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MEMORIAL

OF HON. JOHN TOWNSEND, REV. BENJ. M. PALMER,
HON. W. F. DESAUSSURE, AND PROF. M. LABORDE,
ON BEHALF OF THE "CENTRAL ASSOCIATION FOR
THE RELIEF OF SOLDIERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA,"
PRAYING FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF MONEY FOR
THAT OBJECT.

*To the Honorable the Members of the Legislature
of the State of South Carolina:*

The memorial of the undersigned respectfully sheweth: That they have been appointed on behalf of the "Central Association for the Relief of the Soldiers of South Carolina," to invoke your attention to the condition of our soldiers in the field, and in our hospitals, and to petition your interposition in their favor. The object and purposes of that Association may be understood by a reference to "The plan and Address adopted by the citizens of Columbia, October 20th, 1862," a copy of which we ask leave to lay before your honorable body.

We appear before you with freedom, and without reserve—first, because we ask nothing for ourselves, personally; second, because the matter which we presume to lay before you is one in which every family in the State, with scarcely an exception, is deeply concerned; and third, because from our past history, we have derived the confidence that a Legislature of South Carolina has never been appealed to in behalf of any enlightened plan of public beneficence by which the feeble were to be protected, and the poor cared for, and that appeal made in vain.

To an intelligent body like the Representatives of the people, we deem it unnecessary to enlarge upon the sufferings of our gallant sol-

diers, arising from the want of clothes, of blankets, of shoes, and proper hospital attention. Our newspapers are filled with accounts of their privations in these particulars, and of their more acute sufferings in the hospitals, when, wounded, sick and feeble, they are unable to obtain the medical aid, or nurses, or food proper for the sick; and no man can live upon our highways of travel, or pass frequently upon our railroads, whose heart will not be pained by the pitiable spectacles of wounded men, with their wounds, for days, undressed, and sick men in every stage of disease (contracted, generally, from want of proper clothing), dragging along their wasted frames, in search of their native homes, with none to care for them by the way, or provide for them the proper food.

And who are these men so neglected in their distresses? They are the sons, the brothers, and the fathers, who had gone forth at the call of our State to secure to us the protection which, as a people, we now enjoy, but who are now returning to their families, broken down by disease, or maimed or wounded, to be no longer the prop and support, but an incumbrance to their households. Can calamities like these be averted from these families? Can such sufferings be, in any degree, alleviated?

THE MOST PRESSING EVIL.

Your memorialists have supposed that if your honorable bodies answer these inquiries affirmatively, you will, without delay, put forth the strong arm of the Government to accomplish the object. The Central Association have believed that they can, and have acted accordingly. And as they believe that the most *pressing* evil which now besets our army, and threatens to destroy its efficiency, and bring disaster upon our cause, is the want of blankets, shoes and proper clothing for our soldiers in the field, and that this evil is the fruitful cause of much of the sickness and disease which fills our hospitals and thins our ranks, they have addressed themselves, as their first duty, to remove this evil, by sending on as rapidly as possible to our destitute soldiers, all the clothing, blankets and shoes, which they could command by purchase or by having them made up, or by the voluntary contributions of our generous and true hearted people. These articles of such indispensable necessity to our soldiers have flowed in upon our Association, in one full, constant stream of gushing benevolence from every part of this District, and, as information of the objects and aims of the

Central Association is extended, they begin to pour in from other parts of the State.

HOW THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION ARE EMPLOYED.

Within less than four weeks, after the organization of the Association, the contributions in *money* amounted to more than twenty-two thousand dollars, and in *blankets*, and *carpet*, to be converted into blankets, and *clothing of all kinds*—(some of it from the private wardrobes of our citizens) the contributions were valued at more than ten thousand dollars, and this liberal contribution has been made chiefly from the town of Columbia and its immediate vicinity—the remoter parts of the District of Richland not yet being heard from. From this spontaneous benevolence of the people of the neighborhood, the large wareroom of the Association soon became filled with the different needed articles for our soldiers, which were assorted, boxed up, and directed to the different brigades, regiments and companies of our army, and all (as well the *general* contributions, as the *special donations* of individuals to their friends), being two full car loads, were sent forward on the 7th instant, to our troops, under the care of two trusty agents, selected especially for that purpose, with instructions not to lose sight of them until they were delivered to the parties for whom they were intended. In like manner, another full car load will be sent forward on the 24th of this month, under another special agent, the Association having adopted the precaution, as the first step after their organization, to send on an active, intelligent messenger, with instructions to visit each brigade and regiment of our army, for the purpose of ascertaining personally the wants of each man, and to report to the Association without delay. The result of that investigation, as it may be interesting to the members of your honorable bodies who have friends in the several brigades visited, is here submitted.

On the next page will be found an extract from the report of Mr. Edwin J. Scott, made to the Central Association, after his return from his visit to our armies in Virginia.

LIST OF CLOTHING REQUIRED BY SOUTH CAROLINA TROOPS IN VIRGINIA.

	Shoes.	Hats.	Socks.	Blankets.	Overcoats.	Coats.	Jackets.	Pants.	Flannel Shirts.	Undershirts.	Shirts.	Drawers.	Gloves.	Suspenders.	Rocket Handkerchiefs.
General Gregg's Brigade.....	1488	1014	1587	1165	605	471	200	1160	1346	40	327	1419	.....	.....	.....
General Jenkins' Brigade (four scarfs),	585	245	731	326	498	258	.....	379	.....	.....	259	369	32	.....	.....
General Kershaw's Brigade.....	733	375	1586	1239	784	37	.....	216	.....	226	916	898	45	40	20
In General Drayton's Brigade, 15th Regiment, and Jones' Battalion....	195	98	197	181	89	77	.....	117	.....	67	112	147	13	.....	.....
In General Hood's Brigade, Hampton's Legion, Bachman's and Garden's Artillery.....	291	172	520	84	15	.....	.....	121	202	.....	397	187	.....	.....	.....
Captain Dobeys Cavalry.....	12	.....	.....	12	12	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

This list to be increased by what is required for General Evans' Brigade; for cavalry of Hampton's Legion; for cavalry of Holcombe Legion; and cavalry of Colonel Black's regiment.

CLOTHING FURNISHED FROM QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT OF
SOUTH CAROLINA.

It may be interesting here to add, for the information of your honorable bodies, that soon after the organization of the Central Association, when they were anxiously looking about for a supply of proper clothing for the *immediate* use of our destitute soldiers, their attention was directed to the supply which had been prudently accumulated in the stores of the Quartermaster's Department of this State, for the use of our troops in State service. This stock, it was ascertained, the Association would be permitted to purchase at *cost*, to the extent at least, that their funds would reach, on the express condition, however, that they were to be given only to the soldiers from South Carolina, in the armies of Virginia. But whilst the Association was in treaty with the public authorities on that matter, Col. McGowan, from the army in Virginia, opportunely came forward and relieved the Association of that heavy purchase, and took the whole stock with him to the army, and by an arrangement with the Quartermaster of the Confederate States, the cost of the articles will be charged against that Government in favor of this State, in the future adjustments of the accounts between the two Governments. It is most gratifying to think that this supply, together with the several car-loads of similar articles which have been sent on by the Central Association, will go far to supply the present and most pressing wants of our soldiers in Virginia. Some articles of indispensable necessity are still required, and to the procuring of these the Association is directing their earnest efforts. Should they be so fortunate as to procure these, our people may enjoy the high satisfaction of reflecting that their friends in the army are, for the *present and for a few months* to come, so far provided with clothing, blankets, and partly in shoes, as to secure them from those dangers which every one had such just cause to apprehend from their exposure, unprotected, to a rigorous climate.

ANOTHER SUPPLY WILL SOON BE NEEDED.

But even if our soldiers were, at this time, properly and fully equipped (which is far from being the case), let it be carried in mind, that they have generally but a single suit of clothes; that many articles of that suit are not of the most durable texture, and that in a few brief months it will require to be renewed. Let it also be borne in mind, that long and rapid marches in pursuit of an enemy, or perchance in falling back to take new positions, might result (as it did after the

battles near Richmond and the marches into Maryland and the battle at Sharpsburg) in depriving our soldiers of most of their clothing and blankets, and leave them again shoeless and in rags. What would then be our condition if we had not a supply on hand ready to relieve them? and again, what would be the condition of our wounded and diseased, if after a series of those bloody battles, for which this merciless war is so distinguished, there should be no adequate provision made of hospitals and hospital stores to assuage the sufferings of the wounded and the dying? Shall we depend upon the Confederate Government alone to provide these things? It is their *duty*, we admit. But *can* it do it; at present, or in time for our wants? Contemplate its condition, and then judge it with candor, and decide with generosity.

THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT UNABLE TO SUPPLY THESE WANTS.—THE CAUSES OF THIS

Brought into existence during a period of intense political excitement, set upon, whilst yet in its swaddling clothes, by the most powerful and ferocious *bully* which disgraces the family of nations, with no friendly allies to interpose their good offices, and no armaments on foot to repel the first rude assaults, the Confederate Government has been strained to the utmost from the very beginning to maintain its *existence*. How has it been since? Unlike old and established Governments, which have had time to lay up great magazines of arms, ammunition and military stores of all kinds, the Confederate Government commenced its career without the possession of a solitary item of either; and the States, of which the Confederacy is composed, had but the scantiest supply. Of great public warehouses filled with soldiers' clothes, blankets, shoes and other provisions for an army, as in older Governments, there were of these, in the Confederacy, absolutely none. Cut off from all the marts of commerce, and shut up from from all intercourse with the outer world, by a rigorous blockade, which we had no navy to remove, thrown upon our own resources, which, though naturally abundant, were almost entirely undeveloped, the Confederate Government was almost left to the difficult, if not impossible, task of *creating* everything out of nothing. In the meantime our vindictive foe, with all the world open before him, from which to draw his supplies and his implements of destruction, has been pouring in his countless hosts upon us through every entrance by which he can assail us, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and from the Atlantic to the borders of New Mexico. Can it then, in candor, be expected that a Government so young, so unpro-

vided, so scanty in its means, so restricted in its sources of supply, and so harassed by the invasion of its people at every assailable point, covering an area of over a thousand miles in extent; can it be expected, we say, that such a Government, embarrassed by such circumstances, can attend to the wants of our soldiers in every part of this widespread territory, or have hospitals and hospital stores provided for our wounded and sick, wherever in the chances of war, they may happen to be stricken down? We think it cannot reasonably be expected.

But there is another consideration, too important to be lost sight of, in making up our judgment as to the inability of the Confederate Government fully to clothe our soldiers, and care for our wounded and sick, and which, therefore, should claim from the States the duty, for the time, of attending to these matters.

THE SPECULATORS, THE MONOPOLISTS, THE EXTORTIONERS, THE MANUFACTURERS—THEIR SELFISH POLICY HOSTILE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND OUR PEOPLE.

When the people of the South, for causes which no people on earth ever had stronger to justify them, determined to withdraw from the control of the Federal Government, and when an abolition President, backed by an abolition Congress, undertook to reduce us to subjugation, it was reasonably to have been expected that every man amongst us (not Yankee at heart) would give his willing aid to our Government and people in ridding ourselves of this vulgar despotism, in such form, and to such extent, as his peculiar pursuits or his means might justify. It was not expected that the *capitalist*, instead of employing his money in support of the Confederate Government, and in strengthening its credit, would be found pursuing a course of conduct hostile to both. It was not expected that he would pervert himself into an eager *speculator*, peering into all the byways of traffic, and buying up all the *salt*, and *sugar*, and *bacon*, and *grain*, and *everything* which, by his cunning, he could tempt out of first hands for the purpose of selling them again to Government, or the people, at *extortionate advances*.

Again, it was not expected that the proprietors of our factories would so soon have forgotten their duties as *Southern citizens*, amidst their enormous dividends as *stockholders*, as to charge the Government for cloth to clothe our soldiers from four to six times as much as it cost them to make those fabrics; nor that they would charge the poor families around them for the yarn, from which to clothe their children, from five to eight times as much as they formerly paid for it. Yet

such is the humiliating spectacle which the true men of the South have daily to contemplate; the *capitalist, speculator, the monopolist, the extortioner, the manufacturer*, all forgetting the South and her wrongs, and their duty to aid her, and all pressing on, with eager eyes, in pursuit of "money;" all taking advantage of the distresses of our people brought upon us by this cruel war; and most of them having, apparently, no other aim or aspiration than piling up dollar upon dollar and "making their fortunes," now (whilst the war is upon us and our ports blockaded) by enormous extortions upon the Government, and the most grinding exactions upon the poor. And upon whom are these exactions practiced? Why upon the *Government* and the families of those *soldiers* who are *protecting their property*, and allowing them the privilege of staying at home, which privilege they abuse by heartlessly robbing their families.

TRUE ALLIES OF THE YANKEES.

Surely our Yankee enemies without can desire no better allies than these men of Yankee souls amongst us, and our people have begun already to consider, whether a class of men who isolate themselves so injuriously from the interests of our Government and from the sympathies of our citizens, deserve our confidence; next, whether any *class or interest*, which so employs their capital or so regulates their business (with a view to income) as to make the *continuance of the war* necessary to the building up colossal fortunes, should be any longer *allowed* to conduct their business upon such principles as to tempt to unfaithfulness to our cause; and, third, whether the Legislature may not consider how far it may be in their power to interpose to prevent these enormous extortions, and reduce these incomes somewhat within the bounds of moderation.

These questions, in view of the eager speculations which are going on in the *salt, sugar and food* of the country, and in view of the exorbitant prices which are charged by *manufacturers and others*, the *holders* of cloths necessary for the clothing of our troops, are being earnestly agitated by our people, and they look to the Legislature to devise some sharp, prompt remedies, in order that still heavier burdens may not be imposed upon the Government in supporting our armies, and upon our citizens in procuring these necessaries of life. They expect no relaxation in the policy of the manufacturers, the speculators and extortioners, until their hands are *forcibly* pulled out, by law, from the pockets of our people, where they are now thrust down elbow deep.

The enormous dividends which have been so frequently distributed amongst the stockholders, have "blinded the eyes of their minds" to a true perception of their own position, to their duties to the community in which they live, or to the Government which protects them.

They seem to be under the delusion that the public view their conduct with the same complacency that they regard it themselves; and they are not wanting in advocates, who, with the industry of a *paid agent*, and the effrontery of the regular "Down Easter," justify their course in the public prints, whilst there are others who prate about "domestic industry, and the laws of supply and demand," with a pedantry in using these maxims, as though the various employments of our people were flowing on, smoothly, in their accustomed channels, and were not, on the contrary, *deranged*, and *choked up*, and *perverted* by our enemies abroad, and by the extortioners and speculators at home. The agency of these avaricious men, in inflating prices and depreciating the Confederate currency, is most embarrassing to the vigorous action of the Government, and damaging to our cause, and should not be overlooked in considering the difficulties in the way of the Confederate Government in furnishing clothing to our armies.

If, then, that Government, from these various causes, be *unable* to clothe our soldiers, or minister as it ought, to our sick and wounded among them, shall they be left to neglect and suffering, because some sharp logician, from motives of parsimony, would persuade us that it is the duty of *that* Government and not our own, to provide for their relief? If these suffering victims to the harshness of cruel war did not stand to us in the relation of *brothers*, or *sons*, or *fathers*, and, therefore, had claims upon our gentleness and humanity, we would nevertheless be slow to believe that a Legislature of South Carolina gentlemen could be influenced by such austere principles, or penurious considerations, to withhold from them relief.

AID FROM SOME SOURCE NECESSARY.

State aid or *individual contributions* we deem then essential, if we would relieve that suffering, or (what is equally important) if we would keep our armies in the field in a state of efficiency, and not have our men in the hospitals in a state of uselessness and expense to the country. Considerations of sound policy then, no less than of humanity, call upon us to see that our soldiers be well clothed when on duty, and well cared for when sick.

SHALL IT BE BY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

And here arises the questions which the "Central Association" has directed your Memorialists to submit to your honorable bodies: "Shall this work be undertaken by private individuals, and supported by the voluntary contributions of the liberal, the public spirited and humane in the community; or, second, will the State take the matter under its own control; or, third, merely give its aid to private Associations on terms of strict accountability to the State, for all funds with which the Association may be entrusted." The last is the plan pursued in Georgia. But any plan which will *best* accomplish the object will be the one most acceptable to the friends of the soldier. In the opinion of your Memorialists the plan of *individual contribution* and *private management* is the safest, most economical, and most effectual, as long as it can be kept up. But it *soon wears out* by the exhaustion of the contributors. The same public spirited and liberal men, who contribute largely at first, will be likely to do the same at succeeding applications, until at length they have nothing more to give, and the benevolent enterprise dies out for want of funds, whilst oftentimes much richer men around them give nothing, or but trifles, too paltry to be accepted.

SOME MEN CONSTITUTIONALLY PENURIOUS.

The experience of the Central Association, and no doubt of all others, corroborates this view. Whilst some men of comparatively moderate means have contributed to the cause their two hundred, their five hundred and their three hundred dollars, others much wealthier have given sums disgustingly insignificant for men of their means; and yet all are equally interested in keeping up our army in a state of highest efficiency, as the best if not only means of defending our country and ultimately establishing our independence. An appropriation from the public treasury is therefore the fairest mode of providing the funds, and coming as an assessment upon property through the tax collector, every man, no matter how penurious in his habits, will be *made* to contribute his share towards his own safety.

"Who shall be appointed to take charge of this fund, and apply it to its proper uses," your Memorialists would leave to the wisdom of the Legislature to decide. They shall have accomplished their object, if by their instrumentality a fund shall be provided by the Legislature and devoted to the proper clothing of our soldiers in the field and a humane watchfulness over them when suffering from wounds or sickness.

The amount which, in the judgment of the Association, would be required for that purpose would be two hundred thousand dollars; not a dollar of which should be allowed to be drawn out of the public treasury except under the most careful safeguards. Under favorable circumstances the half of that sum may not be called for; whilst emergencies may arise, in which the whole amount may be insufficient.

We therefore pray your honorable body that two hundred thousand dollars be appropriated for the purposes contemplated in this memorial, and with considerations of high respect, subscribe ourselves,

Your fellow citizens,

J. TOWNSEND, Chairman,

B. M. PALMER,

WM. F. DESAUSSURE,

M. LABORDE,

Committee on behalf of Central Association.

COLUMBIA, November 22d, 1862.



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