equally interested. It requires no annual appropriation from Congress and it assumes a permanent character so long as this great Military¹ branch of the service continues to exist.”

Memorandum.

July 25, 1910.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME, WASHINGTON, D. C.

EARLY HISTORY

“The first record that can be found regarding the establishment of an Army Asylum is in a

¹ I think this should be *Naval*.

Resolution introduced in the House of Representatives, by the Honorable Mr. Ramsay of Pennsylvania in December, 1828, which directed the Military Committee to inquire into the expediency of reporting a Bill making provision for an Army Asylum. Upon this the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives on February 27, 1829, made report recommending that the Secretary of War be requested to collect and report to the next Congress the views of the Army on the subject, and that the letters of the several officers which accompany that report be printed.

“The letters referred to were from Major-General Alexander Macomb, commanding the Army, dated January 26, 1829; Colonel Roger Jones, Adjutant-General, dated January 12, 1829; General T. S. Jesup, Quartermaster-General, dated January 10, 1829; a letter from the Surgeon-General, dated January 7, 1829; and a letter from the Paymaster-General, dated January 3, 1829.

“In these letters the feasibility of establishing such an asylum was fully discussed, and General Macomb recommended that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated to purchase a site and erect buildings, and that the District of Columbia appears to afford the best location for the Home.

[In the Report of the Secretary of War,¹ November 29, 1833, it is also advocated.]

On January 7, 1841, the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives made a favorable report on a letter referred to it from Captain Robert Anderson, dated February 12, 1840, addressed to Hon. John Reynolds, Washington, D.C., in which, in compliance with Mr. Reynolds's request, he briefly presented the views he offered the day before in a conversation on the subject of establishing a home for the discharged, old, or invalid soldiers. Major-General Winfield Scott, in his annual report of November 23, 1844, commended to favorable consideration the report made by the Military Committee on January 7, 1841, containing a plan of the means required for establishing such an institution.²

"The Committee on Military Affairs on January 19, 1848, in the report refers to the Memorial of the officers of the Army praying for the founding of an Asylum for the relief and support of invalid soldiers and refers to the previous reports made by Congress recommending the establishment of an asylum and approved the Bill reported and

¹ Cass.

² This "History" from January 7, 1841, is not at all complete as compared with the official records.

adopted by the Committee of a previous Congress which provided,

A monthly contribution of 20 cents from each soldier.

The use of all money belonging to soldiers at the time of their death, and remaining unclaimed 12 months after their death.

Stoppages by sentences of Courts-Martial.

Forfeitures by reason of desertions.

Surplus of hospital fund annually on hand.

Sale of produce and fabricated articles by the beneficiaries.

“ Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, submitted the report of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, January 3, 1851; referred to the past action of Congress; to the repeated recommendations made in the annual reports from the War Department and to the report of the General-in-Chief of 1850, in which he referred to his previous report of 1849 as having presented the ‘equitable claims of the decayed and worn-out soldiers, regulars and volunteers, discharged or who may be discharged, to an asylum, and showing that it might be established out of funds already lodged in the Treasury by the Army and by other means without original or subsequent charge upon the country.’

“This was followed by the passage of the Act of March 3, 1851, entitled, ‘An Act to Found a Military Asylum for the Relief and Support of invalid and disabled Soldiers of the United States.’”

“OFFICE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, U. S. SOLDIERS’ HOME,
“WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
“June 19, 1913.

“MRS. JAMES W. LAWTON,
“37 Fifth Avenue,
“New York City, N. Y.

“DEAR MADAM:

“With reference to your letter of recent date and previous correspondence on the subject of the inscription to be placed on the tablet in the new Mess Hall at the Soldiers’ Home, in memory of your father, General Robert Anderson, I have the honor to inform you that an exhaustive examination of the records of the War Department and of the reports of Congress has been made by the Board of Commissioners which reveals the fact that the first suggestion for the establishment of a military asylum was made by Hon. Wm. Ramsay of Pennsylvania on December 16, 1828, in the form of a resolution introduced by him in the House of Representatives, and that in 1833 the Secretary of War in his annual report to the

President recommended the establishment of such an institution.

“The earliest mention of the name of General Anderson in connection therewith is found in a letter addressed by him to Hon. John Reynolds, House of Representatives, February 12, 1840; and although he continued active with other officers of the Army, of whom General Winfield Scott was the most conspicuous, in agitating the establishment of a military asylum, it was not to that degree which would entitle him to be considered its ‘originator and founder.’ The Board of Commissioners, therefore, based upon the records in the matter, decided at its meeting held on the 17th instant that the inscription for the tablet in memory of General Robert Anderson should not be worded that he was the ‘originator and founder’ of the Soldiers’ Home, but that he should be assigned a principal part in bringing about the establishment of the Home, which would be fairly represented by an inscription as follows:

“‘An early advocate and earnest promoter of the Soldiers’ Home.’

“Very respectfully,

“S. B. M. YOUNG,

“*Lieutenant-General, Governor,*

“*President of the Board.*”

In reply to this letter I wrote that I would not agree to this inscription, and asked the Board to delay action until my *History of the Retreat* was completed.

"OFFICE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, U. S. SOLDIERS' HOME,
"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
"October 6, 1913.

"MRS. EBA ANDERSON LAWTON,
"The Bungalow,
"Elizabethtown, N. Y.

"MADAM:

"At General Young's request, and agreeably with your wishes, I beg to enclose herewith a copy of the resolution introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Ramsay of Pennsylvania, December 16, 1828, and an extract of the annual report of the Secretary of War of November 29, 1833, relative to the establishment of an Army Asylum for aged, infirm, and disabled soldiers.

"Very respectfully,

"N. HERSHLER.

"*Secretary to the Board.*"

"HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
"WASHINGTON, 16th December, 1828.

"*On motion of Mr. Ramsay:*

"Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency

of reporting a Bill making provision for erecting and supporting an Army Asylum, by retaining from each officer, non-commissioned officer, and private in the Army of the United States, a certain portion of their monthly pay, for the purposes of creating a fund to be called 'The Army Asylum Fund' for the support of all aged, infirm, poor, and disabled soldiers, who have served in the Army of the United States, since the American Revolution."

“EXTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY OF WAR (CASS), DATED
NOVEMBER 29, 1833

“And I also feel it my duty to bring before you a kindred subject connected with the rank and file of the army, and having for its object a provision for the support of superannuated soldiers. In our service, as at present organized, a soldier can only be retained as long as his physical powers are sufficient to enable him to perform the duties required of him. When his constitution fails, unless it is the result 'of disability incurred in the line of his duty,' he is discharged without any provision for his support, and generally, from the habits of his life, without the disposition, and too often the power, to labor, and without the means of support. He is then thrown upon the charity of

50 History of the Soldiers' Home

the community, after devoting the best of his life to the service of his country.

“This result may be easily obviated without expense to the Government, and an ample provision made for those discharged soldiers who are unable to procure the means of support. The principle which has been long and wisely applied to the navy may be safely applied to the army. An inconsiderable deduction from the pay of each soldier would go far towards the creation of a fund for this purpose; and if this deduction were to commence with those who might enlist after the passage of the law, there could be no objection on account of the previous engagements formed with the soldiers. And there are three auxiliary sources of revenue which may be applied towards the former object.

“There are fines assessed by courts-martial.

“The pay due to soldiers who may die without leaving any heirs to claim it.

“A proportion of the post fund, which is principally derived from a tax upon sutlers.

“It is believed that the means which may be realized agreeably to this suggestion, would be found sufficient to provide for the maintenance of this character of the Government and the feelings of the community.”

OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE INCEPTION
AND FOUNDATION OF THE "SOL-
DIERS' RETREAT"

HAVING now finished with all preliminaries, I begin with the official history of the inception and foundation of the Soldiers' Retreat, with the passage of the Bill through Congress in 1851. I give below a list of official documents bearing upon the matter:

1. Military Asylum, or, as it is now called, "Soldiers' Home," see Doc. 138, House of Representatives, 1st Session, 26th Congress, March 16, 1840.
2. (Letter from Robert Anderson to Hon. John Reynolds.)
3. Report No. 74, bill House of Representatives, 588, 26th Congress, 2d Session, introduced by Hon. James Monroe (N. Y.), January 7, 1841.
4. General Scott's Report, November 22, 1841.
5. Report No. 109, 2d Session, 28th Congress (same bill as 588, 26th Congress), introduced by General D. L. Clinch of Georgia.
6. General Scott's Report, November 20, 1845.

7. Report No. 105, bill House of Representatives, No. 95 (same as 588, 26th Congress), by Hon. A. Burt, South Carolina, January 19, 1848.

8. Senate, 186, 30th Congress, 1st Session, by Hon. Jeff. Davis, March 28, 1848.

9. Letter of General Scott to Secretary of War, December 24, 1849.

10. Senate 392, 2d Session, 31st Congress, to accompany Report 227, by Hon. Jeff. Davis of Mississippi.

11. Endorsed on original bill and sent to Major Anderson:

"8 P.M., MONDAY NIGHT, March the 3d, 1851—
Dr. Major, The bill has just passed the House by quite a majority.

"Yrs. Truly, WYSE."

12. Order No. 14 to publish officially Act of Congress in relation to the Military "Asylum," March 5, 1851.

13. Offered the position of Deputy-Gov. of the "Asylum," District of Columbia. Declined. May 29th.

14. Order that Bvt.-Maj. R. A., Capt. 3d Regt. Art., be appointed Gov. of the Western Military Asylum at Harrodsburg, Ky., May 7, 1853.

15. 1ST MONDAY IN NOVEMBER was unanimously re-elected as Gov. for the next year. (See Order, May 9, 1854.)

16. Relieved from duty as Gov. of the Military Asylum, August 23d.

Also letters from Captain Robert Anderson, 1836 to 1851, asking the most prominent officers of the Army, and Members of the House of Representatives and Congress (and answers from same) urging them to help in his plan.

He addressed Circulars to every officer in the Army, asking their names for a petition memorializing Congress for the establishment for a Soldiers' Retreat.

In order to substantiate his claim that it could be self-supporting, he procured the Abstracts of Stoppages by Courts-martial from every company in the service for different years.

He wrote out the history and workings of the Chelsea Hospital and the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris, embodied in Report No. 74, House of Representatives, 26th Congress, 2d Session, Bill No. 588, in 1841, introduced by Hon. James Monroe of New York.

The following letters precede Captain Anderson's letter to Governor Reynolds:

“WASHINGTON, October 4, 1839.

“DEAR CAPTAIN:

“Your letter of the 9th ultimo arrived here during my absence from the city, and since my return I have been so much occupied with pressing business, that I was unable to give the interesting subject, to which your letter relates, a moment’s consideration until now.

“I assure you my efforts shall be cheerfully contributed towards effecting it, but you greatly overrate my ability, when you would devolve on me the principal part in so great an undertaking—that of preparing the scheme, and nursing it through Congress. . . . It is at present quite uncertain whether I shall remain here through the winter, having received an intimation that my services will probably be again required in Florida. In that event it will not be in my power to do much in aid of the object; but should I not go, I will give the subject a more detailed examination, in time for Congress, and will then unite with such other officers as may take an interest in it, in preparing a bill. Nothing more than general provisions should be aimed at in the bill, as it is extremely difficult to induce Congress to act upon details, especially in a matter of which they are measurably ignorant. Besides it is better that

details should be left to by-laws or regulations, as they can be altered, as experience may show to be necessary. Most of the heads indicated by you are of a general character, and on subjects which would require legislation.

“One institution will, I think, be enough to begin with. It would be well to secure the favor of the Secretary of War, and induce him to notice and recommend the subject in his Annual Report. With such an introduction to Congress, the officers who take an interest in it, might act to much greater advantage. The Heads of the Staff Departments here might do much towards effecting the object, if they could be united on it. But there should be some officers of rank and standing from the line, who may be supposed to take more interest in the welfare of the soldiers, to co-operate with them.

“All I can say is, I will contribute my mite, in any way; but I expect it will require something more than the isolated exertions of one or two officers to effect anything. There must be union in our efforts.

“Yrs. very truly,

“H. CROSS.

“Capt. ROBERT ANDERSON,

“Elizabethtown, New Jersey.”

One of the many letters before Col. Monroe introduced his Report and Bill:

“WASHINGTON, 9th May, 1840.

“MY DEAR CAPTAIN: Yours was received 4 or 5 days after it was written, as I had been absent, and I have been so much annoyed lately, that I did not answer it, and I could do nothing, as the Bill still lies in the House, but Mr. Poinsett and Genl. Waddy Thompson of S. C., who is now the Chairman of the Military Committee of the House says it will pass. . . .

“Your friend,

“WILLIAM M. GRAHAM.

“Capt. ROBERT ANDERSON,

“Elizabethtown, New Jersey.”

From “Life of General Anderson,” by Mr. A. B. Lapsley. (Unpublished.)

As this Chapter on “Soldiers’ Home” introduces several Reports, Bills, etc., I have used it as a basis, adding in their proper sequence, letters, etc. which I considered necessary. Mr. Lapsley’s words are in quotations.

E. A. L.

“Beside his work for the greater efficiency of the artillery service Anderson at this time took up a

subject which had for many years been near his heart—the establishment of a 'Soldiers' Home.' In reply to his letter of September 9, 1839, outlining his plan, Major Cooper, on October 4th, wrote, 'The object proposed is, indeed, a laudable one, which should command the united exertions of the whole army.

“I need not assure you that my humble efforts shall be cheerfully contributed towards effecting it. . . . As to the practicability of the thing I have no doubt of it, when combined with a system of labor yielding a portion of the means to support the establishment.’ A few months later having brought the matter to the attention of the Hon. John Reynolds of Illinois, he wrote out for him the following plan for the ‘Retreat.’”

Doc. No. 138

26th Congress,
1st Session,

House of Representatives.

ROBERT ANDERSON'S PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR OLD
SOLDIERS, MARCH 16, 1840

(Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs)

“WASHINGTON CITY, February 12, 1840.

DEAR SIR:

In compliance with your request, I shall briefly

present the views I offered yesterday, in our conversation on the subject of establishing a home for the discharged, old, or invalid soldiers.

1. The United States Government to allow the use of quarters and lands, furnish medical attendants, furnish, at cost value, medical, quartermasters', commissary, and ordnance stores.

2. The "Soldiers' Retreat," or institution for the reception of honorably discharged soldiers, to be governed by the rules and articles of war, and such regulations as may be approved by the Secretary of War. Officers for the Retreat to be selected by the Secretary of War, to whom monthly returns and accounts of its moneyed concerns will be regularly forwarded.

3. All enlisted men, wishing to avail themselves of the benefits of this institution, must subscribe \$1.50 per annum, during their continuance in service. Contributors, having honorable discharges after twenty years' service, or who may be discharged at any period of their service, on surgeon's certificates of disability, for wounds or other injuries received, or disease contracted in service, to be admitted into the institution.

4. All kinds of laboratory stores to be fabricated and prepared according to the requirements of the Ordnance Department. These stores, when

required by the United States, to be furnished at the actual cost of material and value of labor bestowed. They may also be disposed of to the State authorities, who can there obtain cartridges, stands of ammunition, port-fires, priming-tubes, fuses, etc., etc., made of the best materials, and made in the best manner.

5. The United States Government to allow this institution the use (until claimed by the heirs) of all moneys belonging to the estates of deceased soldiers; all forfeitures of sums that may hereafter be due to soldiers who may desert from the service of the United States; all stoppages by Courts-martial, when such stoppages are not made to reimburse the United States or individuals for losses sustained; all sums that may be annually reported by the Surgeon-General as surplus arising from the difference between the values of the rations of the sick, and of the articles purchased for their use; all clothing left by deserters, after being kept one year on hand.

The advantages that will arise from carrying this or some kindred scheme into operation are so numerous and important that you will excuse me for mentioning but a few of them.

The effect on the service, in giving us a better class of men than we can now enlist, will be very

great. The soldier now knows that, when he is worn out in service, destroyed in constitution, and unfitted, by his habits, for embarking in a new pursuit, he must be discharged, and thrown, an outcast, upon society. He returns, perhaps to the home of his youth, and there is greeted by no friendly smile; the stranger is in his father's house; he has no home; resorts to the bottle, and dies a drunkard, or becomes a burden on the parish where he may be. Let the soldier know that a home is prepared for him, where he will be kindly welcomed and well taken care of, and he will be more active and zealous in the discharge of his duties; more willing to incur fatigue and danger, than can now be the case, when he knows that the greater the sufferings he endures, the sooner is his constitution destroyed, and he, by discharge, deprived of the means of obtaining his daily bread.

“The use of the lands for agricultural purposes, the sale, if near a good market of surplus vegetables, etc., the raising of cattle, hogs, poultry, etc., will render the purchase of commissary stores nearly, or entirely unnecessary.

“It may be said that the means indicated may not suffice for the support of all who will be entitled to the benefits of the institution. I think otherwise, and believe that a judicious management of

the funds above alluded to, with the fruits arising from the labor necessary to keep the inmates in health, will more than support the institution. The amount of moneys unclaimed in the Treasury, belonging to the heirs of deceased soldiers, must be great. As these sums are not claimed by the legal representatives or heirs, who are more justly entitled to the benefits of their property than their brother-soldiers?

“ Stoppages, by sentence of Courts-martial, of portions of soldiers' allowances, are a common and efficient means of punishment, used in nearly all services. What better use can be made of these sums, than making them contribute to the support of the faithful old soldier, on whom additional duties and labors have been imposed, by the misconduct of the men who are thus punished?

“ But if we cannot take care of all, let us receive and support as many as our means will enable us. Let us not withhold the helping hand of charity, because we cannot relieve all who are in misery or distress. The selection of the positions of these retreats (I think there should be two, one on the Ohio or Mississippi, the other at the North or East) I would willingly leave to the Secretary of War.

“ I have thus, my dear Sir, fulfilled my promise,

and hope that you, with the wise and good in Congress may succeed in perfecting the scheme. By so doing, you will render happy and contented, men who would otherwise be wretched, unhappy, without friends or homes; you will prevent those who become aged and infirm in service, from regretting that they devoted the days of their youth to the service of their country; and will confer a merited boon on those who have done the State some service.

“I am, dear Sir, sincerely and respectfully,

“Your obedient servant,

“ROBERT ANDERSON.

“Hon. JOHN REYNOLDS.”¹

The plan as outlined in the above letter was submitted to Congress on March 16, 1840, and was then referred to the committee on Military Affairs. The matter was put in the hands of the Hon. James Monroe, member of the committee who wrote on the 25th, to Anderson:

“Now as you are the author of the plan, I wish you to have the full merit, and particularly as you understand the subject, will you do me the favor to draw a report and forward the same to me as

¹Photographed Report on letter to Hon. John Reynolds, No. 2, end of book.

soon as your time will admit? . . .” On June 20th, Mr. Monroe writes again: “I have your letter. I shall make the report in relation to the old soldiers as soon as I can get the floor in ‘order. . . .’

“The Committee, as I supposed, will not consent to report the Bill you forwarded. There are constitutional objections; all that is desired can be obtained by other provisions. As no final action can be had this Session, it is thought best to make a report and have it printed with a resolution directing the Secretary of War to report at the next Session his views and a plan for carrying the object of the report into effect. This will make him a party to the plan and secure the aid in the quarter. I should have drawn the Bill to conform to the views of the Committee who are all favorable with one or perhaps two exceptions, but I saw that it would not pass at this Session. The main objection to the Bill is that it confers corporate powers.”

I add postscript and endorsement:

“P.S. I have since writing the above decided to wait until I can hear from you, and if you think it best to report a Bill, please draft such a one, as in your opinion will meet the object you have in view, putting the whole matter under the direction

of the War Department, who may be required to appoint proper persons to superintend the Institution, etc., and to report annually to Congress. I shall wait to hear from you, but I presume you will consider it best to have a Report from the War Department, which will give you time to confer, etc. I do not think that Congress will adjourn till the last of July—so that there is sufficient time. If you draft a Resolution or Bill let it conform to your plan or secure you all that is desired with the touchstone of conferring Corporate Powers. If you consider that the Secretary had better report at the next Session, the Resolution had better call for what is in your opinion necessary, and no more.”

Endorsed June 20, 1840. Ans. “Left the matter with him—thought reference to the Secretary of War might make it, with some, a party measure. Desirous of keeping it above politics.

“R. A.”

He afterwards wrote out the Report and the Bill as presented.

There seem to have been two reports introduced by Mr. Monroe, one with the letter from Captain Anderson to the Hon. John Reynolds, and the other containing the description of the Chelsea

Hospital, etc. This is referred to as "Report on letter to Governor Reynolds."

The Report subjoined is copied from a small slip which a friend found at an old bookstore in Washington and bought for me. The Reynolds letter is incorporated at the end of this Report, but I have placed it where it was first introduced, 26th Congress, 1st Session.

Rep. No. 74

26th Congress,
2d Session.

House of Representatives.

ASYLUM—MILITARY

[*To accompany bill H. H. 588*]

January 7, 1841.

Mr. Monroe, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred a letter from Captain Robert Anderson, suggesting a plan of providing a Retreat for meritorious soldiers who may be worn out or disabled in the service of the United States, has had the subject under its consideration, and submits the following report:

The present usage of service, under the laws

governing the Army, is to discharge all men who are unable to perform all the duties of a soldier. If disabled by *wounds* received in battle, or in the actual performance of his duties, the soldier may receive a pension exactly proportioned to the degree of physical disability—in no case, however, to exceed the pay proper of the party injured; but in all other cases of disability, whether arising from exposure or sickness, incurred in the course of service, or from age and decay, he is discharged without any provision whatever for the future.

No matter how long and faithful may have been his services, the worn-out soldier is dismissed to the cold and uncertain charities of the world, or the ignominious refuge of an almshouse.

With such a prospect, few will enlist into the army except as a temporary resource, and those, most generally of the idle and dissolute; while men who are physically and morally best fitted to serve and endure, will but rarely think of adopting the profession as a permanent occupation.

This condition is borne out by the actual condition of the service. Recruiting is as difficult as expensive, and a proper class of men cannot be obtained. Our army, small as it is, has never been full to its legal complement, and at this time is deficient several thousand men.

With the material enlisted under such circumstances, all that instruction and discipline, under accomplished and zealous officers, can effect, has uniformly been attained; and the Committee believes that, in spite of the obstacles referred to, our troops have proved, and will continue to prove, efficient to a degree highly creditable to the nation.

Our soldiers are well-fed, clothed, nursed, and attended when sick, well disciplined, protected from abuse, and, under ordinary circumstances, their duties are easy. But it is not to be disguised that the profession of arms in this country, unlike all other professions and occupations, cuts off the hope of provision for old age; and this, together with the temptations offered by the high price of labor, accounts for the great frequency of desertion, which, added to the difficulties of recruiting before alluded to, render it impossible to fill the ranks of the army.

It is scarcely questionable that these united evils and disadvantages, under which the service now labors, would disappear under the establishment of an institution such as it is the purpose of this report to recommend.

Let the faithful soldier but have the confidence of comfortable provision for his old age, when he shall be worn out in his country's service, and a

better class of men will soon be found in the ranks, and the soldier will be retained by a higher motive than the dread of punishment, or the security of merely temporary subsistence.

Besides, the enlistment of a larger portion of our native population will immediately follow; love of country and national pride will add their powerful incentives to all other motives, to good behavior; and the character, tone, and efficiency of the service be, in proportion, elevated and increased.

It is a main feature in the system, herewith submitted, that *faithful* and *meritorious* service must be established as a claim to its advantages. The rank and file of the army will thus be given a stimulus to good conduct and zealous exertion, which cannot fail, when added to the discipline and instruction already secured to make our army second to none in all the qualities which should characterize the regular forces of a civilized nation.

The high moral tone of an army is not only of importance to its efficiency, but to the confidence of the community in whose service it is raised. Elevate the character of the soldier, by proper incentives, and the vicinity of regular troops becomes a source of pride and gratification, rather than of distrust and uneasiness to the citizen.

It is, therefore, with high gratification that the committee recommend to the favorable consideration of Congress, the admirable plan submitted by Captain Anderson—a plan which imposes no additional burden on the community, but merely provides that the savings of the soldier, in the vigor of his age, may afford him a shelter in the times of his infirmity or old age.

The means of establishing and sustaining the proposed institution are as follows:

1st. Monthly contribution of 20 cents by every soldier.

2d. The use of all moneys belonging to the estates of deceased soldiers, remaining unclaimed twelve months after the death of the soldier.

3d. Stoppages by sentence of Courts-martial.

4th. Forfeitures on account of desertion.

5th. Surplus of hospital fund annually on hand.

6th. Sale of produce and fabricated articles by the beneficiaries.

The committee are enabled to say, from actual calculations founded on official records, that the sources of revenue thus enumerated will be amply sufficient for all purposes; and thus to establish, as not the least recommendation of the proposed institution to the favor of Congress and the nation, that it does not solicit any additional appropria-

tions for the support of the military establishment. It asks only the influence of the approving and protecting sanction of Congress.

The committee beg leave, finally, to express the belief that the system commends itself to wise legislation, by every attribute and motive of patriotism, benevolence, national gratitude, and economy; and they report a bill accordingly.

For the letter to Governor Reynolds, which follows the above, and is incorporated in this report, see preceding pages, 26th Congress, 1st Session, Doc. 138, House of Representatives.

REPORT OF HON. JAMES MONROE, WITH HISTORY
OF CHELSEA HOSPITAL

[REPORT NO. 74, H. R., 2D SESSION OF 26TH
CONGRESS, MADE BY HON. JAMES MONROE
OF NEW YORK¹]

THE "SOLDIERS' RETREAT"

January 7, 1841.

The Committee on Military Affairs to which was referred a letter from Captain Robert Anderson,

¹ Anderson wrote out the history and workings of the Chelsea Hospital and the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris, embodied in Report No. 74, House of Representatives, 26th Congress, 2d Session, Bill No. 588, in 1841 introduced by Hon. James Monroe of New York.

dated March 16, 1840, suggesting a plan for providing a Retreat for meritorious soldiers who may be worn out or disabled in the Service of the United States, has had the subject under consideration and submits the following Report:†

“Two of the most important establishments for the accommodation and care of old and disabled soldiers are the ‘Hotel Royal des Invalides’ (1670, Louis XIV) in France, and the ‘Royal Chelsea Hospital’ (1682 to 90, Charles 2d, James 3d, and William and Mary) in England—both founded towards the close of the 17th century. Chelsea Hospital was intended to accommodate ‘decayed Cavaliers.’ Charles the 2d, having founded, about the same time, the Kilmainham Hospital for the reception of disabled soldiers in Ireland, in 1825 the Kilmainham pensioners were joined to those of Chelsea. Chelsea Hospital in 1753 derived funds from a deduction (by law) of five per cent. from the pay of every officer and soldier in the army, and also one day’s gross pay annually—these deductions were discontinued, in consequence of the ‘dear times.’ The British Army from 1680 till a late period, had, in addition to those in the Chelsea Hospital, a class of ‘out pensioners,’ composing the ‘invalids.’ The men

† Submitted with Bill No. 588.

composing these corps were soldiers partially disabled by wounds, or veterans who, from old age and length of service, were rendered incapable of the duties of an active campaign, but who were still judged fit for garrison duty. The various laws passed by the parliament of England, manifest the warmest interest in the welfare of soldiers become incapable of performing their duties by infirmities of old age or disease. Acting on the principle that the facility of quitting the service on pension must be guarded against, in order not to encourage imposition and injure the discipline of the Army, laws and regulations had been prepared to exclude all who were not fitted to admission." If we desire to make our handful of troops efficient and useful, get a better class of men in our ranks, we must stimulate their hopes, reward gallant conduct and meritorious services and good character of the soldiers, and encourage good conduct, hold out inducements for them to serve their country long and faithfully. That these objects are commendable, desirable, all must admit. Your Committee believe that nothing will tend more to secure their accomplishment than the foundation of the Institution asked for. Your Committee, sincerely desirous of doing justice to the poor soldiers, but feeling the necessity of acting

cautiously in recommending a measure, which, without proper guards, might operate injuriously on the service, beg leave to report in favor of the establishment of the institution, suggested in the letter of Robert Anderson referred to them, and suggest the necessity of introducing the following resolutions. Contributors of good character are admitted, after twenty years' service, although unfit for the duties of a soldier, but useful for the service. Contributors discharged on Surgeon's certificate of disability, with a view to entering the Retreat, must have been at least one year in service, during which time they must have been seldom on the sick report—the disease, disability, or injury must have been the effect of service, contracted on duty, resulting from military duty or the effect of climate, without being attributable to neglect, design, vice, or intemperance. In no cases shall the men be admitted on Surgeon's certificate of disability until his case shall have been reported upon by some other medical authority than the medical officer or officers of his post or station—and also by a Board of three officers. As an incentive to good conduct the Committee recommend that a contributor shall forfeit the right of admission under the following circumstances, viz., by being convicted by a Court Martial

of the crime of desertion, of having wilfully maimed himself, of having tampered with his eyes, or caused a total or partial loss of sight by his vice, intemperance, or misconduct,—of having been convicted by a Court Martial, or by a Civil Tribunal, of any vicious or disgraceful conduct, provided that if in either of the above cases, the soldier shall, subsequently to such conviction by Court Martial, have performed good, faithful, or gallant service, he may, on the service being duly certified by his company and regimental commanders, be restored to the benefit of the Soldiers' Retreat, on order to that effect from the Secretary of War.¹ Non-commissioned officers who have forfeited their claims to enter the Retreat, in consequence of misconduct, shall have their names and the circumstances under which their claims are forfeited, noted on the Muster Rolls, and on their discharge.

“A soldier, discharged from the Army for disability or for any other cause, who shall, on re-enlisting, conceal the fact or misrepresent the cause of his former discharge, shall not be allowed to reckon his past services, or be again admitted into the Retreat, if again discharged for disability. As it is

¹ Note in pencil on margin: “Would be well for the Court to embrace the forfeiture on this sanction.”

not desirable to retain at these Institutions men who may be perfectly restored to health, and capable of performing military service, those who have entered on Surgeon's certificate for disability, under 20 years' service, shall be annually examined by a Board of medical officers, until they reach 50 years of age, for the purpose of ascertaining whether they continue disabled. Those who are reported recovered and capable of performing their duties shall, if they so desire, be re-enlisted into the service. The men, prior to entering the Institution, shall sign agreements, obligating themselves so long as they remain at the Retreat to be bound by the rules and articles of War, and (all?) regulations that may be devised for the Government of the Institution.

“Contributors who withdraw from the Institution, and remain absent for a longer period than one month, will forfeit their right to return.

“The condition and duties of a soldier require the stimulus of hope—a hope of having it in his power to retire from service with credit, and respectability, at a time of life when he is able to renew the employment of his early years,—discipline improved—obedience rendered more cheerful—his condition should be rendered in time of service, in present emoluments, in future provision, and in respec-

tability, so desirable as to place him on a level in popular opinion with men of other employments.

“Before a soldier is given his discharge entitling him to claim admission into the Retreat, a Regimental Board composed of three officers, viz. (the Lieut.-Colonel of the regiment, or), the second in command at the Post or Station, as President, and the two officers next in seniority, must be assembled to investigate, verify, and record the following particulars:

- 1st. His services.
- 2d. His disability.
- 3d. His character.

“The discharge of the soldier will be filled up from the proceedings of the Board, and when signed by the President, and countersigned by the Commanding Officer, the proceedings of the Board will be forwarded to the Adjutant-General.”¹

BILL H. R. 588, 26th CONGRESS, 2D SESSION, HON.
JAMES MONROE, NEW YORK, JANUARY 7, 1841

A BILL

To found a Military Asylum, for the relief and support of invalid Soldiers of the Army of the United States.

¹ See photograph of Report No. 74, introduced by Hon. James Monroe, at end of book.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That all enlisted soldiers of the army of the United States, and all enlisted soldiers who may hereafter be of the army of the United States and not belonging to corps or regiments raised for a limited period, or for a temporary purpose, or purposes, shall be, according to the provisions and restrictions hereafter contained, members of the institution to be created by this act, and to be known as the "Soldiers' Retreat," with all the rights, privileges, and advantages annexed thereto.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That for the good government and attainment of the objects proposed by the institution aforesaid, the General-in-Chief, commanding the army, the Generals, commanding the eastern and western geographical military divisions, the Paymaster General, the Surgeon General, the Commissary General of Subsistence, and the Adjutant General, shall be ex-officio commissioners of the same, constituting a Board of Commissioners, a majority of whom shall have power to establish, from time to time, regulations for the general and internal direction of the institution, to be submitted to the Secretary of War for approval; and may do any other act, or acts, necessary for the government and interests of the same, as authorized herein.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the officers of the institution shall consist of a governor, two deputy governors, and a secretary, the latter to be also the treasurer; and the said officers shall be appointed or removed, from time to time, as the interests of the institution may require, by the Secretary of War, upon the recommendation of the board of commissioners.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the officers to be appointed for the government of the institution, as provided for in section three, shall be taken from the officers of the army of the United States.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be a meeting of the board of commissioners at the city of Washington, at least once in each year, and they may be assembled at such other times as the interests and wants of the institution may demand, at the discretion of the Secretary of War; and the commissioners, at their annual meeting, shall examine and audit the accounts of the governor and the treasurer, who are hereby required to make, to the board of commissioners, quarterly statements of the receipts and expenditures of the institution; and the commissioners shall, at any other time, have power to investigate and report upon all matters in relation to the offices of the said governor and treasurer.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioners shall report the proceedings of every meeting to the Secretary of War; and all moneys received or collected for the benefit and use of the institution, excepting such moneys as may be held in trust by the Secretary of War, as provided for in section sixteen of this act, shall be paid to the said commissioners. And it shall be the duty of the commissioners also to make a statement and report of the affairs and condition of the institution, annually to the Secretary of War, to be by him submitted to Congress.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That for the support of the institution, all stoppages or fines adjudged against soldiers by sentence of courts-martial over and above any amount that may be due for the

remuneration of Government or of individuals; all forfeitures on account of desertions; all moneys, not exceeding two-thirds of the balance on hand of the hospital fund of each military station, after deducting the necessary expenditures for that year; and all moneys belonging to the estates of deceased soldiers, which now are, or which hereafter may be unclaimed for the period of twelve months subsequent to the demise of the said soldier or soldiers, to be repaid by the commissioners of the institution upon the reclamation of the heirs or legal representatives of the decedents, be, and the same are hereby, appropriated.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That, from the first day of the month next ensuing after the passage of this act, there shall be deducted from the pay of every private, musician, artificer, and non-commissioned officer of the army, according to the restrictions expressed in section first, the sum of twenty-five cents per month; which sum, so deducted, shall be, by the pay department of the army, passed to the credit of the commissioners of the institution for its use and benefit.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That every enlisted man of the army of the United States who has served, or shall have served, honestly and faithfully, twenty years in the same, after arriving at the age of eighteen years, or who shall have suffered by reason of disease or wounds incurred in the service, and in discharge of his military duty, rendering him unfit for further military service, if such disability have not been occasioned by his own negligence, drunkenness, or misconduct, be admitted to the privileges of this institution: *Provided*, That no deserter, mutineer, or habitual drunkard shall be received without such

evidence of subsequent service, good conduct, and reformation of character, as the commissioners shall deem sufficient to authorize his admission: *And provided also*, that any enlisted man admitted into the institution for disability as aforesaid, and who shall recover his health to fit him again for military service shall be, he being under the age of fifty years, discharged from the institution, and may be re-enlisted into the army of the United States.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the provisions of the foregoing section shall not be extended to any soldier who may incur disease by neglect or vicious conduct, or who may protract his cure by design or perverse conduct, or shall maim himself wilfully, to unfit him for military service. Nor shall any person convicted of a felony, or other disgraceful or infamous crime, of a civil nature, be admitted to the benefits of this institution. And all persons thus excluded shall forfeit, for the benefit of the institution, any moneys previously paid by them to the same.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the governor of the institution, or the person acting as governor of the same, to inflict punishment, by confinement, under the regulations of the commissioners, not exceeding twenty days, and by stoppages of any allowances that may be made, having regard to the reformation and health of the delinquent, for a violation of the regulations of the institution; and any member or inmate of the institution, who shall be guilty of continued perverse and insubordinate conduct, or of drunkenness, or other vicious and immoral habits, or be convicted of a felony, or other infamous or disgraceful crime, shall, upon the report

of the governor to the War Department, be dismissed from the same, and forfeit all moneys hitherto paid by him into the treasury of the institution. And it shall be unlawful, thereafter, to enlist any such person into the land or naval service of the United States.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissioners shall have power (provided the means or money of the institution be sufficient for such purpose) to fix the daily rate of allowance, not to exceed three cents a day, to be paid in money to each invalid soldier admitted into the institution, permanently, or for a time only; and not exceeding fifteen cents a day to each soldier entitled to admission, but who may, for particular and especial reasons, be permitted by the board of commissioners to reside elsewhere, according to the following scale, the first being of the highest degree; one, length of service; two, wounds received in battle; three, disabilities after fifteen years' service; four, disabilities under fifteen years' service. And no pecuniary emolument for disability shall be granted under the provisions of this, or any of the foregoing sections, except in cases expressly and strictly limited to disabilities caused in and by the service.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissioners be authorized to allow to the governor of the Soldiers' Retreat, a sum not exceeding four hundred dollars per annum; and to the secretary and treasurer of said institution, a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars per annum; and the commissioners may also authorize the governor of the Soldiers' Retreat to employ as many as two clerks to be taken from the inmates or members of the same, as may be necessary, and allow for the services of each clerk so employed, a sum not exceeding seventy-five dollars

per annum; and that the said sums of money, and all others incurred in the administration of the affairs of the institution aforesaid, be paid out of the funds belonging to the same.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the Commissary and Ordnance Departments are hereby authorized (when the same can be done without injury to the public service) to furnish such stores of their respective departments to the institution as may be needed and required by the governor, under the regulations of the commissioners; the costs of the same to be refunded by the institution to the United States.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That the Ordnance Department is hereby authorized (whenever the public service may require the same) to purchase from the Soldiers' Retreat, prepared ordnance stores: *Provided*, The cost of said stores be not higher than that of similar or like articles of prepared ordnance stores, when furnished by the arsenals of the United States.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of War, or his successors in office, shall be authorized to receive, from any person or persons, individual or corporate, by bequest or otherwise, any money or moneys, and estate, real or personal, of any description whatsoever, as trustee, in behalf of, and for the sole use and benefit of, the Soldiers' Retreat; which property may be, under his direction, sold, or otherwise disposed of; and with the money aforesaid, applied for the current expenses of the institution, or be invested, constituting a fund for the benefit of the same; and any other moneys belonging to the institution, which may be reported by the board of commissioners on hand, and not presently needed for the current expenses of the institution, aforesaid, shall be,

under the direction of the Secretary of War, as trustee, invested for the benefit and use of the said institution; and the aforesaid trustee shall annually, on or before the day of make a report of the same to Congress.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That all moneys belonging to the Soldiers' Retreat, excepting such as may be held in trust by the Secretary of War, as provided for in section sixteen of this act, shall be deposited to the credit of the treasurer of the said institution, in such place, or places, as the commissioners thereof shall direct. And no moneys shall be drawn out by the said treasurer, except upon the warrant of the commissioners, countersigned by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That each commissioner, previous to entering upon the discharge of his duties, shall make and subscribe the following declaration: "I do hereby declare, upon my honor, that I will duly and impartially inquire into the matters to be brought before this board; and will decide in all questions, according to the laws and regulations of the Soldiers' Retreat; and if any doubt shall arise, according to my conscience, the best of my understanding, and the custom of the service in like cases." And the governor, and the other officers of the institution, shall, previous to entering upon the duties of their office, make and subscribe the following declaration: "I do hereby declare, upon my honor, that I will honestly and faithfully execute the trust reposed in me, according to law, and the regulations for the Soldiers' Retreat; and if any doubt shall arise, according to my conscience, the best of my understanding, and the custom of the service, in like cases."

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That the officers of the army connected with the Soldiers' Retreat, as

provided for in the foregoing sections of this act, may, for violations of the laws and regulations of the said institution, or any of them, be punished according to the discretion of a general court-martial, which shall be ordered by the authority and under the restrictions contained in the act of Congress, entitled, "An act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States," approved April tenth, eighteen hundred and six, or of such other as may hereafter be established.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to grant to the Soldiers' Retreat, for their use and occupancy, such unoccupied barracks, and lands adjacent, belonging to the United States, and which are or may not be needed for military or other public purposes, as shall be designated by the Secretary of War.¹

GENERAL SCOTT'S REPORT, NOVEMBER 22,
1841

Baltimore American

MILITARY. The annual report of Genl. Winfield Scott, Commanding General of the Army, transmitted to Congress with the President's Message, is a concise business document.

"Attention is invited to the subject of an Asylum for the worn-out rank and file of the Army, to be supported by the Army itself, by deduction, fines, and reversions. Bills have been twice

¹ Photograph of original Bill 588, end of book. No. 4.

reported for this purpose in the House of Representatives, and we sincerely hope that one, destined to a better fate than they, may soon be presented for the consideration of Congress. If there is any one who deserves to have his pathway to the tomb made smooth and pleasant, it is the old soldier who was ever ready to sacrifice his life in defence of his country.

*No one feels the force of this truth more than the humane author of the report in question, and his recommendation will hardly fail to meet with a proper response.*¹

“Though the Bill passed its second reading in the House, it was not to become a law at this time. Press of business in the Congress, and possibly the lack of *sufficient* political impetus, delayed the consummation of Anderson's unselfish efforts.”

During 1843 and 1844, Father was at Fortress Monroe, and in a letter to my Mother he says: “Among the Members of Congress who are at this Post I think I have one who will be a warm and efficient friend of my scheme for founding an Army Asylum—this is Judge Dean who defended Genl. Scott when he was attacked in the House. I gave him my plan, and he expressed himself warmly in

¹ See photograph part of Report from “Army and Navy Chronicle” written out by Capt. A., end of book. No. 5.

its favor. Coming from one who is among the most devoted reformers, I think it will be well received. You know that I did not intend urging it this Session—but this intention was grounded on the belief that the cry of economy and reform would be raised against it. Now I am in quite good cheer, and hope that it will at all events receive a favorable report from some Committee of Congress, which will keep public attention turned to the subject.”

Upon the introduction of the Bill into Congress, Captain Anderson received many encouraging letters of which I subjoin:

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS IN REGARD TO
THE “SOLDIERS’ RETREAT”

From General Eustis:

“Mr. Monroe sent me the Report and BILL for establishing your invalid Asylum for old soldiers. I say yours, for if it be established, it ought to be called the ‘Anderson Asylum.’ I am very glad that your truly benevolent scheme has thus assumed form and substance, though I greatly fear, that it cannot be passed into a law by the present Congress.

“The extra session, however, is expected to work wonders.”

"January 8, 1841.

"MY DEAR ANDERSON:

". . . Since writing the above, the Report and Bill has been sent to the press. I have just received a paquet from Keyes. It shall be disposed of as requested.

"Yours truly,

"W. C. DE HART."

Endorsed by Captain Anderson:

January 8, 1841—Capt. W. C. De Hart.

"MY DEAR SIR ROBERT:

". . . I see from the papers this morning that Monroe has introduced your bill under the name (in the papers at least) of a *Military Asylum*. I agree with you most fully in dropping that name, even in the newspapers. Don't fail to send me a copy of the bill to New Orleans although I may possibly procure one in Washington. . . .

"With my best respects to Alden and Hayes, believe me truly and sincerely your friend,

"J. E. BLAKE,

"U. S. A."

Endorsed by Capt. Anderson:

January 9, 1841—

Lt. J. E. Blake, Philadelphia.

"MY DEAR ANDERSON:

". . . Whilst writing you, I cannot pass by congratulating you, on the high credit your plan for a 'Soldiers' Retreat' heaps on you, for succeed it must—it asks no funds, which venal partisans might deny—and must strike all as the most approved method of doing justice to those who have suffered in the service—and must be felt by the soldier who no longer can be cast by when worn out, as giving a permanency to our military establishment. But more particularly will its benefit be felt, by its raising the moral tone of the whole army, as the sober, the diligent, and obedient will be alone entitled to its benefits. Genl. Macomb is much pleased with it; and for my part I wish it success with all my heart, and feel assured that it must succeed.

" Yours truly,

"P. KEARNY.

"Lt. 1st Dragoons."

Endorsed by Capt. Anderson:

January 10, 1841—

Lieut. P. Kearny, Washington.

I have made a thorough search for the Report of General Clinch asked for in Father's letter to him, and have not been able to find it. It could

not have been sent, as my Father's various Reports, Bills, etc., were all placed together and marked by him. I have asked that a search be made among the archives of the H. R. and the Senate, and, if found in time, it will be incorporated in its proper place. I can now only submit my Father's letter, and the history of the Report. The bill was the same as the original one, No. 588.

"A similar bill was introduced by Gen. D. L. Clinch and it also passed a second reading, but got no further."

Report No. 109, 2d Session, 28th Congress (same bill as 588, 26th Congress), introduced by General D. L. Clinch of Georgia.

I do not find among the papers this Bill—nor any Report—but on the official copy of the History of the Measure we find "Report No. 109, 2d Session, 28th Congress, same bill as 588, 26th Congress, introduced by General D. L. Clinch, of Georgia." This gives no date, but immediately precedes "Report of General Scott, 20th November, 1845." As the date of the letter is February 23, 1845, General Clinch must have introduced the bill in 1844.

Extract from letter of Captain Anderson to General

Duncan Lamont Clinch, in relation to the Bill introduced by him into Congress.

"FORT MOULTRIE,
"February 23, 1845.

"DEAR GENERAL:

". . . Could you get *this* measure (see photographed letter), and that you have introduced for taking care of the old soldiers, you will have done what will attach to you by the strongest ties the war-worn soldiers and the weather-beaten sailor.

"I thank you for the copy of your bill for establishing an Asylum, and am sorry you did not send me the accompanying report. I wish you would send some copies of the report and bill, as many of your friends are anxious to see them.

"Most affectionately yr. son,

"ROBERT ANDERSON.

"Hon. D. L. CLINCH,
M. C."¹

In his report to the Secretary of War at the close of the year General Scott says of the Bill presented by General Clinch, "A review of the provisions of this bill cannot, I think, fail to secure to

¹ See photographed letter from Captain Anderson to General Clinch, end of book. No. 6.

it a favorable consideration in every quarter.”

General Scott's Report, November 20, 1845.¹

MASSACHUSETTS STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL, 1841

Beef, 24,259 lbs.....	\$1,482.21
Pork, 2978 lbs.....	203.07
Veal, 3944 lbs.....	251.69
Sausages, 489 lbs.....	49.90
Salt beef, 191 lbs.....	13.38
“ pork, 2 barrels.....	32.00
Tripe, 493 lbs.....	40.56
Mutton and Lamb, 2027 lbs.....	161.93
Hams smoked, 642 lbs.....	67.00
Tongues and bacon, 248 lbs.....	26.20
Poultry, 1004 lbs.....	95.50
Fresh fish, 1483 lbs.....	72.36
Salt fish, 4875 lbs.....	110.86
Salmon, 1 barrel.....	18.00
Potatoes, 1472 bushels.....	472.39
Flour, 231 barrels.....	1,432.20
Biscuit.....	109.77
Rice, 1487 lbs.....	71.00
Butter, 10,201 lbs.....	1,751.20
Milk, 639 qts.....	25.91
Cheese, 6382 lbs.....	484.16
Eggs, 601 doz.....	90.81
Tea, 476 lbs.....	271.25
Coffee, 1400 lbs.....	167.27
Brown sugar, 8975 lbs.....	730.35
Loaf sugar, 707 lbs.....	84.70
Molasses, 495 gals.....	157.87
Honey, 230 lbs.....	19.58
Apples, pears, peaches, lemons.....	592.07
Spices, salt, and small groceries.....	160.72
	<u>\$9,245.91</u>

Average number of patients, 230; whole number treated during the year, 399; say \$40.19 for each.

¹ Photographed Extract, General Scott's Report, end of book. No. 7.

History of

BLOOMINGDALE ASYLUM, 1843

Beef, mutton, and veal, 41,990 lbs.....	\$2,099.00
Poultry, 1420 lbs.....	120.00
Butter, 5625 lbs.....	762.00
Cheese, 609 lbs.....	37.00
Lard, 538 lbs.....	32.00
Brown sugar, 9597 lbs.....	696.00
White sugar, 656 lbs.....	82.00
Loaf sugar, 224 lbs.....	26.00
Molasses, 22 gallons.....	6.50
Coffee, 2535 lbs.....	186.00
Tea, 878 lbs.....	458.00
Flour, 198 barrels,	901.00
Indian and Buckwheat, 6 barrels.....	30.00
Rice, 497 lbs., and pearl barley 222 lbs.....	29.00
Fish.....	2.41
Fruit.....	137.00
Tobacco and snuff.....	53.26
Liquors.....	19.22
	<u>\$5,676.39</u>

Average number 160 gives \$41.00 per head.

New York Journal of Science, Vol. 2, No. 6.

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL FOR INSANE

Meat, 37,047 lbs.....	\$1,857.00
Fish.....	150.00
Poultry.....	89.00
Eggs.....	73.00
Butter, 5121 lbs.....	897.00
Cheese, 877 lbs.....	70.00
Flour, 224 barrels.....	1,098.00
Rice, 8684 lbs.....	278.00
Meal.....	26.00
Fruit.....	182.00
Vegetables.....	20.00
Tea, 757 lbs.....	468.00
Coffee, 3202 lbs.....	301.00
Cocoa, 472 lbs.....	98.00

The Soldiers' Home

93

Sugar, 12,821 lbs.....	\$ 937.00
Molasses, 348 gallons.....	92.00
Malt and hops.....	28.00
	<hr/>
	\$6,764.00

Average number 109, say \$62.00 expense for each member.

1845. OHIO LUNATIC ASYLUM

Provision and groceries.....	\$5,471.15
Average No. 158 gives \$34.62 each.	
<i>Average expense of four Institutions, \$44.45 per man.</i>	

ALMSHOUSE, BALTIMORE

Annual cost for support of each insane pauper.....	\$ 65.00
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DELAWARE

Kent City. Average cost of supporting one pauper for a year.....	\$34.87½
Sussex City. Average expense of each indoor pauper...	24.33
New Castle. Average for each indoor pauper.....	44.49

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia. Average expense of supporting alms- house paupers.....	\$ 50.40
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NEW YORK

Auburn. Average cost of supporting each convict.....	\$ 70.27
Sing Sing.....	67.16

MASSACHUSETTS

County Almshouses. Average annual cost of each pauper.....	\$ 44.24
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**TABULAR STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE SOURCE OF
REVENUE FOR THE PROPOSED "SOLDIERS'
RETREAT" AND ITS ADAPTATION TO THE
PURPOSE**

Actual stoppages from the pay of soldiers for
1845 in the following regiments:

	\$	cts.
3d Regiment of Artillery	1,049	00
3d " " " "	2,320	00
2d Regiment of Infantry	1,296	65
4th " " " "	1,253	00
5th " " " "	610	00
7th " " " "	709	25
8th " " " "	1,151	94
Total stoppages in seven regiments	8,389	84
At the same rate the fourteen regiments in the Army would have yielded (double)	16,779	68
Twenty cents a man per month, or \$2.40 per annum for 7883 men, the strength of the rank and file according to General Scott's report would be	18,919	20
Total for 1845	\$35,698	88

Supposing each invalid to be allowed for subsistence the same ration as now allowed the soldier, estimated in value at ten cents, it would amount to \$36.50 per annum—a liberal allowance of clothing¹ cost \$11.35, making as the annual expense for each invalid \$47.85—at which rate

¹ Given annually: 1 wool jacket, 2 wool overalls, 1 cotton jacket, 2 cotton overalls, 2 cotton shirts, 2 flannel shirts, 1 pair flannel drawers, 3 pairs stockings, 3 pairs boots, and one blanket every third year. (Prices, 1846), \$14.69.

In 1846. I addressed Circulars to the Adjutants of the army requesting them to inform me of the amt. stopped by sentences of Cts. Martial in 1845. Returns were rec^d. from half the army by which it appeared that for the whole force then in service 7883 men, the stoppages amounted to \$16,698.

Assuming that the same ratio now exists between the amount stopped by Cts. and the strength of the Army, we should have for the present force of 9,438 ————— \$19,991.

Add to this, 20cts per month for 9,438 men. ————— 22,651.

Annual income from fines & Contributions ————— \$ 42,642

How many men will this amount annually support?

The cost of clothing each inmate, — giving him 1 wood jacket, 1 Cotton jacket, 2 Wood Overalls, 2 Cotton Overalls, 2 Flannel Shirts, 2 Cotton Shirts, 1 Flannel Drawers, 3prs Stockings, 3 prs Beds & every 3rd Year, 1 Blanket — at the present prices of Army clothing — would be \$15.36

The Army rations at 10cts — would be ————— 36.50

Annual Cost of Subsistence & Clothing per man ————— \$ 51.86.

The above sum of \$42,642. would, therefore, feed & clothe 820, men, 11 1/2 per cent of the present strength of the Army. Many more than would be admissible into the Retreat under the provisions of the Bill —



The Soldiers' Home 95

the above fund for 1845 would have supported 743 persons.

The following table exhibits the actual annual cost of each inmate of the several Institutions mentioned for 1845,

	\$	cts.
Almshouse, Philadelphia County, Pa.....		
“ Massachusetts.....		
“ Kent County, Delaware.....	34	87
“ Suffolk, Delaware.....	34	33
“ Newcastle, Delaware.....	44	49
Insane Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.....	65	00
“ Asylum, Massachusetts.....	40	20
“ “ Bloomingdale, New York.....	35	47
“ “ Pennsylvania.....	61	13
“ “ Ohio.....	34	63
	—	—
Total.....	43	00
	—	—
Average.....	43	80

which is less than the before estimated annual cost and would enable the proposed Asylum to support 803 invalid soldiers upon the Revenue for 1845.

Captain Anderson wrote Memorials to Congress and sent them to be signed by officers at the various Posts.

“ HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.,

“ January 29, 1846.

“DEAR GENERAL: The Memorial of the Officers of the U. S. A. stationed at Fort Moultrie asking the founding of a Military Asylum for the relief and support of invalid soldiers of the Army, which you sent me a few days since, has been recd. and was

this morning presented and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs under the rule of the House.

“Very respectfully,

“Yours, &c.,

“H. A. HARALSON.

“Genl. R. JONES,

“Washington, D. C.”

Endorsed: House of Representatives,

29th Jany. 1846, Hon. H. A. Haralson.

Acknowledges the receipt of Memorial of Officers at Fort Moultrie, asking the founding of an Asylum etc., etc.

“DEAR CAPT.:

“I thought you would have seen the Proceedings of Congress, the papers, etc.

“Yours truly,

“R. JONES.

“Feb. 14th.

“January 29, 1846.”

“Recd. February 17, 1846.

“R. A.”

“ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

“WASHINGTON, February 18, 1846.

“DEAR CAPTAIN: I duly received your letter of the 10th inst. and on enquiry find that Genl. Jones sent your petition from your post in reference to

22/46

To the Honble Senate and House of Representatives..

As the undersigned, your petitioners, actuated by an earnest desire to secure protection and relief to our old and invalid soldiers, and at the same time to elevate the character and increase the efficiency of our Army, pray your consideration of a Bill to found a Military Asylum for the relief and support of invalid soldiers of the Army of the United States which was twice reported by Military Committees of the House of Representatives (See Reports No 74 - 2d Session 26 Congress, and No 109 2d Session 28 Congress.)

The first of these Reports is so clear in its statements and arguments, and the Bill is so carefully and judiciously framed, that your petitioners deem it unnecessary to do more than earnestly to solicit your attention personal of the same.

That you will adopt the above or some better scheme for the same object, is the earnest prayer of your petitioners, who are in duty bound will ever pray &c
(Signed, over)

~~W. H. ...~~
States. Col 3^d Art.

W. M. Carson
Major U.S.A.

Robert Anderson
Capt. 3^d Artillery

Thomas ...
Capt. U.S.A.

F. O. Myer
1st Lieut 3^d Artillery

W. H. ...

Henry B. Sudd
1st Lieut 3^d Artillery

* Investigator U.S.A.

M. J. Sherman
1st Lieut 3^d Artillery

Hack ...
1st Lieut 3^d Artillery

W. ...
1st Lieut 3^d Artillery

Harold ... Thomas
1st Lieut 3^d Artillery U.S.A.

Officers signing Ft. Moultrie Petition

the Soldiers' Asylum to Congress as requested; and you will see by Mr. Haralson's letter referred to you the 14th what was done. In these times of rumors of wars I doubt if the National Legislature will bestow much attention on such subjects; tho' I sincerely hope the contrary will be the case.

"Yours very sincerely,

"L. THOMAS.

"Capt. R. Anderson, 3d Arty.

"Fort Moultrie, S. C."

EXTRACT FROM LETTER OF CAPTAIN KEYES IN REGARD TO THE PETITION TO CONGRESS SIGNED BY THE OFFICERS AT WEST POINT. (SEE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF.)

"U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,

"WEST POINT, April 19, 1846.

"MY DEAR CAPTAIN:

"I am at length enabled to enclose to you a petition to Congress to establish a military Asylum which has the names of nearly all the officers at this Post. I owe you an apology for not having sent it sooner. . . . It requires about one week to get all the signatures at West Point. None have refused to sign it, but there are several officers to whom I have not yet presented it. I shall perhaps retain the petition a day or two, with a view to show it to Mr. Kemble and Mr. Parrott at the Foundry if I see any prospect before the mail closes

to-morrow of being able to go over the river. I am a member of a Court Martial for the trial of Cadets, but I hope to be clear the day after to-morrow.

“ I thought it best to copy the petition you sent to me, tho’ perhaps it would be better, for fear the members will not feel disposed, by a mere reference, to read old documents, to set forth the difficulty of getting recruits to fill the ranks of the Army, which is, no doubt, much increased by the number of old soldiers who, after having worn themselves out in the service, have been discharged to beg, and to circulate, through the class of persons from which recruits are obtained, practical and credible evidence of the ingratitude of their country. My delay in attending to the petition has been accidental and unavoidable, and I should be sorry to be thought indifferent to the truly benevolent enterprise, upon which you have bestowed your time and attention for so long a period. May success attend your efforts, and when success is achieved, let all its honour be upon you, as all its fruits will be upon the poor invalid soldiers! . . .

“ Your sincere friend,

“ E. D. KEYES.”¹

This is followed by the official copy of the

¹ Photograph [of above letter from Captain Keyes at end of book. No. 8.

names signed by the officers at West Point, April 29, 1846—sent to me from the archives there.

Petition signed by:

HENRY C. WAYNE, 1st Lt., 1 Art.
B. R. ALDEN, Capt. 4th Inf.
WM. H. C. BARTLETT, Prof. N. & E. Ph.
ROBT. W. WEIR, Tea. Drg.
JNO. NEWTON, 2d Lieut. Engrs.
H. L. BURTON, 1st Lt., 3d Arty.
E. P. SCAMMON, 2d Lt. Top. Eng.
J. L. FOLSOM, 2d Lt. 5th Inf.
A. H. NORTON, 2d Lt. 4th Inf.
T. D'ORÉMIEULX.
JAS. A. HARDIE, 1st Lt., 2d Arty.
JOSEPH ROBERTS, 1st Lt., 4 Arty.
H. L. KENDRICK, 1st Lieut., 2d Arty.
JOHN H. GRELAND, 2d Lt., 4th Arty.
ALEX. I. SWIFT, Capt. U. S. Engrs.
H. L. AGNEL, Teacher of Fr., U. S. M. A.
HENRY BREWERTON, Capt. Corps of Eng.
R. L. BAKER, Maj. Ord.
E. D. KEYES, Capt. 3d Arty.
C. T. BAKER, 2d Lt. 6th Inf.
F. N. CLARKE, 1st Lt. 4th Arty.
A. R. EDDY, Bvt. 2d Lt., 1st Arty.
S. BOLIVAR BUCKNER, Br. 2d Lt., 2d Inf.
J. M. JONES, 2d Lt., 7th Infantry.

L. H. ALLEN

D. H. MAHAN, Prof. Eng.

[This list copied for me officially, being names of officers signed on petition from West Point.]

*Letter from Lt. Miller in relation to Petition from
Fortress Monroe:*

“ FORT MONROE, February 14, 1846.

“ CAPTAIN:

“I enclose herewith a petition in duplicate of the officers at this Post. It has been suggested that the best course to be pursued about them would be to send them to you that they may be forwarded as may suit your views.

“Your obt. Servt.,

“N. H. MILLER.

“*Adjt. 4th Artillery.*”

On March 1, 1846, Captain Anderson wrote to the Hon. T. H. Benton sending him the Petition from Fortress Monroe through General Jones, Adjt.-General. In this letter he gives “the following facts hoping that an attentive examination will convince you that the Institution reported in the *Bill* to which attention is solicited, will be able to support itself, and that we shall then secure your powerful influence in urging its passage through Congress.” He then gives all the sources of revenue, etc., etc. This is followed by a letter from General Jones.¹

¹ See photograph of letter to Hon. T. H. Benton, No. 9, and photograph of letter from General Jones, No. 10, at end of book.

Fordkinson - Feb. 14, 1866.

Captain

I enclose herewith
6 petitions in duplicate of
the officers on the post. - It
has been suggested that the
best course to be pursued
where these cases ^{to} be
taken to you, that they may
be forwarded, as may suit
your views.

Yours and L

R. M. Miller
Capt & Co

No. 5. Photographed Letter from Lieutenant Miller



7th

To The Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

We the undersigned, your Petitioners, actuated by an ardent desire to secure protection and relief to our old and worn out Soldiers, and at the same time to elevate the character and increase the efficiency of our Army, pray your consideration of a Bill to fund a Military Asylum for the relief and support of worn out Soldiers of the Army of the United States which was twice reported by Military Committees of the House of Representatives see Report of 72 - 2^d Sess. - 26 Congress, and of 79 - 2^d Sess. - 28 Congress

The just of these Reports is so clear in its statements and requirements, and the Bill is so carefully and judiciously framed, that your Petitioners deem it unnecessary to do more than earnestly to solicit your attention, removal of the same.

That you will adopt the above or some better scheme for the same object, is the earnest prayer of your Petitioners, who as in duty bound will ever pray &c

✓ Wm. P. Cambridge
 Captain 4th Regt
 ✓ J. B. Piver
 ✓ J. L. Pugh
 ✓ J. H. Drown
 1st Lt. 11th Regt
 ✓ J. M. Nutt
 Major 6th Regt
 ✓ J. E. Thomas
 1st Lt. 4th Regt
 ✓ J. C. ...
 134 2^d St. 4th Regt

✓ J. L. Phelps
Lieut 4th Art'y

✓ D. W. Holt
Lt 4th Art'y

✓ Henry H. Brown
Capt 4th Art'y

✓ R. H. [unclear]
Lt 4th Art'y

✓ C. M. Hitchcock
Capt Surgeon U.S.A.

✓ G. A. Getty
Lieut 4th Art'y

✓ M. S. [unclear] Capt

✓ L. A. [unclear]
Capt 4th Art'y

✓ G. W. [unclear]
Capt 4th Art'y

Before leaving for the Mexican War, Captain Anderson wrote to the Editors of the *Picayune*, a newspaper that always expressed great interest in the "Old Soldiers." I am sorry I have not any clippings from it.

"FORT BROOKE, FLA., December 7, 1846.

"Editors of the *Picayune*.

"GENTLEMEN:

"The kind, humane, and benevolent manner in which you always allude to the hard fate of the poor discharged soldiers points you out as their warm friend and induces me to hope that you will pardon the liberty I take in asking your particular attention to the accompanying copy of a Congressional document. The plan therein suggested for their relief, is, I am convinced, perfectly feasible, and requires only the attention of Congress to command its favorable action. The time has now arrived when justice to the worn-out soldier, will, I hope be demanded by those whose cheeks have been moistened by the tear of sympathy for their sufferings, and by those also whose hearts have throbbed with pride at the glorious victories they have won. Should I succeed in securing your powerful advocacy of a Retreat for this deserving and utterly neglected class, I shall feel that I have done much, very much for them, and know that, at

some no distant day when your hands are warmly grasped by the happy old soldier on his way home, you will thank me for having solicited your influence in their behalf.

"I am Gentlemen,

"Most respectfully,

"Yr. obt. servt.,

"ROBERT ANDERSON.

"*Capt. 3d Artillery.*"¹

"CAMP OF THE 1ST DIVISION,

"February 6, 1847.

"MY DEAR CAPTAIN:

"I send you a petition signed by all the Officers of this Division with the exception of Capt. Day, 2d Inf., who is sick in town, and Capt. Smith, 2d Inf., who has just arrived there.

"I am sorry that in passing through so many hands, the paper has become soiled. Hoping that, in this, as in all other matters, where my feeble efforts could be of service, you will not hesitate to command me.

"I remain truly and sincerely yours,

"N. J. T. DANA."

Endorsed: February 6, 1847, Camp 1st Division
(Tampico, Mexico).

Lt. Dana on Petition in favor of Army Asylum.

¹ See photograph letter to the *Picayune*, No. 11, end of book.

Camp of 1st Division
July 6th 1847

My dear Captains,

I send you a petition signed by all the
Officers of this Division, with the exceptions of Capt. Day
& Lt. J. who is sick in town and Capt. Smith & Lt. J. who
has just arrived there.

I am sorry that, in passing through
so many hands, the paper has become soiled.

Hoping that, in this, as in all other matters, where my
feeble efforts could be of service, you will not hesitate to
command me.

I remain truly & sincerely yours

A. J. Dana 

Capt. B. Anderson }
3rd Artillery }



When the Army lay at Puebla, in 1847, Major Anderson drew up a petition to Congress signed by every commissioned officer present (see Letters of Robert Anderson during the Mexican War). General Scott then promised, *when* the City of Mexico should be captured, to devote the money levied upon it to the benefit of Major A.'s "Hobby" *should* the Bill for the Retreat ever pass Congress. (See General Scott's letter to Sec. of War, December 24, 1849.)

"The petition was signed by nearly every officer of the regular army who served in Mexico under General Scott and was forwarded to Washington where it is now on file in the Senate."¹

I wrote to the Clerk of the Senate, asking if he would have copied for me the Petition from Mexico (see above). Mr. Baker, the Secretary of the Senate, wrote that the Petition from Mexico was not on file. He sent me the names signed on the only petitions they had, three. No. 1 was the Petition from Fortress Monroe, and No. 2 from Fort Moultrie, both photographed.

I could not place No. 3, though I have several letters in regard to other petitions, but not the petitions themselves.

¹ Note by Captain Anderson.

I copy the names on this petition, and perhaps some officer can place them. Mr. Baker says, "Petition No. 3 presented by Mr. Dickinson, February 17, 1846, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs is identical in terms with foregoing petitions and signed by:

I. R. SMITH, Captain, 2d Infantry.
 W. R. PATRICK, 1st Lieut., 2d Regt. Infty.
 N. LYONS, 2d Lieut., 2d Infty.
 ALFRED SULLY, 2d Lieut., 2d Infty.
 J. PLYMPTON, Major, 2d Infty.
 L. FOOT, Surgeon, U. S. A."

Memorandum in Father's writing, showing that he began making investigations about the Stoppages by Courts-Martial many years before he sent out the regular Circular.

STOPPAGES BY GENERAL COURTS-MARTIAL OF G Co., 3D ARTY.

1842	\$ 87.00
1843	176.00
1844	103.00
1845	<u>76.00</u>
Total	<u>\$442.00</u>
Average	\$110.50

"His attention to the project did not cease when, in 1845, the Board having completed its work, he was transferred to Fort Moultrie, S. C.

I copy a few of the many replies to Major

The Soldiers Retreat will be placed under the charge of Army Officers selected by the Sec of War. He governs by the rules and articles of War and such regulations as may be presented or approved by the Sec of War.

Enlisted men desirous of availing themselves of the benefit of this institution must, during their continuance in service, contribute 10 cents per month to its fund. None others shall be received as members of the Soldiers Retreat.

Contributions, having honorable discharges, will be received under either of the following circumstances viz - after having served in the Army 15 years - having been discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability for age, wounds or disease contracted in the public service -

Soldiers Retreats will at present be established at — & — where Medical attendance the use of public quarters & grounds will be allowed by the States.

Medical, Commo, & S. Stores & Provisions supplies will be furnished ^{by the War Department} at cost on the signature of the Commanding Officer of the Retreats. Do and in forming a fund for the support of the members of the Retreats.

No. 7. Photographed Memorandum by Captain Anderson about "Soldier's Retreat"

2 of
Natives all kinds of Laboratory
Stores will be prepared at them
and also furnished to the Station
at the actual cost of material
& labor

Discharges ^{of enlisted persons} to the contributors will
be contributed to the
Discharges shall be granted
in duplicate to each contributor,
one to be sent to the Comman-
der of the Station, when the
soldier may wish to go - trans-
portation will be allowed him
to the same place - These dis-
charges shall specify how
long the soldier has been a
regular contributor to the
fund

Anderson's Circular to the Adjutants of the various Regiments asking the amounts of Stoppages by Courts-Martial. In a letter he says that he sent these Circulars in 1846—this shows that he must have sent some in 1841, as the first one is for Stoppages in 1842. Each quarter is on a separate sheet.

CONSOLIDATED ABSTRACT OF STOPPAGES OF PAY BY GENERAL, REGIMENTAL, AND GARRISON COURTS-MARTIAL IN THE EIGHTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY DURING THE QUARTER COMMENCING THE 1ST OF JANUARY AND TERMINATING ON THE 31ST OF MARCH, 1844.

These for the four Quarters give: Date—Company—Captains. Amount stopped to revert to United States as punishment—Amount stopped to revert to United States for expenses incurred—Amount stopped to be paid to individuals—Total Amount—Remarks

January 1st, First Quarter, 31st March, 1844.

Fort Marion, \$305.86 Fort Brooke, \$97 Key West, \$146.00 (E. F.)

April 1st, Second Quarter, 30th June, 1844.

Fort Marion, \$185.22 Fort Brooke, \$100 Key West, \$111.15

July 1st, Third Quarter, 30th September, 1844.

Fort Marion, \$134.00 Fort Brooke, \$127 Key West, \$110.48

October 1st, Fourth Quarter, 31st December, 1844.

Fort Marion, \$50.00 Fort Brooke, \$123 Key West, \$259.69

These are all signed:

(Copy) W. E. BELKNAP,
Lt. Col. Company.

It has been very difficult to choose for publication replies from the Adjutants, for, as Captain Anderson says in the preceding letter, "Returns were received from half the Army," I have endeavored to show that they were not confined to one branch of the service; and that in answer "to the Memorials to Congress asking the founding of a Military Asylum for the relief and support of invalid soldiers" the officers, by signing his petition, supported him loyally—"but he was not over-sanguine about the passage of the Bill through Congress."

"ADJUTANT'S OFFICE, 4TH ARTILLERY,
"FORT MONROE, January 22, 1846.

"SIR:

"In compliance with the request contained in your Circular of the 14th inst. I have the honor to inform you that during the year 1845, the amount of forfeitures of pay to the United States, by enlisted men of the 4th Artillery by reason of the sentences of Courts Martial is \$584.

"I am Sir, very respectfully your obt. sert.,

"J. A. MILLER,

"*Adjutant 4th Arty.*

"Capt. ROBERT ANDERSON,

"3d Artillery,

"Fort Moultrie, S. C."

"ADJUTANT'S OFFICE, 2D INFANTRY,
"DETROIT BARRACKS, MICH.,
"January 27, 1846.

"CAPT.:

"Your circular of the 14th inst. has been received and in accordance with your request, I have to inform you that the amount of Stoppages against *four* Companies of this Regiment during the year 1845 amounted to *142* dollars. Copies of your Circular have been forwarded to the Commanding Officers of the posts where the remaining six Companies are stationed, to wit, Fort Niagara, Fort Ontario, Sackett's Harbor, and Plattsburgh, requesting them to forward *direct* to you the information required, so far as their posts are concerned. Sir, I am very respectfully,

"Your obt. servant,

"J. R. D. BURNETT,

"*1st Lt. & Adj., 2d Infy.*

"Capt. ROBT. ANDERSON, 3d Arty.

"Fort Moultrie, S. C."

"ADJUTANT'S OFFICE 7TH INFANTRY,
"CAMP NEAR CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS,¹
"January 29, 1846.

"SIR:

"Yours of the 14th inst. has been received and in compliance with your request have to state that

¹ Photographed letters from Corpus Christi in relation to stoppages by Court Martial, Nos. 12 and 13, end of book.

the amount of Stoppages of pay of soldiers by Regimental and Garrison Courts Martial in the 7th Infantry during the year 1845 is \$709.25. And in my opinion a better appropriation of such monies could not be made than in the establishment of an Asylum for old soldiers.

“FRANCIS N. PAGE,

“*Adj. 7th Infy.*

“Capt. ROBERT ANDERSON, etc.”

“ADJUTANT'S OFFICE, 5TH INFANTRY,
“CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, January 29, 1846.

“SIR:

“In reply to your letter of the 14th instant requesting to be informed of the amount of Stoppages by Courts Martial (for desertions excepted) for enlisted men in the 5th infy. during the year 1845, I have to inform you that the sum total amounts to six hundred and ten dollars.

“GEO. DEAS,

“*Adj. 5th Infy.*

“Captain ROBERT ANDERSON.”

“FORT COLUMBUS, January 21, 1846.

“DEAR SIR:

“The amount of Stoppages against soldiers of the 2d Arty., for offences other than desertion during the year 1845 by General, Regimental, and

Garrison Courts, is, as nearly as I can readily ascertain, \$1,049.00. There have been Garrison Courts at Posts detached from Regimental Headquarters, the proceedings of which are not on file here; the sum is therefore somewhat larger than that above stated.

"I am very respectfully,

"Yr. obt servt.,

"E. D. TOWNSEND,

"*Adjt. 2d Arty.*

"Capt. ROBT. ANDERSON,

"3d Artillery

"Fort Moultrie, S. C."

"ADJUTANT'S OFFICE, 4TH INFANTRY,

"CAMP NEAR CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS,

"February 6, 1846.

"SIR:

"Agreeably to your request, I subjoin a list of Stoppages of Courts Martial in the 4th Regiment of Infantry during the year 1845.

By General Courts \$803.00

By Regimental 450.00

\$1253.00

"I am etc.,

"SID. SMITH,

"*Lt. and Act. Adjt., 4th Infy.*

"Capt. ROBERT ANDERSON,

"3d Artillery,

"Fort Moultrie, S. C."

"ADJUTANT'S OFFICE, 1ST ARTILLERY,
"PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, February 15, 1846.

"SIR:

"I have received your Circular of the 14th ultimo, desiring to be informed of the amount of Stoppages by Courts Martial (desertions excepted) in the trial of enlisted men of the 1st Artillery during the year 1845.

"In answer, the records of this office do not enable me to furnish you with any correct statement of what the whole amount has been during the period referred to, as almost all of the trials for offenses usually punished by stoppages of pay have been by Garrison Courts Martial, the proceedings of which have never been required by our files.

"By the Records that we do possess, it appears that \$40 have been stopped from the pay of the enlisted men of the Regiment during the last year by sentence of Courts Martial, but that sum I am satisfied is only a fraction of the whole amount stopped. The Officers of the 1st Artillery feel a deep interest in the success of your Bill, and sincerely hope that the 'poor soldier' will at length have something done for him. I was absent on duty at the time your Circular reached here, otherwise I should have given you an

earlier reply. Should you have any spare copies of the report of the Committee to whom your bill was referred—either of the present or the last Congress, you will do me a favor by sending me one.

“With great respect,

“Your obt. servant,

“J. HOOKER,

“*Adjt. 1st Arty.*”

“Capt. R. ANDERSON, etc.”

“HEADQUARTERS 1ST REGT. DRAGOONS,

“St. Louis, Mo., March 16, 1846.

“SIR:

“Your Circular of January 14th was received in due course of mail, and copies of it were at once forwarded to the respective Company Commanders of the Regt. with a request that they would forward at once to me, without delay, the desired information. I have heard from eight Company Commanders, and send you below, the amount of Stoppages reported by each; the remaining two are so remote, that I may not hear from them in time to convey to you as early as you may desire, the information wanted.

History of

Company A	\$124.00	
“ B		
“ C	85.52	
“ D	24.00	
“ F	186.00	
“ G	132.77	
“ J		
“ K	81.85	
N. C. Staff and Band	<u>5.00</u>	\$639.14

“ Companies E and H have not been heard from; as soon as they are heard from, the results will be communicated to you.

“ I am Sir, very respectfully,

“ Your obt. servant,

“ H. S. TURNER.

“ Capt. ROBERT ANDERSON,

“ 3d Artillery,

“ Fort Moultrie, S. C.”

“ MADISON BARRACKS, February 9, 1846.

“ DEAR CAPTAIN:

“ I have the pleasure to comply with your request recd. thro' Col. Ripley day before yesterday. Upon a reference to official records I find the stoppages against enlisted men of my command by sentences of Courts martial (not including deser-

tions) during the year 1845 to amount to \$310.50.

"Very respectfully, I am Sir,

"Yr. obt. servt.,

"J. PLYMPTON,

"*Major 2d Infy.*

"Capt. R. ANDERSON,

"3d U. S. Artillery,

"Fort Moultrie, S. C."

"FORT ONTARIO, OSWEGO, N. Y., February 23, 1846.

"SIR:

"Agreeable to a request contained in your Circular of the 14th inst., a copy of which has been forwarded to me from the headquarters of the 2d Inf., I have the pleasure to state that the sum of \$3.00 has been stopped by sentence of Gen. C. Martial from the pay of enlisted men of Company 'G' 2d Inf., during the year 1845.

"G. W. PATTEN,

"*1st Lieut., 2d Inf. Commanding Post.*"

"Capt. ROB. ANDERSON,

"3d Art."

"FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, March 12, 1846.

"SIR:

"The Adj. of the 6th Infantry in consequence of not having the record of the proceedings of the Garrison C. Martial, held at other posts occupied

by the Regiment, at Headquarters, has sent me a copy of your Circular of the 14th January /46; requesting that I would give him the amount stopped by C. M., except for desertion, from my pay rolls for 1845. The Hd. Qrs. of the Regt. are just about being changed from Fort Towson to Fort Gibson, and it would be some time before you could get the information through the Adj. I therefore sent it direct.

“Very respectfully,

“Your mo. ob. sevt,

“DAVID HUNTER,

“*Paymaster, U. S. Army.*”[†]

List of Stoppages in the Sixth Regt. of Infantry by Courts Martial, except for desertion in the year 1845.

A	Co.	6th	Infantry	\$ 265.00
B	“	“	“	18.00
C	“	“	“	15.00
D	“	“	“	306.00
E	“	“	“	199.50
F	“	“	“	377.00
G	“	“	“	144.50
H	“	“	“	179.00
J	“	“	“	
K	“	“	“	3.00
Band			3.00
				<u>\$1,510.00</u>

[†] Photographed letter from Plattsburg Barracks, No. 8.

Plattsburgh Barracks NY
February 7th 1846

Sir,

In answer to your circular of the 14 ultimo which reached me this morning through the Adjutant of my Regiment with instructions to answer it directly to you, I have to state that the stoppages by Courts Martial of the pay of Enlisted men at this Post during the year 1845 (Other than for desertion) amounts to sixteen Dollars.

I cannot forbear expressing my most earnest wishes that you may succeed in the benevolent work you have undertaken.

The claims of the old soldier to the gratitude and protection of his country appear to me so plain, that I am surprised at the delay in affording the proper legislation.

To
Capt N Anderson
3 Reg Artillery
Fort Mifflin
Charleston Harbor

I am Sir,
very truly & sincerely yours
C A Watts
Capt 2^d Regt

On April 21, 1846, he wrote to the Hon. J. E. Holmes, H. R., in regard to a Bill that had been reported by the Hon. Mr. Burt.

“FORT MOULTRIE, S. C., April 21, 1846.

“Hon. J. E. HOLMES,

“House Representatives.

“DEAR SIR:

“Not having the pleasure of an acquaintance with the Hon. Mr. Burt, who reported the Bill ‘to found a Military Asylum,’ I take the liberty of forwarding a memo. presenting facts which may be serviceable to him in advocating the Bill before the House, which I will thank you to give him. I feel a very great interest in the fate of the bill which is, in my opinion, as necessary to elevate the character and increase the respectability of our soldiery, as it is imperatively demanded as a charitable means of providing for them when too old and infirm to take care of themselves.

“Its passage will also induce some few of our countrymen to enlist—now our recruits are principally foreigners who have recently come to our shores.

“May we not hope, etc., etc.,

“Your obt. servt,

“ROBERT ANDERSON.”

Answer from Mr. Holmes

“WASHINGTON, May 4, 1846.

“MY DEAR SIR:

“Yr. letter with comments and suggestions upon Mr. Burt’s Bill are received. I shall hand them to him, and he will be very much gratified by your approval and thankful for the suggestions.

“With great respect yours,

“J. E. HOLMES.¹”

“ROBT. ANDERSON Esq.

“U. S. Army.”

Endorsed: Washington, May 4/46. Hon. J. E. Holmes. Ackgd. recpt. of mem. on Asylum bill etc.

R. A.

In 1847 we find that Captain Anderson is in Washington trying to interest his friends and members of the House and Congress in his Hobby. I quote from some letters to Mother:

“WASHINGTON, March 1847.

“I fear that Mr. Sherman and yourself have jumped also to a conclusion too suddenly in relation to the Bill for the Military Asylum. It may

¹ Photographed letters to and from Hon. J. E. Holmes, No. 14, end of book; photographed mem., Hon. Mr. Burt, No. 15, end of book.

be very far from its passage through, though it is a Bill before the House. I fear that Mr. Burt is not the man to urge a question through the House. He looks like a quiet, easy man. I am very anxious to see the Bill and also the Report if one was made with it. The original was, I am now certain, sufficient for the purposes proposed. I am not sure that alterations would be improvements."

"WASHINGTON, May 3, 1847.

"You will have heard several days before this reaches you, of my arrival; at least you ought to have been informed, as I telegraphed you to that effect. General Jones, on my reporting yesterday, informed me that he wished me to explain the Asylum, Pension, and Retired Bills to the members of Congress. This morning I called on the Secretary of War, to ascertain whether he had any suggestions to offer, and found that he was only desirous of having the Asylum Bill passed without his being troubled with it—the other Bills I shall not give much attention to at this time.

"I shall commence my labors to-morrow—with what prospect of success I may meet, is merely conjectural,—thus far, all seems favorable. In the Senate, I find a scheme concocting for directing a Board, consisting of Secretary War, Secretary

Navy, Adjutant-General, and Inspector-General, and your humble servant, to report a plan to Congress. This will kill the Asylum, or delay it till another Session. I must try and stop that measure.

"I fear that I am to be put on the Board alluded to in the first part of this letter, for regulation and governing the 'Soldiers' Retreat.'"

"WASHINGTON, May 5th.

"In the Senate Military Committee Room, I met yesterday General Cass and Colonel Benton—they condescended to be very gracious. I saw Colonel Allen and Mr. Atherton in the Senate Chamber, and sat some time with them, promising to call in the evening at their Quarters. To-day I have been engaged getting information to show Jeff Davis that his scheme for an Asylum is impracticable—if he be not a very stubborn man, I think that I can demonstrate it to his *dissatisfaction*. To-morrow I dine with Mr. Crittenden."

"May 6th.

"I had a conversation this morning with the Hon. Mr. Burt, S. C., who has charge of my 'Hobby'—he says that he is entirely satisfied with the Bill as reported, and is unfavorably disposed towards the Senate Bill, extending

retrospectively and embracing the Volunteers. I shall see Mr. Burt again on Monday. My interview impressed me very favorably. I collected this morning some items relative to the expense, attendant on Colonel Davis's scheme, which I think will cause him to abandon it."

"May 8th.

"Yesterday I called to see the Kentucky Members I conversed to-day with Messrs. Crittenden, Badger, and Davis about the Retreat. They are all in favor of my 'Hobby.'"

"May 10th.

"This morning I went soon after breakfast, and spent some time with Mr. Allen of the Senate. I was introduced to several members of the House of Representatives and found only one man, and he a Kentuckian, disposed to oppose the Asylum, this was Lynn Boyd, but I hope to be able to convince him of his error. I was asked to enter the Lobbies of both Houses, and would have been flattered by the attention given to me as an officer of the Army,¹ did I not know full well that this enthusiastic admiration of the Army would not last long."

¹ Another example of his innate modesty. He did not think for a moment that the attention given was for him personally.

"May 11th.

"This morning I went to the House of Representatives and was introduced to several members by my friend Major Gaines. I was in the Military Committee Room for a few moments, and explained to Messrs. Burt and Boots the \$100,000 affair in reference to General Scott's action—fearful that his enemies might pervert the truth, or misrepresent the facts. I allude to the money he had set aside for the 'Soldiers' Asylum.' General Taylor with Mr. Boyce called on me this evening. I saw in the House this morning Mr. Schenck and Mr. Pendleton of Virginia."

"May 13th.

"Early this morning I went to see Mr. Burt; he says the more he reflects upon the Bill, the more resolute he becomes in his decision to resist all attempts to alter its provisions—he will endeavor Monday to have a day fixed for the consideration for the Asylum and for the Retired List.

"I also called on the Hon. Washington Hunt and Lady from the State of New York, then on Messrs. Lynn Boyd and Peyton, both strongly inclined to oppose the Retreat Bill. They finally promised to read the Bill carefully and to vote for it if they could. I omitted mentioning that Colonel Davis

of the Senate told me that if the House would pass the Asylum Bill that the Senate would take it instead of the one his Committee had reported. If Mr. Burt therefore can get it taken up in the House, I shall feel partly confident of its becoming a law this Session."

"May 15th.

"Mr. Burt did not succeed to-day in getting a day set for the consideration of the Army Asylum. I shall not wait for it, but shall, as soon as I receive Mr. Adger's letter, go to New York, and after shaking hands with General Scott, hurry back to you."

*In regard to the Soldiers' Retreat, written by Captain Anderson.*¹

"The Soldiers' Retreat will be placed under the charge of Army Officers selected by the Secretary of War, be governed by the rules and Articles of War and such Regulations as may be prescribed or approved by the Secretary of War. Enlisted men desirous of availing themselves of the benefits of this Institution must, during their continuance in service, contribute 10 cents per month to its fund. None others shall be received as members of the Soldiers' Retreat. Contributors, having honorable discharges, will be received under either of the

¹ See page 105.

following circumstances, viz.: After having served in the Army fifteen years—having been discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability for age—wounds, or disease contracted in the public service. 'Soldiers' Retreats' will at present be established at and where medical attendance, the use of public quarters and grounds will be allowed by the United States. Medical, Commissariat, Quartermaster, and Ordnance supplies will be furnished by the proper departments at cost on the requisition of the commanders of the Retreats. To aid in forming a Fund for the support of the members of the Retreats, all kinds of Laboratory stores will be prepared at them and furnished to the United States at the actual cost of material and labor. Discharges to contributors will be granted in duplicate, one to be sent to the commander of the Retreat, when the soldier may wish to go—transportation will be allowed him to the same place. These discharges shall specify how long the soldier has been a regular contributor to the Fund."

THIRTIETH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Report No. 105, Bill House of Representatives, No. 95 (same as 588, 26th Congress), by Hon. A. Burt, South Carolina, January 19, 1848.

MILITARY ASYLUM. JANUARY 19, 1848

Mr. Burt, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

Report:

“The memorial of the officers of the army praying the founding of an asylum for the relief and support of invalid soldiers of the army, having been referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, they ask leave to submit the following report:

“The propriety and expediency of founding the institution suggested in this memorial, have been thrice presented to the attention of Congress, and earnestly urged upon its consideration. During the twenty-sixth Congress, the subject was discussed and enforced in an able and elaborate report by a committee of this House, and a well-matured and carefully digested bill, to establish a soldiers' retreat, reported. It was again considered and recommended by a committee of the last Congress, with great earnestness. The officers of the army, your committee are induced to believe, still deem it an object of much importance, and a portion of them again urge its consideration.

“Your committee approve the bill which was first reported and adopted by the committee of the

last Congress; and, finding it so well designed to carry out the object contemplated in the above memorials, they will content themselves with but a brief explanation of its provisions.

“It is a striking feature of this institution, and one that cannot fail to commend it to the favorable regard of Congress, that it does not ask any contribution from the treasury of the government, but relies upon means and resources arising from the service alone, either to establish or to maintain it. These means are:

“A monthly contribution of twenty cents by each soldier.

“The use of all moneys belonging to soldiers at the time of their death, which remain unclaimed twelve months after their death.

“Stoppages by sentence of courts-martial.

“Forfeitures by reason of desertions.

“Surplus of hospital fund annually on hand.

“Sale of produce and fabricated articles by the beneficiaries.

“Your committee are persuaded that the fund arising from these sources will suffice to establish and sustain the institution without the aid of any new or additional appropriations. It is thus shown that the interposition of Congress is asked merely to bestow its approval and sanction on an

enterprise which would, without it, be impracticable, and which can be given without any diminution of the treasure of the government.

“It is believed by your committee that the proposed institution would exert a salutary influence upon the character and efficiency of the service and elevate the morals of the soldier. It is the usage sanctioned by law, to dismiss from service all who become incapable of performing the duties of the soldier, from whatever cause the disability may have arisen. Pensions are given to those rendered thus incompetent by wounds received in battle, or in the actual performance of the duties of the soldier. But where disability accrues from exposure and disease, incurred in service, or arising from old age, however well and faithfully he may have served his country, that country sternly dismisses him to die, or live from the grudging hand of charity. The pay and allowances of soldiers are insufficient to enable the most frugal and exemplary amongst them to lay in store the means of subsistence for old age or infirmity. The soldier's life is one of exposure and toil. The best habits cannot shield him from the ravages of disease, nor stay the approaches of premature decay. Is it then matter of surprise that the army recruits its soldiers from the haunts

of idleness and vice; from those who are as destitute of the virtues of citizens as they are of the sentiments of patriots? That inefficiency, insubordination, and desertion should be found in an army of such material, is as natural as it is common.

“ If the soldier can look forward, when no longer able to serve his country, to an honorable retreat, to which good conduct and faithful service are the only passport—a retreat where his pride and self-respect will not be humbled—enlistments will be made, without difficulty, from classes that would enter the army with constitutions unimpaired by dissipation and morals untainted by vicious associations. Instead of the foreigner, who has shown that he is insensible to the ties of country, your army would be filled with those whose pride of country would call them to a profession to which a freeman and a patriot might well belong without dishonor, and one that would not leave him in old age to the precarious contributions of private benevolence, or the humiliating charities of an almshouse.

“Your committee will not permit themselves to entertain a doubt that this institution is entitled to the kindest regard and the most favorable consideration of all who desire to elevate the profession and increase the efficiency of the soldier

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 28, 1848.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following bill: which was read, and passed to a second reading.

A BILL

To found a ~~military asylum~~ ^{soldiers retreat} for the relief and support of invalid and disabled soldiers of the army of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That all soldiers of the army of the United
4 States, now in the regular or volunteer service, or who
5 have heretofore been, or who shall hereafter be, called into
6 the service of the United States, shall be, according to
7 the provisions and restrictions hereafter contained, mem-
8 bers of the institution to be created by this act, and to be
9 known as the ~~military asylum~~ ^{soldiers retreat}; and that the Secretary of
10 War, the Secretary of the Treasury, ~~and~~ ^{a field office and a company of the line} the Adjutant
11 General of the United States Army, shall be, and are
12 hereby, appointed commissioners for regulating and gov-
13 erning the same.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That every

2 soldier of the army of the United States, who shall have
3 served honestly and faithfully in the same twenty years,
4 and every soldier of the army of the United States, now in
5 the regular or volunteer service, or who has heretofore
6 been, or who shall hereafter be, called into the service of
7 the United States, and who shall have suffered by reason
8 of disease or wounds incurred in the service and in the
9 line of his duty, rendering him unfit for further military
10 service, shall be admitted to the privileges and benefits
11 of this institution, if such disability has not been oc-
12 casioned by his own misconduct: *Provided*, That no
13 deserter, mutineer, or habitual drunkard, shall be received,
14 without such evidence of subsequent service, good conduct
15 and reformation of character, as the commissioners shall
16 deem sufficient to authorize his admission: *And provided*,
17 *also*, That any soldier admitted into this institution, for
18 disability as aforesaid, and who shall recover his health,
19 so as to fit him again for military service, (he being under
20 fifty years of age,) shall be discharged.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*. That the pro-
2 visions of the foregoing section shall not be extended to
3 any soldier in the regular or volunter service who shall
4 have been convicted of felony, or other disgraceful or in-
5 famous crimes of a civil nature, since he shall have been
6 admitted into the service of the United States.

1 *SEC. 4. And be it further enacted,* That, for the
 2 support of the institution, all stoppages or fines adjudged
 3 against soldiers by sentence of courts martial, over and
 4 above any amount that may be due for the remuneration
 5 of government, or of individuals; all forfeitures on account
 6 of desertion; all moneys, not exceeding two-thirds of the
 7 balance on hand, of the hospital fund, and of the ~~post~~^{post} fund
 8 of each military station, after deducting the necessary
 9 expenses for the year, and all moneys^{lands or property} belonging to the
 10 estates of deceased soldiers, which now are, or may
 11 hereafter be, unclaimed for the period of three years sub-
 12 sequent to the demise of said soldier or soldiers, to be
 13 repaid by the commissioners of the institution, upon the
 14 reclamation of the heirs or legal representatives of the
 15 deceased, be, and the same are hereby, appropriated.

1 *SEC. 5. And be it further enacted,* That, from the
 2 first day of the month, next after the passage of this act,
 3 there shall be deducted from the pay of every private,
 4 musician, artificer,^{laborer,} and non-commissioned officer in the
 5 army of the United States, in the regular or volunteer
 6 service, or who shall hereafter be, the sum of twenty-five
 7 cents per month, which sum so deducted shall be, by the
 8 pay department of the army, passed to the credit of the
 9 commissioners of the institution, and who are hereby
 10 authorized to receive all donations of money, or property,

11 made by any person or persons for the benefit of the
12 military asylum, and to hold the same for its sole and
13 exclusive use.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the com-
2 missioners of this institutton, by and with the approval of
3 the President, be, and the same are hereby, authorized and
4 required to procure for immediate use, at a suitable placé,
5 a site for the military asylum, and if the necessary build-
6 ings cannot be procured with the site, to have the same
7 erected, having due regard to the health of the location,
8 facility of access, to economy, and giving preference to
9 such plans, as, with most convenience and least cost, will
10 accommodate the persons provided for in this act.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secre-
2 tary of War be authorized and required to prepare the
3 necessary rules and regulations for the government of said
4 institution; to fit up and furnish the same, for the imme-
5 diate reception of those persons provided for in this act,
6 and report how he has executed the same to the next
7 session of Congress.

whilst in service, or to provide for him, when no longer fitted for its toils and perils, an honorable refuge from want and crime. It is an asylum in which charity and benevolence may exercise their blessed office of ministering to the wants and alleviating the sufferings of him who has given to his country the energies of his youth and his manhood, and whom age or disease has made helpless and poor. Its only beneficiary is the faithful soldier who has been dismissed from the profession of arms only because his manhood has been wasted in the wars of his country, or his health exhausted in the toils of its service. A paternal government cannot find, amongst the objects of its care, one that claims more meritoriously its interposition and its aid. The gratitude and benevolence of the nation have erected naval asylums. Let them not withhold the no less noble tribute to humanity—a soldiers' retreat."

The next step was the Introduction of the first Bill by the Hon. Jefferson Davis in 1848. This is most valuable as it has my Father's corrections on the Bill. The letter from Mr. Davis to Father, and Father's letter in answer, showing what mistakes have been made in the wording, is *delicious* and I think *quite* answers what I have heard several

times: "It was *Jeff Davis's Bill*, and *not* your Father's."

Endorsed: Washington City, January 20, 1850, Jefferson Davis, United States Senate. Requesting me to attend before the United States Senate Military Committee on subject of Army Asylum.

"WASHINGTON, 20th January, 1850.

"Col. ROBERT ANDERSON:

"DEAR SIR:

"I recently heard of your arrival and in addition to the desire I always feel to see you as an old and esteemed friend, I now wish especially to see you—in relation to the question of an Asylum for decayed officers and soldiers. There is a probability that we will pass a bill to retire officers under certain provisions which you may have seen. There is also a new element created by the grant of extraordinary pensions to invalid soldiers. I am anxious to have your aid and have mentioned to the Military Committee that as you were so thoroughly identified with the question I would be glad for them to hear you. The proposition was readily acceded to. Au revoir.

"Your friend,

"JEFFERSON DAVIS."

Endorsed: Rough draft of letter to Col. Jeff. Davis, February 22, 1851.

"FORT PREBLE, MAINE, February 24, 1851.

"MY DEAR COLONEL:

"I would be remiss in courtesy, were I not to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of January 20, 1850, recently exhumed from the vaults of the Dead Letter Office, and to thank you for the compliment paid me therein by the Military Commission, at your suggestion, to appear before them on the subject of the Army Asylum. I very much fear that without a radical change of members and of sentiment in the House of Representatives you will not succeed in either of the laudable and humane schemes you have introduced in reference to the invalids of the Army. Accept my thanks for the documents you forwarded to me. It would gratify me greatly were you to send me copies of *all your* reports and bills. I fear that in the Asylum Bill, you are attempting too much. It is entirely too humane in its provisions for the present House of Representatives, and I fear for their successors. There are one or two suggestions I beg leave to present in reference to the Bill. In the third line, Sec. I, you use the word *Soldier* to denote all *enlisted men*—this, though the ordinary

acceptation of that word in the military language of Great Britain, is not the usual one in our laws. See Act approved March 2, 1833, Sec. 1—December 24, 1811, Sec. 2—July 5, 1838, Sec. 29, etc. Again, had you not better use the term *enlisted man* in Sec. 7, lines 28 and 29, else, in the enumeration, you must embrace all the *grades* known in our service; they are numerous—I mention some of those omitted, *Dragoons* and Light Artillery, Bugler, Farrier, Blacksmith—*Ordnance*, Master Armorer, Master Carriage Maker, Blacksmith, Armorer, Carriage Maker, Blacksmith, and Laborer. Quartermaster Department we *may have* Teamster and Wagon Makers. The term *enlisted man* would embrace all. You are certainly partially sustained in the use of the word *Soldier* by the Rules and Articles of War. For instance, it is used in Art. 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 17, 20, 23, 24, 25, 28, 31, 32, 42, 50, 51, 52, 54, 59, 67, 79, and 97,—but it stands for Private in Arts. 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 33, 37, 38, 41, 43, 45, and 47. The term *Private Soldier* is used in Arts. 13 and 14. Legislators cannot be too careful in the use of language. You will find an instance, I think, of want of due attention to this point in Art. July 7, 1838, explanatory of Art. of July 3d. See 8th modification, repeating so much of that Article as allows

160 acres of land to *soldiers*,—meaning I presume, to repeal the whole provision giving land—but does it do so? The preceding act gave land to the N. C. Officer and Soldier.¹ Is not the N. C. Officer who has served ten years clearly entitled to the land? The term *Enlisted Man* is used in Art. approved September 28, 1850, and that of *Private Soldier* in Art. approved October 11, 1847, and June 17, 1850.”

LETTER FROM MAJOR-GENERAL SCOTT TO THE
SECRETARY OF WAR

Endorsed by General Scott: “FOR MAJOR ANDERSON
FROM HIS FRIEND W. S.”

*Printed with the President's Message, December
24, 1849, p. 98*

“HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
“NEW YORK, November 3, 1849.

“SIR:

“As the usual period is at hand for the annual report, by the War Department, on the state of the army, I suppose it to be due, from my position, though not prescribed by regulations, that I should offer such professional suggestions as may seem

¹ For the benefit of non-army people, “N. C. Officer and Soldier” means non-commissioned.

worthy of attention in the preparation of that report. . . .

“There is one other topic I take the liberty to present in this volunteer communication—one in which the entire army feels a lively interest; and which, we all hope, may again win the support of the department. The following extract from my annual report, addressed to the Secretary of War, November 20, 1845, presents, in a short compass, the subject in question:

“‘I venture once more respectfully to invite attention to a retreat or asylum for the worn-out or decayed rank and file of the army. The subject has been twice reported upon favorably, with bills, by Committees on Military Affairs in the House of Representatives. (See Report No. 74, 2d Session, 26th Congress, and Report No. 109, 2d Session, 28th Congress.) If the want can only be placed fully before Congress, it seems impossible to doubt success, as the Asylum would impose no burden on the treasury, but be supported from the army itself in deductions, fines, and reversions.’

“For the merits and details of the proposed asylum, I beg that the documents referred to in the extract may be carefully examined. I cannot possibly conceive a valid objection to either.

“While the army under my command lay at

Puebla, a part of the summer of 1847, an humble petition to Congress in favor of an asylum on the same plan for the benefit of enlisted men was drawn up and signed by, I believe, every commissioned officer then present. I presume it was presented; and if so, it may, no doubt, be found in the archives of one or both Houses of Congress.¹

“In connection with that petition I beg to add the following facts:

“On the capture of the City of Mexico, by the same army, I levied a contribution upon the inhabitants of \$150,000, in lieu of pillage, to which the city, by the usages of war was, under the circumstances, liable. In my orders on the subject, I said:

“‘Of the whole contribution to be paid over to the army, \$20,000 shall be appropriated to the purchase of extra comforts for the wounded and sick in hospital; \$90,000 to the purchase of blankets and shoes for gratuitous distribution among the rank and file of the army; and \$40,000 reserved for other necessary military purposes.’ (See in the Adjutant-General's office, at Washington, a printed copy of that General Order No. 287, dated September 17, 1847.)

¹The photo of letter of Lieutenant Dana to Captain Anderson is relative to this petition.

“I also copy here, as intimately connected with the same subject, my letter to the Secretary of War, dated at Mexico, February 6, 1848. In that letter I said:

“I have not reported on the subject of secret disbursements since I left Jalapa—1st, Because of the uncertainty of our communications with Vera Cruz; and, 2d, the necessity of certain explanations which, on account of others, ought never to be reduced to writing. I may, however, briefly add that I have never tempted the honor, conscience, or patriotism of any man, but have held it lawful in morals, as in war, to purchase valuable information or services voluntarily tendered me.

“Charging myself with the money received at Washington for the purposes indicated; with the \$150,000 levied upon this city for the immediate benefit of the army, in lieu of pillage; the proceeds of captured tobacco taken from the Mexican Government (found in the capital), and with some other small sums (all of which I shall strictly account for) I have, on the other hand, expended \$63,745.50 in blankets and shoes, gratuitously distributed to enlisted men; \$10,000 extra on account of hospitals, allowing \$10 to every crippled man discharged or furloughed; some \$60,000, I think, for secret services, including a native spy

company, whose pay, commencing in July, I did not wish to bring into account with the Treasury, and I enclose herewith a draft for \$100,000 made up according to the memorandum also enclosed. I hope you will allow the draft to go to the credit of an Army Asylum, and make the subject known, in the way you may deem best, to the Military Committees of Congress. That sum is, in small part, the price of the American blood so gallantly shed in this vicinity; and considering that the army receives no prize money, I repeat the hope that its proposed destination may be approved and carried into effect.

“Number one of the same set of bills is this day transmitted direct to the Bank of America.

“The remainder of the money in my hands, as well as that expended, I shall be ready to account for at the proper time, and in the proper manner (this was done in 1848) merely offering this imperfect report to explain in the meantime the character of the \$100,000 draft.’ (See Executive Document, No. 60, page 1086, printed under a resolution of the House of Representatives of April 28, 1848.)

“Following that letter will be found, printed, the memorandum and draft alluded to. The draft was made payable to me; and, in order to place the

deposit beyond the control of any individual functionary whatever, I endorsed it: 'The Bank of America will place the within amount to the credit of Army Asylum, subject to the order of Congress.'

"Advised as above, the Secretary of War, on the presentation for payment, caused the draft to be protested; whereby the sum of \$100,000 turned over by me, in cash, to the military chest of the army, for the current pay of the troops, and paid out accordingly, was sequestered to the benefit of the United States Treasury. Of course an equal sum was saved to the Treasury out of the appropriation made by Congress for the current pay of the troops.

"That money never had belonged to the Treasury and the Treasury had no legal claim to it whatever. Look at the memorandum that shows the items out of which the sum was made up—1st, \$9,000 received for licenses granted by my order in the City of Mexico; 2d, \$49,569.44 received for tobacco belonging to the Mexican Government found in the capital; 3d, \$38,780.16 taken from the contribution levied upon the capital; and 4th, \$2,650.40 saved at one of the principal army hospitals.

"What claim had the United States Treasury

upon either of those sums? They were all, except the fourth or smallest item, raised according to the laws of war and the rights of conquest, for just and laudable objects and applied, or attempted to be applied accordingly.

“The only title of legislation by Congress, bearing on the subject that then existed, will be found in the 58th Article of War, Act April 10, 1806, copied and re-enacted from the resolves of the old Congress, September 20, 1776. (See Military Laws, pp. 23 and 116.) The article is in these words; ‘All public stores taken in the enemy’s camp, towns, forts, or magazines, whether of artillery, ammunition, clothing, forage, or provision shall be secured for the service of the United States.’

“This is the law which, from September, 1776, when the resources of the United States were low, down to the present time, has deprived our army of prize money—always allowed, on sea and land, abroad, and to our own navy. The law was strictly complied with by me, while commanding in Mexico, in respect to captured ‘artillery’; ‘arms of every kind’; ‘ammunition wagons, teams, and pack animals’; ‘clothing’; ‘forage,’ and ‘provisions’ (or subsistence): but licence money; captured tobacco (previously bought by the Mexi-

can Government for re-sale to its own people), and contribution money are not enumerated in the law. Neither was the sum of \$111,791.19, captured in a military chest at Cerro Gordo. The Quartermaster and Commissary departments being, however, without funds, I immediately turned over the whole of the money, on receipts, to them, for regular disbursement on account of the United States Treasury.

"It is thus shown that the Treasury became possessed of \$111,791.19 without any claim whatever. That large sum ought, therefore, to be considered as held in trust by the United States for some equitable purpose; and I again humbly petition that Congress may appropriate the whole to an Army Asylum for the worn-out or decayed enlisted men (regulars and volunteers) yet in service, or who have been honorably discharged therefrom, notwithstanding the *ex post facto* act, Chapter 126, approved March 3, 1849.

"I have the honor to remain, Sir,

"With high respect,

"Your most obedient servant,

"WINFIELD SCOTT."

Endorsed: LETTER, FEBRUARY 13, 1850, TO
GENERAL JAMES SHIELDS, U. S. SENATE

"FORT PREBLE, Me., February 12, 1850.

"DEAR GENERAL:

"Before calling your attention particularly to the provisions of the scheme for the 'Soldiers' Retreat,' as proposed in the House Bill (reported favorably on by the Military Committee of your Congress it may be as well for me to answer the question which the reading of that bill has suggested to your mind. Why it is so limited in its view, or, rather why it was not so extended as to embrace another, and an exceedingly needy class of men—the pensioners? The answer is simply this, I was afraid to touch upon that question at all. I knew that there was a very long roll of pensioners, to many of whom, the pittance allowed by the Government affords, perhaps, a very inadequate support, and my sympathies were, and are, warmly excited in their behalf; but, I also knew that they could not be collected and supported without liberal appropriations from Congress, and to any appeal from us for any such appropriation it might be said that the Government had already given them, what, in its wisdom, it deemed sufficient. You will probably ask, why not receive *some* of these men in the Soldiers' Retreat? Once throw the doors open, and when are you to stop? Admit

by all means, those who fought so valiantly in Mexico. But, will not the friends of the veterans of 1812 contend that their claims are equally strong; and who dare close the doors against the few survivors of our glorious Revolution. I am afraid of attempting too much. Most of the pensioners have families, and have made all their little arrangements for living *at home*. Their families could not be received in any buildings now at the disposal of the War Department; extensive and expensive preparations must first be made for their accommodation—and, again, these men, having as civilians, contributed to the support of the county poorhouses, are, if in want, entitled to the benefit of *those institutions*. The Bill, which I have offered leaves, therefore, untouched all other objects of charity and philanthropy, and taking the Army as it is, provides a happy home for every soldier who may become incapacitated in the discharge of his duties, or, who serves his country honestly and faithfully for a certain term of years. The passage of the Bill will ensure us a better class of men, and, by giving them an object to remain in service, as long as they are fit for duty, will promote re-enlistments and prevent desertions—thus contributing very greatly to the economy and efficiency of our Army.

And who will say that these are not subjects well worthy the attention of our legislators? I would not at present interfere with the pension laws, as they enable the Government, on extraordinary occasions, to reward the gallant soldier, by giving him enough to enable him, if he pleases, to live elsewhere than in the 'Retreat.' Hereafter, if this scheme work as well and economically, as I sanguinely hope, Government may deem it best to make an entire change in its system of pensioning. It is exceedingly desirable that this Bill should be passed as soon as possible, as we are daily losing some of our best men, who, knowing that they will be discharged when too old for service, go *now* to settle on their bounty lands, hoping there to secure a home for their old age.

"And now a few words for the details of the Bill.

"Sections 7 and 8 enumerate the proposed source of income for the 'Retreat':

- "1st. Stoppages by sentences of Courts-Martial.
- "2d. Forfeitures on account of desertions.
- "3d. Part of Surplus Hospital Funds.
- "4th. Monies belonging to estates of deceased soldiers.
- "5th. Monthly contributions from each man of 20 cents.

"To these may be added sale of products of

farm, money derived from labor of mechanics, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc. The accompanying statement (A)¹ shows that the sum derivable from the 1st and 5th sources will annually support 11½ per centum of our present Army. As I have no data on which to form a reasonable conjecture as to the probable amounts which the other sources would yield, I shall pass them by, with the hope that each one will add considerably to the Funds of the 'Retreat.' To test the correctness of the amounts stopped by Courts-Martial (as assumed in the Statement) and to avoid all error, you had better request the Paymaster-General to further you with a statement, from the Pay Rolls, of the *actual stoppages* for one fiscal year, say ending June 31, 1849. A clerk can easily prepare this statement in three days.

"The accompanying table (B)² shows that the paupers and insane are supported individually at a *lower rate* than I have assumed as necessary for each of the inmates of the Retreat. The Bill for the 'Soldiers' Retreat' presents for the consideration of Congress a plan which can never, without culpable and unpardonable mismanagement, cost the Government one penny—one which, from

¹ See Tabular statement, page 94.

² See Table on page 95.

its inception, will quietly and unostentatiously begin the good work of providing for the comfortable support of all who may thenceforth be entitled to its benefits. It differs, in many respects, from the excellent Military Asylums of England and France, and in one particular, in my opinion, is far superior to them, the providing for the healthful employment of its inmates—thus, securing to them health and cheerfulness, and guarding against the 'monotony of inertness and melancholy' which mar the 'mere animal existence of the inmates of Chelsea' and of the 'Hôtel des Invalides,' who, as some writer observes, seem to have no other pleasure than to eat and bask in the sun. I am convinced that the sources enumerated in the Bill will yield more than sufficient for the support of the Institution, but it is better to embrace all the items properly available for that purpose, to enable it to meet the heavy demands which may be made on it in time of war. Hoping that you will excuse this long letter, I remain, most respectfully,

"Your obt. servt.,

"ROBERT ANDERSON.

"Hon. JAS. SHIELDS, U. S. Senate.

"References: 26th Congress, 1st Session, H. Doc.
138; 2d Session, H. B. 588 Rep.

28th Congress, 2d Session, Report
No. 109.

30th Congress, 2d Session, H. Bill
No. 95; Report No. 108.

General Scott's Reports, November,
1841, 1845, and 1849."

"WASHINGTON, January 5, 1850.

"DEAR SIR:

"I have only to say in reply to your kind letter, that you will find me a zealous if not an efficient advocate of your favorite enterprise, 'The Soldiers' Retreat.' It is my wish also to advocate a retired list for the Officers. I sincerely hope that both will succeed this winter.

"Yours respectfully,

"JAS. SHIELDS.¹

"Major ROBERT ANDERSON,

"Ft. Preble, Maine."

Endorsed: "Washington, January 5, 1850, Hon. Jas. Shields promises to advocate the 'Soldiers' Retreat.'"

"WEST POINT, N. Y., October 2, 1850.

" . . . An effort is being made here that the land, granted by the late Bill in Congress, shall be devoted by the officers to a founding of an asylum

¹See photograph of letters to and from Genl. Shields, Nos. 16-17, end of book.

for wounded, and disabled and veteran soldiers. Proposed to be located in some position which can be employed as a receiving post for the recruits of the Army, and that they can be drilled by the old drill *effective* men. Such I hope will be carried into effect and meet the approbation of the Army. Independent of being a valuable position for the men, it will revert to our advantage, and speak in our favor. It will be a good beginning, and Congress will help us.

"If the petition meets with favor here, you will soon hear of it.

"Believe me,

"Your friend,

"F. J. PORTER."

Endorsed by Major Anderson:

West Point, October 2, 1850.

Major F. J. Porter.

"WASHINGTON, November 28, 1850.

"MY DEAR BOB:

"Yours of the 17th inst. I found on my table on my return here from New York. . . . During a visit Bliss made me I mentioned the subject to him, and although our conversation was interrupted, I understood him to express his willingness to aid in the matter.

"He said that a retiring bill would be recom-

mended, but spoke vaguely of the Soldiers' Retreat. You have done me the favor to ask what you had better do in the matter, and I reply without a moment's hesitation, that the best and first step should be for you to come here at once. Our Secretary is inapproachable to Military men, but, as the son-in-law of General Clinch of Georgia, it would be an entirely different matter, and I am sure that you could do more in one day in person, than you could otherwise in weeks. I'll have my little extra room fitted for you, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that though your excellent lady was missing you, you were adding much to the happiness of your friend. Come then, dear Bob, and let me enjoy your presence once more. . . .

"Now you say, 'Tell me what to do, and I'll do it.' I tell you 'Come here' and if possible bring your wife with you. If not, 'come yourself,' and do you but carry out your promise, and 'do it.'

"Thank Mrs. A. for her kind remembrance, and present my kind regards.

"For yourself, come on here, and make glad,

"Yours as ever,

"A. E. S."

Endorsed by Captain Anderson: Washington, November 2, 1850. From friend Shiras.

The Soldiers' Home 147

(Endorsed) Washington City, January 31, 1851.
Armistead Burt, H. Reps. In reference to Army
Asylum.

"HOUSE OF REPS., January 31, 1851.

"DEAR SIR:

"Your letter asking my attention to the Soldiers' Retreat Bill was received last night, and I embrace a leisure moment to reply. The fate of a Bill for a Retired List yesterday leaves me no hope of the success of the other measure, this Session. The prejudices of the House against the Army are strong, and stupid and indiscriminating opposition is made to all changes which do not propose to cut down the Army. I am not hopeful of the success of any measure—of the number in contemplation—that looks to the improvement of the Army. I send a paper, containing the debates of yesterday, imperfectly reported.

"Yours with great respect,

"ARMISTEAD BURT.

"MAJ. ANDERSON."

"MY DEAR MAJOR:

" . . . Congress is as yet wholly taken up with the Slavery question, and I do not apprehend anything else will be attended to until that is settled. I fear for your 'Hobby' much; not merely in

delay in Legislation, but that it will be too much encumbered with the views of others. *Of one brought forward, as you wish it, and clearly explained I should have no fear.*

“Yours truly,

“A. E. SHIRAS.”

Endorsed: Friend Shiras, Washington, February 21, 1851.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE “GENERAL AND INTERNAL” DIRECTION OF
THE MILITARY ASYLUM, INSTITUTED BY ACT
OF CONGRESS, APPROVED MARCH 3, 1851

ARTICLE I

The general direction of the Asylum is with the Board of Commissioners constituted by Section 2 of the Act of Congress creating the Institution, who will regularly meet, for the transaction of business, on the 1st Monday of February, June, and November, of each year, and so much oftener as may be necessary, and at their meeting in November, make an annual report of their proceedings to the Secretary of War, for the information of Congress.

ARTICLE II

To facilitate the general direction of the Asylum, there shall be appointed, from time to time, by the

P. M. Monday night March 30 - 1851
Major - This bill has passed
house by quite a majority - Yes Sir

31st CONGRESS,
2d Session.

S. 392.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 3, 1851.

Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted a report, [No. 227,] accompanied by the following bill; which was read, and passed to a second reading.

20221

A BILL

To found a Military Asylum for the relief and support of invalid and disabled soldiers of the Army of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represen-*
2 *tatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That all soldiers of the Army of the United
4 States, and all soldiers who have been, or may hereafter
5 be, of the Army of the United States, whether regulars or
6 volunteers, and who have contributed, or may hereafter
7 contribute, according to section ^{seven} ~~six~~ of this act, to the sup-
8 port of the Military Asylum hereby created, shall, under
9 the restrictions and provisions which follow, be members
10 of the said asylum, with all the rights annexed thereto.

The original bill
limited the right of
contribution to the
regular Army, for the

1 **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That, for the
2 good government and attainment of the objects proposed
3 by the institution aforesaid, the General-in-Chief Comman-
4 ding the Army, the Generals commanding the Eastern

5 and Western geographical military divisions, the Quarter
 6 Master General, the Commissary General of Subsistence,
 7 the Paymaster General, the Surgeon General, and the Ad-
 8 jutant General, shall be, *ex officio*, Commissioners of the
 9 same, constituting a Board of Commissioners, a majority
 10 of whom shall have power to establish, from time to time
 11 regulations for the general and internal direction of the
 12 institution, to be submitted to the Secretary of War for
 13 approval; and may do any other act or acts necessary
 14 for the government and interests of the same, as authorized
 15 herein.

1 *SEC. 3. And be it further enacted*, That the officers
 2 of the institution shall consist of a governor, a deputy gov-
 3 ernor and a secretary, for each separate site of the asylum,
 4 the latter to be also treasurer; and the said officers shall
 5 be taken from the Army, and appointed or removed, from
 6 time to time, as the interests of the institution may require,
 7 by the Secretary of War, on the recommendation of the
 8 Board of Commissioners.

1 *SEC. 4. And be it further enacted*, That the following
 2 persons, members of the Army asylum, according to sec-
 3 tion one, shall be entitled to the rights and benefits herein
 4 conferred, and no others, viz: every soldier of the Army
 5 of the United States who shall have served or may serve
 6 honestly and faithfully twenty years in the same, and every

7 soldier and every discharged soldier, whether regular or
 8 volunteer, who shall have suffered by reason of disease or
 9 wounds incurred in the service and in the line of his duty,
 10 rendering him incapable of further military service, if such
 11 disability has not been occasioned by his own misconduct:
 12 *Provided*, That no deserter, mutineer, or habitual drunkard,
 13 shall be received without such evidence of subsequent ser-
 14 vice, good conduct, and reformation of character as the
 15 Commissioners shall deem sufficient to authorize his admis-
 16 sion.

1 *Sec. 5. And be it further enacted*, That any soldier
 2 admitted into this institution, for disability as aforesaid, and
 3 who shall recover his health, so as to fit him again for
 4 Military service, (he being under fifty years of age) shall
 5 be discharged: *Provided*, That any pensioner on account
 6 of wounds or disability incurred in the military service, al-
 7 though he may not have contributed to the funds of the
 8 institution, shall be entitled to all the benefits herein provi-
 9 ded, upon transferring his pension to said asylum, for and
 10 during the period that he may voluntarily continue to re-
 11 ceive such benefits.

1 *Sec. 6. And be it further enacted*, That the provis-
 2 ions of the foregoing sections shall not be extended to any
 3 soldier in the regular or volunteer service who shall have
 4 been convicted of felony, or other disgraceful or infamous

substituted
as before

5 crimes of a civil nature since he shall have been admitted
6 into the service of the United States.

1 *SEC. 7 And be it further enacted,* That for the
2 support of the said institution the following funds shall be
3 set apart, and the same are hereby appropriated: any un-
4 expended balance of the appropriation made March 2, 1847,
5 now remaining in the Treasury, for the benefit of discharged
6 soldiers disabled by wounds; the sum of one hundred and
7 eighteen thousand, seven hundred and ninety-one dollars
8 and nineteen cents, levied by the Commanding General of
9 the Army of the United States in Mexico, during the war
10 with that republic, for the benefit of the soldiers of the Uni-
11 ted States Army, regulars and volunteers, engaged in that
12 war, but taken possession of as funds of the United States
13 and placed in the Treasury; all stoppages or fines adjud-
14 ged against soldiers by sentence of courts martial, over
15 and above any amount that may be due for the reimburse-
16 ment of Government, or of individuals; all forfeitures on ac-
17 count of desertion, all moneys, not exceeding two-thirds
18 of the balance on hand, of the hospital fund, and of the post
19 fund of each military station, after deducting the necessa-
20 ry expenses of the year, and all moneys belonging to the
21 estates of deceased soldiers, which now are, or may here-
22 after be, unclaimed for the period of three years, subse-

23 quent to the death of said soldier or soldiers, to be repaid
 24 by the Commissioners of the institution, upon the demand
 25 of the heirs or legal representatives of the deceased: *And*
 26 *provided also*, That from the first day of the month, next
 27 after the passage of this act, there shall be deducted from
 28 the pay of every non-commissioned officer, musician, arti-
 29 ficer, and private of the Army of the United States, the sum
 30 of twenty-five cents per month, which sum so deducted, *original 20-6*
 31 shall, by the Pay Department of the Army, be passed to
 32 the credit of the Commissioners of the army asylum, who
 33 are hereby also authorized to receive all donations of money
 34 or property made by any person or persons for the benefit
 35 of the institution, and hold the same for its sole and exclu-
 36 sive use: *Provided*, That the deduction of twenty-five cents
 37 per month from the pay of non-commissioned officers, mu-
 38 sicians, artificers, and privates of regiments of volunteers,
 39 or other corps or regiments, raised for a limited period, or
 40 for a temporary purpose or purposes, shall only be made
 41 with their consent

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the Commis-
 2 sioners of this institution, by and with the approval of the
 3 President, be and the same are hereby authorized and required
 4 to procure for immediate use, at a suitable place or places,
 5 a site or sites for the Military Asylum, and if the neces-
 6 sary buildings cannot be procured with the site or sites, to

7 have the same erected, having due regard to the health of
8 the locations, facility of access, to economy, and giving
9 preference to such places as, with most convenience and
10 least cost, will accomodate the persons provided for in
11 this act.

1 **SEC. 9.** *And be it further enacted.* That the Commis-
2 sioners, with the approval of the Secretary of War, pre-
3 pare the necessary rules and regulations for the govern-
4 ment of said institution, and cause the same to be fitted
5 and furnished for the immediate reception of those persons
6 provided for in this act, and that the Secretary of War re-
7 port upon the execution of this duty, at the next session
8 of Congress.

Approved March 3

Wash - D.C -

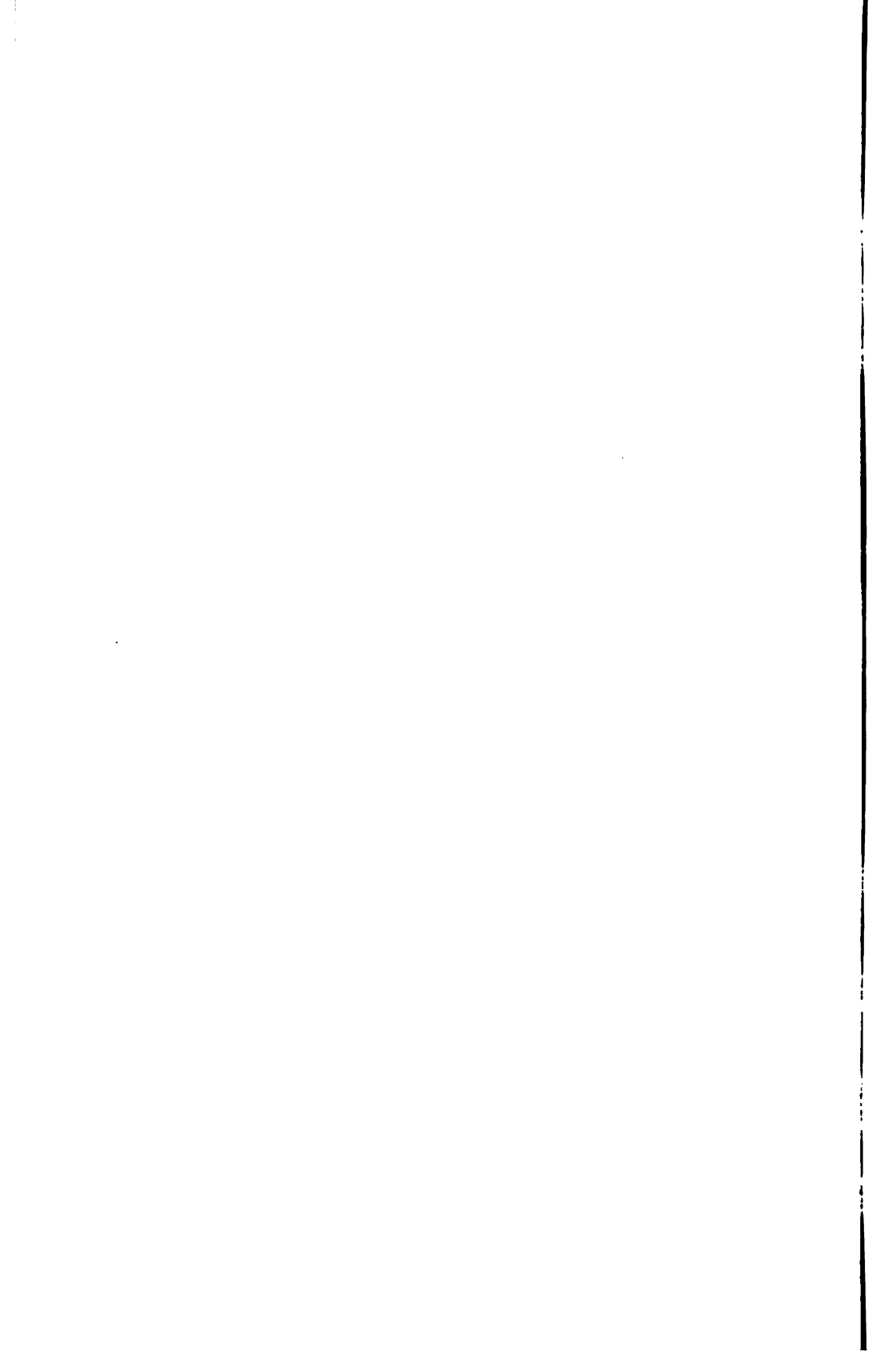
Harrison

Benjamin D.C.

Senate 392

2nd Sep. 31. Congrs. —
to accompany Report 227.
by Hon. J. J. Davis ~~et al.~~
To prove Mule Assesment
see for history of this museum
Document No 138. 1st Sep.
1st Session 26th Congrs. —
March 16-48

Rept. No 74 — Bill. H. R.
588 26th Congrs. 2nd Session
by Hon. Geo. M. ~~Wright~~ ^{Wright} Jan 7-48
Genl. Scott's report No 22-41
Report No 109 2nd Session 2nd
Congrs. (same title as 5-98 26th Con 1)
by Hon. D. L. Clinch ~~et al.~~
Genl. Scott's report No 20/45 —
Report No 105 — title No 45. H. R.
Laws, 19-48 — by Hon. L. Bush ~~et al.~~
Senate 186 30th Con 1. Sep. 1
28th March 48 — by Hon. J. J. Davis
Letter of Genl. Scott to Secy. War
June 24-49 —



Board, from its members, an Executive Committee, of three Commissioners, any two of whom may constitute a quorum, for the transaction of business, and also appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer.

ARTICLE III

The Executive Committee shall counsel and direct the Treasurer on the management of the property and funds of the Asylum, when without special directions from the Board of Commissioners. They shall examine and audit the Treasurer's accounts, and also have power, when in their judgment it may be necessary, to call a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners, or make a partial appropriation of money to meet any extraordinary contingency, but in all such cases they will make a report of such transactions at the next meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE IV

The Secretary, who shall also be Register, shall countersign all checks of the Treasurer, to the order of the person who is to receive the money. He shall record the name, description, and military history of every pensioner of the Institution. He shall be the channel of communication of the Board of Commissioners, and transmit all orders and regulations of the Board relative to the several sites of the Asylum, receive all applications for admission to its benefits, and forward persons entitled thereto, to one of the sites of the Asylum. He shall also take the necessary measures to carry into effect the resolutions and directions of the Board, by correspondence with the agents of the Institution or otherwise. He shall be present at every meeting of the Board, and besides keeping exact

minutes of their proceedings, lay before them the books and correspondence which belong to his duties.

ARTICLE V

The Treasurer shall give bonds in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, to be approved by the Executive Committee, for the faithful performance of his duties. He shall collect all dues owing, or payable to the Board of Commissioners. He shall keep a regular set of books, in which shall be entered all payments by, or to, the Commissioners. He shall invest or deposit all moneys belonging to the Asylum, in such manner as the Board of Commissioners shall direct, and no part thereof shall be drawn, unless by appropriation previously made, and then only on the check of the Treasurer, countersigned by the Secretary, naming the party to receive. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to exhibit to the Executive Committee of the Board, once a month or oftener, if required, a statement of the cash account, showing the balance in deposits, the sums to be received during the month, and the appropriation for the same period. He shall also report the state of the cash account at each stated meeting of the Board, the probable moneys to come into the Treasury before the next meeting, and an estimate of the funds which may be required to meet the demands, in order that necessary appropriations may be made by the Board. He shall also render such other accounts as may be required by the Board.

ARTICLE VI

Under the direction of the Board of Commissioners, the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Secretary and

Treasurer for each separate site of the Asylum, provided by Section 3, of the Act creating the Asylum, are charged with its internal management.

ARTICLE VII

The Governor as Commanding Officer, will administer the affairs of his site of the Asylum, make the required returns to the Board of Commissioners, through the Secretary of the Board, submit annual estimates for the probable wants of the Institution for each fiscal year, commencing on the 1st of July, and transmit the same, so as to reach the Board, on, or before, the 1st of October.

ARTICLE VIII

The Deputy Governor shall, in the absence of the Governor, perform his duties, and at other times perform such ministerial functions as the Governor may require.

ARTICLE IX

The Secretary and Treasurer shall keep a register of the inmates of the Asylum, stating the time of entrance, their names, places of birth, time of service, infirmity, and if married, what family they have, and the place of residence of the latter. He shall receive and keep an exact account of all supplies for the inmates, and of all moneys received for their labor, as well as such moneys as may be received for expenditures at the Asylum. He shall make all disbursements under the direction of the Governor, by whom the returns required will be countersigned and forwarded.

ARTICLE X

The Governor of each separate site of the Asylum will organize its inmates into veteran companies, with a military organization, and appoint from among them Non-Commissioned officers, as a reward for meritorious conduct, who shall receive such pecuniary allowances as the Board of Commissioners may determine, and be subject to removal at the direction of the Governor, who is also authorized to stop the pocket money allowed other inmates, to confine them, and with the approval of the Executive Committee, to eject them from the Asylum, in case of misconduct.

ARTICLE XI

At each separate site of the Asylum, workshops will be provided, so that the inmates may labor at their trades, and perform any other work, which the Governor may require, and which they may be able to perform.

ARTICLE XII

The Ordnance Department and the Quartermaster's Department will purchase such articles made at the Asylum, as may be obtained at as little cost as elsewhere, and which may be required for the Military Service.

ARTICLE XIII

Chaplains, Surgeons, and all necessary agents for the general and internal administration of the Asylum, excepting officers of the Army, appointed from time to time, may be allowed such compensation for their services, as the Board of Commissioners shall direct.

ARTICLE XIV

Invalid soldiers entitled to admission, who may be permitted, by the Commissioners, for special reasons, to reside out of the Asylum, may be allowed, not to exceed twenty cents per day.

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I certify that the foregoing articles for the general and internal direction of the Military Asylum were adopted at meetings of the Board of Commissioners, March 27, and May 30, 1851.

(Signed) H. L. SCOTT,
Bvt. Lt. Col., U. S. A.,
Secretary to Board of Commissioners,
 Approved, June 16, 1851,
 (Signed) C. M. CONRAD,
Secretary of War.

Official:

SCHUYLER HAMILTON,
Capt. by Bvt. U. S. A.,
Secretary of Board of Commissioners.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 25, 1851.

“DEAR SIR:

“Knowing the active part you have taken and the deep interest you have felt for the establishment of an Army Asylum, and such Bill having been passed, I have taken the liberty of writing to you (entirely on my own responsibility and confidentially) and asking if you would accept the

office of Deputy Governor of one of the sites, say the *one* near this city. The Commissioners have determined to give no army officer compensation, consequently you could only receive your army pay, etc., without the double rations for commanding a post. Still such a position would be permanent, and in a pleasant position—always desirable to an officer with a family—besides each officer of the Asylum will have a good house, which will no doubt be furnished from the Asylum Fund, and until the Asylum was put under way, you would certainly be allowed fuel and quarters here. It has been a long time since I have had the pleasure of seeing you; still I am anxious that you should take a post in the Asylum if agreeable to you, and, if so, you will let me know your wishes. I will speak to the Commissioners, who I have no doubt would with great unanimity confer on you the appointment. I know not one better qualified to render important aid in putting the Asylum in successful operation than you its Founder. I therefore hope it may be agreeable to you to take the position I have named. I am Treasurer of the Fund and feel a very deep interest in seeing the establishment put fairly under way.

“The Fund, I think, will be sufficient to put up and sustain an Asylum worthy of the cause which

prompted you to take such great interest for the comfort and happiness of the old and faithful Soldier.

"Excuse me for thus trespassing upon you. I shall be much pleased to hear from you at your earliest convenience, under cover to the Surgeon-General.

"I am most respectfully,

"Your obt. servt.,

"B. KING.

"To Major ROBERT ANDERSON, U. S. Army,
"Fort Preble, Maine."

Endorsed: Washington, March 31, 1851. B. King, Treasurer Army Asylum. Confidential. Recd. and answered April 3, 1851.

"FORT TRUMBULL, CONN., March 25, 1851.

"DEAR MAJOR:

"I congratulate you on the passage of the Army Asylum Bill, knowing the great interest that you took in it, and the exertions you made to forward it. I do not know whether you are a candidate for the governorship of one of the asylums, but presume that in these dull times of peace, you might fancy the office. At any rate I should be very glad to see the office filled by you.

"Yours very truly,

"GEORGE TAYLOR."

“Private.

“WASHINGTON CITY, May 29, 1851.

“MY DEAR SIR:

“I now feel quite certain that you will be offered the appointment of Deputy Governor of the Army Asylum to be established in this District, and having taken a deep interest in the success of *your* Institution, I take the liberty of writing to you to *beg* that you will not decline, but accept the appointment, and give us your valuable services in getting it properly established. In haste, with great respect and esteem,

“I am yours very truly,

“B. KING.

“To Major R. ANDERSON U. S. Army,

“Fort Preble, Portland, Maine.”

“FT. PREBLE, MAINE, April 3, 1851.

“MY DEAR SIR:

“I hasten to reply to yours of March 31, this moment received, in which you ask, confidentially, whether I would accept of the office of Deputy Governor of one of the sites of the Army Asylum, and offer, if I desire it, to name me to the Commissioners for that position. Accept my thanks for the friendly interest you manifest in my welfare and for the complimentary manner in which you are pleased to speak of me in that letter. 'T is true

My Dear Sir

Full Public Mail
Apr 3, 1877

Vertical stamp or mark on the right edge of the document.

I hasten to reply to
 yours of Mar 31, ^{the moment} just rec^d, in which
 you ask me, confidentially, whether I would
 accept of the office of Deputy Governor of
 one of the Colonies of the Army - ~~Regiment~~, and
 offer, if I decline it, to name me to the
 Commissioners in that position - I accept,
 Sir, your very thanks for the friendly
 interest you manifest in my welfare, and
 for the complimentary manner ^{in which} you are
 pleased to speak of me in that letter -
 It is true that I have felt, and
 still entertain, the warmest interest in
 the well-being of a home for the faith-
 ful soldiers - But having other occupa-
 tions, at least, and having the most
 perfect confidence that the Commissioners,
 who know the capacities, qualifications and
 merits of all the officers of the Army, will
 make the wisest and most judicious selection

No. 11. Photographed Letter from Captain Anderson to Dr. B. King

for the Office they are to fill, I think
that they should be left perfectly free
in exercising that delicate and responsible
duty, without being subjected to any external
influences. I must, therefore, with my
sincere acknowledgments to you for
your partial and flattering offer, beg
you not to name me as a Candidate
for that Office -

I congratulate you on the
handsome Compliment bestowed by them
on you, in your Selection for the highly
Honorable and responsible Office you
now hold -

Very respectfully
I truly am
Your Obedient Servant
W. G.

W. G. King
Washington
Dec 2

that I have felt, and still entertain, the warmest interest in the establishing of a home for the faithful soldier. But having their welfare greatly at heart, and having the most perfect confidence that the Commissioners, who know the capacities, qualifications, and merits of all the Officers of the Army, will make the wisest and most judicious selections for the offices they are to fill, I think that they should be left perfectly free in exercising that delicate and responsible duty, without being subjected to any external influences.

“I must therefore, with my sincerest acknowledgments to you for your partial and flattering offer, beg you not to name me as a candidate for that office. I congratulate you on the handsome compliment bestowed by them on you, in your selection for the highly honorable and responsible office you hold.

“Very respectfully and truly yours,

“ROBERT ANDERSON, U. S. A.

“D. B. KING,

“Washington, D. C.”¹

“WASHINGTON, D. C., May 29, 1851.

“*Extract.*

“*Ordered.* That a Governor, Deputy Governor, and Secretary and Treasurer, be at once appointed

¹ Photograph of letter from Captain Anderson to D. B. King, No. 11.

for the site of the Military Asylum in the District of Columbia, and that the Governor, under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Board of Commissioners, proceed to cause the necessary buildings to be erected upon such plan as a majority of the Board may approve.

Ordered. That Col. J. B. Crane, 1st Artillery, Bvt.-Major Robert Anderson, 3d Artillery, and Bvt.-Major, W. W. Mackall, Asst. Adjutant-General, with the approval of the Secretary of War, be offered respectively the positions of Governor, Deputy Governor, and Secretary of the Asylum, in the District of Columbia.

"A true extract from the original proceedings of the Board.

"T. L. ALEXANDER."

Endorsed: Copy of Resolution of May 29, 1851, offering Major Robert Anderson the position of Dept. Governor of Military Asylum in the District of Columbia.

Declined.

R. A.

"WASHINGTON, D. C., May 25, 1851.

"MY DEAR ROBERT:

"I understand that Col. Crane is to be Governor of the Invalids. I urged upon Henry Scott your

¹ Mostly in regard to Columbiad Drill and Uniform.

claim to start the thing, but he said they wanted an *Invalid*, and I suppose you are well satisfied *not* to come under that denomination. I believe the Commissioners are still in treaty for Mount Vernon; if they do not get that I suppose they will take the Thomas farm on Georgetown Heights. This would be rather a nice speculation for Thomas who gave for it, say \$5000 but a year ago, and now will get \$20,000; making at least \$12,000 by the operation, in deducting the value of improvements expended on it since it has been in his possession.

“Yours most truly,

“C. F. SMITH

“(Lt.-Colonel).”

“To Major ROBERT ANDERSON, etc.”

In submitting the letters given below, I think it best to let them tell their own story. General Scott had for a long time been a devoted friend of Father's, who had been on his Staff for several consecutive years. General Scott and General Clinch, my mother's father, were almost like brothers, so much so, that when my mother and father were married, General Scott gave away the bride.

This friendship with Captain Anderson explains the interest the General took in all that interested my Father, not only in the Soldiers' Retreat, but

in all the other works he had completed for the "good of the Service."

The original, from which is quoted Father's interview with General Twiggs was too much defaced to be photographed, but it is in the Library at West Point.

"WASHINGTON, June 2, 1851.

"MY DEAR MAJOR:

"The Army Asylum Board, all the members present, except Jesup, met last week. We definitely settled upon two Branch Asylums. 1st. Georgetown Heights (Lt.-Col. L. Thomas's farm) with Col. Crane, Governor; Major Anderson, Deputy Governor; and Major Mackall, (Staff) Secretary, Treasurer, etc. 2d. Greenwood Island, Pascagoula, with Lt.-Col. Jewett, as Governor, leaving the other appointments vacant for the presentation of suitable candidates.

"At the previous meeting of the Board, Twiggs absent, a Committee of four—Scott, Twiggs, Jones, and Lawson—were appointed to visit the Western Waters and select sites for Branch Asylums, and I did not doubt that we should find all the conditions desired, united in the position near Cincinnati. Twiggs being sick could not meet us there; but the other members of the

Committee were entirely satisfied with many farms offered us within eight and eleven miles of Cincinnati—particularly on the Hamilton railroad and canal. The Board last week, however, by a vote of five against Dr. Lawson and myself refused, for the present, to place an Asylum in the neighborhood of Cincinnati, although it could not be denied that our capital would be at least \$260,000—sufficient to purchase ground and erect all the necessary fixtures here and on the Ohio. At Pascagoula, the ground and buildings already belong to the United States and will be given to the Board. At the first meeting of the Board, I proposed Crane and you as the Governors of the two principal Branch Asylums—here and on the Ohio. There was no objection to either. I then proposed that the Governors should be allowed by the Board double rations and brevet pay. Both propositions were voted down—6 to 1. I then said I should not advise you to take any place connected with the Asylum. Last week I restated the same proposition, but could not get a seconder. I think that in less than six months we shall commence another branch near Cincinnati, where there will be no difficulty in naming you as its Governor. In the meantime, you will not hear from our Secretary, officially in respect to the

Deputy Governorship, until the President of the United States shall have approved of the locations, and the Secretary of War approved of our general regulations. Each is likely to be dilatory.

“Your friend,

“WINFIELD SCOTT.”¹

In the following letter from Major Anderson to his wife is given the interview with General Twiggs in relation to his nomination as Deputy Governor:

“WASHINGTON CITY, July 2, 1851.

“... After sending off my last letter, I called upon General Twiggs, who with his two daughters are at Willards. I had quite a long conversation with him; he asked me if I know what occurred on my nomination. He said that Colonel Crane had spoken to him at New Orleans about the Governorship; that he asked the Colonel if he wanted the appointment, and on his telling him that he did, he told him that he would support him. That when he arrived in Washington, he found an impression that General Scott would have everything as he wanted it; that when the Commissioners met, he, General Twiggs, nominated Colonel Crane; that there was a long pause, and that he then

¹ Photograph of letter from General Scott to Captain Anderson, No. 12.

Washington, June 2, 1857.

My dear Major:

The Army Hygiene Board - all the members present, except Joseph - met last week. We definitively settled upon two branch Hygiene:

1. On Georgetown Heights, L. Col. L. Thomas' farm, with Col. Crane, governor; Major Anderson, deputy governor, & Major MacCall (Staff) Secretary & the Surgeon, &

2. Greenwood Island, Pascegoilla, with Lieut. Col. Jewett as governor - leaving the other appointment vacant for the presentation of suitable candidates.

At a previous meeting of 7 members of the Board - Wiggs absent, a Committee of 4 were appointed - West, Twigg, Jones & Lawson were appointed to visit the western waters to select sites for branch Hygiene, & I did not doubt we should find all the conditions desired, united in some position near Cincinnati. Twigg being

being sick. could not meet us there; but the other members of the Committee were entirely satisfied with many farms offered to us within 8 & 11 miles of Cincinnati - particularly on the Decatur rail-road & canal.

The Board last week, however, by a vote of 5, against Dr. Lawson & myself, refused, for the present, to place an asylum in the neighborhood of Cincinnati - altho' it could not be denied that our capital would be at least \$260,000 - sufficient to purchase ground & erect all the necessary fixtures here & on the Ohio. (At Pasca - would the ground & buildings already belong to the U.S. It will be given to the Board.)

At the first meeting of the Board, I proposed Crane & you as the governors of the two principal branch Asylums - here &

at the Ohio. There was no objection to either.
I then proposed that the office governors should
be allowed by the Board double rations
& breast pay. Both propositions were voted
down 6 to 1. I then said I should not
advise you to take any place connected
with the Army. Last week, I re-stated
the same propositions, but could not get
a seconder.

I think, in less than six months,
we shall commence a military branch near
Cincinnati when there will be no difficulty
in naming you as its governor. In the
meantime you will not hear from
our secretary, officially, ~~in respect~~ to the
deputy-governorship, until the President
of the U. S. shall have approved of the
location of the secretary if war approved
of our general regulations. Each is
likely to be obligatory.

Yours
S. J. S.

Give my love to Mr Anderson
& his wife & children.

Your friend
Winfield Scott

I must say that I was never in
my life, more charmed by any people
than with Mr. & Mrs. Gary Anderson & Mr. C.
Anderson on my late visit to Cincinnati.
They truly won my heart In haste
W. S.

Major R. Anderson

W. S.

remarked that as the scheme was Major Anderson's, who had taken the most active interest in starting and carrying it out, some appointment ought to be offered to him. General Scott remarked that he doubted whether Major Anderson would accept; that after some conversation, the Board decided at all events to make the offer, with the distinct understanding, that when a Western Asylum was established, if Major A. accepted the appointment now offered, he would be transferred to it as its Governor. I spoke to him about the salary; he said that he had no doubt if the Board found that they would have funds enough to justify them, that additional pay would be given to the Officers.

"A meeting of the Board will take place at 10 this morning. I have just asked General S. if I had not better give an answer to the Board; he says that he thinks not. I will keep this letter open, and give you the result of the action of the Board, which may probably be limited to making another selection of a site near this City. . . . The Board *ordered* at this morning's session, that as soon as the state of the funds warranted it, a Branch Asylum should be established in the neighborhood of Cincinnati and that Major Robert Anderson, 3d Artillery, be the Governor of the same. I do

not telegraph you, because the nomination has not been acted on by the Secretary of War. I have been placed on duty here but expect that I will not be detained longer than Friday or Saturday. No appointment will be made at present to the Deputy Governorship of the Western Asylum. I presume that official notification will be given as soon as the Secretary approves the nomination. I ought to have mentioned that General Twiggs proposed the order about the Western Asylum and its Governor.

“ROBERT ANDERSON.”

On June 28, 1851, Anderson wrote to his wife:

“I did not write you yesterday as I intended, because I hoped that by this morning I would be enabled to inform you of my decision. I think that I can now say that I shall decline the appointment of Deputy Governor. My friends still urge me not to do so. General Scott, even, wishes me not to commit myself on the question of acceptance or rejection at present. He says that there is time enough. The President has not given his approval of the purchase of Colonel Thomas’s place—and has directed the Board to examine other situations within the limits of the District. I have been told by several of the Commissioners that if a

Western Branch be selected I will be transferred to it as its Governor. General Twiggs who presented my name to the Board, for the appointment which it has tendered me, says that he goes dead against the location near Cincinnati. It is about an even chance whether one be placed there or not."

"On July 5th.

"I regret very much that I cannot yet remove your suspense. The Secretary has not yet acted upon the nominations of the Board of Commissioners. It has indeed been impossible for him to have done so, as he was engaged before the Court-Martial as a witness on Wednesday and Thursday, and yesterday, being the 4th, none of the public offices were opened. I presume that the Governor of the Western Asylum will be sent as soon as practicable to make purchase of a site, and to commence building so as to have matters so far under way that progress may be reported at the next Congress."

"WASHINGTON, D. C., July 16, 1851.

"GENERAL:

"To-day the Secretary of War has handed me the opinion of the Attorney-General, of which the enclosed is a copy, to the effect that the Board of Commissioners are not a Corporate Body, and

that the deeds purchased for the Military Asylum must be made to the United States.

“Under this decision the Secretary of War informs me that the Treasurer appointed by the Board of Commissioners is incompetent to make any contract for a site but that it must be done by the Board of Commissioners, and that all communications of importance from the Board should be signed by the members of the Board. That not being a Corporate Body the Commissioners cannot delegate the authority specially vested in them.

“For example the record of the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners should be signed by a majority of the Members of the Board, and the Secretary of their appointment would only be competent to send a certified copy of their proceedings to any officers of the institution, etc., etc. This will make the Board of Commissioners a very cumbersome machine, and the Secretary of War says that the Board had better go before Congress early in the next Session and obtain corporate powers.

“The President informally authorizes the Board of Commissioners to purchase Smith's place, but as to Greenwood's Island and Cincinnati defers acting on them, believing that one site will be

sufficient for the immediate wants of the Institution, and also that Cincinnati should be chosen in preference to Greenwood's Island, as the second. The Secretary of War advises me to send to the different members in succession a Copy of the Resolutions passed by the Board that there may be a valid record of their proceedings, this after I had called upon him the second time, and showed to him the Resolutions for 'the general and internal directions' of the Military Asylum approved by himself. As he did not mean this as an order, but as merely advisory, I told him, 'I would write to you before so doing.' As, if it is not essential that the record should be signed immediately, at the next meeting of the members or of a majority of them, they can be signed by them in the Record Book, which Dr. King gave directions should be procured and in which they have already been neatly entered. I shall not write to Major Anderson until I hear from you, inasmuch as Mr. Conrad says the decision of the President is not definitely made as yet, tho' he seems to think he will for the present only approve of the site near this city.

"Your Obdt. Servt. and Aide-de-Camp,

"(Signed) SCHUYLER HAMILTON,

"*Capt. by Brevt. U. S. A.*"

Endorsed: July 16, 1851. Captain Hamilton to General Scott, Army Asylum.

Added to this on the folded sheet is a letter from General Scott to Major Anderson sending him Captain Hamilton's letter; this is addressed by the General as follows:

Free.

WINFIELD SCOTT,

Major Genl., etc., etc.

To Major R. Anderson,

U. S. A., Portland, Maine.

"NEW YORK, Friday, July 18.

"MY DEAR MAJOR:

"It is 3½ o'clock P.M., and I am just down from West Point—have my dinner to get, and to call at 3 shops before taking the train to Phila.

"Yours,

"W. S."

July 17, 1851, from General Scott's aide, Schuyler Hamilton:

"The Secretary of War wishes me to notify you that the President informally approved of the site of Smith's place, but for the present defers acting on any other site. . . . Mr. Crittenden's opinion is that the Board are not a Corporation but bear the same relation to the Secretary of War that

the Committee of Indian Affairs, Pensions, Public Lands, etc., do to the Secretary of the Interior."

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 30, 1852.

"MY DEAR MAJOR:

"The General has, this morning, desired me to inform you of the conclusion the Board of Commissioners came to, in the early part of the month, relative to a Western Branch Asylum; he had intended to have mentioned to me his wish, that I should advise you of the action of the Board in this matter, *from day to day*, but it escaped his memory.

"After much deliberation, the sense of the Board was taken in the following proposition, viz.:

"'Are you of opinion that the Blue Licks, Ky., and the lands attached thereto, are eligible for a site for a Western Asylum?'

.

"'So it was decided in the negative.' 'It was then *ordered*, That until the Board are better assured of the sufficiency of their means; they do not deem it expedient to commence any other Branch Asylum than the two already agreed upon.' These

two are the one near Washington, and one near East Pascagoula, Miss. . . .

"I remain,

"Very truly yours,

"SCHUYLER HAMILTON,

"*Capt. by Brvt. U. S. A.*

"*Aide-de-Camp.*

"To Brvt.-Maj. ROBERT ANDERSON, U. S. A.,

"Comdg. Fort Preble, Portland, Maine." †

"WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13, 1852."

"MY DEAR MAJOR:

"With thanks for your remembrance, permit me to say, that there is not a shadow of hope that the officers will form a Fund, for 'Widows, etc.,' from Bounty Lands. The plan met with a lukewarm assent from those most interested, and fell through at once." [Note. The letter goes on to give the different ways in which the officers had already placed the Bounty Lands, or disposed of the money, showing clearly that this was yet another plan of Major Anderson's for the good of the service, and of humanity. At the last, the letter goes on to say:] ". . . I regret much, dear Bob, that it could not have been made acceptable to you to have been with the Asylum here. They have purchased Riggs's place. Not suitable for the

† This was followed by the Official Report.

purpose at all—the only advantages being a house for the Governor to occupy at present, but situated on the only spot eligible for the Asylum building. The title of part in dispute, and of course if litigation is resorted to, the Asylum will be worthless. Larkin Smith seems to feel an interest in the matter, but I fear has not the character to deal with Colonel C. The brightest morn, however, sometimes follows the darkest night, and I hope it may prove so in this case. Thank you for your kind invitation for the following summer, but Congress is in Session, and I fear I shall be a close prisoner here. Present my kindest regards to Mrs. A. and accept, dear Bob, the best wishes of

“Your friend,

“A. E. SHIRAS.”

April 3, 1851, Lieutenant G. Stewart asking that he might obtain the position of Secretary of the Army Asylum: “It is needless for me to say that any recommendation relative to Asylum coming from you would be invaluable.”

On the 11th of June, 1853 SPECIAL ORDERS, NO. 39, were issued from the War Department to Major Anderson, which he received at Fort Preble, Maine, directing him to report for duty at Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

*"Special Orders No. 39***"EXTRACT**

"I. Brevet-Major Robert Anderson, Captain 3d Artillery, having been appointed Governor of the Western Military Asylum, is relieved from duty at Fort Preble, and will repair without delay to Harrodsburg Springs, Ky., and enter upon the duties of his office.

.

"By command of Major-General Scott,

"(Signed) L. THOMAS,

"Asst. Adj.-Genl.

"Headquarters Eastern Division,

"Troy, N. Y., June 13, 1853.

"Official.

"(Signed) C. F. WINSHIP, A.A.G.

"Headquarters 1st Military Division,

"Fort Adams, June 15, 1853.

"Official.

"(Signed) JAS. A. HARDIE, A.A.A.G."

He was relieved on the 18th of June, by Major Merchant; left the post on the 20th, and arrived at Harrodsburg on the 15th of July.

He remained on duty there until August 23,

1854, when orders were sent relieving him from duty, and directing him to join his regiment.

He was given a leave of absence and did not go with his regiment to California. The vessel was wrecked, and a great many officers and soldiers lost their lives.

"LOUISVILLE, KY., July 26, 1853.

"DEAR BOB:

"I regret very much that I was absent when you passed through this place. I met Larz and Charles in Cincinnati the other day, the latter just on his return from this place, and he told me that he would not be surprised if you should give up your present position and return to your regiment. Should you after a while determine to do so, I would esteem it an act of friendship if you would let me know a little while beforehand, as my health of late has not been good, and I could at least make an effort for the situation.

"Your very sincere friend,

T. L. ALEXANDER.

"Major ROBERT ANDERSON."

Endorsed:

Louisville July 26, 1853, asks to be informed if I decide upon resigning the situation of Govr. *Ans.* August 3d. That I have not made up my mind whether I will remain or not, that the chances are

that unless some change be made in the pay, I shall be compelled to rejoin my Compy.; that I have promised the Secty. of War to try it for one year; that if I decide to go I will, if it does not escape my memory, give him timely notice.

"HARRODSBURG, KY., May 13, 1853.

"Major ROBERT ANDERSON,

"U. S. Army.

"DEAR SIR:

"When I recommended, at your request, the establishment of an Asylum for disabled soldiers, I little imagined that I should ever have occasion to address you upon the subject; but the recent location of the Asylum here, and what I most fervently rejoice at, your appointment as Governor of it, make this my duty to one who is very dear to me.

"I learn from Dr. Graham that the duty of selecting a surgeon for the Institution rests with you. Allow me then to present the claims of my son-in-law Dr. C. S. Abell of this town. Dr. Abell served in a similar capacity in the 3d Regiment of Dragoons during the Mexican War, and has since resided here in the practice of his profession and sustains a very high character, both personally and professionally. Your selection of him will secure to the inmates of the Asylum a talented and

faithful officer, and give great satisfaction to the community in which you are to reside. Dr. Abell is personally known to Dr. Lawson and General Twiggs to whom I beg leave to refer you; and I have written to General Jesup in his behalf. I need hardly assure you that his selection will greatly gratify

“Your sincere friend,
“T. P. MOORE.”

Recd. for record, June 7, 1853.

Endorsed:

On August 8, 1854, Anderson received a long letter from Dr. B. King, but as the letter is marked “*strictly private*,” containing some very bitter comments on the conduct of several officers who were showing “most unsoldierlike jealousy of the high estimation in which you are held”; “And that one in particular will leave no stone unturned to try and do you an injury,” I will only quote a sentence in regard to the rations he received, and commit the letter to the flames, as full names are mentioned. Dr. King was right, as this officer proved himself an enemy of my Father.

“I enclose you an account of the way you are to pay yourself the DOUBLE rations allowed to Governors and Acting Governors which gives you \$24

leaving you *minus* \$10 of what you would receive with Company—this was the best that could be done. None but Governors and Acting Governors receive anything.

“Most respectfully and

“Very truly yours,

“B. KING.

“To Major R. ANDERSON, U. S. Army,

“Harrodsburg, Ky.”

These three letters show that Captain Anderson did not have an easy time at the Soldiers' Home or rather at the Branch Military Asylum. From a package of letters, etc., which are not necessary to give to the public, we learn that he was very much hampered by those who should have helped him.

“WESTERN BRANCH MILITARY ASYLUM,

“January 30, 1854.

“To Major DEAS.

“MAJOR:

“I infer from your letter of the 12th inst. that the object of the inquiry contained in my letter of November 1st was not distinctly understood. I desired to know whether the Board of Commissioners had prescribed the course to be pursued in discharging invalids who have recovered their

health and are fit for military service, and if so to be furnished with these instructions. I would respectfully suggest whether it would not be inadvisable to leave the decision in these cases to the local authorities, as they might in some instances, be influenced either by partiality for, or prejudice against, the individual. It may be well also to take into consideration the question as to what course should be adopted with pensioners who may recover at our Asylums. I will thank you for instructions upon one or two other points.

1st. Whether, in cases when the inmates have money standing to their credit on account of 'small stores,' that money may be used in purchasing articles of clothing for them. As I have not received any instructions from you on this subject, I have followed the plan Major Smith informed me he had adopted at the District Branch Asylum of letting all the inmates except pensioners have monthly the value of one dollar in small stores, such as [words effaced].

2d. Whether it be allowable to furnish rations and clothing to an inmate who resides with his family outside the limits of the Asylum. Three of our inmates are married men, McCutcheon, Malone, and Copeland. The first desires to locate and live with his family in Harrodsburg, and to draw rations for himself

from the Asylum. Malone is anxious to bring his wife here, but I have told him that she could not be received without special permission from the Board. Be pleased to send me a copy or two of the Act of Congress establishing the Asylum—the copies I had were left with my Company and there is not I think, a copy in Harrodsburg. I am, etc.

“P.S. I omitted mentioning that the Catholic priest, who officiates here, has asked whether he could have an altar arranged in the south end of the ‘new ball-room’ to the left of the door leading into the room. This will not interfere with the worship of congregations of other denominations, as they will use the pulpit at the other end of the room. I have given him a conditional permission which I hope the Board will confirm.”

“January 31, 1854.

“MAJOR:

“I have the honor to send herewith a report from Captain Buford, in reference to the conduct of two of the inmates of this Branch, Malone and Henderson. I have tried in vain to reform these men, but living in a town where they can procure for a few cents whiskey enough to keep them drunk for a week, and knowing as they do that I have not

the power to prevent such misconduct either by restraint or by punishment, no alternative is left me but that of recommending their discharge. This I do with great reluctance, but, in my opinion an example of this kind is absolutely necessary to check the vice of drunkenness, to which some of the other inmates are too strongly inclined. One of these men, Malone, is a pensioner, and I am not sure, from the wording of the law, whether he can be discharged. He is easily led astray, and perhaps the discharge of Henderson might cause him to refrain from drinking for some time. Were the Board to authorize me to discharge these men, leaving the date of their discharges discretionary with me, I think it possible that the knowledge of that fact might keep them sober for some months. Confident that this exhibition of forbearance will have at all events a good effect upon the other inmates, even should it not tend to reforming these men or in keeping them some time longer in the Asylum, I would respectfully request the Board, if they can do so, to send me the conditional authority, above suggested. Our situation here is much more unfavorable for maintaining discipline than the Branch at Washington, where, if a man conducts himself improperly, he can be immediately brought to the notice of the Ex-Commissioner

and his expulsion obtained. Here, the men know that I cannot punish them and that some time must elapse before I can get a decision in their case. In connection with this point, I would respectfully ask what authority I can legally and properly exercise.

“I am etc.”

Rough draft of letter to Major Deas, Secretary Board of Commissioners.

“WESTERN BRANCH MILITARY ASYLUM,

“HARRODSBURG, February 1, 1854.

“MAJOR:

“In addition to the points mentioned in my letter of yesterday there are two others to which I would respectfully request the attention of the Board. 1st. The proper method of remunerating pensioners for their labor. I have adopted the course pursued by Major Smith of paying the men 20 cents per day for every day's work. I am satisfied that this plan is not a good one. It gives them money enough to keep them drunk about half their time. I know not what remedy to suggest. Perhaps a better plan would be, not to give the men any money, but to credit them for their labor and to authorize the Governor to expend *that* money for them as is now done with

the money for 'small stores' by giving them orders on such stores as will not give the men ardent spirits. This course will operate well on those who are not pensioners. I may here remark that I find that the presence of the two classes, pensioners and non-pensioners, gives rise to dissatisfaction. I think that as soon as the number of pensioners becomes sufficiently great in the Asylum to justify it, that it would be advisable to collect them in a separate Branch.

"2d. The system of labor—I have adopted the voluntary system. I am decidedly in favor of requiring all men to whom the exercise of laboring would, in the opinion of the Surgeon be beneficial, to attend to some kind of work. This course would reduce the expenses of our Asylum, and would serve to keep the inmates from idleness and its attendant vices. The expenses of this Branch have been much greater than I expected they would be. Many causes have combined to produce this result."

The following three letters from his friend Dr. King, showing the reasons for Captain Anderson's having been relieved from his post at the Asylum, are rather interesting from the fact that when he was promoted from Brevet-Captain to Captain he

was on the Staff of General Wool, as Aide, and in spite of the opposition of the General he insisted upon giving up his Staff appointment. For some five or six years he argued the point, "that all captains must join their Companies," and if I am not very much mistaken, it was through his exertions that it was made a law.

"WASHINGTON CITY, August 25, 1854.

"MY DEAR MAJOR:

"Altho' it is at all times unpleasant to me to be the medium of bad news, it is particularly so in this instance—still I must do it. We have at last had a meeting of our Board—and under the rules, the Governors and Deputy Governors are elected annually. We did all in our power to retain you in your present position, and you were *unanimously* re-elected as Governor, by the Board of Commissioners. The Secretary, however, insists on carrying out his Regulation about keeping Captains with their Companies, and requested the Board to select no Captains for any office. Thus *I* feel, as if I were losing my right Bower—one on whom I could call at all times for aid and advice in Asylum matters—for who so competent to give advice as the one from whose brain came the idea, and who

by his unceasing exertions brought the Asylum into existence! Poor Smith has also lost his position as Deputy Governor here—where we are for the present to have only a Governor and Secretary. Colonel Payne has been selected for Governor, but I hear his health is bad, and it is doubtful whether he will accept. He is so clever a fellow that it is hard he should be ever in bad health. The new Officers are to enter on their duties on the 1st of November. Major Alexander of 8th Infantry has been elected to succeed you—as Deputy Governor and Lieutenant Lear (who is now in Texas) as Secretary at Harrodsburg. Major Van Dorn remains alone at Pascagoula. I know that the Secretary was very much in earnest about carrying his Regulations fully into effect, still I had flattered myself that he would make an exception to the rule in your case, and when the Board *unanimously* expressed their wishes on the subject, I felt a confidence that I should be gratified, and that you would remain, but so it is, and I am much disappointed at the result. The case being decided, I felt it my duty as a friend to overcome the objections to communicating bad news and let you know what had been done, where you were so much interested. . . .

"Do let me hear from you. I write in haste.

"Most truly yours,

"B. KING.

"To Major R. ANDERSON, U. S. Army,

"Harrodsburg, Ky."

September 16, 1854. From Dr. B. King:

"I have made such arrangements at the Pension Office and Treasury as to render the taking of powers of Attorney from Pensioners entirely unnecessary—therefore take no further trouble in that way."

"WASHINGTON CITY, October 13, 1854.

"MY DEAR MAJOR:

"I have not been upstairs to see if the order has been issued, but take it for granted it has been done and sent to you—so that I may expect the pleasure of seeing you here in three weeks. You may tell my friend Major Alexander not to be alarmed at the Annual Elections. It is a good *democratic* principle to refer often to the *people*. He may retain the position for a long time. There was no objection to you individually *from any source whatever*—but the Secretary had issued his Orders about Captains, and it was entirely owing to your unfortunate rank that you were not continued. If you had only had the rank that

Merit would give you and which you ought to have had long ago, you would still have been Governor, *if* you had desired it. I shall, however, hope for your early promotion and I shall then expect you back to one of the Asylums.

“When you reach here we will regulate your transportation accounts both in coming here and going to Harrodsburg.

“I have to-day sent funds to James Dolan at Louisville to take him to your Asylum. No quarters yet finished for the Officers of the Asylum here—tho' I live in hope soon to be out.

“No Army news.

“Most truly yours,

“B. KING.

“To Major R. ANDERSON, U. S. Army,

“Harrodsburg, Ky.”

Part of letter from Dr. King, dated Washington City, September 12, 1854

“MY DEAR MAJOR:

“Your letter of the 6th inst. has been received and I hasten to reply. In the first place I have no doubt that the Secretary was sincere in all he said to you when here—at that time he had probably not thought of the Regulation he issued *a few months since*, that Captains should be with

their Companies—and his action in recent cases has been to preserve consistency. Many Captains were absent, and he has been urged to let them remain so. To relieve him from embarrassment and charge of favoritism he has been compelled to make the rule absolute.

“For you personally, he has the most kind feeling and regard.

“I expect to take up my residence at the Asylum the last of this month.

“I write in haste because I was anxious to put you right in regard to the Secretary.

“Always truly your friend,

“B. KING.”

CONCLUSION

The Order was duly received, and thus ended Captain Anderson's connection with the “Soldiers' Home.” For nearly twenty-five years it had been his “Hobby”—a Foundation on which since 1854, others have builded. But without that Corner-Stone, there would in all probability have been no “Soldiers' Homes.” On the Anderson Building I wished to put the magic words, “Originator and Founder”—suffice it to say, they are not there.

On September 15, 1859, Major Anderson, then at Trenton, N. J., was again written to by Members of the Committee having choice of Officers for the Military Asylum, to ask if they might present his name to the Board. "Declined—as I think that the Committee must choose without outside influence."

I close this History of the Home, and my Father's connection with it, with some touching words of my Mother's taken from a newspaper cutting in the beginning of this book. She has joined him in a better world, and I am left to show to the Army *one* of his many works for the Service and for his Country.

"And yet after all these years there is nothing about this beautiful 'HOME' to remind his old friends and comrades of him to whom they owe so much. My heart beats fast, and my eyes fill with tears, as I drive through its charming grounds, and feel that he who would have so gloried in it all is nowhere recognized. But I know that some day, sooner or later, honor will be given where honor is so justly due, and I can safely leave my gallant husband enshrined in the hearts of his comrades and his countrymen."

THE END

Washington Monday morning
January 6. 1840

Dear Anderson.

I have seen and conversed
with Col. Croft Capt. Mordicai. Col. Croft
says he has not yet drawn up your bill, and
thinks it will be useless for him to do so - he says
that bill would require a great deal of revising
to get it thro' congress and that he is the last
man in the world to nurse any bill thro' the
congress. He thought if the project had been recommended
by the secretary in his annual report it would have
stood some chance of success. He approves of your views
highly and would do any thing he could do with a
reasonable hope of success to aid ^{them} ~~it~~. He seemed to think
however, that the proposed means of support would ultimately
be inadequate. I will tell you more fully when I see you.

Remember me to Peggam & Miss Spencer.

I believe my truly your friend.
- E. D. Keyes



After care having attentively examined the letter of Robert Robinson referred to them by the House, have the honour to present the following report.

An reference to the journals of this House it will be seen that various attempts have been made to accomplish the purpose which is not recommended to our notice by this letter. France has her Hotel Royal des Invalides and England her Royal Chelsea Hospital. We yet see none so similar establishments for our soldiers. There are two of the most important establishments for the accommodation of old and disabled soldiers, now erected towards the close of the seventeenth century. Considering the scheme proposed differs from that of the Chelsea, still, as the ~~object~~ ^{object} is the same, we it ~~will be~~ ^{will be} more proper to refer to the early history and present operation of that renowned Hospital. It was commenced by Charles 2 in 1682 and completed under the reign of King George 3 in 1762. From 1684 to 1762 funds were raised for the support of the Hospital by an annual deduction of one penny per pound of five per cent from the pay of every officer and soldier in the Army. These deductions were discontinued in consequence of the want of the time. This institution is managed by Commissioners, appointed by patent, under the great seal, they are commonly six officers, namely the Lord President of the Council, Lord Lords of the Treasury, Paymaster General of the Forces, Secretary at War, Comptroller of the Treasury, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the Hospital.

The Commissioners hold Courts for the admission of pensioners, and the internal regulation of the Hospital.

There are commonly from 450 to 520 in-pensioners, who are divided into different classes, according to their distinguished conduct in the service, or good behavior while in hospital, receiving different pay. (The out-pensioners are not included in this statement.)

The Commissioners, after each leave at Chelsea Hospital, forward a return to the Secretary at War, shewing in detail the pensions which have been refused, granted, and the claims which have been refused. ~~There are many instances~~
~~of persons who are not entitled by the Commission as excepted from those who have acquired~~
~~strong claims to them; or upon whom the Commission in bestowing pensions, are directed~~
to keep ^{steadily} ~~carefully~~ in view, "the quiet conduct & good character of the soldier, the length of his good and faithful service; the extent of that disability which can fairly be ascribed to the effect of service only; and the degree to which it interferes with his power of earning a livelihood." Pensions may be granted to men useful for the ordinary duties of a Soldier, upon twenty six years' service in the Infantry, or twenty four years in the Cavalry, or sixteen years of good conduct, after serving 25 years in the Infantry, or 20 in the Cavalry, many, although not useful for the service, obtain at their own request, their discharge, & a permanent pension.

Commanders and ~~the~~ be restored to the benefit of the Soldiers' Relief, and
be order from that effect from the Secretary of War. Any Com. Officers
who have perfected their claims to enter the relief, in consequence
of this conduct, shall have their names & the circumstances under
which their claims were perfected noted on the Muster rolls and
on their discharge. ~~In such cases, the date of the soldier's~~
~~first subsequent being sworn in shall be the commencement of his~~

A Soldier discharged from the Army for disability, or for any other
cause, who shall in a subsequent course the fact or misrepresent the cause
of his former discharge, shall not be allowed to reckon his past service,
or be admitted into the relief of again discharge for disability.

It is not desirable to detain at the institutions men who
^{may be} perfectly restored to health and capable of performing military service
than who have incur or surgeon's certificate of disability, under 20 years
service, shall be annually examined by a board of Medical Officers,
until the reach 50 years of age, for the purpose of ascertaining whether
they continue disabled. Those who are reported recovered and capable of
performing their duties ~~may~~ ^{may} rejoin the Army. shall if they so desire be
reimbursed into the service.

The men prior to entering the
institutions shall sign agreements obligating themselves to be re-
admitted by ^{so long as they remain in the relief} ~~proper~~ ^{to be bound by the rules & regulations}
of War and ~~and~~ regulations as may be directed for the Gov-
of the institutions.

Persons leaving the relief ~~and remaining~~
~~about the place~~ ^{without proper authority} ~~for a longer period than twenty four hours~~ shall
without ~~advising~~ ^{advising} a good cause for the same to the commanding
Officer of the same, be by him reported to the Genl. Releef Officer who
withdraw from the institutions and remain about for a longer period than one
month, will forfeit their right to return.

The conduct and duties of a soldier require the character of hope - a hope that of having it in his power to retire from service with credit & respectability, at a time of life when he is able to resume the employment of his early years - discipline improves - Medicine renders him cheap - he considers should be considered in time of service, in personal advancement, in future promotion & in respectability, as desirable as to place him on a level in popular opinion with those of the employment.

Before a soldier is given his discharge entitling him to claim an ^{amount} ~~allowance~~ out of the ^{regimental} ~~regiment~~ fund, a board composed of three officers, viz the Lieut Colonel of the Regiment, & the second in command ^{at the place} and the officer next in seniority, ^{must be appointed, to investigate} shall investigate his case, and verify, and record the following particulars;

1. His services.
2. His disability.
3. His character.

These reports ^{submitted} ~~submitted~~. The discharge of the soldier, will be filled up from the proceedings of the board, and when signed by the President and countersigned by the Commanding Officer, will be transmitted with the proceedings of the board ~~and~~ be forwarded to the Adjutant General.

A Bill

To found a Military Asylum for the relief and support of invalid Soldiers of the Army of the United States.

Section 1. Be it enacted &c &c That all enlisted Soldiers of the Army of the United States, and all enlisted soldiers who may hereafter be of the Army of the United States, and not belonging to Corps or Regiments raised for a limited period, or for a temporary purpose or purposes, shall be, according to the provisions and restrictions hereinafter contained, members of the Institution to be created by this Act, and to be known as the 'Soldiers Retreat', with all the rights, privileges and advantages annexed thereto.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That for the good government & attainment of the objects proposed by the Institution aforesaid, the General-in-Chief, Commanding the Army, the General Commanding the Eastern and Western geographical (Military) Divisions, The Pay-Master-general, the Surgeon-general, the Commissary-general, and the Adjutant-general, shall be, ex officio, Commissioners of the same, constituting a Board of Commissioners, a majority of whom shall have power to establish from time to time, Regulations for the general & internal direction of the Institution, to be submitted to the Secretary of War for approval; and may do any other act or acts, necessary for the government and interests of the same, as authorized herein.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the Officers of the Institution shall consist of a Governor, two deputy-governors, and a ~~Secretary~~ the latter to be also the Treasurer; and the said officers shall be appointed or removed, from time to time, as the interests of the

The Institution may require, by the Secretary of War, upon the recommendation of the Board of Commissioners.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted That the officers to be appointed for the government of the Institution, as provided for in Section 3, shall be taken from the officers of the Army of the United States.

Sec. 5. And be it enacted That there shall be a meeting of the Board of Commissioners at the City of Washington at least once in each year, and they may be assembled at such other times as the interests and wants of the Institution may demand, at the discretion of the Secretary of War. And the Commissioners at their annual meeting shall examine and audit the accounts of the Governor and the Treasurer, who are hereby required to make to the Board of Commissioners, quarterly statements of the receipts and expenditures of the Institution, and the Commissioners shall at any other time have power to investigate and report upon all matters in relation to the officers of the said Governor and Treasurer.

Sec. 6. And be it enacted That the Commissioners shall report the proceedings of every meeting to the Secretary of War; and all moneys received or collected for the benefit and use of the Institution, ^{excepting such moneys} as may be held in trust by the Secretary of War, as provided for in Section 16 of this Act, shall be paid to the said Commissioners. And it shall be the duty

of

of the Commissioners also to make a statement and report of the affairs and ~~condition~~ ^{condition} of the Institution, annually to the Secretary of War, to be ^{by him} submitted to Congress.

Sec. 7. And be it &c. That for the support of the Institution, all stoppages or fines adjudged against soldiers by Sentences of Courts-Martial, over and above any amount that may be due for the remuneration of the government or individuals; all forfeitures on account of discharges; all monies not exceeding two thirds of the balance on hand of the Hospital fund of each Military Station, after deducting the necessary expenditures for that year; and all monies belonging to the estates of deceased soldiers, which now are, or which hereafter may be unclaimed for the period of twelve months, subsequent to the demise of the said soldier, or soldiers, to be repaid by the Commissioners of the Institution upon the reclamation of the heirs or legal representatives of the decedents, be, and the same are hereby appropriated.

Sec. 8. And be it &c. That from the first day of the month next ensuing after the passage of this act, there shall be deducted from the pay of every private, musician, artificer and non-commissioned officer of the Army, according to the restrictions expressed in Section First, the sum of Twenty Cents per month, which sum so deducted shall be by the Pay Department of the Army, paid to the credit of the Commissioners of the Institution for its use & benefit.

Sec. 9. And be it That every enlisted man of the Army of the United States who has served, or shall ~~have~~ served, honestly and faithfully, twenty years ^{in the same} after arriving ^{at} the age of eighteen years, or who shall have suffered by reason of disease or wounds incurred in the service, and in discharge of his military duty, rendering him unfit for further military service, if such disability have not been occasioned by his ~~own~~ negligence, drunkenness or misconduct, be admitted to the privileges and benefits of this Institution. Provided, that no deserter, mutineer or habitual drunkard shall be received without such evidence of subsequent service, good conduct and reformation of character as the Commissioners shall deem sufficient to authorize his admission, and Provided also, that any enlisted man admitted into the Institution for disability as aforesaid, and who shall recover his health to fit him again for military service, shall be, on being under the age of fifty years, discharged from the Institution, and may be re-enlisted into the Army of the United States.

Sec. 10. And be it That the provisions of the foregoing section shall not be extended to any soldier who may incur disease by neglect or vicious conduct; or who may protract his cure by design or perverse conduct; or shall maintain himself wilfully unfit for military service; or shall any person convicted of a felony, or other disgraceful, or infamous crime of a civil nature be admitted to the benefits of

this Institution: and all persons thus excluded shall forfeit for the benefit of the Institution any monies previously paid by them to the same.

Section 11. And be it *enacted*. That it shall be lawful for the Governor of the Institution, or the person acting as governor of the same, to inflict punishment by confinement, under the regulations of the Commissioners, not exceeding twenty days, and by stoppages of any allowances that may be made, having regard to the reformation and health of the delinquent, for a violation of the regulations of the Institution; and any member or inmate of the Institution who shall be guilty of continued perverse and insubordinate conduct; or of drunkenness, or other vicious and immoral habits, or be convicted of a felony, or other infamous or disgraceful crime, shall, upon the report of the Governor to the War Department, be dismissed from the same, and forfeit all monies hitherto paid by him into the Treasury of the Institution. And it shall be unlawful hereafter to enlist any such persons into the land or naval service of the United States.

Sec. 12. And be it *enacted*. That the Commissioners shall have power (provided the means and money of the Institution be sufficient for such purpose) to fix the daily rate of allowances not to exceed — cents, a day, to be paid in money to each invalid soldier admitted into the Institution, permanently or for a time only; and not exceeding — cents, a day, to each soldier ^{enlisted} upon his admission, but who may for special reasons be permitted by the Board of Commissioners to reside elsewhere, according to the following scale, ~~the first being~~

the highest degree.

1. Length of service. 2. Wounds ~~and~~ ~~injuries~~ ~~received~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~service~~
3. Disabilities after fifteen years service. 4. Disabilities ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~last~~ ~~fifteen~~ ~~years~~ ~~service~~. And no pecuniary emolument for disability shall be granted, ~~under~~ ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ ~~granted~~, under the provisions of this or any of the foregoing sections, except in cases ~~properly~~ and strictly limited to disabilities caused in and by the service.

Sec. 13. And be it so That the Commissioners be authorized to allow to the Governor of the Soldiers Retreat, a sum not exceeding Four hundred Dollars per annum; and to the Secretary and Treasurer of the said Institution, a sum not exceeding Three hundred Dollars per annum; and the Commissioners may also authorize the Governor of the Soldiers Retreat, to employ as many clerks, to be taken from the inmates, or members of the same, as may be necessary, and allow for the services of each clerk so employed a sum not exceeding seventy five dollars per annum; and that the said sums of money, and all other incurred in the administration of the affairs of the Institution aforesaid, be paid out of the funds belonging to the same.

Sec. 14. And be it so That the Comptroller and Ordnance Department be authorized (when the same can be done without injury to the public service) to provide such stores of their respective Departments to the Institution ~~as may~~ be needed, and required by the Governor under the regulations

of the ~~Commissioners~~, the cost of the same to be refunded by the ~~Institution~~ to the United States.

Sec. 15. And be it ~~enacted~~ that the Ordnance Department is hereby authorized, whenever the public service may require the same to purchase from the Soldiers Retreat, prepared Ordnance Stores, provided, the cost of said Stores be not higher than that of similar or like articles of prepared Ordnance Stores, when furnished by the Arsenal of the United States.

Sec. 16. And be it ~~enacted~~ that all monies the Secretary of War, or his ^{Successors} in office, shall be authorized to receive from any person, or persons, individual or corporate, by bequest or otherwise, any money or moneys, and estate real or personal of any description whatsoever as Trustee in behalf of, and for the sole use and benefit of the Soldiers Retreat; which money or property, may be, under his direction, sold or otherwise disposed of and applied for the current expenses of the Institution, or be invested constituting a fund for the benefit of the same: And any other monies belonging to the Institution, which may not be reported by the Board of Commissioners, on hand, and not presently needed for the current expenses of the Institution, aforesaid, shall be, under the direction of the Secretary of War, as Trustee, invested for the benefit and use of the said Institution. And the aforesaid Trustee shall annually, or before the 1st day of February, make a report of the same to Congress.

Sec. 17

Sec 17 shall be it is that all monies belonging to the Soldiers Retreat, excepting such as may be held in trust by the Secretary of War, as provided for in Section 16 of this Act, shall be deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the said Institution, in such place, or places, as the Commissioners thereof shall direct. And no monies shall be drawn out by the said Treasurer, except upon the Warrant of the said Commissioners, countersigned by the Secretary of War.

Sec 18 shall be it is that every Commissioner, previous to entering upon the discharge of his duties, shall make and subscribe the following Declaration, I do hereby declare upon my honour that I will duly and impartially enquire into the matters to be brought before this Board, and will decide in all questions, according to the Laws and Regulations of the Soldiers Retreat, and if any doubt shall arise, according to my conscience, the best of my understanding, and the custom of the service in like cases; and the Governor and the other Officers of the Institution shall, previous to entering upon the duties of their office, make and subscribe the following declaration. I do hereby declare upon my honour that I will honestly and faithfully execute the trust reposed in me, according to the Laws and the Regulations for the Soldiers Retreat, and if any doubt shall arise, according to my conscience, the best of my understanding and the custom of the service in like cases.

Report of the Major Genl of the Army.
 Hd. Qrs. of the Army
 Washington Nov 22 1861

Army & Navy Chronicle
 Vol 12. No. 52. Dec 30. 1861

A bill for the establishment of an Army
 Asylum was reported at the last regular
 session of Congress, with every prospect of
 success, except the then want of time. A
 review of the provisions of this bill cannot,
 I think, fail to secure to it a favorable
 consideration in every quarter.
 I have the honor to be
 To the Hon. G. L. Spooner
 Secy of War
 Winfield Scott

No. 5. Photographed Report of General Scott from "Army and Navy Chronicle"

(see page 85)



Sec. 19. And be it enacted That the officers of the Army connected with the Soldiers Retreat, as provided for in the foregoing sections of this Act, may, for violations of the Laws and Regulations of the said Institution, or any of the same, be punished according to the discretion of a General-Court-Martial which shall be ordered by the authority, and under the restrictions contained in the act of Congress entitled "An Act for establishing Rules and Regulations Articles for the government of the Armies of the United States" approved April 10, 1806, or such other as may hereafter be established.

Section 20. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States, is hereby authorized to grant to the Soldiers Retreat, for their use and occupancy, such unoccupied barracks and lands adjacent, belonging to the United States, and which are or may not be needed for military or other public purposes, as shall be designated by the Secretary of War—

OF
NIGHT

For Montreal. Feb. 23, 1845

Dear Sir,

Every thing has been in such confusion, and we have been so constantly occupied, since we moved into our house, on last Thursday (20th), that there has been no time for writing - Even now, we are leading a camp life; our boxes not having arrived from N. York, we manage to get on as well as we can with the few articles we have - Our house is a summer house like, and so very different from the close room we occupied at the Charleston, that my poor wife and little Bet have suffered from colds in consequence of the change - Yesterday evening after the day's work was over, Eliza took a walk around our grounds, examined the garden, cow house, poultry house, kitchen, &c. &c. - little darling looked at every thing but expressed no opinion, whilst he mother, not quite so non committal, expressed herself highly pleased with the arrangements -

We shall have a snug little room ready for you, so that you need not fear taking the new hirekeepers by surprise - and, I think, we may safely promise you ~~an~~ plate of soup.

I thought last night of a means, which could you effect it, would be not only a popular but a human

human and proper one. Suppose if ~~not~~ too late to
add to the Army appropriation bill, you introduce a
separate resolution ^{authorizing} the Secy. of War to \$1000 or
\$1200 to be expended in purchasing Life Boats for the
use of some of our Sea Coast Forts - Instances have
occurred where the lives of wrecked sea men might
have been saved by them - for the want of them
the lives of some of our soldiers have been lost - an
instance in Mobile bay you will remember - This
measure could not be opposed - the Boats do not
cost a great deal more than other good row boats -
which are kept at many of our forts -

Could you get this measure & what you
have introduced for taking care of the old Soldiers
you will have done what will attract ^{to you} the strongest
and the war worn soldiers & the weather beaten sailor -

I think I made copy of yr. bill for establishing
an asylum and am sorry you did not send me
the accompanying report. I wish you would send
some copies of the report & bill, as many of your friends
are anxious to see them - One friend Dr. Robinson of
Augusta has established himself in Charleston -

and a line get some of Mary's - many thanks
to you for the last affair in her - I like your one in
all long it reads as dear Tattie - Mother & daughter
and thousands of kisses - Give our love to your folks
and affectionately

Tom and Elsie
Mc

Robert Anderson

Report of the Commanding Genl.
 Wd. D. of the Army.
 Washington Nov 21. 1845

25
 10th Pub. Lib.
 4. 1st. Div. of Army. 8. 1846.

I venture once more respectfully to invite
 attention to a retreat or asylum for the worn-
 out & decayed rank & file of the Army. The
 subject has been twice reported upon favorably
 on bills, by Committees on Military Affairs in the
 House of Representatives. (See Report No 74. 2nd.
 Session 26th Congress, and Report No 109. 2nd.
 Session 28th Congress.) If the want can only be
 placed fully before Congress, it seems improper
 to doubt success, as the asylum would impose no
 burden on the treasury, but be supported from the
 Army itself in deductions, fines, & excursions...
 I have the honor to be, Dear Genl. Sir,
 Your obedient Servant.

No. 7. Photographed Extract of General Scott's Report

(see page 91)



U.S. Mil. Academy.

West Point April 19, 1876.

My dear Captains

I am at length enabled to enclose to you a petition to Congress to establish a military academy which has the names of nearly all the officers at this Post. I owe you an apology for not having sent it sooner.

A day or two after I received your petition, which was enclosed in a letter from Lt. Brown, Mrs. Keyes was taken ill & did not leave the house for more than two weeks, and while attending on her I took cold myself & was indisposed, but not closely confined for ten days; and having an immense amount of duty to perform, as you must know if you are aware that no instructor of Artillery ever had a greater number of functions than I have, I could hardly find time to think of any thing but my own affairs. It requires about one week to get all the signatures on West Point. None have refused to sign it, but there are several officers to whom I have not yet presented it, I shall perhaps retain the petition a day or two with a view to show it to Mr. Kemble and Mr. Parrotte at the Foundry if I see any prospect before the mail closes tomorrow of being able to get over the river. I am member of a Court Martial for the trial of Cadets but I hope to be clear by the day after tomorrow.

I thought it best to copy the petition you sent to me, this perhaps it would be better, for fear the members will not feel disposed by a mere reference, to read old documents, to set forth the difficulty of getting recruits to fill the ranks of the Army, which is the

no doubt, much increased by the number of old soldiers who, after having worn themselves out in the service, have been discharged to beg, & circulate through the class of persons from which recruits are obtained, practical & credible evidence of the inequalities of their country.

My delay in attending to the petition has been accidental and unavoidable, and I should be sorry to be thought indifferent to the truly generous enterprise upon which you have so ~~long~~ bestowed your time and attention for so long a period. May success attend your efforts, and when success is achieved let all its ~~honour~~ be upon you, as all its fruits will be upon the poor invalid soldiers!

Mrs. Keyes joins me in the most cordial acknowledgments to you and Miss Anderson.

Please say to Brown and Fidd, I have duly received their letters, and that they cannot do me a greater favour than by continuing to write this. I cannot possibly find time to reply. When I get a letter from Brown or Fidd. I may know more about Sullivan's Island & Charleston than if I had remained there.

Your sincere friend
C. D. Keyes.

The substance of this letter forwarded
Mr. Genl. Lewis - on same date
Fort Monroe, D.C.

Hon. T. H. Benton,
U. S. Senate.

March 1, 1846

Col:

I have herewith the
honorable's forwarded a Petition from the Officers of the
Army at Fort Monroe, was praying the establishment
of the ~~System for the~~

We hope that your attentive examination of the
following facts will convince you that the Institution
reported in the Bill to which attention is solicited, will
be able to support itself, and that we shall then secure
your powerful influence in seeing its passage through
Congress.

The suggested sources for the support of this Institution are:
1st Monthly contributions. 2nd Sale of reclaimed money applying
to the scales of decreased soldiers. 3rd Stoppages by Genl. Martial.
4th Stoppages on acct. of soldiers. 5th ~~Stoppages of~~
6th Sale of produce & articles Manufactured by the beneficiaries.

From the 1st source, Genl. Scott's Report, giving 7,883 as the
present strength of the South & file of the Army, we shall
have at 20 cts per man 815,912 20.

What we shall gain from the 2nd I have no means
of ascertaining.

In relation to the 3rd, I have reviewed the returns
of the different Regiments of the Army, from 7 of which full
returns have been received, showing that the stoppages by Courts,
Martial,

7,883
260
3153.2
1766
642920

See Philips Memorial
Vol. Economy. Plate

Medical (for dentists excepted) during the year 1845
amounted in three Regiments (5 of Infy & 2 of Art) to \$8,352.84.

Allowing the same amount for the remaining seven
Regiments we have from this source ----- \$16,719.68.

The value of the Artillery I have no means of
ascertaining.

The British stand upon an important principle not to be
found in any similar Institution in Europe, viz; that con-
siderations both of health & happiness require that the
beneficiaries shall be employed for short periods each day
in some useful occupation. We find the various pursuits
of life represented in the army. we shall therefore have
in the Retreat, farmers, gardeners, dairy men, Carpenters,
Masons, Blacksmiths, Physicists &c, each of whom
will bring his skills to aid in the support of his cherished
home. — May we not then, when we know that the
industries of some of the vicinity for hours support
themselves, by their labor, confidently rely upon this
Source of Revenue, as one that will bring full returns
into the Treasury of the Retreat?

We will now make an estimate of the cost of support-
ing these men — Allowing each man the army ration, &
estimating its value at 10c. the annual cost of provisioning each is \$36.50

Allowing each man annually 1. Wool Jacket, 1. Wool overalls, 2. Cotton
overalls, 2. Flannel Shirts, 2. Cotton Shirts, 1. Flannel Drawers, 3 pairs stockings,
and 3 pairs boots, amply sufficient with what he will bring with him,
his clothing for one year at the present price of army clothing will be \$13.27 1/2

Total for subsistence & clothing ----- \$49.77 1/2

Mykland General's Office,
Washington, Dec. 19, 1866.

Dear Captain:

Your communication of the 14th inst. and
enclosing a letter to Colonel Bentin and a petition to Congress from
the officers of Fort Monroe, has been received, and both will be
disposed of agreeably to your wishes.

I am, dear Captain, very truly,
Your obedient servant,

R. J. W.

Richard R. Anderson,
3d Artillery,
Fort Monroe,
D. C.

No. 10. Photographed Letter from General Jones

(see page 100)



The following tables exhibit the actual annual cost of each inmate of the several Institutions mentioned.

Philadelphia Almshouse (1844)	\$46.80	Am. Almanac for 1846	pag. 243
Massachusetts Almshouse	41.08	" " " "	214
West. G. G. Del.	34.87	" " " "	245
Suffolk	34.33	" " " "	"
Newb. G. G.	44.49	" " " "	"
Baltimore (House for)	65.00	" " " "	249
Massachusetts Insane Asylum (1841)	40.20	N.Y. Journal of Science	Vol. 2. p. 6.
Bloomington, N.Y.	(1843) 38.47	" " " "	"
Pennsylvania	61.13	" " " "	"
Ohio	(1845) 34.63	Report to State Legislature	for 1845
Average	----- \$43.80.		

Which is less than the estimated cost already proposed.

But even supposing the annual cost to average, in round numbers, \$50.00, we find that \$35,698.88 the amount from the 1st & 3rd enumerated sources of revenues only, will support more than 700 persons.

Hoping that the warm interest felt by myself & brother officers in this scheme will be regarded by you as an ample apology for my having so long troubled you with your valuable time.

I have the honor to subscribe myself
 Most respectfully
 Your obedient
 (Robert Anderson)
 Secy 3rd City.

50 131,698.88 (701.
 21.9
 409
 170
 09



Editors of the
Pacayune

Gentlemen

Fort Monroe, Va Dec 7 1866

The kind, humane and benevolent manner in which you always allude to the hard fate of the poor discharged soldiers, points you out as their warm friend, and induces me to hope that you will pardon the liberty I take, in asking your particular attention to the accompanying copy of a Congressional Document -

The plan therein suggested, is, I am convinced, perfectly feasible, and requires only the attention of Congress to command its favorable action. - The time has now arrived, ^{for their aid} when justice to the ~~poor~~ ^{worn out} soldier will be demanded by those whose cheeks have been moistened by the tear of sympathy for their sufferings, and by those whose hearts have ^{all} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~with~~ ^{at} the ~~recital~~ ^{recital} of their glorious ~~actions~~ ^{actions} they have won.

Should I succeed in securing your ^{valuable} ~~personal~~ ^{personal} advocacy of a ^{reform} ~~bill~~ ^{bill} for the ~~benefit~~ ^{benefit} of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~poor~~ ^{poor} ~~soldier~~ ^{soldier} I shall feel that I have done much, very much for him, and know that, at some no distant day, when your hands are warmly ^{grasped} ~~grasped~~

No. 11. Photographed Letter from Captain Anderson to the Editors of the "Pacayune" (see page 102)

~~My dear Sir~~ . . . ^{by} the happy old soldier on
his way ~~home~~, you will ~~thank~~ me for
being ~~interested~~ ⁱⁿ influence in this behalf

I am, Sir, your

Most respectfully

Yours

Robert Anderson

Capt. 3d Art.

Adjutant's Office, 5th Regiment,
Corpus Christi, Texas, Jan 20th 1846.

Sir,

In compliance with the request in your
note of the 14th instant, I herewith enclose Copies
of the Consolidated Abstracts of Stoppages of pay
by Courts Martial in the several Companies of the
Regiment, the Originals of which have been transmit-
ted to the Adjutant-General's Office, quarterly,
since the 1st April 1845, - from these the desired
information can be obtained.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully
Yours obt. Servant
Chas. S. Cook

Captain Robert Anderson
3rd Artillery,
Fort Mouton
S. C.



Adjutant's Office 3rd Infantry
Camp near Corpus Christi, Texas
February 13th 1846.

Sir,

In forwarding the above amount of stoppages by Courts Martial (desertions excepted) Col. Hitchcock directs me to say, that he hopes you will succeed in your object and obtain the desired law for an asylum; and to assist in this all in his power

he recently addressed a letter to Col. Benton giving reasons growing out of the actual wants of the service as an object likely to attract attention — He thinks however that a serious objection exists to the application of stoppages for the support of the asylum, as he is of opinion that members on Courts Martial ought not to have the shadow of an inducement to affix any particular penalty as a punishment for offences other than a due consideration of the offences themselves — But if the law can only be passed in any shape, it will do good and may be modified afterwards if found necessary.

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servt.

A. T. Brown

Adjutant 3^d Infy

Capt. R. Anderson

3rd Artillery.

Fort Moultrie.

S. C.



Hon. J. E. Holmes
No. 14.

L. M. M. M. S. C.
Apr. 21, 1844

Dear Sir:

Not having the pleasure of an acquaintance
before with the Hon. Mr. Boutwell, who reported the Bill to your
a "Military Academy," I take the liberty of forwarding a
Memo. presenting facts which may be considered by him
in advocating the Bill before the House, which I will
thank you to give him.

It bears a very just intimation in the face of this bill,
which is, in any opinion, as necessary to elevate the
character and increase the respectability of our soldiery,
as it is imperiously demanded as a charitable
means of providing for them when too old and
infirm to take care of themselves.

Its passage will also induce some few
of our countrymen to enlist - now, our recruits
are principally foreigners who have recently come to
our shores.

May we not hope that a careful
regulation of the merits of the Bill, will place
upon among the warm advocates of a measure
which, without expense to the Govt. will be
the means of securing a happy home for the
poor & faithful soldier?

I think you for the Mass of Sign
- thoughtfully & kindly sent -

Yours
L. M. M. S. C.



Memorandum

~~For~~ for the Hon. Mr. Burt. Mr. Reps
For the "Bill To found an Army Academy"

Sec. 7 - Fines adjudged against soldiers by sentence of Courts-Martial, one and above any amount due for the remuneration of 5000 or individuals, during the year of 1845, in some Regiments of the Army viz. 1st. Dragoon. 2d & 3d. Art. - 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th & 8th Regts. Lufs, amounting to \$10,734.89.

Expenses

Supposing the stoppages from the remaining five Regiments to amount the same, we have for the sum of \$16,698.78

Sec. 8. 20 cts monthly for 7,875 men, for the year. \$18,924.00

Expenses Total \$35,622.78

Allowing for each man at the present army ration, and allowing it at 10 cts the annual cost of provisioning each man will be \$36.67

Supposing each man to require annually; 1 Wool Jacket, 2 Wool Coats, 1 cotton Jacket, 2 Cotton Coats, 2 cotton shirts, 2 Flannel shirts, 1 pair Drawers, 3 pair stockings, 3 pair boots, & 1 blanket every year - the cost of clothing each man, would be annually, at the present prices of Army clothing \$14.69

Annual cost of rations & clothing per man \$51.19

It will thus be seen that \$35,622.78 will suffice to feed and clothe (696) six hundred & ninety six men - many more than would, under the present

Expenses

of the Bill, be admissible into the Retreat - ~~fact~~
fact this is about ¹² per cent of the strength of the
Army -

The Am't. of stoppage for the nine Regts
above named, was generally obtained by the Adjutant
of those Regts - partial Returns have been rec'd from
some of the remaining Regts, others, in consequence
perhaps of their being engaged in the field, have
sent me no returns - A Clerk in the Pay Master
General's Office, could easily in two days, I think,
give from the Pay Rolls an accurate statement
of the stoppages in all the Regts & Corps, during
the last year - This might be desirable, as
thus the accuracy of my calculations would be
tested.

The consideration of the value of the other
sources of income is omitted, as I have no data
which ~~would~~ ^{enable} me to ~~an~~ estimate of their
amounts - My object is now merely to present
to you such facts as prove that the Institution,
unless most abominably mismanaged, must
easily support itself. Indeed, the judicious
application of the degree of labor, necessary for
health, in the cultivation and management
of a well regulated farm, &c, &c, would, after
a year or two, provide at the Retreat nearly
all the necessary articles of consumption.

The Regulations would, I presume, prescribe that men discharged for admission into the Retreat, shall take to it, such articles of their clothing as they may have at the time of their discharge - they will, thus, enter well provided which will certainly render the proposed allowance amply sufficient.

I am convinced that the ~~amount~~ ^{amount} enumerated in yr. Bill ^{will yield more than sufficient} for the support of the Institution ~~will yield more than sufficient~~ - but, I preferred embracing all the items properly available for that purpose, by presenting a scheme which on trial would, in a few years, without appropriations from Congress for its relief, languish and die.

The plan presented in yr. Bill, requiring, very judiciously, annual statements of the fiscal affairs of the Retreat to be made to Congress, will in a few years show the annual expenses of the same, and enable Congress to direct a proper proportion of the surplus to be turned into the National Treasury -



To the Hon. Mr. Febry, 12th 1830.

Dear General:

Before calling your attention particularly, to the provisions of the scheme for the "Soldier's Retreat," as proposed in the House Bill, (reported favorably on, by the Mdly. Comm. of four Comps), it may be well for me, to answer the question, which, the reading of that bill has suggested to your mind: Why it is so limited in its views; or, rather, why it was not so extended as to embrace another, and an exceedingly needy class of men - the pensioners? The answer is, simply, this, I was afraid to touch upon that question at all. - I knew that there was a very long roll of pensioners, to many of whom, the pittance allowed by the Govt., affords, perhaps, a very inadequate support, and my sympathies were, and are, warmly excited in their behalf; but, I also knew that they could not be collected and supported without liberal appropriations from Congress, and to any appeal from us for such appropriation, it might be said, that, the Govt. had already given them what, in its wisdom, it deemed sufficient. You will probably, ask, why not receive some of those men in the Soldier's Retreat? Once throw the doors open, and when are you to stop. Admit, by all means, those who fought heroically in Mexico. But will not the friends of the Veterans of 1812, contend that their claims are equally strong; and who dare close the doors against the few survivors of our glorious Revolution. I am afraid of attempting too much. Most of the pensioners have families

Ms. A. 9. 2. 13. 1830
in Gen. Shields
collection

families, and have made all their little arrangements for living at home. I would not disturb them. Their families could not be received in any buildings now at the disposal of the War Dept; extensive and expensive preparations must be first made for their accommodation - and, again, these men, having as civilians, contributed to the support of the County poor houses, are, if in want, entitled to the benefit of these institutions.

The Bill, which I have offered to your consideration, leaves, therefore, untouched, all other objects of charity & philanthropy, and taking the army as it is, provides a happy home for every Soldier who may become incapacitated in the discharge of his duties, or, who serves his Country honestly and faithfully for a certain term of years.

The passage of this Bill will ensure us a better class of men, and, by giving them an object to remain in service as long as they are fit for duty, will promote re-embodiments and prevent desertions - thus contributing very greatly to the economy and efficiency of our army. And who will say that these are not subjects well worthy the attention & consideration of our Legislators?

I would not, at present, interfere with the pension laws - as they enable the Govt. on extraordinary occasions to reward the gallant Soldier, by giving him enough to enable him, if he pleases, to live elsewhere than in the "Hoire" - Hereafter, it thus becomes, as well Economically, as I have justly hope, Govt. May deem it best to make an entire change in its system of pensioning.

H.

It is exceedingly desirable that this Bill should be passed as soon as possible, as we are daily losing some of our best men, who, knowing that they will be discharged when too old for service, go now to settle on their bounty lands, hoping there to secure a home for their old age.

And now a few words in reference to the details of the Bill.

Sec: 748. enumerates the proposed sources of revenue for the Retreat—

- 1st. Stoppages by Sentences of Courts Martial.
- 2d. Forfeitures on account of desertions.
- 3rd. Part of Surplus Hospital Funds.
- 4th. Monies belonging to Estates of deceased Soldiers.
- 5th. Monthly Contributions from each Man, of 20 cts.

To these may be added, Sale of products of farm, Money derived from labor of Mechanics, Pupils, Blacksmiths &c.

The accompanying Statement (A), shows that the sums derivable from the 1st & 5th Sources will annually support $11\frac{1}{2}$ per Centum of our present Army. As I have no data, on which to form even a reasonable conjecture as to the probable Amount which the other Sources would yield, I shall pass them by, with the remark, that each one will add considerably to the funds of the Retreat.

To test the Correctness of my estimate of the amts. stopped by Courts Martial (as assumed in the Statement), and to avoid all error, you had better request the Pay M^r: Genl, to furnish you with a Statement, from the Pay Rolls, of the actual

actual outgoes for one fiscal year, say ending June 30th 1849. A table can easily be prepared in three days.

The accompanying table (B) shows that the paupers and insane are supported individually at a lower rate than I have assumed as necessary for ~~the~~ each of the inmates of the Retreat.

The Bill for the "Sole Retreat," presents to the consideration of Congress a plan which can never, without culpable and unpardonable mismanagement, cost the best one penny - one which from its inception, will quietly and unostentatiously begin the good work of providing for the comfortable support of all who may hereafter be entitled to its benefits. It differs, in many respects, from the excellent Asylums of England & France, and in one particular, in my opinion, is far superior to them, the providing for the healthful enjoyment of its inmates, thus, ensuring to them health, cheerfulness, and guarding against the "monstrous and inhuman" which mark the "mere animal existence" of the inmates of Britain and of the "Hôtel des Invalides," who, as some writers, as I seem to have no other pleasure than to eat and drink in the Sen.

I am convinced that the Surplus estimated in the Bill will yield ^{me} them sufficient for the support of the Institution, but it is better to embrace all the items properly available for that purpose, to enable it to meet the heavy demands which may be made on it in times of war.

Hoping that you will excuse this long letter - I remain most respectfully
Yours truly,
Robert Jackson

1st. Finance. 20th Cong. 1st Sess. 7th Dec. 1835 - 2d. 2d. Sess. 1835. 3d. 1836. 4th. 1837. 5th. 1838. 6th. 1839. 7th. 1840. 8th. 1841. 9th. 1842. 10th. 1843. 11th. 1844. 12th. 1845. 13th. 1846. 14th. 1847. 15th. 1848. 16th. 1849. 17th. 1850. 18th. 1851. 19th. 1852. 20th. 1853. 21st. 1854. 22nd. 1855. 23rd. 1856. 24th. 1857. 25th. 1858. 26th. 1859. 27th. 1860. 28th. 1861. 29th. 1862. 30th. 1863. 31st. 1864. 32nd. 1865. 33rd. 1866. 34th. 1867. 35th. 1868. 36th. 1869. 37th. 1870. 38th. 1871. 39th. 1872. 40th. 1873. 41st. 1874. 42nd. 1875. 43rd. 1876. 44th. 1877. 45th. 1878. 46th. 1879. 47th. 1880. 48th. 1881. 49th. 1882. 50th. 1883. 51st. 1884. 52nd. 1885. 53rd. 1886. 54th. 1887. 55th. 1888. 56th. 1889. 57th. 1890. 58th. 1891. 59th. 1892. 60th. 1893. 61st. 1894. 62nd. 1895. 63rd. 1896. 64th. 1897. 65th. 1898. 66th. 1899. 67th. 1900. 68th. 1901. 69th. 1902. 70th. 1903. 71st. 1904. 72nd. 1905. 73rd. 1906. 74th. 1907. 75th. 1908. 76th. 1909. 77th. 1910. 78th. 1911. 79th. 1912. 80th. 1913. 81st. 1914. 82nd. 1915. 83rd. 1916. 84th. 1917. 85th. 1918. 86th. 1919. 87th. 1920. 88th. 1921. 89th. 1922. 90th. 1923. 91st. 1924. 92nd. 1925. 93rd. 1926. 94th. 1927. 95th. 1928. 96th. 1929. 97th. 1930. 98th. 1931. 99th. 1932. 100th. 1933. 101st. 1934. 102nd. 1935. 103rd. 1936. 104th. 1937. 105th. 1938. 106th. 1939. 107th. 1940. 108th. 1941. 109th. 1942. 110th. 1943. 111th. 1944. 112th. 1945. 113th. 1946. 114th. 1947. 115th. 1948. 116th. 1949. 117th. 1950. 118th. 1951. 119th. 1952. 120th. 1953. 121st. 1954. 122nd. 1955. 123rd. 1956. 124th. 1957. 125th. 1958. 126th. 1959. 127th. 1960. 128th. 1961. 129th. 1962. 130th. 1963. 131st. 1964. 132nd. 1965. 133rd. 1966. 134th. 1967. 135th. 1968. 136th. 1969. 137th. 1970. 138th. 1971. 139th. 1972. 140th. 1973. 141st. 1974. 142nd. 1975. 143rd. 1976. 144th. 1977. 145th. 1978. 146th. 1979. 147th. 1980. 148th. 1981. 149th. 1982. 150th. 1983. 151st. 1984. 152nd. 1985. 153rd. 1986. 154th. 1987. 155th. 1988. 156th. 1989. 157th. 1990. 158th. 1991. 159th. 1992. 160th. 1993. 161st. 1994. 162nd. 1995. 163rd. 1996. 164th. 1997. 165th. 1998. 166th. 1999. 167th. 2000. 168th. 2001. 169th. 2002. 170th. 2003. 171st. 2004. 172nd. 2005. 173rd. 2006. 174th. 2007. 175th. 2008. 176th. 2009. 177th. 2010. 178th. 2011. 179th. 2012. 180th. 2013. 181st. 2014. 182nd. 2015. 183rd. 2016. 184th. 2017. 185th. 2018. 186th. 2019. 187th. 2020. 188th. 2021. 189th. 2022. 190th. 2023. 191st. 2024. 192nd. 2025. 193rd. 2026. 194th. 2027. 195th. 2028. 196th. 2029. 197th. 2030. 198th. 2031. 199th. 2032. 200th. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040. 2041. 2042. 2043. 2044. 2045. 2046. 2047. 2048. 2049. 2050. 2051. 2052. 2053. 2054. 2055. 2056. 2057. 2058. 2059. 2060. 2061. 2062. 2063. 2064. 2065. 2066. 2067. 2068. 2069. 2070. 2071. 2072. 2073. 2074. 2075. 2076. 2077. 2078. 2079. 2080. 2081. 2082. 2083. 2084. 2085. 2086. 2087. 2088. 2089. 2090. 2091. 2092. 2093. 2094. 2095. 2096. 2097. 2098. 2099. 2100.

Washington Dec 3^d 1858

Dear Sir

I have only time to say in reply
to your kind letter that you will find me a
jealousy no less efficient advocate of your
famous "Memorandum on the
Retreat", and it is my wish also to advocate a
return list for the officers. I sincerely hope
that both will succeed to a great extent.

Yours respectfully
S. W. Shields

Major Robert Anderson
Ft. Preble
Me

