



UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION,

PHILADELPHIA AGENCY, No. 1323 CHESTNUT ST.,

March 1, 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 the products of their fields and dairies. The miner, the naturalist, the man of science, the traveler, can each send something that can, at the very least, be converted into a blanket that will warm, and may save from death, some one soldier whom Government supplies have failed to reach. Every one who can produce anything that has money value is invited to give a sample of his best work as an offering to the cause of national unity. Every workingman, mechanic, or farmer, who can make a pair of shoes, or raise a barrel of apples, is called on to contribute something that can be turned into money, and again from money into the means of economizing the health and the life of our national soldiers.