

Commission.

Office U. S. Christian Commission,

No. 11 BANK STREET.

Philadelphia, 1865.

No.

To Officers of the Army and Navy of the United States, and others:

The U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, organized by a convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the loyal States, to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare and improvement of the men of the Army and Navy, acting under the approbation and commendation of the President, the Secretaries of the Army and the Navy, the Postmaster-General, the Surgeon-General, and of the Generals in command, have appointed

of

A Delegate, to act in accordance with instructions furnished herewith, under direction of the proper officers, in furtherance of the objects of the Commission.

His services will be rendered in behalf of the Commission, without remuneration from or expense to the Government.

His work will be that of distributing stores where needed, in hospitals and camps; circulating good reading matter among soldiers and sailors; visiting the sick and wounded, to instruct, comfort, and cheer them, and aid them in correspondence with their friends at home; aiding Surgeons on the battle-field and elsewhere, in the care and conveyance of the wounded to hospitals; helping Chaplains in their ministrations and influence for the good of the men under their care; and addressing soldiers and sailors, individually and collectively, in explanation of the work of the Commission and its delegates, and for their personal instruction and benefit, temporal and eternal.

He is strictly enjoined, if with our forces when a battle is approaching, passing, or passed, to abstain from reporting any thing on the subject not authorized by the commanding officer, and in general strictly to observe all Army and Navy regulations, and abstain from casting reflections upon the authorities, military, medical and clerical.

All possible facilities, and all due courtesies are asked for him, in the proper pursuance of any or all of these duties.

Geo. H. Stuart

CHAIRMAN U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Issued at this day of

Secretary of

Pass the Bearer from

To

And Return. One round trip.

Pass the Bearer from

To

And Return. One round trip.

Pass the Bearer from

To

And Return. One round trip.

No.

DELEGATE

OF THE

U. S. Christian Commission.

Reported for Service at

day of

186

Service closed

day of

by the

AGENT U. S. C. C.

AGENT U. S. C. C.

Pass the Bearer from

To

And Return. One round trip.

SPECIAL EXCURSION TICKET.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

ONE SEAT, from

PHILADELPHIA

TO

BALTIMORE,

AND RETURN.

1430

Geo. H. Stuart
General Agent.

SPECIAL EXCURSION TICKET.

ONE SEAT

FROM BALTIMORE

TO

Washington and Return.

Geo. H. Stuart
General Agent.

Passengers exposing themselves to danger, by getting upon or off the Cars, or standing on the Platforms, while the Train is in motion, DO SO AT THEIR OWN PERIL.

United States Christian Commission.

Officers.

GEO. H. STUART, Esq., *Chairman.*

JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., *Treasurer.*

Rev. W. E. BOARDMAN, *Secretary.*

Rev. LEMUEL MOSS, *Secretary Home Organization.*

Rev. BERNICE D. AMES, *Secretary of Field Organization.*

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Rev. W. E. BOARDMAN, Ex. Off., Philadelphia.

GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.

From President Lincoln.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, December 12, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR:—Your letter of the 11th inst., and accompanying plan, both of which are returned as a convenient mode of connecting this with them, have just been received. Your Christian and benevolent undertaking for the benefit of the soldiers, is too obviously proper and praiseworthy to admit any difference of opinion. I sincerely hope your plan may be as successful in execution as it is just and generous in conception.

Your obedient servant,

A. LINCOLN.

GEO. H. STUART, Esq.,
Chairman U. S. Christian Commission,
Philadelphia, Pa.

From the Secretary of War.

Letter from Hon. E. M. Stanton to Rev. Dr. Dyer, N. Y. Branch U. S. S. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16, 1864.

DEAR SIR:—Among the benevolent associations organized by patriotic and charitable men, during the present war, none have surpassed, and few, if any, have equaled the Christian Commission in zeal, energy, and disinterested devotion to the humane objects of their institution. Their efficient labors in the field, in the hospital, and in the camp, have been felt by soldiers and officers, and have frequently been brought to the notice of this Department. It is not only a pleasure, but I regard it as an official duty to commend the Christian Commission to public confidence and respect, as an institution whose labors cannot fail to contribute greatly to the welfare of our armies.

Yours truly,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

From the Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, December 16, 1861.

SIR:—I have received your letter of the 11th inst., asking an expression of the Department as to the objects of the United States Christian Commission, to promote the welfare of the soldiers, sailors, marines, etc.

The Department will be gratified with any legitimate means to promote the welfare, present and future, of all who are in the service.

I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

MR. GEORGE H. STUART,
Chairman U. S. Christian Commission,
Philadelphia.

GIDEON WELLES.

From the Postmaster-General.

WASHINGTON, January 5, 1863.

DEAR SIR:—The Christian Commission of which you are Chairman, have in

hand a noble work, and are performing it, I am well assured, as only a labor of love can be performed.

Yours, respectfully,
To GEORGE H. STUART,
Chairman U. S. Christian Commission,
Philadelphia.

M. BLAIR.

Special Order of General Grant.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
IN THE FIELD, CHATTANOOGA, TENN., Dec. 12, 1863.

Special Orders, No. 32. Ex.

All officers holding commands in the Military Division of the Mississippi, are hereby required to extend every facility not inconsistent with the public service, to all Delegates of the United States Christian Commission, and aid them by every legitimate means in their power, to the accomplishment of the benevolent and charitable purposes of the Commission.

Permission will at all times be granted, by the proper military authorities, to such delegates to pass to all parts within the lines, without hindrance or molestation.

The Commissary Department will at all times sell to such delegates upon certificates similar to those given by officers, such stores as they may need for their own use.

Military Telegraph Lines will transmit for such delegates all messages relating to the business of the Commission.

The Quartermaster's Department will, upon application, furnish such delegates and their stores, free transportation upon all government steamers and military railroads to and from such points within the military division, as their duties may require them to visit.

By order of Major-General U. S. GRANT.

GEO. K. LEET, Assistant Adjutant-General.
Rev. E. P. SMITH, General Field Agent, U. S. Christian Com.

From General Meade.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
August 5, 1863.

DEAR SIR:—I received recently, through the hands of Mr. Cole, your kind letter of the 27th ult. It will afford me very great pleasure to render you every encouragement and facility in my power to prosecute the good and holy work you have entered upon.

I assure you, no one looks with more favor upon the true Christian, who ministers to the spiritual wants of the dying, or the physical wants of the wounded, than those who are most instrumental, in the line of their duty, in causing this suffering. Hence, you may rest satisfied that in this army your agents and assistants will receive every co-operation, and be treated with all the consideration due the important and noble work they are engaged upon.

I shall be glad to hear from you whenever any thing occurs requiring my action; and shall always be ready, as far as the exigencies of the service and my authority will permit, to comply with your wishes.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

GEORGE G. MEADE.

Major-General Commanding.

To GEORGE H. STUART,
Chairman U. S. Christian Commission,
Philadelphia.

QUALIFICATIONS AND PLEDGE.

DELEGATES receive no pay for their services, but their expenses are borne by the Commission. Money for expenses, if need be, is advanced, and the Commission has subsistence arrangements for delegates at all stations made by field agents.

THREE CLASSES of talent and adaptation are required in the Delegate Work,—*Preaching, Business and Working.* The enlistment of ministers who can command audience in the open air, of rank and file, is of first importance. Next, perhaps, and quite as indispensable, is it to secure those who have a knowledge of the world, experience in business, and ability in affairs. Scarcely less in value are the services of those who are adapted to interest and benefit others in social meetings and personal intercourse. Four things are indispensable in all,—piety and patriotism, good common sense and energy. Men who do not succeed elsewhere, should never be sent to the army, for they will surely fail.

None should be accepted who desire to visit the army or a battle-field for any purpose whatever aside from the work of the Commission. No matter what the position and ability of the man may be, or how worthy the object he has in view, if he does not wish to put himself under the direction of the Commission and make it his paramount business to do the proper work of the Commission, he should not be sent as a delegate. It is right and proper to aid all worthy men in worthy objects, by letters or otherwise, but the name and facilities of the Commission are sacred to the purposes of its organization, and cannot be lent to any one for any private purpose. He cannot be commissioned. That such a person is willing to pay his own expenses to the field, and on it, does not alter the case. Even if he were by contribution to add largely to the means of the Commission, besides paying his own expenses, it would be giving the name and aid of the Commission in getting passes for private ends under color of a sacred public purpose.

Delegates, when enlisted, should be instructed specially to report themselves on the field to the field agent, and put themselves under his direction, and should stand pledged to do it. The Commission is greatly injured whenever delegates refuse to comply with our regulations and instructions, and perhaps most of all by those who visit the various points of interest as self-appointed inspectors or as curiosity-seekers, instead of entering heartily into the work at such points as may be assigned to them.

Recognizing the propriety and necessity of the requisitions above indicated, I agree and pledge myself, in accepting this Commission, to follow the instructions given with it; to go to the field to which I may be sent; to take the position which the Field Agent shall assign me; to continue in the work not less than six weeks, unless sooner released by special permission of the Agent, or one of the General Officers of the Commission; and to make a full report of my work at the close of my term of service.

1865.

DELEGATE U. S. C. C.