



UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION

PHILADELPHIA AGENCY No. 1323 Chestnut St

MARCH 1ST 1864

The undersigned, members of the Executive Committee of the GREAT CENTRAL FAIR for the Sanitary Commission, beg to invite the co-operation of all their fellow-citizens, especially of those resident in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, in this important enterprise. It is proposed to hold the Fair in Philadelphia, in the FIRST WEEK IN JUNE NEXT, and it is confidently expected that the contributions, coming from a population so benevolent and patriotic as that which inhabits the Central States, and representing the most important and varied branches of industry and art, will secure a result in aid of the funds of the Commission, and for the benefit of the Soldier, at least equal to that which has attended similar undertakings in other cities. It is not necessary to say a word to stimulate sympathy for the soldiers. We feel for them all as brethren, and the popular heart seeks only the best mode of manifesting that sympathy in the most efficient and practical way. These Fairs in other places have been productive of great results. By this means Chicago has recently raised for this object sixty thousand dollars, Boston one hundred and fifty thousand, and Cincinnati more than two hundred thousand. We appeal, then, with the greatest confidence to the inhabitants of the Central States, especially to those who constitute the great industrial classes, to send as contributions the productions of their skill and workmanship. We appeal to them in the interest of no party, radical or conservative, Republican or Democratic, Administration or anti-Administration. We know only this, that to send our national soldiers in the field supplies to supplement those government undertakes to give them, but which they sometimes fail to receive, and thus to relieve them when sick and in misery, is a work of Christian charity, and that it is a work of intelligent patriotism also, as economizing their life, health and efficiency, on which, under God, the nation depends in this its time of trouble.

We therefore ask every clergyman to announce this humane undertaking to his people, and to advise them to do what they can to further it. We ask the press to give it the widest publicity and the most earnest encouragement. We call on every workshop, factory and mill for a specimen of the best thing it can turn out; on every artist, great and small, for one of his creations; on all loyal women, for the exercise of their taste and industry; on farmers, for