
THE HENKEL SQUARE HERALD

Articles transcribed by Vicki Betts at http://www.utt Tyler.edu/vbetts/newspaper_intro.htm unless otherwise noted

VOL. 5

Henkel Square, Round Top, Texas, December 1864

NO. 12

On Wednesday night the "Marshall Glee Club" gave an entertainment in the basement story of the Armory, which was well attended. The instrumental music, singing, and acting were far superior to that usually displayed by amateur performers, and elicited, as it justly merited, the highest encomiums. The receipts of the evening were \$2,426, of which amount \$2,000 were turned over to the "Ladies Volunteer Aid Society" for the "Soldiers' Home." The Club, we learn, has paid us the compliment of electing us an honorary member. We thank them. It affords us pleasure to be thus recognized by such a body of intelligent, useful, and patriotic young men.

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, December 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

For Sale.

A Superior lot of Dry Goods, consisting of calicoes, gingham, domestics, &c.

I have also coffee, silk handkerchiefs, shoes, shoe thread (a superior article), pins, needles, stockings, hooks and eyes, flax and spool thread, combs of various kinds, parasols, tobacco, pencils, razor strops, shaving brushes, hair brushes, writing and note paper, envelopes &c. Quite an assortment. Drop in and see. Cheap, cheap, cheap! Very cheap!

A. Ruffier.

Dec. 2, 1864.

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, December 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

For the Tri-Weekly Telegraph.

Smith County, Texas. }

Nov. 25th, 1864. }

Editor Telegraph:--Your humble correspondent having tried every possible means, except the present process, he now respectfully appeals from the military to you, hoping that you will give publicity to his complaints. I do not believe in so much partiality being exhibited by our military officers, without being exposed to the view of an impartial public. I have made petition after petition to Gen. E. Kirby Smith, Maj. Gen. Magruder and Maj. Gen. Walker, with the signature of a great many of my neighbors, in order to try to get home, and it seems impossible for me to make "the trip." Other men are continually getting details to remain at home upon far less just and important pleas than I have presented. My petitions have been based upon the following weighty reasons: I am a young man, 23 years of age, am 6 feet two inches high, weight 175 pounds, am as strong as a jackass, was never sick in my life. I am a rich man, I own twenty-[illegible] slaves, a very fine farm; I was a very rabid secessionist in 1861; made public speeches, exhorted my fellow citizens to go forward to the post of duty; promised I would see that the families of those who would go and risk their lives in defence of my "niggers" should not suffer, and have never thought of that promise since. I am a married man, my wife is a "very delicate woman," only weighs

160 pounds, cannot walk more than *five* miles without resting, she has never been sick either, and there are only two of us in the family. Now, I have asked the privilege of this detail that I might go home; have my rich farm well tilled, make a large crop, and realize annually a large profit. If I allow this war season to pass without speculating upon the necessities of the soldiers' families while they are away, I shall not be able to make more than 1,000,000, whereas, if I am thus indulged by the military, I can, in a few years, have three times that amount, and also save my precious carcass from falling a victim to Yankee bullets. It is true, I would have to give a bond to pay to the Government the amount of produce required by law; but then by a little smuggling, lying and concealing, and by extorting on the soldiers' families who are suffering and obliged to buy the necessaries of life, I can make that up very easily. Now a great many *poor* men, in my neighborhood, who are not worth a "nigger," who own but very small farms, have sickly wives and a house full of little children, and nobody to work for them, are in the service, suffering the hardships of a soldiers' life; but then I can't afford to do that. I am not used to hard living and would not like to become so now. More than that, my wife would *cry*, if I had to remain in the army and live like a "hog." Again, these men went into the army at the beginning of the war and I did not go until I was drafted in the MILITIA last Fall, and then they made me stay in, when my time was out in the Militia. Now considering all these things, Mr. Editor, don't you think that Genl. E. Kirby Smith, on the justice and equality of the law, ought to put a special "D" on my tail?

Croesus.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 2, 1864, p. 1, c. 2-3

Crocket, Nov. 25, 1864.

Editor Telegraph.—After a hard ride of 140 miles from Waxhachie [sic] I find myself in this once famous town. I find the climate is not as cold as in that latitude. Of all the disagreeable things of this life, is a ride on horse back over Texas prairies, the wind whistling through your hair and penetrating every pore of your body. The route after leaving Waxhachie [sic] passes along Waxhachie [sic] Creek; finely cultivated farms are to be met with at short distances, for several miles down as we proceed in the direction of Corsicana. All kinds of crops are raised here; the land is of the richest quality. I saw several large fields of healthy wheat. Wheat and other small grains seem to thrive well in Ellis county. After leaving the valley of this [illegible] we pass over rolling prairies, very [illegible] settled, until we come to Corsicana, the county seat of Navarro county. [illegible] of the town is in a beautiful
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Crocket, Nov. 25, 1864.
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[illegible] the town has a good Court house [illegible] stores; it looks otherwise shabby [illegible] houses are going to decay. The [illegible] so many of the male population [illegible] army will account for this. The [illegible] Corsicana are a very clever and [illegible] of people. They have [illegible] Soldier's Home, and the tired soldier is kindly treated during his stay in town. The people are very intelligent, and schools are well sustained.

Leaving this town, we pass over a thinly settled region of country, mostly rolling prairie until we come to Fairfield, the county seat of Freestone county. This place shows that it has seen better days; it contains a tastily built court house, and many stores and other buildings, the stores are mostly closed, and very few citizens are to be seen, the most of them are in the army. The town is in a pretty location, built upon rising ground, and surrounded by timbered land, it is a pretty place and destined [sic] to be of some importance at some future day.

After leaving Fairfield, and proceeding in the direction of Palestine, the face of the country changes. We now pass over hills and find ourself in post oak timbered land, the land is of a sandy quality, and in some places very rich. We find a few well cultivated farms. When we get to the Trinity river bottom we find large plantations, here the land is of the richest quality, and the largest kind of crops are raised. As we cross the river, and after leaving the bottom, the land is hilly and heavily timbered, the soil is of a redish [sic] sandy loam, and resembles the Red River lands. But few well cultivated plantations are to be met with until we reach the vicinity of Palestine, here we find the farms more numerous and better cultivated. We soon come to Palestine, the county seat of Anderson county. This town has formerly been a place of considerable importance, and is surrounded by a thickly settled region of county, large plantations are to be met everywhere. Many Louisiana refugees have bought or rented plantations in the vicinity. The town has a beautiful court-house and square, and a score or two of stores, etc.; there are many tastily built residences. The town is surrounded by timbered land and built upon a hill, it is destined to be a place of note in the future.

After leaving Palestine and passing in the direction of Crockett, the land looks much the same as that passed the other side of Palestine, although in some portions of the route the land is more hilly and sandy. We soon came to Crockett, but how changed the town looks. Since my last visit, some eight months ago, nearly two-thirds of the town has been laid in ashes. I could not recognize the town when it came in view, so changed is it. The Courthouse and one hotel yet remain, as well as a few of the residences and stores. Rough buildings have been constructed on some of the roads. It is a melancholy sight to view the scene of devastation. The "Quid Nunc" is still in full blast here. It is a spicy paper and well conducted. I find it very popular throughout Eastern Texas. I shall proceed homewards as fast as horseflesh can carry me.

Sioux.

Navasota, Nov. 29, 1864.

Ed. Te.—I have turned up here after a hard week's ride from Northern Texas. Leaving Crockett, we pass over a rich and thickly settled region of country, until we soon find ourself in Huntsville. This town is rendered famous from the fact of its being the seat of the State Penitentiary. The city is situated in a valley surrounded by high hills. The city itself is built upon small hills, and looks quite pretty as we approach it from the different roads leading into town. It contains a Courthouse about half completed, and a large number of stores and other buildings. Prior to the war, the place did an enormous trade with the smaller towns in the adjoining counties, but now everything looks dull, and only a few stores are open. The town supports a good newspaper, "The Item," edited and published by George Robinson, who is so well and favorably known all over the State. George has a respectable subscription list on his books, and his paper is very popular among all classes. He speaks out plainly, so that all can understand. George was a soldier a few months ago, and always did his duty.

I visited the penitentiary in company with George, and was kindly shown through the institution by Col. Carothers the gentlemanly superintendent, those who have never passed through this institution will find it interesting to make a visit. There are at present 170 men within the prison walls. Everything goes along as regular as clock work, the discipline is much like a well disciplined military camp, every man knows his place and duty, and does it without any trouble, they are punished by being confined in the stocks or dark cells, and in cases of extreme bad behavior, whipping is resorted to. The convicts seem to take their imprisonment very easy, and all seem to be in good health—great care is taken in times of epidemics not to have it brought into the prison, and all visitors are debarred from coming inside the walls during the danger. The enclosure covers about two or three acres of land, the buildings are all constructed of brick, and built in the strongest and best manner, a wall some 20 or 30 feet in height surrounds the enclosure. The work shops are all large and well ventilated, the works are driven by a beautiful and powerful low-pressure steam engine, this is run by a citizen mechanic, assisted by convicts, the works are almost entirely devoted to the manufacture of cloth, the machinery for this purpose is of the best quality that could be procured in Yankeedom prior to the war. The cloth manufactured is of the best and most substantial quality, and the demand for it is much greater than can be made. The convicts are well learned in the management of the complicated machinery. A few shoemakers are at work, all the various trades are represented. One printer represents Galveston county, the most of the men have intelligent features. It takes a smart man to be a rascal now-a-days.

Col. Carothers informs me that there has not been a single case of billious [sic] complaints for many months inside the walls. The most of the complaints are old chronic ones. Only one man has died within the past 18 months. The prisoners are
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shut up nightly in single cells. These are about 7 by 5 feet, and opens with an iron grated door. They have their breakfast handed to them in their cells at daylight. They always eat in their cells. There is a comfortable bed and some other articles of furniture to each one, and some of the cells contain a library, and the walls are covered with pictures and engravings. Col. Carothers seems to be quite popular with the convicts, and I have heard that he has recommended several to the Governor for pardon, and in some instances he has been successful. Every traveler passing through Huntsville should pay this institution a visit by all means.

I find the land much better after leaving Crockett than what I have seen for a number of hundred miles back on my route. There are many good lands all over the State, but I like the land much better along the tier of counties bordering on the coast. Anderson is the county seat of Grimes county. It is built in one of the prettiest locations I have seen since leaving Austin. The main portion of the town is built upon a hill overlooking beautiful valleys in every direction. It shows that it has been an important point in former days. There are a large number of stores and other buildings. Few stores are now doing business. The Court House is a tastily built structure. A number of government shops, arsenals, &c., are established here. These render the town quite lively. The place formerly supported two newspapers, but these have played out long ago, and the printers are now handling a shooting stick with the army.

I am glad to see that the soldiers' families in the counties I have traveled through are well provided for during this winter.—The county courts of the several counties have done and are now doing all in their power to render them comfortable. The late law passed by our Legislature, granting them cloth from the Penitentiary, will be of great advantage to them. I trust that every planter will do all in his power for the soldiers' families in his neighborhood.

The country between Anderson and this place is rather hilly, although the roads are generally very good. Fine plantations, richly improved, greet the visitors at every mile, the soil is of a black clay loam and is of the richest and best quality, all kinds of crops can be raised. I have noticed several fields of fine winter wheat, which throughout the country looks fine, and if the season is not too dry next year, a heavy crop of wheat will be raised. Wheat is worth about one dollar per bushel, and flour from 4 to 5 dollars per hundred throughout Northern Texas. Corn can be bought in the eastern part of this State at from 2½ to 5 dollars per bushel in new issue Confederate money, and still the hotel keepers charge travellers one dollar per ear or one half dollar specie for a single feed. Thousands of bushels of this year's corn will not be used another year, and will go begging at a silver dime per bushel.

Navasota has changed much since my last visit a few months ago. I now see large and prosperous workshops, new and substantial stables erected, and various other improvements. The town by this change wears a different aspect. Workmen fill the streets at the close of their day's toil, the ring of the

anvil is daily heard, and the Navasota of to-day is different from what it was a few months ago. I enquire what has wrought this great change, and learn that Major Ike Stafford was assigned to duty here after leaving the office of Chief Quartermaster of the Marine Department, and that he is entitled to the credit of bringing about these changes. He is one of those Quartermasters that knows his duty and will do it at all hazards.

Navasota derives its importance from being the depot of a large and rich planting region of country. The town is situated on the Central Railroad. It has in former days been a good looking town, but the absence of so many of the male population in the army, has caused the town to look very dilapidated now. Only one store is now doing business, but a whisky shop seems to be well patronized. The completion of the Central Railroad will cause a great change in the tier of counties it will pass through. This road is destined to be a very important one at some future day. It will penetrate the granary of our State, and be the chief channel over which a majority of the breadstuffs to supply the population of the coast counties will pass.

I find that Confederate money is far more valuable in Western and Northern Texas than in this latitude. The people of those regions are not so wrapped up in money making and speculation, as those of Eastern Texas. Texas is an empire in itself. Everything necessary to support a large population can be raised. The day is not far distant when two or three States can and will be formed out of our present territory. Professor Maury predicted a few years ago, that all that portion of our State lying West of the Colorado river, would be a desert in fifty years, owing to the severe drouths that have prevailed for a few years past. It remains to be seen whether the prediction will prove true, but I think the learned gentleman will find himself mistaken. I proceed homeward in the morning.

Sioux.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 2-3

The Nitre and Mining Bureau in Texas is now producing nitre enough to supply the department with gunpowder. It is capable, we are informed, of a production of 5000 lbs per day.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 5, 1864, p. 4, c. 2

Texas News in the New York Herald

The New Orleans correspondent of the N. York Herald, dating Nov. 1st, gives the following Texas items:

... Our returned prisoners state that immense quantities of cotton on wagons pass the stockade at Tyler, Texas, on its way from Shreveport and vicinity over the long road to Mexico and Brownsville.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 7, 1864, p. 1, c. 6

A correspondent writing the "News" from Austin suggests the establishment of a glass factory at this place. We agree with him as to the immediate necessity of such an establishment when half ounce phials sell for 25 cents each in specie.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Soldiers' Home.

We are glad to know that the matter of establishing a Soldiers' Home in the Town of Dallas has been taken in hand by our citizens. At a preliminary meeting held at the Court House on Thursday evening last, at which Col. N. H. Darnell presided at the request of the Chairman, Col. N. M. Burford explained the object for which the meeting was called, in a short and pertinent address, after which, on motion, a committee was appointed to draft a Constitution and By-Laws, and to make the necessary arrangements for procuring a suitable person to take charge of the Home, said committee to report at an adjourned meeting this afternoon at 3 o'clock. A President, Secretary, and Treasurer was also elected, and the Home, we are pleased to say, seems about to become one of the Institutions of our town. We cannot too earnestly appeal to our citizens for their zealous and substantial support of this undertaking, and call upon them to lend their assistance liberally and promptly. Every citizen of the county should become a member of the association, and they now have an opportunity to give whatever assistance is in their power to the cause. Contributions may be made in money or provisions, and it is expected that subscriptions will be made at the meeting to-day. Our country friends who may wish to contribute will be notified to whom they may send, as soon as the enterprise is completely established.

DALLAS HERALD, December 3, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Glenblythe, Nov. 30th, 1864.

Editor Telegraph:--I was at San Antonio on business, some three or four weeks ago; found a busy place; crowds of stout men within the military age; from two to four young fellows in a good many of the shops, who are represented to be exempt as *aliens*. Goods enormously high, assortments poor, and quality as a general thing, not good. Considerable improvement in the city since I was last there. In fact, San Antonio and Houston seem the only thriving places within the limits of the State. The smaller towns and villages are desolate enough, and fast going to wreck.

After my usual habit, of peering around after the *utile*, I paid a visit to the now nearly deserted tannery—an extensive, expensive and elaborate affair; already well nigh abandoned, after having been in operation something over a year. Why, is to me a puzzle; almost as great it is to discover why such an establishment was ever located there; where there is neither labor nor bark. The leather which I saw in the government shops at Hempstead, and which I was assured was tanned at San Antonio, was a most excellent article. The ingredients used were, *a bean*, a native of the chapparal; of which no one at the tannery seemed to know more than the Mexican or Indian name, which I neglected to note; and, what is called Japonica, meaning Terra Japonica (Japan earth) of commerce in old times; now more correctly known as Catechu. It is no earth, but an extract made from the wood of the tree, Mimosa Catechu, which grows in various parts of India. It is prepared by boiling the chips of the interior of the trunk in water, evaporating the solution to the consistence of syrup over the fire, then exposing it in the sun to harden." Our mesquit [sic] tree is nearly akin to the Mimosa Catechu; and has been used very successfully in tanning, by Dr.

Park, of Seguin. I saw good leather made by him. But the superintendent of the Government Tannery told me they had been unable to produce any good result from its use there. The subject is worthy of discussion.

In the tannery were two large underground cisterns, one for oil and the other for tallow, and which, I was assured, were strong and perfectly tight, and made of cement manufactured near by. I had heard before of this cement; heard from Dr. Park of experiments made by him at Seguin, which were partially successful, and had made a good many myself here, which gave hopeful results.

Made the acquaintance of the successful manufacturer, a very clever (both Anglice [sic?] and American clever) Scotchman, Mr. Taylor, who carried me out to his splendid Lime-Kiln, made on Page's plan, the best thing of the kind, I will venture the assertion, in the Confederacy. Saw the cement he makes; and have since tried the article itself, and find it truly hydraulic—that is, it sets and remains hard under water. I have never used better.

But for this horrible war, Mr. T's fortune is made. Cisterns are indispensable to good health in this Southern climate, and most assuredly indispensable to comfort. And few would be without them, but for the difficulty of procuring good cement. Mr. Taylor is not only a thoroughly practical worker in mortar, but is more—a scientific and successful experimenter.

I have urged upon him—as defective eyesight exempts him from military service—to examine the limes in different parts of the States, and especially in the more densely settled portions, and test their capability for yielding a good hydraulic cement. Feeling confident that, wherever he can find the necessary ingredients in sufficient abundance, and accessible, he can procure the needed labor and assistance to manufacture the cement.

Yours,

T. A.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 7, 1864, p. 4, c. 1-2

Wool Cards.--It will be seen, by an advertisement in another column, that Messrs. Smith & Nance have established a Wool Carding Factory on the Blanco, in Hays county, having imported the machinery from England. From the great scarcity of these machines, and the heavy call for wool rolls for spinning, this establishment will be likely to command an extensive patronage for many miles around. We have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with Mr. Smith, but we know Mr. Nance to be a most obliging, clever gentleman, and all who go there may depend on being well treated.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Huntsville Item says flour sold there at the 30th ult., at \$5 per hundred pounds. It also corrects a mistake made, in relation to the price of woollens at the Penitentiary, which it says is \$1,50 per yard.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Camp Groce, Nov. 20th, 1864

Ed. News.-- . . . More than fourteen months have passed since that brilliant achievement [Battle of Sabine Pass] was gained by a display of more than ordinary skill and bravery, and the question naturally arises: Where is Captain Odium? I saw him a few moments ago pass by with pale face and faltering step, for sickness has sadly changed him. He is still at the post of duty, obeying orders. But why is he at Camp Groce, with a detachment of three companies, guarding Yankee prisoners? Why is it that he still wears the uniform of a Captain? I had thought

"Honor and fame from no condition rise,
Act well your part, there all the honor lies!"

Captain Odium has acted well his part, and although the stars of promotion may never glitter upon the collar of his uniform, history will say he was a hero, and the victory of Sabine Pass saved Texas from the horrors of vandal invasion. VIM.

We publish the above with great pleasure, but would remind the writer that we believe Capt. Odium was not present at the glorious victory achieved by his company, which was then under the command of Lieutenant Dick Dowling. But it was Captain Odium's misfortune that he was absent, not his fault, and we believe had he been present, the victory would have been equally complete, though it could not have been more so. Nevertheless, Capt. Odium has eminently earned promotion, and every body would be gratified to see some reward bestowed upon that excellent officer. But what promotion has been conferred upon Lieut. Dowling for an achievement that saved our State from invasion, and was universally pronounced the most marvelous and astonishing exploit of the whole war.]

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

We have received a copy of the Official List of Burials in Galveston, during the late epidemic, which has been published by Flake's Bulletin, and is for sale at that office. The total number of deaths is reported at 269, of which 111 were soldiers, 6 Blockade runners and the balance citizens and negroes. Considering the great reduction in the population the epidemic appears to have been severer this year than formerly. In 1852, the number of deaths, during the epidemic, was 536; in 1854, 604; in 1858, 344, and in 1859, 182.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Wool Carding Machine.

The undersigned take pleasure in announcing to this community and the public generally, that they have imported from England a first class Wool Carding machine, and that it is now in operation on the Rio Blanco, Hays County, 7 miles from San Marcos and 4 miles from Mountain City Post Office.

Grease required, one pound of hogs lard, *without salt* for every eight pounds of wool. The wool must be *entirely* free from gum and dirt, and once of the best methods of preparing it, is to wash it in warm soap-suds and lye and rinse also in warm water. We cannot card finer wool than half-breed merino and do it justice.

Terms. One third of the wool or 15 cents per pound.

SMITH & NANCE.

December 1st, 1864.

P.S.--On account of the difficulty in producing lumber and other materials, we have been unable to put up accommodations for those who come with the intention of waiting for their Rolls, and therefore advise all such to come prepared for camping.

S&N.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

LaGrange, Dec. 3d, 1864.

Ed. Te.--Knowing the great interest you feel in whatever concerns Terry and Lubbock's Regiment of Texas Rangers, I am induced to write you a few lines in order that the numerous friends of the regiment may sympathize with them, in the loss of their beautiful flag, presented them by the ladies of Nashville, Tenn. My son John G. Haynie, writes from near Rome, Ga., date October 16th, in which he says: "On the 13th of this month, Col. Harrison commanding a division of cavalry, our brigade in the division, and Col. Armisted's brigade in front of ours, moved out to Beach Creek, six miles from Rome, and opened a fight, Col. Armisted's brigade on our front and left, and battery posted to command the road. The enemy came up with a much larger force than ours, and after a battle of some time, they took our battery as it was moving off, they charged and drove us from our position, and all fell back in confusion.

After the regiment had gone through a thick wood, the color bearer looked up and saw the flag was gone, he only having the staff, it was too late to go back, as the Yanks were coming on. We sent back a scout next day, but did not find it, and we have since learned that the Yanks found it. We have the pleasure of knowing they did not capture it from the flag bearer. We all grieve over its loss on account of its fair donors. Its folds have waved over our regiment in many a hard fought, bloody battle, but the worst of luck will happen to the best of people sometimes. Our army is in fine spirits and hopeful of success."

And now, Mr. Editor, I propose that the mothers, sisters, and numerous friends of this regiment make up a subscription and purchase a new flag and through the ladies of your city present it, in behalf of the ladies of Texas, to Major S. P. Christian and Capt. F. Kyle, to be by them presented to the regiment on their return, as a token of our appreciation of their long tried, arduous and faithful services in behalf of our beloved Confederacy. If the above suggestion meets your approbation, please start the subscription and annex my name for five dollars in specie.

Yours Respectfully,

Ann E. Haynie.

[We add five dollars. Who next?—Ed. Tel.]

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 9, 1864, p. 4, c. 4

Soldier's Home.

In our last issue we noticed the meeting at the Court House for the purpose of establishing a Soldier's Home, and gave an outline of its proceedings. At the adjourned meeting on Saturday, the Committee reported a Constitution and By-Laws, and also that they had entered into an agreement with Mr. A. Burtle, to take charge of the Home. The action of the Committee was approved, and we are pleased to say, that the "Home" is now successfully under way, and several soldiers have already been received and entertained.

The organization of the Association was completed by the election of a Vice-President and Commissary, and on a call for subscriptions for annual membership, quite a number of persons responded, and paid in their fees. We are requested

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Soldier's Home.

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by the Directory to publish the following list of the officers of the Association.

President—N. M. Burford.

Vice-President—J. S. Sanders,

Secretary—J. W. Swindells,

Treasurer—Geo. W. Laws,

Commissary—S. D. McDonald.

We are also requested to give notice that subscriptions as annual membership, as well as donations of money and produce are solicited, and are required to keep up the Society. Annual membership (one dollar) or donations of money, may be paid to the Secretary, who will always be found at the Herald Office, and donations of provisions of any kind may be sent to Mr. McDonald, the Commissary.

We hope our country friends will subscribe liberally to this praiseworthy object. We have got the home started, and we think on a firm basis, but aid will be required from all to keep it in successful operation.

DALLAS HERALD, December 10, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Headquarters, Co. E, Hardeman's }
Regiment, Gano's Brigade, T. C. }
Camp Gano, Ark., }
November 26th, 1864. }

Ed. Telegraph.—Early in September last, agreeably to a general order from District Headquarters, H. M. Lockwood and J. H. Lyles were detailed from my company, to proceed to Gonzales, DeWitt, Guadalupe and Caldwell counties, Texas, (where my company was principally raised,) to receive and provide transportation for any clothing that might be contributed.

No sooner were their presence and object known, than the ladies of the above named counties, with hearts overflowing with generous sympathy for the suffering soldier, commenced weaving, spinning and sewing, and during the short space of time allowed the detail, manufactured and delivered a wagon load of excellent clothing, for which, through the medium of your widely circulated paper, I wish to thank them and let them know how highly such kindness is appreciated by the recipients, coming as it does from those who alone make home and freedom worth the sacrifice already offered up on the crimson altar of war.

Individually and for my company I thank them. Words are too unmeaning to express the deep gratitude we feel to the fair donors, but could they see the starting tear as the hand of a mother, wife, sister or friend was recognized in the various little articles provided for them—could they hear the silent but not less fervent prayer, "God bless the Texas ladies," wafted from hearts never before moved to prayer—even when facing death in its most terrible form, they might then know the soldier's gratitude.

May the knowledge of the devotedness of our ladies to the glorious cause, nerve the arms of the soldier in battle—be his support when reverses shall cause our flag to droop, and when the angel of peace shall again unfold its "white protecting" wings over our dear Southern Land—may we know that its presence is as much attributable to the self-sacrificing efforts of our ladies at home, as the gallantry and constancy of our soldiers in the field.

Very respectfully,

H. B. King,
Captain Co. E.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 12, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Soldiers' Home at Palestine.

Ed. Tel.—Will you please announce, through the Telegraph, for the information of our soldiers, that we have in Palestine, Anderson county, a "Soldiers' Home," open for the reception of visitors. Dr. J. G. Scarborough has charge of the "home," and will give the weary soldier a cordial and hearty welcome; and is prepared to furnish both the soldier and his horse substantial, if not sumptuous fare. Much of the success of the enterprise is attributable to Dr. S's untiring energy. The "Home Register" shows that in a little over two months 181 guests have been entertained; 315 meals furnished and 165 horses kept and fed. The "Home" is under the patronage of, and [illegible] by the ladies; than whom, none in Texas, perhaps, have responded more readily or more effectually, than have those of this county, to every call for the benefit of our soldiers. Already enough of the substantials, or nearly so, are subscribed to supply the establishment for six or eight months; and but a small portion of the county has been canvassed. It would be a pleasure, were it not taxing your columns to heavily, to mention by name, those of our patriotic citizens who have responded with such noble generosity to this call, so justly due our veteran and battle worn soldiers. We can give the names of J. N. Green, J. M. and H. C. Swanson, Dr. J. G. Caldwell, Frank Coleman and W. N. Hicks, who have contributed most liberally to this, as they have done in every call for the benefit of the soldier. Col. Hicks, in addition to his subscription, to the value of \$5,000, to \$6,000, (at a time when Confederate money was more valuable than now,) has given much personal attention to the enterprise, and declares "it shall be sustained as long as we have a war worn, patriot soldier, to travel from the camps to his cherished home and family, and back to the field of service again."

G.

Palestine, Dec. 5th, 1861.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 12, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Glenblythe, December 7th, 1864.

Ed. Tel.—Nichols' Battery has been camped within a mile of us, on New Year's Creek, for some weeks past. On the first announcement, by the officers, of their intention to form a camp there for the winter, a very general feeling of anxiety and annoyance pervaded the neighborhood. Our previous experience of the near vicinity of camps not having been at all times of the most agreeable kind.

But the location being an excellent one the camp was formed, and now, after an experience of five or six weeks, the universal impression of the neighborhood, so far as I can learn, is that of commendation of the orderly good conduct and discipline of those men. No rambling or raiding about the county, no pillage of turkey roosts or beehives or disappearance of fat shoats! All honor, then, to the officers and men of Nichols' Battery! I hear whispers of a jolly good Christmas dinner to be got up for them by the ladies, who always carry on such things well.

I have just been over to the camp to see what arrangements the men had made for their comfort during this bitterly cold norther, which sprang up so suddenly this morning. And it is really Continued on page 7

Glenblythe, December 7th, 1864.
Continued from page 6

both gratifying and amusing to see what perfect snuggeries, in the way of log and stone huts, they have built for themselves. Some of the men must possess wonderfully developed lumps of constructiveness. The officers in their smoky Sibly [sic] tent, were far behind the men in everything in the way of comfort. The horses are well and safely cooped, and the supply of corn and fodder neatly put up and enclosed. I much doubt if any other body of troops in the Trans-Mississippi Department are so comfortably situated for the winter. The locality is a dry and well sheltered one, with a fine stream of water close by. It is to be hoped they may be permitted to enjoy it, until required in the field.

Yours,

T. A.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 12, 1864, p. 4, c. 3

We learn the penitentiary directors are now selling some cloth for specie, or have instructed its sale, as supplies can no longer be obtained for material—every dealer being glutted. But the price seems to us enormous--\$2 a yard for woolens or jeans, and 60 to 70c for lowells. This is certainly oppressive on poor people, while rich ones won't mind it. We cannot think his excellency the governor will approve such a steep tariff. From \$6 new issue to \$2 specie, is a "tremendous leap."

Huntsville Item.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, December 13, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

We learn that the specie prices of many articles are advancing. Cotton cards, for instance, are now sold for \$7, and wool cards for \$6 per pair, while a few days ago they could be had for some two dollars less per pair.—Galveston News.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, December 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

A disposition on the part of enterprising men to build up manufacturing institutions in the State, should be encouraged. The long and heart felt devotion of the TELEGRAPH to practical independence, has been well known. Years before secession was thought of, we urged the building up of all sorts of manufactories; nay more—the production of everything of necessity to civilized life within our own borders. Had these counsels been heeded, how much better would now be our condition! If we "return to the mutttons," however now, it is not recall the wasted opportunity, but to say that no better time will ever again occur than the present for the purpose.

In the way of provisions our people are now independent. Cheap and abundant corn overflows the granaries. In clothing we are partly so, but in a very costly way. It is estimated that four-fifths of the inhabitants of Texas are clothed in homespun. Homespun is very good and very independent, but it takes almost as much machinery, and ten times as much human muscle to make a yard of homespun, as a yard of more evenly made and better appearing factory fabric. Why this waste? Why lift the weight by main strength, when there are levers at hand?

Shall it be said that, cut off as we are, we cannot import machinery? How, then, have we imported the two or three hundred thousand pairs of

cotton cards that have come into this Department since the war began? The cost and trouble of those cards would have furnished carding machines that would turn out double the amount of rolls, while, with a spinning jenny, one person can do the work of over a hundred on the hand spinning wheel. Have we such an overplus of human muscle that we should squander it in this way?

We should like to see a little more disposition on the part of the people, both of the cities and of the country, to put their means into these public enterprises. Not a factory has been put up in Texas but has almost returned its cost in a year. Not one will be put up this year or next but will do the same thing.

We have heard some talk of paper mills.

Before the war we bought printing paper at 10½ cents per pound. At this rate it was manufactured profitably in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. We now print on paper costing us 50 cents per pound, while the material used can be bought at the same price as it was in those States before the war. There is a margin of 40 cts. more per pound to pay for manufacturing than then, or whereas the mill received then 1.75 per ream for making the paper, it would receive now \$12.75 per ream for the same work. And it would find a market for 2,500 reams per year, and this would be one-tenth of its business, with a prospect of five times the business at one-third the price after the war. Now let the mill cost \$20,000 and the reader can calculate whether it will pay.

Why don't the editor of the Telegraph go into it? Privately, friend, don't whisper it, because he hasn't the requisite \$20,000. Will you who have that, or a part of that much help make up a company? What is said of paper may be said of cloth, both cotton and woolen, of shoe pegs, of iron, of lead pencils, of friction matches, of earthen pots, as well as of everything else useful or comfortable in civilized life.

Do you say we hav'nt [sic] the labor?

We waste ten times the labor needed in doing what we do of these things by hand, or going without them. Do you say the war may be over and then we shall not need them? Some of you said the same thing four years ago, come next April, and a miserable set of April ____s you were and we were, and all of us were, for saying it. Don't let us perpetuate our folly! Some we wot of, but for that piece of nonsense then might have been millionaires now, and a blessing to their country besides. "A day and space is given them for repentance. [sic]" Will they improve it? If not, will not somebody else in addition to the Bastrop Factory, and the Brazos Factory, and the Chappell Hill Factory, improve on their experience? Suppose the war is over, and suppose we are ever so much in favor of free trade, will our debt permit us to have it? Suppose an export tax of ten cents per pound, should be laid on cotton? Who will be wise enough this year to be ready to profit on it? something of the kind will be done, and factories already at work will grow rich, while others are getting ready to enter the field.

We say, again, let all these institutions be built up with no further loss of time, for on them will depend not only our commercial independence, but to some degree our ability to maintain our political independence.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 1-2

To the Amateurs of Houston & Galveston.

Will you not get up something to assist the County Court and City Council in supplying the soldiers' families and destitute poor of this city, with the actual necessities of life.

There are now in this city about three hundred of these families, numbering about fifteen hundred persons, who have to be fed and clothed. The City Council are doing all they can for them, the County Court is furnishing them with bread, and beef, of which it takes thirty thousand pounds each month to supply them. The beef could not be furnished them but for the generosity of Messrs. Allen & Poole, the enterprising contractors who deliver it to these families at their stall in the market for the county, at twenty cents per pound, when it is selling at from \$1.50 to \$2.50. Now, if any person will make the calculation of the difference between 20 cents and \$2 per pound on 30,000 pounds, he will find what these gentlemen are giving to soldiers families each month.

This is a large amount for any firm to give monthly, and may appear strange to those men who complain when they are called upon to give a few dollars out of the thousands they have made since the war began. The poor could not be fed if it was not for the liberality of Messrs. Allen & Poole, unless other gentlemen of means would come forward and do as they have been doing for the past two years. These men are under no greater obligations to give away their means than others. The County has no claims upon them whatever, and what they do is of their own free will. They could stop any day they choose to do so, and who is there that would come forward and supply the poor with meat as they have done? Honor to whom honor is due.

What is now wanted, is a fund placed in the hands of the Ladies, who, from their known kindness and patriotism, will find out proper recipients and relieve their wants. They will buy clothing for the most destitute, and such articles as are needed by the sick.

If those kind ladies and gentlemen who have done so much during last winter, spring and summer, in supporting and relieving the wants of the suffering by their agreeable entertainments, will get up another series of Tableaux and concerts, the amount of money can be raised to supply every sick woman and suffering child with warm clothing, and such articles as may be indispensable for their comfort. If the ladies will come forward, they can do it, for they so rule the world.

Mr. Editor, please allow this a corner in your valuable paper.

Soldiers' families will call upon Mr. S. W. Allen, at John Collin's store, or I. C. Spence, at W. R. Wilson's store.

I. C. Spence.

County Commissioner Harris county.
Houston, Texas, Dec. 12th, 1864.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 14, 1864, p. 4, c. 3

The State Gazette informs us that Messrs. Smith and Nance have established a wool carding machine on the Blanco, in Hays county. We understand that there are now several such machines in various parts of the State.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

A Soldier's Home has been established in Dallas. We believe there are now Soldiers' Homes in all the principal towns of the State, and we should be glad to publish a full list of them for the information of soldiers, if any one would give us a correct list. We should have stated sooner that the Rev. Mr. Castleton, who has been so indefatigable and successful in building up Soldiers' Homes, has obtained important aid from Gen. E. Kirby Smith, who has issued an order authorizing Commissaries to furnish subsistence stores to the superintendents of Soldiers' Homes to the amount of what was consumed by soldiers during the previous month, as shown by the superintendent's oath—to be paid for at Government prices. This will prove an important aid, and our people should, therefore, object the less to receive the low prices offered them by the Government, when they see the use made of the supplies.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 1, c. 6

A private letter from Brownsville, dated Nov. 25th, says business is now very brisk there. A few weeks ago there was but one store open, now they are to be found all over the city. The writer met several hundred teams on the road, returning with goods, and overtook as many more going out loaded with cotton. Thieves, he says, are very abundant, and horses and mules are stolen almost every night. It is unsafe to leave teams without some person to guard them. The price of stolen mules, he says, is \$10 cash, and of "honest mules," \$75 cash. Our friend P. J. Mahan was there, waiting for the arrival of his family.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

A letter in the Telegraph suggest that in Austin the Soldier's Home Association have adopted a decided improvement on Rev. Mr. Castleton's plan; to-wit: They have arranged with a hotel in Austin to accommodate soldiers and their horses at the regular hotel rates, and this is what the writer considers an improvement on the plan of having a house expressly furnished for soldiers by the Association. In this city the difference would be this: By paying hotel prices it will cost the Association about four times what they are now paying, but it is true that what the Association would lose the hotels would gain.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Sad Occurrence.—We regret to learn that on last Thursday night, Capt. Graham, enrolling officer of Van Zandt county, while charging with a small company of men a squad of deserters, in ambush, was shot. He was not killed on the spot, but there is no prospect of his recovery. Capt. G. was a gallant man and one of the most efficient officers in the service. What a pity that so brave a man should be killed by a deserter. We learn that the excitement among the citizens of that county is intense; they have formed a large company, and are in pursuit of the deserters, none of whom, as yet, have been captured.—Kaufmann Enquirer.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

The Huntsville Item says flour sold there on the 30th ult., at \$5 per hundred pounds. It also corrects a mistake made, in relation to the price of woolens at the Penitentiary, which it says is \$1.50 per yard.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Flake's Bulletin contains the following, some of which is condensed:

This morning three hundred and forty-three exchanged federal prisoners, from Camp Groce, were sent out to the blockaders in charge of Col. Izymanski our commissioner of exchange; also, twelve females and their children, who availed themselves of the privilege granted to leave the country. Among them were Mrs. Jack Hamilton and Mrs. Judge Duval. Col. Izymanski informs us that the prisoners delivered to-day were exchanged for all our prisoners captured at Fort Gaines. Arrangements are now making for the exchange of all our naval prisoners captured in Mobile Bay by the enemy.

The only difficulty yet to be overcome is the unwillingness of the Federals to include Admiral Buchanan in the exchange list. Col. I will not conclude the exchange except Buchanan is included.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Christmas is Coming!—A variety of finely bound books, with other articles suitable for gifts during the approaching holidays—some on hand—more expected.

James Burke.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Mrs. Lancaster, of the Texas Ranger, says:

"We have heard it publicly asserted on the streets, that details could be purchased in San Antonio, and that in Houston men were detailed for other purposes than the good of the country. The number of active young men that remain about Houston, gambling, speculating, selling goods, keeping drinking saloons, &c., has been the theme of conversation for some time, and we are now enabled to say, that a move is on foot in the right direction, headed by a General who has earned his laurels on many a bloody field, to place these men where they properly belong, and to detect and punish those in office who have been transcending their authority to the injury of the Confederacy. Not only those about Houston, but men throughout the State, who have been evading the service, will have to fall into ranks or do worse."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

The session of the C.S. District Court has again been postponed in Houston till the 1st Monday in January next, on account of the yellow fever, which is reported to be still prevailing in that city. Unacclimated persons should avoid going there till there has been a regular black frost which we have not yet had in Texas as far as we can learn.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Christmas! Christmas!

The undersigned will open Monday next, at Bahn's Old Stand, with a fine assortment of Confectionaries, suitable for Christmas presents &c. His stock is select, and the most fastidious can be accommodated.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

For Tanners.

3000 pounds of Terra Japonica or Catechu, just received and for sale by Koester & Tolle, New Braunfels. The undersigned have just received and keep constantly on hand a large lot of Drugs, Dyestuffs, etc. Koester & Tolle, New Braunfels. dec14.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Communicated.

Mr. Editor:

I have a few remarks to make on the times, will be brief, and *intend* to be understood. Our town since this bloody struggle began has hitherto been remarkably quiet and sober, with no demonstrations on the part of its citizens (for all who are able and worth one cent are in the field) of frolicking and hilarity, but since the establishment of various Bureaus and Departments here, an influx of an almost entire new population has been the consequence, consisting in part of young men from the various quarters of the Confederacy, who generally without any modesty, have been attempting and are still using strenuous efforts to create an innovation by resorting to every artifact and subterfuge to entice or seduce our young ladies from their posts of duty and quietude to public places of dancing and amusement. In ordinary times when every body are at home, when all are acquainted, even then it is necessary to throw some safeguard around public parties, by having married gentlemen and ladies of position and standing in the community to supervise and be responsible for their being properly conducted; but this presumptuous, arrogant set, too cowardly to defend the honor and liberties of our ladies in the field by resorting to every improper influence and evasion have obtained details for specific Post duty, and are congregated here, have issued their dictum without consulting and regardless of the feelings or opinions of the citizens, as much as to say: Ladies, we cannot nor will not fight for you, we have but little to do, need and *must* have recreation and amusement, so come to our merry quarters and we will dance with you over the graves and drown the dying groans of your fathers, brothers, betrothed, and friends, aye, and husbands too, to your hearts content. And I understand they have gone so far as to organize a regular "dancing club," have constituted some half dozen committees, to have regular weekly "shindiggs." Young men, you are presuming too much for strangers, "it wont *near* do," this thing must be stopped, and I would advise you to get out of your holes, quit your soft phrases, (for these are old men and disabled soldiers capable of filling them,) "face the music like men," and make yourselves worthy to receive such enjoyments by assisting to hurl back the vandal horde from the firesides of those you would contaminate.

To you my fair countrywomen, I would say a few words, not presuming to lecture you, but ask you to take with me a slight retrospective view of the past four years. Do you remember after this war assumed its gigantic proportions, after it became a reality, when all of our young and middle-aged men who were able and of any account were gone and hurrying off to the battlefield, with what patriotic
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Communicated.

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enthusiasm you inspired and encouraged them? how your every moment was busily employed in preparing comforts and necessaries for the departing soldiers, and for two years or more how the midnight lamp was continually burning and your fair hands engaged in making articles of handiwork for his use and comfort or inditing long epistles to encourage and console him; how the few young men who remained behind were spurned from your associations. Then any one going in the direction of our armies were overburdened with bundles and letters. How changed the picture now. Look back with me again on the many fields of carnage, imbued with the blood of so many thousands, not one of you but have some relative or near friend whose bones lay bleaching in the wintry wind or resting underneath the little mound. I would not ask you to go "in sack cloth and ashes," but to remember this *war* is still progressing, and day by day growing more horrible and more doubtful; that this day each one of you have some one dear to you, either suffering and pining in a cold loathsome prison of the north, or languishing in some one of our own hospitals or being injured to all that a winter's campaign can inflict; and is it meet that you should be pandering to the pleasures of this shirking, skulking set, while your father, brother, son, betrothed, or friend is enduring all the privations and hardships that flesh can bear. If you desire a speedy and successful termination of our difficulties resume your former tasks of working for your soldier friend; in your spare moments write him long, encouraging and consoling letters, to buoy him up in his hours of trial. Congress with its stringent enactments and the conscript officers, with almost armies to assist them, have failed to fill our ranks. You alone, by a untied and determined effort, can do so. Spurn these craven hearted fellows from you as an adder from your bosoms, force them by your acts and countenance to the field, or all will be lost; degradation worse than death will be your fate.

Very Respectfully, &c.,
A Soldier and Citizen.

Marshall, Dec. 12, 1864.

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, December 16, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Soldier's Aid Entertainment.—To come off at the Masonic Institute, in Henderson, on the night of the 23rd.

Ladies who may attend are expected to deliver to the Door Keeper, a pair of Socks, or two hanks of thread, (course [sic?], six hundred) one chain and the other filling, or some garment for a soldier. A pair of good soldier's pants will entitle an entire family to admittance. Gentlemen will be charged in New Issue, \$5,00, or in old \$10,00. The entire proceeds of the entertainment will be applied to the relief of needy soldiers.

Goldsmith's inimitable comedy, "She Stoops to Conquer," will be presented entire by the Henderson Amateurs.

HENDERSON [TX] TIMES, December 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Notice!

I have a Pottery which I wish to sell or lease, or would take in an experienced Potter as a Potter. My address is Henderson, Rusk county, Tex.
Wm. H. Street.

December 15th.

HENDERSON [TX] TIMES, December 17, 1864, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Soldiers' Homes—Circular Letter.

Galveston, Dec. 10, 1864.

Ed. Te.—I notice with great pleasure a communication from Austin signed "Recipio," in your issue of the 6th inst., which announces the good news that the patriotic and generous people of that city have organized a Soldiers' Home on a most liberal plan. Upon my return from Louisiana, I found a letter from Warrick Tunstall, Esq., of San Antonio, informing me that a Home had been established in that city (in August last) befitting a chivalrous and patriotic people, to aid in which, he says, a concert acquired \$500 in specie. I learned from Capt. Lillie that a second concert, gotten up by the "little girls" afterwards, raised for the same object \$800.

Also a letter from Dr. Brandth, of New Braunfels, giving the gratifying intelligence that the good people of that city had opened a "Home" for our brave defenders; adding to the ordinary accommodations for the sick soldier, under the care of the "S. S.," of whose encampment he is Captain.

I have also received information informally, of Homes established in many other places, which I trust is reliable. Fairfield and Rutler in Freestone county, Springfield in Limestone county, (which I doubt) and Palestine, (which is now officially published.) Col. Hicks in this place, I was informed four months ago, had subscribed \$1000 in cash, 1000 bushels of corn, 500 bbls. flour, 100 or 200 lbs. (I forgot which) of bacon, &c., &c. I mention this good example to stimulate others, and to encourage our friends everywhere to move in the good work. Also Hillsboro, Corsicana, and Cotton Gin, Dallas, &c., and some in the adjacent counties.

I have also ascertained that a new and efficient co-laborer has voluntarily entered this field in Western Texas, Rev. Wm. Cook, from whose successful efforts, a number of Homes have arisen [sic] into being. But I prefer to wait for his own report before publishing what I have heard. I rejoice to know that I am not alone in this work in Texas.

It must fill the hearts of all patriots with joy, to see these Homes rising up all over this proud State, to welcome with generous hospitality the men upon whom our whole country depends, under God, for our protection; and who have so successfully defended as heretofore. Let the work go on! Let every place open its wide welcome. Let all act at once! Now is the time. Indeed, did all know what I could tell them, if I deemed it prudent to publish, and what will publish itself in due time—alas! too soon, I fear, all would think quite late, if not too late, for some places to act.

It is enough to say, that the instincts of true patriotism will always indicate the path of safety. To follow it, is sure of hopeful results, and will defend from unseen dangers, while covetousness,
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Soldiers' Homes—Circular Letter.

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selfishness, and cold heartedness must end in the loss of present benefits, and go blindly on to a logical result—fate! I hope Texan planters will take heed in time, and not only keep open doors of hospitable welcome to all soldiers, but aid the Homes whenever within their reach. This is no time for families living in luxury, and growing rich amid their country's disasters, because the Providence of God has kept the foemen from their doors; to turn from those doors the men who, for two, three, and some three and a half years have stood with their lives in their hands, and bared their noble bosoms to the foeman's steel and bullet. They have stood in the dread crises with "death-[illegible] falling fast" about them. Brothers and fathers and bosom friends have fallen by their sides. They come from the graves of the brave and the true—from fields of blood and glory, where they bore away the dead forms of some they loved most, and flow back to offer upon their country's holy altar all that was left them on earth. Must they come back to the doors and firesides of a great State, whose peaceful abundance is the purchase of their valor, and of the blood of their slain brothers, and be rejected at those doors—forbidden a nearer sight of those hearths, than the smoke curling in mockery from the chimney stacks?

Can any man tell me what difference (under these circumstances) it can make to at least half our soldiers (only so that they can gain their own independence) whether the picture just drawn remain on those chimney stacks, to stand gloomy sentinels over ashes alone, pointing out the foeman's desolating march?

We cannot afford to break the bonds of amity and reciprocity between our people at home and the troops in the field. Nay, more, does any man think that our troops will long brook the treatment they are too often called upon to endure for the want of home, by these too often rejections at planter's doors?

It has now become the rule of our soldier to begin to beg a place to stay early in the afternoon, in terror of the too common fate of "lying out," unfed and unsheltered, all night. Many will deem this a rhetorical flourish. It is veritable fact. I know it to be true. Many have spent whole nights at the root of a tree, with their horses tied to one of its branches! ! ! in pelting storms. They have done this hundreds of times in the long march; in the face of the foe; on the battle field. They never complained. They will do it again cheerfully a hundred times, if the God of battle protects their lives. For there, they thought of happy homes, their own, and their neighbors; of the State, whose "Lone Star" symbol proudly waved over them, and whose prosperous homes, if defended, would make them forget all their forms of sorrows in the hearty cheer and cordial welcome and grateful appreciation which awaited their return.

But it is in sight of one, two, or three of those homes, that the suffering soldier lies. Their window lights gleam through the pelting storm, that is now his only greeting amid the homes he offered up his life to save. He has been at these homes and is rejected. He entreated until his manhood shrank from its own degradation. He can die. But he can endure no more

self inflicted shame. Hark! a sound of revelry. Forms flit and whirl behind the window panes. Merrily the dance goes on. "Oh! Yes. They did not wish to be disturbed in their delights by a poor ragged soldier, and the others were too busy preparing. I only asked for food, and to sleep in an out house. Even that was denied me. Oh! me, I once was merry too, when poor dear Mary lived whose grave I go home to see. Two summers and three winters have gleamed and swept over. She sobbed only one parting word as I left, and it was, "Win or die." If you live to return, come back free, and God bring us to his throne to meet again on earth. "Yes! Mary," there, not here, we meet again, and even there I will meet thee free, and untarnished, by the coward or the traitor slain." Just then, is it surprising if hard thoughts arise against the man who had rejected his plea for shelter and especially when the only visible difference between the shivering, sufferer and the hard hearted planter, in sight of whose luxurious and frolicking house he lay, was, that the one flew at his country's call, a volunteer, to face the cruel foe and the other was content to enjoy his ease and increase his wealth at home, and that the one is only forty-four years old, but the other is 51. Hard thoughts have a thousand forms, and in different minds take different paths. Let us not strain the yielding brow to breaking.

Dark days may yet come to a people whose long exemption from the ravages of war has made us so forgetful of those,

"Who are our country's stay
In day and hour of danger."

In those days we cannot afford to have bitter memories of neglect and cruelty rankling in the soldiers' bosom, for in those days the flinching of one man in a company may spread panic through the regiment. Panic in the regiment may easily demoralize the brigade, and from division to corps, the army may become disordered, and the day be lost. With the loss of one battle, a whole zone may be overrun, and thousands of homes which refused the meed of grateful kindness to the soldier, shall find that in begrudging the trouble and expense of caring for the way-worn soldier, they have the trouble of seeking a refuge among strangers, and in penniless poverty to expiate the crime of hard hearted cruelty against those who had the highest claim upon their gratitude and beneficence.

I am possession of many important facts under this head, occurring in a sister State, full of startling suggestions to our people; but delicacy and sympathy with the parties, now refugees, forbid. I have traveled over long miles, in gloomy sadness among chimney stacks and ashes, where many a weary soldier had dragged his suffering form and ridden his jaded animal from house to house of luxury and pride, refused the scanty pittance of a meal, and floor to lie on. And I have ridden among those lines with men who had no tears for the woes of those who as they expressed it, "had more feeling for a dog than a soldier." No one supposes that in any desolated or other region, the whole people ever did or ever could treat the soldier with neglect. But when it is the rule, with only exceptions, let our people be assured that the soldier will not forget the facts, and that a just Providence will remember them

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Soldiers' Homes—Circular Letter.

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in the day of retribution; and if an intervening and a more dreaded evil shall be averted by the self-sacrificing devotion and liberality of the few, and by "soldiers' Homes," sustained by a few, as they always are, yet by the growing disaffection of our troops in camp, arising from either extortionate charges with some or to a refusal of hospitality by others, let us not forget that we are jeopardizing all that is left us.

I am not unaware that much can be said of the faults of some soldiers, who, while enjoying the hospitality of planters and others, have stolen spoons, sheets, blankets, quilts, &c., &c., from their benefactors. This is inexcusable; for it there is no apology; the few are guilty, but shall the many suffer?

Many excuses can also be made for planters living upon the crowded lines of military travel. Some of them are literally "eaten out." They cannot sustain the burden. I know of some who have been obliged to leave their homes from this cause. Some who have fed the soldiers gratis till all their food was exhausted, and their neighbors refusing to aid them, and even to sell for Confederate money, no other course was left them but to remove.

Planters in some cases are very inconsiderate on this subject. They know that houses of entertainment on the road are exhausting their resources by necessitated hospitality awarded to penniless soldiers, and yet will neither give nor sell to help them. Out of danger themselves by living off the road, they are alike regardless of the suffering soldier, and the "inn keeper" is thus the victim of what ought to be a mutual burden. How they can keep themselves in unshamed tranquility, I cannot imagine.

Some encouraging exceptions have come to my knowledge. "Sergeant's Hotel," near Calhoun's Ferry, on the Trinity river, has never refused the penniless soldier his full supplies. Col. Alston and his son-in-law and some neighbors have "for the war," aided Colonel S., and now that this hotel, always the very best in the country, has become a Soldier's Home, the same parties sustain it nobly. This is an example to all planters in our whole country. Will they note it?

How different this from "Red Top" Prairie P[illegible] Post-office, where the excellent proprietor, Col. Bookman, has alone borne the burden during the war; and since his house has become a home has received no help from his neighbors. When I established that "home," I called upon Mr. S. Stewart, a gentleman of high standing, and also upon an eminent physician, to whom I had been specially recommended as benevolent, and enterprising, and patriotic. The former promised to help and call on others to do the same; but the result is, Col. B. says he has received no aid at all from any one. Why is this? These persons may have reasons. If so, the public would like to hear them. I can think of none.

As it is, I have to pay the bill from our "State Committee for S. H." in Houston, as I pledged Col. B. and as I have been obliged to pledge many others. I am sorry that no response in money has come from the country in all of this work. Do our friends in the country intend deliberately to give us the "cold shoulder" in this work? If so, I must pass by many

places which need homes, and the soldier must pass on unfed and unsheltered, where I could otherwise have made his heart glad. I have already pledged more than is in the treasury, besides incidental expenses, which I feel unable to bear. Five hundred dollars, new issue, will not cover the cost of paper, envelopes and stamps, &c., which I have already purchased for the immense correspondence through which so much has been done for the cause; and by which, when unable to leave my room, I was able to reach hundreds of places in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

All I ask now is, are our people willingly and deliberately giving us these signs of their disapproval of the enterprise, or of their want of confidence in us? In either case, they must not be surprised to see the work stop; and homes already established, become defunct. I beg to assure our planting and city friends, that it is neither for my interest nor health, nor pleasure, to be both asking aid of them for the salvation of their own all, by elevating and saving from demoralization their noble defenders, instead of receiving what is daily offered me to my interest, and making my home in my ambulance, through days of storm and nights of frost instead of the bosom of my family.

I can only say, the task is too much to be performed alone; and when I have said this, the responsibility will no longer press upon me. I admit I have no claim in this line. I make none. All know the country, and the armies have no claim upon me, only as I have volunteered to meet this great want. The public can easily tell me by silence and withholding their needed help, that they neither appreciate my work nor desire my services.

Our State Committee, of which Mrs. Col. Riley is President, and A. J. Burke, Esq., Treasurer; and without whose unanimous vote and "order" not a dollar will be disbursed, are security to the public that their donations will find the proper channel, and our city editors will gladly receive for them and acknowledge in their papers whatever may be sent through them.

Two or three weeks will find me employed in attention to homes near by and some necessary "outfit." Let me know before that time what is the public voice. Speak quick.

I have to acknowledge the unbounded kindness afforded me in my four months tour, and the unanimous and universal sympathy and cordial co-operation and aid rendered me from General K. Kirby Smith down to the no less noble common soldier; from the lordly mansion to the no less honorable log hut. I know my work is appreciated; but I cannot "make bricks without straw." In my sickness, friends, like sisters and brothers, have sprung up everywhere, and I thus return my thanks. I am more than satisfied. I need go no further if ambition inspired me, but I must have a full central treasury. Homes that I must pledge to support or rather foot the "balance due" will not always need it, for the neighbors will generally foot the bill; but in order to establish them and make the parties safe, I must be able to pledge, I did so to a number in my recent tour, that are now the best self-sustaining homes on our list.

I thank your correspondent "Recipio" for his
Continued on page 13

Soldiers' Homes—Circular Letter.

Continued from page 12

suggestion as to Hotel Homes; and invite suggestions from all. By referring to my second circular, Recipio will find that plan, as one of many suggested, and recommended in most places of sparse travel. Also I organized five on the same plan four months ago. I hope Recipio will find the people able and willing to continue the expense of full hotel charges. I have always succeeded in arranging at half price.

Finally (although I have much more to say) let me speak to householders in places where the common complaint is, that no place can be found—no house, no rooms, and nobody willing to take the trouble of entertaining the soldiers. Do any family think themselves above the "low work" of giving comfort to our heroes of a hundred battles? for such will come. I consider it the most honorable position any man or woman or family can take. Why is it not so prized?

If General Lee should pass through a town, what family would not eagerly press forward to win the honor of entertaining him? Gen. Lee thinks his soldiers have won for him, under God, all the honor he has gained, and now enjoys; and that they are as deserving of honor as himself. Every brave soldier of my country's armies is to me a Lee, I think "there be six Richmonds in the field"! So the despairing coward gasped out his horror as he fled from Bosworth field. So again and again have the routed cohorts of our invaders cried, "We think there be a hundred thousand Lees after us." To me, when I look over fields of glory, won by our dauntless armies over half a continent, and for there and a half years of unequal strife, I think they be three hundred thousand Lees in the field. Now and then, two, five, ten and twenty of them come through our lines, to see their loved ones, or to recruit their exhausted ranks, or other business for the army; and they are all LEES to me. For them I labor and suffer and labor is rest and pain is sweet for them. For them I mean to labor and to suffer, till the war shall end, and they come home to enjoy the well-earned fame, and the love and honor of a grateful people, and the independence they have won. And then, what days God may allot me on earth, I intend to devote to the work and enterprise of STATE EDUCATION for their children, and making of them and of their disabled brothers, *educators for the State*.

The time I trust, will soon come for developing plans. Meanwhile let every house open a hearty welcome to the passing soldier—let homes be sustained everywhere at distances of 20 to 40 miles apart; and let every soldier remember that ill conduct amid scenes of hospitality is a stain upon the reputation of the army, a stab near the heart of our enterprise, and must necessarily shut up many hearts against his wayworn brother.

Trusting in God let every man do his duty; repent of his sins, and the day of deliverance will soon burst upon our suffering nation.

Respectfully,
Thos. Castleton.

Will other papers please copy.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 19, 1864, p. 1, c. 2-3

Washington, December 14, 1864.

Editor Telegraph—I have just returned here from a tour through Washington and Fayette counties. We passed through the towns of Independence, Long Point, Round Top, Chappell Hill, Ruttersville, La Grange, Fayetteville and Brenham. Independence is a beautiful town; it is situated upon a large mound shaped hill, and a view of the surrounding country for several miles can be had from every portion of the place. One of the most flourishing schools in the State is located there, viz: The Baylor University. There are a large number of scholars in attendance. The family of the late General Houston reside there at present. Long Point is a small town, 15 miles west of this town. It has formerly been quite a business place, but its activity has now departed. I have met with Dr. Linscum [sic—Linsecum], a venerable and scientific gentleman.

After passing fifteen miles further westward, we come to Round Top, in Fayette county. This place is now nearly deserted, but its closed stores show that it has once been a business town. Many German settlers are in the neighborhood, their farms are well improved, and they are a very intelligent people. Schools are found in every neighborhood. The more I see of the people of Fayette county, the more am I satisfied that they have been outrageously slandered in calling into question their loyalty to the South. Nearly every family in the county have sent a father, husband, or son to the army, and many a once happy home is mourning some loved one lost. Let every true patriot throw back the defamations against this people in the face of those who utter them. I have spoken in a former letter of La Grange and Fayetteville.

We next come to the smart village of Chappell Hill, this place is famous for its well conducted school, called Soule University; the academy is a large and tastily built structure. The town is built in a beautiful location, and surrounded by large and prosperous plantations. The town is quite a large one, and contains many tastily built residences. We next come to Brenham, the county seat of Washington county. This place has suffered little since the war. It is the depot for a large region of country, and does a large and prosperous trade with the interior towns. It is built in the heart of rich country. The Washington county Railroad running from Hempstead, a distance of 20 miles, terminates here. This road when completed further in to the interior will be quite an important one. It now sadly needs repairs. All the mails for Austin and vicinity pass over this road, and they are often delayed in consequence of accidents. When these happen they should be forwarded by another conveyance, and not suffered to remain in a mud hole on the road. Many planters come several miles to their post offices to receive their mail, and it is a sad disappointment to them not to get their papers. I trust this evil will be remedied by the company.

This town has in days past been one of the most famous towns in the State, and was in the days of the Texas Republic the seat of government for a long time. The town is tastily built, and is surrounded by a rich planting community. I consider Washington, Fayette, Grimes, Bexar, Austin and Caldwell counties the gardens of our
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Washington, December 14, 1864.
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State. The Texas Ranger is published here. Mrs. Eva Lancaster, its accomplished Editress, is making arrangements to publish it more regular hereafter in an enlarged form. Washington county is one of the richest counties in the State, and ought to support a good newspaper well.

I find that the soldiers' families are well cared for every where, especially in this county. The planters have done and will continue to do all in their power for their relief. Many worthy families, who have formerly been in comfortable circumstances, dislike to let their neighbors know their present needs, and some would starve sooner than do so. This class should be found and assistance given them unasked for.

I find many furloughed soldiers who were wounded the past season in Louisiana, at their homes still suffering from wounds. The surgeon's certificates that they were unfit for duty at present, were lost in the mails, and a few of these gallant men are published as deserters. They will join their commands as soon as they recover. I trust that officers will be more careful in future, and not blast the reputation of brave men by publishing them as deserters, until they have reliable evidence of the fact.

Sioux.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 19, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

We find the following dispatches in the Houston papers:

Galveston, Dec. 12, '64.

By Flag of Truce.

I take the following from Flake's Bulletin:

This morning three hundred and forty-three exchanged Federal prisoners from Camp Groce, were sent out to the blockaders in charge of Col. Izymanski, our commissioner of exchange; also, twelve females and their children, who availed themselves of the privilege granted to leave the country--Among them were Mrs. Jack Hamilton and Mrs. Judge Duvall.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 21, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

75000 papers garden seed--A liberal discount to those who buy to sell. James Burke, Houston. nov30.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 21, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Among the features of the Clothing Bureau of this District, under charge of Capt. E. w. Taylor, is hat making. The hat factory began, as it were, from the stump a year or more ago, and has gradually grown to be an institution of no little importance. It now turns out 2000 black wool hats per month. These hats are very well put up and durable, and afford a supply for a large part of the army in the field. They are made altogether of Texas material, and colored with home-made dye. WE believe such a manufactory for the general market would be a paying enterprise.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 21, 1864, p. 4, c. 3

State Library--All persons having books belonging to the State Library, will return them to me by the first of Jan. next. Those who neglect this notice will not be allowed to borrow again. Alonzo T. Logan, State Librarian. dec'21.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Walker County, Nov. 24, 1864.

Editor Telegraph:--It is, I believe, generally known that gangs of deserters and "jayhawkers" have for some time been congregated in the immense recesses of the almost impenetrable "Big Thicket." Recently, however, the security of these foes to the Confederacy has been most unceremoniously disquieted, and their organization broken up. About 40 more of the "reserve corps," under I know not what officer, accompanied by that redoubtable old bear hunter and soldier--Richard Williams--who, with a pack of negro dogs, was impressed for the occasion, came upon the lurking places of the *patriotic* gentry above mentioned. Their chief rendezvous was on Winter's bayou, about ten miles below Col. Hill's plantation, in the centre of a cane brake over a mile in width. Here in the heart of a wilderness 30 miles every way in extent, the "jayhawkers" and deserters had taken up their abode, built comfortable shanties, cleared lands, planted corn, erected a tan yard for making leather of the hides of stolen cattle, and surrounded themselves with many of the appliances of civilization. But, alas! in an evil hour for these expatriated cowards and enemies of the South, our "Leather Stockings" (Williams) with marvelous sagacity, has tracked their foot-prints through cane brake and thicket, and the fierce cries of his dogs warn him that the wolves are "at bay." Instantly the "reserves" are launched upon them. But, although the dastards may rob the passing traveler, and plunder houses protected only by women and children, they can't stand the cold steel in the hands of true men.

They make only a show of resistance, and then "scatter." Our bold "reserves" are generally too quick for them. Twenty-four were captured; four only of that gang escaped. Pretty good for the "first drive" of the "reserve," and the indomitable Williams, (he is an old 1835 soldier), certainly deserves the highest praise. I talked with Williams yesterday. He says there are yet, at another place in the thicket about twenty more deserters, &c.

Your informant,
S.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 21, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

New Goods!

The subscribers have just received the following assortment of Dry Goods and Groceries, which they will sell for Confederate money, State Warrants, or specie--

White blankets, grey blankets, men's shoes, ladies' shoes, boys' shoes, children's shoes, grey cloth, blue satinett, grey satinett, bleached domestic, blue denims, brown domestic, cotton cards, gents drab hats, matches, gents blk hats, calico, nutmegs, gum camphor, spice, white sugar, coffee, brown sugar, candles, cream tartar, tea, white beans and toilette soap.

Sampson & Henricks.

Austin, December 21st,'64.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

We are indebted to Col. Szymanski for the use of late papers. Col. S. has just completed the delivery of the Camp Groce prisoners on board the Yankee fleet, in exchange for a like number, some five or six hundred, to be delivered by the Yankees at Mobile.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 23, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

For the Telegraph.

A Remedy for Fevers.

Ptelea, trifoliata.—1-1-Lin. Classification—Order 28 [?], Genus 2 [?]
—Modern classification.

Ptelea is the Greek name for Elm, but this plant is no kin to E.m. Botanic character—Dioecious [?], *Sepals* 4, united at the base. *Petals* 4, spreading, much larger than the sepals. *Stamens* 4, alternate with and larger than the petal. *Filaments* hairy on the inside. *Fruit* a samara [?], 2-celled, with one seed in each cell, wing reticulated.

Specific name and character—*P. Trifoliata*. A shrub, branching, the young branches pubescent. *Leaves* alternate. *Leafless* sessile, ovate, the terminal one alternate at the base, obscurely crenulate. *Flowers* interterminal panicles. *Petals* oval, pubescent, greenish. Flowers, and broken twigs, have a disagreeable odor. Blooms, in Texas, early in April. It is found on the dry sandy bluffs and banks of muddy creeks and rivers from the Carolinas to the Guadalupe in Texas. It is a shrub, often growing in bunches, six to eight feet high. Leaflets always three on a footstalk, somewhat shaped like the leaves of the ash; the middle one always the largest. Blooms, in considerable bunches, at the end of the branches of the new growth; individual blooms small, greenish, or dirty white. Seeds numerous, hanging on threadlike appendages at the ends of the branches in August, but fall off in September. In November they are bleached and laying around the bush, look like the scales of a large buffalo fish. They odor of a fresh broken twig resembles that of the bug scaraboeus.

The bark of the root is the part used for medicine. It is a warm stimulating tonic, anti-periodic, alterant, expectorant. It is administered in the form of tincture, or in fine powder—I prefer the latter, but a large majority of patients would rather have it in spirits; and as that form of preparing it suits their nature best, and the object is to cure them, it had better be put into the liquor. The dose for an adult, is two table spoonfuls, three or four times a day, on an empty stomach. It does best to take it half hour before eating. When taken in the form of powder, the dose for an adult, is a teaspoonful, in half a gill of cold water, stirred till it is wetted, and then swallowed down, powder and all, before it has time to diffuse its better principle into the water, morning, noon, evening and bedtime, on an empty stomach.

In the two forms named above, it is administered in intermittent fevers, and its greatest powers are manifested in protracted cases; particularly where there is enlargement of the spleen, it is superior to all other known remedies. My experience with this article includes a period of forty-two years, and I now place more reliance in the *Ptelea* bark, as an anti-periodic and tonic medicine, than quinine, barks, or any other article of that class of remedial agents.

Its use should be continued until all symptoms of the complaint have disappeared.

In dry coughs, when tinctured in good whisky and taken in doses of a table spoonful, three or four times a day on an empty stomach, it acts as a valuable expectorant tonic.

Combined with equal parts of lady's slipper (*eyripedum pubescens*) with sufficient cayenne to render it pretty pungent, tinctured in good spirits, is a potent remedy. I have seen this preparation administered in cases of great weakness, and the

troublesome cough which sometimes follows severe hemorrhage from the lungs, with decided advantage. A small portion of the tincture of *lobelia inflata* added to this preparation, greatly increases its expectorant powers. In this form it is applicable to any form of chronic cough.

There is plants of it growing on the right hand side, near the further end of the first bridge above the mouth of White Oak bayou going from Houston. Go on the bridge and when within twenty feet of its furthest end, look down on the right side; and there in a place that has been pretty badly washed are five or six bunches of it, break and smell of the twigs, if they make you think of a polecat, you have got the true *Ptelea trifoliata*.

Gid.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Fifty thousand bushels of salt are advertised for sale at 25 cents per bushel, at the Palmetto Lakes, 30 miles South of King's ranch. This coupled with the price of pork, which is offered here at 3 1/2 cents per pound, must enable everybody to lay in a stock of meat to last them through the next year, as wagons are going all the time to Brownsville loaded with cotton, and can bring back salt as return freight.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

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AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, December 21, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Soldiers' Homes—Circular Letter.

I offer respectfully the following suggestions:

1. That each Home in the wealthier districts should, from time to time, set apart, and send to our Central State Committee, Houston, A. J. Burke Treasurer, a portion of their funds to aid us in sustaining Homes in places where the population are unable to support them.

2. Let each Home now organized remember that if they fail and allow their Home to die, it not only cuts that chain and wrongs the passing soldier, but brings disgrace on the cause, imparts discouragement to others.

3. Let every neighborhood where a few families on the road are "eaten out," meet together, and by some fair division aid the sufferers and open one of these houses as a Home.

4. Let every town make a call through some clergyman or leading citizen, and hold a meeting, appoint a responsible committee, and see to it that the subscription be fully circulated. Let every name that gives be recorded, and every one who refuses also, together with the reasons assigned for the refusal. We want this record from every Home and from every place which finally refuses, and if the parties will send me the facts, well authenticated, I will see to their publication. It is high time the country should know who they are that are determined to make others bear all the burdens of
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Soldiers' Homes—Circular Letter.

Continued from page 15

our struggle for independence, while they wring every quivering muscle of their bleeding compeers to express and distill their blood for their own reveling banquets!

5. The most economical plan of organizing a "S. H." is to procure a building and a detailed disabled soldier to take charge of it. Cooking utensils can be either collected piece by piece of neighbors or purchased of quartermasters through an order from Gen. Smith, which he will supply upon application together with an order to the Commissary department to each suitable "S. H." at the end of the month the amount of rations which upon the affidavit of the Superintendent of the "S. H." shall appear to have been used for our troops.

If the rule be adopted to pass each soldier's papers through the Commissary and to make his due-bill for rations, the ticket of admission to the Home (which is the best plan in every "post,") then of course no purchase of rations is needed or permissible. The rations thus, in the form of tickets, can be drawn in the lump whenever needed.

Table ware can be had from potteries and knives and forks collected by peacemeal [sic]; or, as a last resort, an old saw-blade cut up can make ten or twelve knives. Elegance is well enough, where possible, but "necessity is the mother of invention," and homes and food are necessities, although only old saw-blades make our knives.

6. It is a good method to pay a certain price per meal either to hotel, a boarding-house, or a private family; and give the rations of all who are supplied. One to two dollars New Issue per meal will pay well enough. It is too late in the day for hotel keepers to mourn about their costly food. We supplied near one thousand meals in the month of September last, in our Home in Shreveport, at fifty cents per meal "Old Issue," and in October an equal number at sixty-five cents. The other cost of the establishment—rent, salaries, &c., put by themselves, placed the lodging at 80 cents per night. This, too, when everything was purchased at the ordinary market prices and donations put down at their value.

7. In the country and where there is no "Military Post," it is probably best to engage an honorable house-holder to open his house, pay him so much per meal and horse feed, in currency or in produce at a stipulated price. Then at the close of each month, buy (through an order from Gen. Smith) and affidavit and all that has been fed and "turn it in" &c. This is a good and lasting ground of success. Two meals may fairly be considered a "ration" and buy accordingly.

8. It is absolutely essential in order to reach the benefits designed by "Soldiers' Homes," and to secure the continual aid which Gen. Smith has pledged; to fully carry out the two rules or "By-Laws" heretofore published, to-wit: 1st. "Receive no soldiers without good papers." 2nd. Suffer none to remain lounging about longer than a traveler intent upon his journey would naturally stay. All should stay the Sabbath. The one is to prevent harboring deserters and imposition. Look well to the papers—officers and men alike. If Gen. Smith should call, examine his

papers! The other is to prevent "loafing." It is not a boarding house to stay at, but a way-side home. Therefore make them "roll on." Special cases may demand extension of time. This should be committed to a trusty party, and not be left to caprice.

9. Soldiers' Homes are designed as much for officers as for men of the line; and generally as much needed by officers as privates. Indeed, officers are less provided for than privates, and unless an income is derived from home, poor men are compelled to resign their offices. Unless something can be done in this line, it will soon be that poor men will be totally excluded by their own deliberate yet necessitated act, from all high office in the army. This we cannot afford. Perhaps the poor man is now in the private ranks, who is to rise up a "*more than Lee*," and lead us on to victory and peace.

This is one reason why I have every insisted that officers and privates are equally entitled. But a higher consideration has moved me. I would not have our heroes feel themselves mendicants, and our Homes to be "alms for indigence." No, no! a thousand "no's." They are tokens of a country's gratitude, and gifts of the affection. I scorn the imputation of *charities* to men to whom we OWE, not only these benefits but many others.

Four months ago, I was standing a looker on "taking notes," as "mine host" opened his "register," for the first time as the stage had arrived. A Captain with a new Confederate suit, came up to pay his bill. Landlord. "Your name?" He gave it. "Company?" It was recorded. "Regiment?" Capt. stared and answered it. "Where are you going?" Hesitating.—"Home, sir, but why this questioning?" Landlord. "Only we have just opened a Soldiers' Home, and this is my duty." The Capt. held out his money. "Your bill is paid." It puzzled him. "But I have not paid it." Landlord. "This is a soldiers' Home; we don't charge soldiers. Our friends here pay for you all." "But, though not rich, I am not an object of charity," confusedly murmured the Capt., still showing the money, along the desk.

I could be still no longer; I stepped forward. "My dear captain," said I, "this is no charity—no alms. It is a gift of affection, and a token of affection from a people who know how to appreciate such an army as ours." The tears started into his eyes and his money went into his pocket. "This," said he, "is an unexpected pleasure. By taking one meal a day, I thought I had enough to take me home. This is great work you are doing, sir." Parting hands were grasped, and I saw him no more. Let officers feel welcome at our homes. I would to God we could in every place give them and the equally honorable privates as good accommodations as our hearts dictate. But, in nine cases out of ten, the only alternative is either to have no home at all or to have a very poor one. Good food can always be had well cooked and served. But good fare and beds or a good house, neither love nor money can procure, except at private houses and hotels. I have a few times heard bitter taunts and have seen bitter sneers in mention of some of our homes by officers. Did they know at how much cost of effort and obloquy these poor homes have

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Soldiers' Homes—Circular Letter.

Continued from page 15

been erected, and how many thousands of dollars and hungry hours they have saved the poorer of their compeers, they at least would save us from censure and taunt.

When we cannot do as well as we would, we do as well as we can, and will *do better* at the possible opportunity.

10. On receipt of this circular letter, will every place enter at once upon the work, and proceed to the establishment of a Home.

Respectfully suggested.
Thos. Castleton.

Houston, Dec. 15, 1864.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 23, 1864, p. 3, c. 1

DALLAS HERALD, December 24, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

We are pleased to see that the Galveston Bulletin comes out in an entire new dress, making a very handsome and readable appearance. It is a good paper and deserves patronage. Its new material was purchased in Havana and brought to Galveston via Matamoros.

Bibles for Hood's Army.—Sixteen thousand copies of the Holy Bible and Testament arrived here yesterday evening en route for Hood's Army. They are the first installment of fifty thousand copies presented to the Confederate troops by the American Bible Society of New York. They came by way of Memphis Tennessee.—Selma Mississippian.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 26, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Steam Saw Mill, Near Houston, }
December 18, 1864. }

Editor Telegraph.—Very many soldiers' families in my neighborhood, and in the settlements above, are absolutely suffering for bread. I know parties who have sent to the county depository in Houston, week after week, for their quota of corn meal, and have been disappointed in getting it, and most of the time are upon short rations, scarcely sufficient to keep soul and body together. This, I am told, is mainly attributable to the difficulty in getting the corn ground, the city mills being constantly employed for the Government.

Wischer's [?] and several other grist mills in the upper settlements, from some cause or other, have ceased to operate, and those in that vicinity who have corn, cannot conveniently get it converted into meal. Will you therefore be pleased to give it publicity, through your Telegraph, that I will devote two days in each week (Fridays and Saturdays) to grinding corn for soldiers' families and indigent persons residing in [illegible] and [illegible] settlements, and in my own immediate neighborhood, free of toll or charge?

Your obedient servant,
R. D. Wescott.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 26, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Radish Seed.—A friend informs us that in a case of sickness, where a blister was required, he found the radish seed pounded up as good as mustard.—Macon (Miss.) Beacon.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

The Relief Committee of the City of Houston beg leave to announce that the funds in their hands for the poor and indigent families in this City is pretty well exhausted; in view of this fact, and the certainty they feel that the citizens of this city will approve and patronize a Concert for those indigents, they announce one for that purpose at Perkins' Hall, on Saturday, 31st December, at 7 o'clock, p.m. The best amateur performers, both from Houston and Galveston, and also several strangers of fine talent may be expected, and they hope to made this entertainment one of the best of the kind offered to the public in a long time. Tickets can be procured at the usual places.

William Anders,
Henry S. Fox,
M. Reichman,
C. C. Speer.
Committee.

Houston, Dec. 24, 1864.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 26, 1864, p. 4, c. 5

To the Patriotic and Charitable.

Having been appointed by the County Court of Galveston county, to solicit contributors of corn, bacon, and provisions generally, for the indigent women and children of that county, I am compelled, as it will be impossible for me to visit many of the citizens of the adjoining counties, to make an appeal through the papers to the liberal and patriotic citizens of my State in their behalf. The peculiar situation of Galveston Island and the calamities of this war have thrown the wives and children of many of our gallant soldiers upon the county for support. The county have thus far been able, unaided and alone, by using every exertion and making every sacrifice, to support not only the resident destitute, but also those who have temporarily made Galveston their home. Sixteen hundred women and children are now the recipients of relief in Galveston county—a number of whom are from other counties in this State. The question was presented to the County Court, of either confining their bounty to those who were of the county proper, or of making the necessities of the applicants the only test and criterion for relief. With a just and proper appreciation of their duty, they determined that the pale cheek of the mother and the piteous cries of her little ones, was an appeal which effaced all county lines; and, so long as human exertions could procure a single bushel of meal, it should be equally divided among all. I confess that the decision of my county was a source of pleasure to me, and I would have been mortified if their judgment had prompted any other conclusion.

I feel confident that the claims of the poor of this county are of such a character, that the sympathies of the people of this State will provide a generous response. Their property destroyed by the repeated attacks of the enemy and by the acts of our own forces; their town declared an entrenched camp, and the citizens subject to military rules and regulations; deprived of those commercial pursuits, upon which they so much depended for support; visited by pestilence and fire; with an exhausted treasury, and even the bounty of the State

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To the Patriotic and Charitable.

Continued from page 17

anticipated and expended, they are induced, as a last resort, to appeal to the benevolent of their sister counties, and to urge them by every generous impulse that can move the human heart to give of their abundance to the destitute and "loved ones" of those who have either sealed with their lives their devotion to the cause of the South, or beneath the proud banner of our State, are adding fresh laurels to her wreath of fame.

To show how impossible it is for the county of Galveston to maintain those dependent upon it, without some assistance, I will here state that the article of wood alone, for the poor, costs more in that county than the entire amount necessary to support the indigents of any county in this State. If, with this brief statement of the situation and wants of those whose sex and age, at all times, when in distress, have recommended themselves to our kindly aid, any are disposed to assist us, in this our hour of trial and need, donations of corn, bacon, flour and wood will be gladly received. Those desirous of assisting with the articles above named, or in money to be applied in procuring the necessaries of life, can address me, to the care of "Editor of News," Houston, stating the articles and the amount of their contribution, or they can ship the articles, or remit (if in money) the amount to Messrs. Ball, Hutchings, & Co., Houston. A few bales of cotton would prove very acceptable for distribution among the poor, who have the cards furnished by the county, but not the staple. It is desirable, as far as practicable, to have corn, which may be given, shelled, in order to save transportation, and the County Court are prepared to furnish sacks for this purpose. The following gentlemen at places designated, will act as agents for the poor of Galveston, viz: Geo. H. Trabue, Esq., Millican; J. S. Vedder, Navasota; Hon. E. W. Baker and Allen Lewis, Chappell Hill; Hon. D. C. Dickson and Hon. J. G. McDonald, Anderson; N. N. John, Richmond; and Hon. C. W. Buckley, Sugar Land.

I will merely add, in conclusion, to the generous and patriotic of our State, that every dollar they may donate shall be faithfully applied to the purposes intended by the donors, and that the inmates of many an humble cottage on our sea-girt isle, will call down blessings upon the heads of those, who, in their hours of prosperity, forgot not the widows and the fatherless, and that their generosity will make a record upon many a suffering heart, which time itself will not erase.

Respectfully,
Agent for Galveston Co.

H. B. Andrews,

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 1, c. 7

Virginia Tobacco Seed—Grown 1864.

I have a supply of Tobacco Seed grown in Virginia—bought in Richmond and brought through by Warren Adams, Esq., mail carrier. Price 50 cents per paper or \$5.00 per dozen sent, pre-paid. Each paper contains seed sufficient to produce one thousand plants.

James Burke.

Houston, December 28th, 1864.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Heroism of Southern Women—Letter from a Mississippi Lady.

The following letter, written during the dark days of last winter by one of Mississippi's noblest matrons, presents a vivid picture of Yankee rule, and shows the undying spirit of heroism which prevails with our Southern women. It is worthy of preservation as a part of the history of the times, and is addressed to a brave and distinguished officer commanding an Alabama regiment:

Mississippi, January, 1864"

"I embrace this opportunity to let you know that we are still in the land of Abraham, and permitted to breathe by taking the oath every few days. How long we are to enjoy this blessing I know not. We are carried to Abraham's bosom occasionally by the angelic Hessians, where we are permitted to lift up our eyes, begging for bread, and to plead for the crumbs that may fall from his table, but we are not allowed to sit in council with the spirits of black men made white! I could fill pages with the insult and injuries heaped upon us since I saw you last. I then thought that my cup of woe and bitterness was full (her son, a brave lad, having died of his wounds received in battle;) but since, I have suffered every thing but death, which would have been far preferable to the miserable existence spent in LaGrange for a few months. We begged our enemies to let us depart, but they seemed too [illegible] to liberate the writhing pangs of the worm they had crushed under their feet, and though it would make us too happy to breathe once more the air of Dixie. In fact, they held us there until they could think of no other punishment they could inflict on us; deprived of provisions, wood, and servants, we were left at their tender mercies, until reason was tottering on her throne, and our emaciated bodies a perfect wreck. Notwithstanding, thank Providence, my spirit has never been subdued, but I seemed to acquire new energy and firmness to contend with these demons of darkness!

I told them that when I became speechless, I would crack my nails at them to indicate the miserable crawling vermin of their natures.

They gave me up at last as a hopeless case, and were very willing to get rid of me, and I of them. I felt truly happy when I got out of sight of the "blue devils," as we call them. We are still in hearing of their reveille and sundown cannon, which is unpleasant enough. We are at their mercy, and live in continued dread.

It is truly disheartening to hear of so many disasters—nothing but retreats. In the name of humanity, when will we stop? Are we going to be chased around the world until we run into the sea? Hundreds of our men quit the army and go to speculating with the Yankees. Memphis is full of them—you can't walk the streets for these cowardly, skulking renegades, calling themselves men. How can we succeed unless we lay these dens of corruption in ashes? What a miserable policy of our government to leave one city or village standing, as a harbor for deserters, smugglers and runaway negroes. But for them, we should have 20,000 more men in the field to-day.

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Heroism of Southern Women—Letter from a Mississippi Lady.

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Memphis is a negro Paradise. Miscegenation is progressing to perfection, and soon the white race must become extinct. If a negro comes home, his master is arrested and put in jail for harboring deserters—another plan to steal your property. Oh, that I could see a little hope for our deliverance. Our prospects are growing more dark and gloomy, and some of our men seem almost ready to kiss the rod which smites them. Oh, if our army could only realize half the degradation that awaits them and their families, surely it would nerve them to energy and great deeds of heroism and daring. Life is but a mockery in the hands of these monsters. When will our people awaken, and unite as one man to drive these blood-thirsty hirelings from our homes? Polluted, desecrated, disgraced by their presence, Satan would blush to keep their company, and, I am sure, would resign his commission and flee to other parts more congenial to his Satanic majesty.

May heaven protect and save you from disease and Yankee bullets. Learn to put your trust in Him who alone is able to save both soul and body. Religion is worth all the world, and nothing else is able to strengthen and support us in all times of trouble and danger. May God preserve you and yours, and our bleeding country."

What a consolation to this Spartan matron's heart to have heard of our late victories, and how her hopes must have revived with Forrest's successes.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Garden Seeds.

For 1865.—By dint of effort, I have succeeded in obtaining, from various foreign countries, a very general assortment of the Seeds most needed in Texas.

Now is the time to secure a supply for planting next season. In these unsettled and uncertain times, it may be emphatically said "delays are dangerous." In many parts of Texas gardening operations commence early in January. For peculiar reasons, obvious to all, a united effort should be made to produce, next season, an abundant crop of vegetables. I have made arrangements by way of Matamoros and Havana, to keep my Stock regularly replenished. My prices, until February, 1865, are: Eight dollars per hundred papers; one dollar and twenty-five cents per doze; one dozen papers (assorted), sent, post-paid, for one dollar and fifty cents.

The above are specie rates. The currency received at its market value. Soldiers' families supplied at cost.

James Burke.

Houston, December 28th, 1864.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

Holiday Gifts.—Books, for all ages. Perfumery, Cologne, Fancy Soaps, Pictures, Gold Pens, Fine Cutlery, Fancy Inkstands, &c., &c.

James Burke.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

We are pleased to learn that the committee have obtained the Shrimpf House for a Soldiers' Home in this city. This building is of brick, of three stories, and is the best that can be found for the purpose in the city.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 30, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Col. Andrews has returned from a trip to Huntsville, in behalf of the poor of Galveston. He informs us that he scarcely met a man who did not give something, in response to his application, though it was not in his power to call on many. He had an interview with the Directors of the Penitentiary, and was shown through that establishment. He speaks in the highest terms of the excellent system under which everything is conducted, and of the good order apparent throughout. He received every attention and civility from the Directors and Financial Agent, who showed a disposition to do all they could to relieve the poor of Galveston. For the purpose of facilitating the distribution of the six hundred thousand yards of Penitentiary cloth appropriated to soldiers' families by the late Legislature, the law required the State to be divided into six districts, as nearly equal as possible. The Financial Agent and Directors were directed to district the State and to determine by lot the time for each district to draw its share of the cloth. The districting took place at Huntsville last Saturday. The counties between the Trinity and Sabine, as high up as Houston county, constitute the First District.

The counties above Houston county between the same rivers to the State line constitute the 2d District. Col. A. does not know exactly the counties constituting the 3d, 4th and 5th Districts, but says the 6th District is composed of the extreme Western counties. Galveston is in the 4th District. After the counties were districted the drawing took place, to determine the order in which they are to be supplied with their respective quotas of the cloth.

The several Districts will receive the cloth in the following order:

1st District is the first to draw cloth; 6th District is second to draw cloth; 4th District is the third to draw cloth; 2d District is the fourth to draw cloth; 5th District is the fifth to draw cloth; 3rd District is the sixth to draw cloth.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

See card of Bastrop Military Academy. This institution educates free of charge all soldiers who are wounded so as to be unfit for service. It takes a limited number of this class without charge for board, and the President writes us that he has room for two more. It is one of the best institutions of the State, and we are glad to learn it is prospering.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 28, 1864, p. 4, c. 1

The Charge Against Wharton's Body Guard.

Anderson, Dec. 23d, 1864.

Editor News:—My attention has been called by a friend to an article published in your paper of the 16th, (I think) and copied from a Henderson paper, making very serious charges against the company known as "Wharton's Body Guard." The paper has been mislaid and I cannot quote more accurately from it. Being a member of that company, I do not feel willing that the stigma of such gross brutality as wantonly "firing at an inoffensive citizen while standing in his own door, and firing into another house in the midst of ladies and children," should rest upon it. You express a charitable hope, Mr. editor, that the charges are not true. In this case, I can assure you that they are not. Our company was

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The Charge Against Wharton's Body Guard.

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at Henderson only one night. Strict orders were given not to straggle through or into the town, and a guard was placed at proper points in the town to arrest all who should be found there without a permit. *No permits were given that night.* This same slander—each some additions—was circulated at the time; the Capt. of our company investigated the matter and reported the result to Gen. Wharton, who was perfectly satisfied of the innocence of *our* company, and he is not a man to be easily deceived. That *some* persons may have committed outrages of the character complained of, may be true. This I do not controvert, for I know nothing about it, but I think I ought to know whether my company had any hand in it or not, as you, Mr. editor, will acknowledge when I tell you I am a private and not yet eighteen years of age. There are many other boys about the same age in the company, and I suspect we are much like boys everywhere, talking freely over (around the camp-fire) *everything* we know; and, under all these means of information, I say to you that the charges are untrue. These wanton attacks upon the reputation of whole companies are to be deprecated. Soldiers are bad enough, but some of us hope to live after this war is over, and would like to keep our skirts free at least from absolute brutality. There is another bad effect resulting from them, which I observed in our company when we were in Henderson. It produced a feeling of reckless defiance in many of the company. "We are charged," said they, "with crimes of which we are wholly innocent—what incentive have we to good conduct?" You must remember, Mr. editor, that we are only boys, and reason generally only from our passions, but I can see that the effect of these charges on our company is *bad*. Perhaps the publication of this feeble defence may result in a little *good*, and this hope alone induces me to trouble you with this communication.

A Member of Wharton Guard.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Soldiers' Homes.

We learn from the Rev. Mr. Castleton that the following Homes are now organized and in successful operation:

Beaumont	Jefferson county.
San Antonio	Bexar county.
Austin	Travis county.
New Braunfels	Comal county.
Corsicana	Navarro county.
Hillsboro'	Hill county.
Palestine	Anderson county.
Butler	Freestone county.
Fairfield	"
Cotton Gin	"
Springfield	Limestone county.
Mansfield	Louisiana.
Minden	Louisiana.
Homer	Louisiana.
Independence	Maj. Blanton's Hotel, Wash'n Co.
Waxahachie	Maj. Roger's Hotel, Ellis Co.
Ash Creek	Mr. Ward's, Hill Co.
Bastrop	Mr. Nicholson's Hotel, Bastrop Co.
Paris	[Name not known], Lamar Co.

Mr. Castleton informs us that he believes there are as many as sixty Homes in Texas, but that he cannot be positive as to the complete organization of any but the above.

We omit from this above list several Homes that have been discontinued, but which it is hoped will soon be reorganized. Efforts are now being made to reorganize the Home in this city.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 7

For the Telegraph.

Rangers' Camp, }
Turner's Mills [?], near Tuscumbia, Ala. }
September 21st, 1864.

Yesterday was a marked era in our history. A new, elegant and beautiful flag was floating in the breeze at headquarters. The rich material had been purchased in Nashville, and the chaste work had been wrought by fair hands in the vicinity. They ground is in the form of a parallelogram and of blue silk, whilst there is a round field of lilly [sic] white in the center. On this there rests a Maltese cross of bright red silk, on which are worked eleven stars with white silk floss. On the one side of this white field, and around the cross, there is worked with blue silk floss, viz: "*Ducit amor Patriae*," "TERRY'S TEXAS RANGERS;" on the other, "*God defend the right*," "Terry's Texas Rangers."

The following is the letter of presentation and the reply of the ladies:

Soldiers of the 8th Texas Cavalry.

Gallant heroes: While in the iron grasp of a merciless foe,—while surrounded on every side by glittering bayonets, and the threats of an unprincipled soldiery,—we have dared with our own hands to work for you this battle flag which we present to you. Upon such occasions we know that it is customary to say much, but language would fail to portray our feelings, or express the deep emotions of our hearts, as your many heroic and gallant deeds—the many bloody battles fought and won—arise before us to bear testimony of your truth and fidelity to your country and to us. Yes! gallant heroes, well have you made your pledges to your country true. But onward, still onward under this banner until you shall hear the shout of freedom, the thunders of a liberated people echoing along the mountains and re-echoing in the depths of the valleys. Then shall you stand forth wreathed with immortal laurels, decked with the gems that valor wins. Our minds will draw sublime pictures of your gallant, heroic band rushing on with this banner, midst the thickest of the fight, to glory and to victory. By the memory of Shiloh, where your blood was poured forth like water, and ran trickling to dye the bosom of the beautiful Tennessee, whose rippling waves are now singing the requiem of your fallen comrades. By the memory of those plains covered with your blood, the redness of which is changed into black, emblems of mourning for those brave ones who gave their lives in defence of our sacred soil—by the memory of our bondage and the death of your loved Terry, strike—strike to avenge—strike to redeem—strike for the truth, and GOD WILL DEFEND THE RIGHT.

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REPLY.

Camp Texas Rangers, }
September 21st, 1864.}

Ladies: The beautiful banner which you did us the honor to prepare and send us, by the hands of our mutual friends, was received on yesterday, together with the cheering, brave and inspiring letter penned by your hands and dictated by your hopeful hearts. It were idle to attempt to express the deep feeling produced by its reception, and vain to undertake a description of the manifestations of exalted and enthusiastic regard in which the precious gift and its beloved donors are held by "Terry's Texas Rangers." Under its bright and beautiful folds we pledged ourselves anew, and again dedicated ourselves to the high and holy cause in which we are engaged.

Inspired by your words, and the mottoes inscribed upon our new banner, old vows and old resolutions were rejuvenated, and higher, holier and more determined efforts promised. How well these promises may be kept we leave you to determine by our future conduct. Nerved by the just cause of our bleeding country, cheered by the smiles of our brave and beautiful sisters, and sustained by their prayers, I feel no hesitancy in pledging you that where the fight rages fiercest and danger lies thickest; your banner shall be seen like the white plume of Henry of Navarre, to dance upon the surge of battle. Though our ranks have been sadly thinned since last the beautiful streets of the "Rock City" echoed to the tramp of our thousand horses feet. Yet the hearts of the few who are left are as dauntless, their resolves as firm and their hopes as high. Hope on then, Sisters in Liberty, and know that while one is left with strength to strike a blow, it shall be struck at the shackles which fetter thee, that Tennessee shall be redeemed from the iron grasp of the spoiler, by the help of God and Southern arms. Already the dark cloud which has so long lowered above you is dispersing, and through its gloomy folds glimpses of the silver lining appear. Yet a little while and all shall be well, for "God" will "defend the Right." Trust us then, stimulated by the high incentives you have held up before us, to "strike to avenge, strike to redeem, strike for the Truth." The proudest and happiest day of our existence is that upon which were announced to us, those "words that burn," coming as they did, from the fair daughters of our sister State, delivered under the frowns of oppressions of the hated foe. Promising you that your gift shall never be dishonored, nor trail in the dust before the invaders of your homes and country, and with the hope that we may yet be allowed to wave it over the Capitol of Tennessee redeemed, disenthralled, free, I beg to subscribe myself in behalf of "Terry's Texas Rangers," in weal or woe.

Your friend in truth,
Gustave Cook,
Lieut. Colonel Comd'g.

During the day it was inspected by all the passers by and elicited many marks of esteem for the heroic ladies of Middle Tenn., and many solemn vows that their bondage should soon cease, and their homes should be rescued from the foul presence of the unprincipled soldiery, which have so long oppressed, insulted and robbed them. At dress parade in the

evening it was presented to the regiment and their letter was read by Lieut. Colonel Cook, after which he was called on for a speech. He replied briefly, paying an eloquent tribute to the fair donors, when three hearty cheers were given for the ladies of Nashville. Our old flag, sent to us over two years ago by two fair daughters of Texas, and which has proudly floated over us ever since, was then folded up for preservation among the archives of our State. Oh! what varied memories cluster around our old flag! How many of our gallant comrades have fallen under it? It now belongs to the past of our bloody history. May our children gaze with delight upon its dimmed stars and tattered borders, for long years after our country shall have gained her independence. soon our new banner will dance proudly upon the breeze of Tennessee, and our prayer is that it may ere long wave in triumph before the eyes of the beautiful donors, upon the fortifications and through the streets of their glorious city, when the voice of oppression shall be heard no more, and the glittering bayonets of the cruel and hated foe shall never again sparkle in the bright sunlight around their homes.

R. F. B.

[We presume this is the flag that was lost in October.—Ed. Tel.]

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 3-4

We derive some statistics from the Texas Almanac, for 1865, just received, an attentive perusal of which will correct some of the notions entertained by people who should be well informed.

The total product of the Penitentiary for nine months, ending August 31st, was 790,553 yards Osnaburgs; 131,209 yards Jeans; 78,693 yards Kerseys; 184 yards Plains; and 946 yards Sheep Gray: Total, 1,021,585 yards. Of this 380,791 yards cottons, and 56,958 yards woolens, total 437,749 yards, were sold to the army; 333,124 yards cottons and 12 yards woolens were exchanged for supplies; 77,513 yards were appropriated to soldiers' families; 16,929 yards cottons, and 1,318 yards woolens were used in the Institution and Lunatic Asylum, and 635 yards woolens sold to citizens. The total value of the amount sold was \$2,388,541.

In the assessment rolls we find the following facts: Our own county, Harris, as has been the case for the last six years, is not included, from the returns not being at Austin in time. The heaviest liquor drinking county given is Red River, which pays tax on sale of liquors of \$10,030. Bexar comes next, paying \$7,907. The heaviest tax paying county given is Bexar, paying \$_0,386. Nearly all the heavy tax-paying counties are left blank from failure of Assessors to get in their returns.

The assessment of the Confederate tax gives us more satisfactory data. In this, Harris county paid in taxes \$2,114,432.62. Bexar comes next, paying \$826,837.91, and Cameron county next, \$423,564. The following counties pay over \$800,000 each, viz: Marion, Grimes, McLennan, Travis, Fayette, and Colorado. The following pay over \$200,000 each: DeWitt, Washington, Austin, Fannin, Walker, Rusk, and Harrison. The total amount of the Confederate tax for the State is \$13,768,489.24. This it will be seen falls considerably short of the

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Statistics from the Texas Almanac,
Continued from page 21

wild estimates that have from time to time been made by various writers on the subject. It falls short of our own estimate made last summer, which was \$15,000,000. Others put the figures as high as \$40,000,000. Some additions should however be made, that will run the total to \$14,000,000.

The total of the tithe cotton amounts to 6,066,888 lbs. or 12,132 bales of 500 lbs. to each bale, and this indicates a crop of 1863 of 121,320 bales. Wharton is the heaviest cotton raising county, paying a tithe of 867 bales; Washington comes next, paying 835 bales. Of this 121,320 bales, to which may be added about 45,000 bales from the crop of 1864. There have been exported about 90,000 bales as near as a rough estimate will arrive at.

Harris county paid on money and credits on hand 1st July, 1863, 1 per cent. amounting to 149,468; on agricultural produce on hand July 1st, 1864 8 per cent. 222,938; on profits in 1862, 10 per cent. 18,973; on do in 1863, 165,079; on live stock on hand Nov. 1st, 1863, \$802,506; occupation tax from April 2d, 1863, to July 1st 1864, \$89,760; tax on sales April 1863 to July 1864, \$735,630.

These details may be uninteresting to many readers, and hence we will continue them no further. To some of our readers, however, they will be deemed of no little importance. We give them for what they are worth.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 30, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Soldiers' Home in Houston.

Houston, Dec. 28th, 1864.

Ed. Tel.—Through the kindness of Maj. General Walker and the excellent medical officers of this district, the Houston Hall or Schrimpf's Hotel has been temporarily devoted to the soldiers way-side home in this city.

We hope the committee will be able to open on Saturday next, 31st.

The ladies of the State Central Committee will supervise and manage the Home with A. Sessums, Esq., as their treasurer and commissary to whom all donations in material or money are to be transmitted, and he will personally pledge to the donors that the donations shall be transmitted, that the donations shall be applied to the objects intended to the comfort of the traveling soldier.

The same committee continue "State Central Committee" to aid in sustaining feeble homes in the State, with A. J. Burke, Esq., as their Treasurer, to whom all donations for this *general* work should be forwarded.

To avoid confusion. Note well—Donations for this local Home should be sent to A. Sessums; and for the aid of feeble homes and expenses should be sent to A. J. Burke.

By distinctly stating the object for which gifts are designed, every donor can make it certain that the donations will reach the objects designed.

We now take pleasure in inviting the beloved planters and other friends of the soldiers, to send at once butter, lard, potatoes, corn, bacon, hams, and any vegetables, &c., that can be spared, to A. Sessums, BY EXPRESS.

If the respective Committees at each Railroad Depot, will choose their own agent there, Mr. Sessums will be responsible for whatever shall arrive by Express.

We particularly request Planters on railroad lines to agree together and send a car load of wood, as a large amount will be needed.

Respectfully,

T. Castleton.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, December 30, 1864, p. 3, c. 2

San Antonio, December 9th, 1864.

Ed. Tel.—I saw in your columns to-day an article dated, "Glenblythe, November 30th," and signed "T. A." in which, after stating that "some three or four weeks ago," he had visited San Antonio, etc., he proceeds to give an account of a visit to the Government Tannery, near this place, under the charge of that accomplished and gentlemanly officer, Maj. Washington, Q. M., C. S. A. He, "T. A.," commences by saying that he visited "the now nearly deserted tannery." I would like to know if Mr. T. A. calls a tannery "nearly deserted" which produces some 12,500 pounds of leather per month, equal to about 900 sides of leather—said leather being of all descriptions and of the best quality. He then goes on to say that it is a puzzle to discover why the Tannery was ever located here, where there is neither "labor nor bark." The reason is this, San Antonio being near the frontier, and consequently one of the best places to bring the materials which are used to, (not to speak of its unsurpassed water privileges) was selected by its present superintendent, as the best locality for the tannery which he was sent out to locate. The bean he speaks of is "Cascalote," a native of Mexico, and of itself a most valuable article for tanning, at the tannery it is used with the Japonica, and the leather produced is, as T. A. says, a most excellent article. After a short description of the manner in which the Catechu or Japonica is prepared, he makes a statement which I wish emphatically to contradict, viz: Speaking of tanning with a preparation made of the Mezquit, he says, "But the Superintendent of the Government Tannery told me that they had never been able to produce any good results from its use there. The subject is worthy of discussion." Now, in the first place, at the time he says he was here, the Superintendent of the Tannery was not in San Antonio at all, but on a visit to Brownsville, and did not return till the 26th or 27th ult., and so far as not being able to produce any good results from the use of the Mezquit, it has never been tried at the tannery at all.

Yours, respectfully,

"A. T."

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