

Christy Com.

Bayn Aug 5th 1863

Chas Secound Esq.

Dear Sir;

I would respectfully
submit the following report of my labors
as a Recruter of the Christian Com mis-
sionary Society from Aug 5th 1863.

Of these seven weeks and a half, ten days
were spent in travelling, ten days in
the vicinity of Falmouth, two weeks in Wash-
ington & two weeks with the Army on
the Pennsylvania Campaign. It is to be
regretted that the condition of affairs was
such during my service that as to inter-
fere with the original plan for me of labor assign-
me & under ^{my} ~~my~~ ^{approval} a permanent location impracticable.

The war perhaps as fruitless as they might
otherwise have been, if any changing labors have
not been (in vain) without a blessing.

At the Potomac, my work was principally
at Potomac Creek. Here we had a Chapel
building and then a library and stores of all kinds
for the comfort & good of the Soldiers. Everything
was favorable for the convalescents were
ready to bid us in tending the Chapel & with



with the grateful soldiers, surprised us with
donations to supply the material as fast as it
was needed, and what is better they did
not stop here as people at home sometimes
do but they came out with attentive
face & posture & accents earnest for the truth
They drew in the lessons, ^{of morality} of duty, of piety

As they came one evening after going
to the house of prayer leaving their companies
then sports and then music that regularly
came at twilight with its soft influence
to cheer the camp leaving all these at-
tractions looking & pressing into every corner
of our little chapel to hear & to speak of
Jesus, I was convinced that some gentler
& stronger influences than we earthly men
were working there. Their faces, upturned
faces seemed to radiate with heavenly light
as we spoke to them of their home below &
their home above - their earthly battles
and their fighting with unseen powers and
temptations, holding forth the glories of that
Kingdom which should never pass away
and the enduring victory wrought out
through Gilead. Many came out volun-
tarily & manfully, boldly & stood by the
side of Jesus. Our new soldiers. The revival
here was characterized by that meek
^{childlike} ~~simple~~ unobtrusive spirit so uncom-
mon



to the natural man and so seldom combined in due proportion with the bustling gushes of the newly reformed & fragrant soul. They seemed to understand that religion was a thing of principle, of will, of deliberation & every day life rather than of feeling merely or of impulse ^{or} seasons. I had seen it our chapel was ready to be dedicated & we were making preparations to have it done on the following Sabbath. But Army life is full of ^{rapid} changes & exigencies that you cannot count much on the future. The appointed hour came round, but I found only a smoking heap where the house of God had stood the day before. Saturday the order for immediate evacuation came. We threw our valuables together, packed them ^{in boxes} up & by 8 o'clock had all transported to the train. We congratulated ourselves on our good fortune in saving our stores and as the cars moved turned to look "superstly lingering look behind" on the scene of ~~our~~ ^{our} where so many blessed recollections clustered ^{to} and found only smoke & flames. How wish the locality of our chapel - I wish I could describe ^{equally} give you a picture of that evacuation. For a long time there had been rumors



of a move designed - yet no one could
competence where - over the river or up
the river. Quietly Saturday morning the
our attention was called to ~~the~~ a neighbor-
ing hill side where but after but
was falling, (men were ~~passing by~~ ^{the whole} ~~by~~ ⁱⁿ ~~lines~~ ^{for} ~~were~~ ^{moving}
were forming - & soon a ~~corps~~ ^{of} ~~men~~
came winding ~~stretches~~ ^{through} the
valleys. In the afternoon the order
came ^{to} ~~move~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{whole} ~~ground~~ ^{to} ~~be~~
cleared. Accompanied with the usual sur-
mises, reports & exaggerations of the the advance
of the ~~enemy~~ - The hurrying to and fro then
packing ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{shut up} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~houses~~ ^{houses} & civil
ians asking directions & assistance. and loaded
& tying men hurried ⁱⁿ ~~over~~ ^{the} ~~hills~~ ^{hills} ~~roads~~ ^{roads}
fields & valleys to the ~~Station~~ ^{Just} ~~There~~ ^{There}
a corps of Artillery came ~~by~~ ^{over} ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~backs~~
& up the hill, the thunder & rattling set
in & mixed with the ~~noise~~ ^{noise} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~guns~~ ^{guns}
and ~~noise~~ ^{noise} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~general~~ ^{general} ~~confusion~~ ^{confusion}
every thing came down to give witness to
the scene. We gathered up the ~~last~~ ^{last} ~~remnants~~ ^{remnants}
& ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~comforts~~ ^{comforts} ~~left~~ ^{left} ~~behind~~ ^{behind} - we ~~assembled~~ ^{assembled}
the ~~hundred~~ ^{hundred} ~~aboard~~ ^{aboard} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Coast~~ ^{Coast} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~found~~ ^{found} ~~them~~ ^{them}
at the Wharf when they ~~reached~~ ^{reached} ~~Agua~~ ^{Agua}
we tried to cheer them. But the poor fellows
were disheartened "This removal will ~~kill~~ ^{kill}
us" - I am put back ~~three~~ ^{three} ~~months~~ ^{months} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~another~~ ^{another}
The scene of confusion that presented itself on
the Wharf of Agua I have never seen surpassed
Every moment ~~thousands~~ ^{thousands} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~busy~~ ^{busy} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the}