48TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT No. 1438.

PENSIONS FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS AND WIDOWS OF SOLDIERS.

APRIL 30, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MATSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 6866.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill H. R. 1189, have had the same under consideration, and report as follows:

The bill provides pensions for all officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines who were taken prisoners of war while in line of duty, and as such confined in so-called Confederate prisons, between the 1st of May, 1861, and the 1st of May, 1865; giving all who were prisoners two months and less than six months $4 per month; all over six months and less than twelve months, $6, and all over twelve months, $8. The original bill provided for rating the officer according to the rate of officer's pension, but this committee found no difficulty in agreeing upon the proposition that this distinction should not obtain, and the bill was amended by a unanimous vote of the committee so as to abolish the officer's rating in this class of cases.

Upon the question of reporting favorably, the bill as amended after the most exhaustive discussion and the most persistent efforts to agree upon some proposition that the whole committee could favor, we regret to say that this committee has not been able to agree, and that a report must be submitted showing a divided committee.

The points of divergence between us seems to be substantially as follows:

Those favoring the bill (1189) insist that it must be assumed that all who were confined as prisoners for two months or more are now, to some extent, disabled. Those opposed to the bill take the position that this cannot be safely assumed, and that some able-bodied men, by virtue of such a law, would be placed upon the pension-rolls. The bill provides a compensation of $2 a day for each and every day's confinement for every surviving prisoner. It is a well-known fact, and admitted upon all sides, that a majority of the surviving prisoners of war are now receiving pensions, and that nearly all of these have received arrears of pension. Those opposed to the provisions of this bill can see no reason for adding to the large sums already received by these persons another large sum in bulk, and thus give to this class greater favor than to those who have been desperately wounded, maimed, or otherwise seriously damaged while in the line of duty outside of prisons. As between the soldiers themselves this would not be right. Who will deny this?

The bill (1189) fails to provide for in any manner the widows or dependent relatives of those who were prisoners of war and who are not

now pensioned. We propose that such widows or dependent relatives shall be pensioned whenever the physician attending such soldier in his last illness shall state under oath that in his opinion the soldier's death was attributable to his imprisonment, or, in case of the death of the attending physician, then secondary evidence of that fact shall be received. Surely it cannot be gainsaid that such persons should not be neglected in a bill which proposes to relieve a class. If legislation strictly partial to a class is to be justified the most meritorious of that class certainly should be pensioned.

We have not been unmindful of the horrible sufferings of those who were confined at Andersonville and a few other Confederate military prisons, nor do we forget, as has been so eloquently and forcibly urged upon us by a committee from the National Ex-prisoners Association, that the policy of a non-exchange of prisoners was one determined upon by our Government for the reason that for every one of our prisoners of war an enemy was kept out from behind their breastworks which our forces must attack, and that thus, by their untold sufferings in prison, they were then rendering valuable service to the cause of the Union. We admit the force of this argument, but can see no reason therein for pensioning those who are not disabled, nor for granting of the bounty of the Government much larger sums in bulk than others who were wounded in battle are able under the law to obtain. Our pension laws should be framed with the idea of doing justice to all soldiers kept carefully in view, and not framed so as to give just cause of complaint to the larger number of soldiers who were not prisoners of war. The people of this country have steadfastly supported Congress in the enactment of liberal pension laws. And this, too, in the face of the notorious fact that in the administration of the law many injustices are done both to the soldiers and to the Government. It is not to be denied that many of the grounds of complaint arise from a state of confusion, inconsistency, and incongruity of the pension laws, and shall we now add to the errors that are admitted to exist, another law under which it is admitted by virtue of the law some of the able-bodied men of one war shall be pensioned and many more of the same war who are not able-bodied left unprovided for. This injustice will result to the larger body of ex-Union soldiers who were not taken prisoners during the late civil war.

The only safe rule is to adhere to the one to which Congress has been so long anchored, to grant pensions to soldiers only upon the ground of disability. It is retorted that heretofore Congress, in giving pensions to the survivors of previous wars, has departed from this rule, and that the act which recently passed the House, and is now pending in the Senate, granting pensions to the survivors of the war with Mexico, is the most flagrant instance of the violation of this rule. It is estimated that the average age of the survivors of that war is now sixty-two years. Such acts as have been passed relating to the survivors of other wars have been placed upon the ground of the lapse of many years after the service to the Government, and the consequent infirmity resulting.

We are willing to give to the survivors of the last war who rendered services to the Government in its hours of most trying danger precisely the same benefits, and for them we propose to go a step farther, viz, that all who are now found to be disabled for the performance of manual labor, which they are compelled to perform, so as to materially interfere with their gaining a subsistence as well as all who are now of the average age of the survivors of the war with Mexico, shall be placed upon the pension-roll. We are also willing to allow to each person who

was confined in any Confederate prison for the space of two months or more, and who has not drawn arrears of pension, the compensation provided for in bill 1189, to wit, $2 per day for each and every day of such confinement, and we herewith report a substitute to meet our views of these matters.

It is not improper to add that the pension committee of the Grand Army of the Republic, the largest organic body of the surviving soldier citizens of the Republic, are in accord with us in all these propositions, as shown by their address to this Congress, from which we quote as follows:

> We are in favor of a bill granting pensions to survivors of rebel prisons who are suffering from disability, without compelling them to prove that such disability arose from said imprisonment.
>
> We also favor giving pensions to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who are now disabled, and are dependent upon their own labor for support, or are sixty-five years of age, without compelling them to prove at this date that such disability actually arose from the service.

The substitute we present covers the recommendations of this organization, representing, as it does, a membership of 220,000 of the ex-Union soldiers of the late civil war. And, we may add, this substitute meets the views of our present able, indefatigable, and successful Commissioner of Pensions, who from the very necessities of his position has given the whole question of pensions the most careful study, and brings to the consideration of it an intelligent judgment and the most kindly feeling for his late comrades in the civil war.

We further believe that the people of our whole country will approve the provisions of this substituted bill and that it will be accepted by them as based upon the right principle of doing justice to the disabled soldier who has served his country faithfully and well.

PENSIONS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR AND THEIR WIDOWS.

APRIL 30, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HOLMES, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

VIEWS OF THE MINORITY:*

[To accompany bill H. R. 1189.]

A BILL for pensioning prisoners of war who were confined in Confederate military prisons during the late war.

Whereas many officers, soldiers, and sailors of the Federal Army and Navy were confined in so-called Confederate prisons for an unusual length of time, suffering great hardships and contracting disease hard to prove under existing pension laws: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll the names of such officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines, who, while in the service of the United States and while in the line of their duty, were taken prisoners of war, and as such confined in so-called Confederate prisons, between the 1st of May, 1861, and the 1st of May, 1865, as follows: All who were prisoners of war two months and less than six months, one-half pension; those who were prisoners of war six months and less than twelve months, three-fourths pension; and all such as were prisoners of war twelve months and more than twelve months, a total pension. And, furthermore, such surviving prisoners of war shall receive two dollars a day for each and every day's confinement in said Confederate military prisons: *Provided*, That such pension shall in each case begin from the date of the passage of this act, and shall be paid at the same time and in the same manner as other pensions are now paid: *And provided further*, That this act shall not entitle any person to draw more than one pension, but that such survivors of the so-called Confederate military prisons as are entitled and are receiving a pension at the time of the passage of this act shall be entitled to the increase of their pension which this act may grant them.

The members of the Committee on Invalid Pensions presenting this report cannot accept the conclusions and action of the official majority. The services and sufferings of the men named as beneficiaries in this bill are too great to be subordinated in a courtesy to the majority—too intimately connected with the preservation of our national life to be ignored. In thus dissenting from the views of the majority we shall attempt to present some pertinent reasons for supporting the bill under

* The records of the Committee on Invalid Pensions show the undersigned to be in a minority, owing to absence of some members of the committee when the bill under consideration was acted upon.

The fact is shown, however, upon an expression by all the members of the committee, that the within views supporting the bill H. R. 1189 as amended, known as the Robinson bill, meet the con urrence of a majority of the whole committee. The body of this report has been prepared upon the theory that it would be a minority report. This explanation of the reports presented and the standing of the committee is deemed but just to the committee and to the House.

consideration. We premise by stating that Union prisoners confined in Confederate prisons underwent greater deprivations and suffered incomparably more in loss of health and life than they would have done had they been in active service in the field.

The further proposition that the surviving prisoners embraced in the provisions of this bill are disabled as a class cannot, we think, be successfully controverted.

The claim made by the majority that there may be an occasional individual coming under the provisions of this bill who has not lost his health wholly or in part, even if true (which we do not concede), does not affect the proposition that they are disabled as a class; even exceptions would but prove the rule.

It is to be regretted that the partial relief provided in this bill could not have been granted without serious opposition, and if in this report unpleasant allusions are made to matters of history, we do not feel responsible for the necessity that calls them forth.

The great army of men who made the history of Andersonville, Florence, Belle Isle, Salisbury, and other Southern prison pens have for the most part passed beyond the sound of the "recall." They endured famine, disease, and death in all its horrible forms, and repelled with patriotism offers of release if they would desert their country.

Fortunately, the facts that support the justice of this bill have been long established in the most solemn manner known to the law.

The number of graves of Union prisoners, as ascertained at the different Southern prisons, was 36,401, but this estimate does not include those who died in prison and of whom no record was kept, and whose graves were not marked, nor of those who died while being transferred from prison to prison, nor of those dying on their way home or immediately after their arrival there, nor of those dying in hospital after exchange, which, from the most reliable data, swells the total number of deaths from confinement in Southern prisons to 60,000—a vast body of men, indeed, to remove by cruelty and systematic murder.

It will be noted that by the provisions of the bill only those who were taken prisoners while in the line of duty are entitled to the relief provided, nor is any such survivor of military prisons entitled to draw more than one pension.

The bill is so equitable in its general provisions, and indeed so fully within what might in justice be asked by these surviving prisoners, that if they are entitled to anything whatever it could not reasonably be a less sum than is here provided.

The necessity of fixing some minimum term of imprisonment that would be reasonable seems as justly met by the terms of the bill as it is practicable to do. It would be perhaps impossible to frame any pension law that would do exact justice to every pensioner—one not open to criticism; but the present bill, with the suggestions herein presented, is, we believe, as happy an approximation as can be devised for the degree of relief extended.

In this connection it is proper to determine the degree of hardships endured and the treatment received by those imprisoned; also, whether prisoners of war coming within the provisions of this bill are as a class disabled by reason of their imprisonment. To that end we will consider—

1st. The treatment of Union soldiers while prisoners, and their condition when released from confinement.

2d. The mortality statistics relating to them during captivity and subsequently.

The treatment of Union prisoners by the rebel authorities must, in the light of history, be considered the most cruel and inhuman known among civilized people in modern times. In support of this, we are not compelled to rely upon the evidence of the sufferers or their friends.

We first quote extracts from the official report of Joseph Jones, M. D., professor of medical chemistry in the Medical College of Georgia, at Augusta, who made a thorough inspection of Andersonville prison under instructions from the surgeon-general of the so-called Confederate States. He says:

Scurvy, diarrhea, dysentery, and hospital gangrene were the prevailing diseases. I was surprised to find but few cases of malarial fever, and no well-marked cases either of typhus or typhoid fever. The absence of the different forms of malarial fever may be accounted for in the supposition that the artificial atmosphere of the stockade, crowded densely with human beings and loaded with animal exhalations, was unfavorable to the existence and action of the malarial poison. The absence of typhoid and typhus fevers among all the causes which are supposed to generate these diseases, appear to be due to the fact that the great majority of these prisoners had been in captivity in Virginia, at Belle Island, and in other parts of the Confederacy for months, and even as long as two years, and during this time they had been subjected to the same bad influences, and those who had not had these fevers before, either had them during their confinement in Confederate prisons, or else their systems, from long exposure, were proof against their action.

The effects of scurvy were manifested on every hand, and in all its various stages, from the muddy, pale complexion, pale gums, feeble, languid muscular motions, lowness of spirits, and fetid breath, to the dusky, dirty, leaden complexion, swollen features, spongy, purple, livid, fungoid, bleeding gums, loose teeth, œdematus limbs covered with livid vibices, and petechiæ, spasmodically flexed, painful and hardened extremities, spontaneous hemorrhages from mucous canals, and large ill-conditioned spreading ulcers covered with a dark purplish fungous growth. I observed that in some of the cases of scurvy the parotid glands were greatly swollen, and in some instances to such an extent as to preclude entirely the power to articulate. In several cases of dropsy of the abdomen and lower extremities, supervening upon scurvy, the patients affirmed that previous to the appearance of the dropsy they had suffered with profuse and obstinate diarrhea, and that when this was checked by a change of diet, from Indian corn-bread baked with the husk, to boiled rice, the dropsy appeared. The severe pains and livid patches were frequently associated with swellings in various parts, and especially in the lower extremities, accompanied with stiffness and contractions of the knee joints and ankles, and often with a brawny feel of the parts, as if lymph had been effused between the integuments and aponeuroses, preventing the motion of the skin over the swollen parts. Many of the prisoners believed that the scurvy was contagious, and I saw men guarding their wells and springs, fearing lest some man suffering with the scurvy might use the water and thus poison them. I observed also numerous cases of hospital gangrene and of spreading scorbutic ulcers, which had supervened upon slight injuries. The scorbutic ulcers presented a dark, purple, fungoid, elevated surface, with livid swollen edges, and exuded a thin, fetid, sanious fluid instead of pus. Many ulcers which originated from the scorbutic condition of the system appeared to become truly gangrenous, assuming all the characteristics of hospital gangrene. From the crowded condition, filthy habits, bad diet, and dejected, depressed condition of the prisoners, their systems had become so disordered that the smallest abrasion of the skin from the rubbing of a shoe, or from the effects of the sun, or from the prick of a splinter, or from scratching, or a mosquito bite in some cases, took on rapid and frightful ulceration and gangrene. The long use of salt meat, ofttimes imperfectly cured, as well as the almost total deprivation of vegetables and fruit, appeared to be the chief causes of the scurvy. I carefully examined the bakery and the bread furnished the prisoners, and found that they were supplied almost entirely with corn-bread from which the husk had not been separated. This husk acted as an irritant to the alimentary canal, without adding any nutriment to the bread. As far as my examination extended, no fault could be found with the mode in which the bread was baked; the difficulty lay in the failure to separate the husk from the corn-meal. I strongly urged the preparation of large quantities of soup made from the cow and calves' heads with the brains and tongues, to which a liberal supply of sweet potatoes and vegetables might have been advantageously added. The materials existed in abundance for the preparation of such soup in large quantities with but little additional expense. Such aliment would have been not only highly nutritious, but it would also have acted as an efficient remedial agent for the removal of the scorbutic condition. The sick within the stockade lay under several long sheds, which were originally built for barracks. These sheds covered two floors, which were open on all

sides. The sick lay upon the bare boards, or upon such ragged blankets as they possessed, without, as far as I observed, any bedding or even straw. Pits for the reception of feces were dug within a few feet of the lower floor, and they were almost never unoccupied by those suffering with diarrhea. The haggard, distressed countenances of these miserable, complaining, dejected, living skeletons, crying for medical aid and food, and cursing their Government for its refusal to exchange prisoners, and the ghastly corpses, with their glazed eye-balls staring up into vacant space, with the flies swarming down their open and grinning mouths, and over their ragged clothes, infested with numerous lice, as they lay among the sick and dying, formed a picture of helpless, hopeless misery which it would be impossible to portray by words or by the brush.

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The patients and attendants, near two thousand in number, are crowded into this confined space, and are but poorly supplied with old and ragged tents. Large numbers of them were without any bunks in the tents, and lay upon the ground, oftimes without even a blanket. No beds or straw appeared to have been furnished. The tents extend to within a few yards of the small stream, the eastern portion of which, as we have before said, is used as a privy and is loaded with excrements; and I observed a large pile of corn bread, bones, and filth of all kinds, thirty feet in diameter, and several feet in height, swarming with myriads of flies, in a vacant space near the pots used for cooking. Millions of flies swarmed over everything and covered the faces of the sleeping patients, and crawled down their open mouths, and deposited their maggots in the gangrenous wounds of the living, and in the mouths of the dead. Mosquitoes in great numbers also infested the tents, and many of the patients were so stung by these pestiferous insects that they resembled those suffering with a slight attack of the measles.

The police and hygiene of the hospital was defective in the extreme; the attendants, who appeared in almost every instance to have been selected from the prisoners, seemed to have in many cases but little interest in the welfare of their fellow-captives. The accusation was made that the nurses in many cases robbed the sick of their clothing, money, and rations, and carried on a clandestine trade with the paroled prisoners and Confederate guards without the hospital inclosure in the clothing and effects of the sick, dying, and dead Federals. They certainly appeared to neglect the comfort and cleanliness of the sick intrusted to their care, in a most shameful manner, even after making due allowances for the difficulties of the situation. Many of the sick were literally incrusted with dirt and filth, and covered with vermin. When a gangrenous wound needed washing, the limb was thrust out a little from the blanket, or board, or rags upon which the patient was lying, and water poured over it, and all the putrescent matter allowed to soak into the ground floor of the tent. The supply of rags for dressing wounds was said to be very scant, and I saw the most filthy rags which had been applied several times, and imperfectly washed, used in dressing recent wounds. Where hospital gangrene was prevailing, it was impossible for any wound to escape contaigion under these circumstances. The results of the treatment of wounds in the hospital were of the most unsatisfactory character, from this neglect of cleanliness in the dressings and wounds themselves, as well as from various other causes which will be more fully considered. I saw several gangrenous wounds filled with maggots.

The air of the tents was foul and disagreeable in the extreme, and, in fact, the entire grounds emitted a most nauseous and disgusting smell. I entered nearly all the tents and carefully examined the cases of interest, and especially the cases of gangrene, upon numerous occasions, during the prosecution of my pathological inquiries at Andersonville, and therefore enjoyed every opportunity to judge correctly of the hygiene and police of the hospital.

There appeared to be almost absolute indifference and neglect on the part of the patients of personal cleanliness; their persons and clothing in most instances, and especially those suffering with gangrene and scorbutic ulcers, were filthy in the extreme and covered with vermin. It was too often the case that patients were received from the stockade in a most deplorable condition. I have seen men brought in from the stockade in a dying condition, begrimed from head to foot with their own excrements, and so black from smoke and filth that they resembled negroes rather than white men. That this description of the stockade and hospital has not been overdrawn will appear from the reports of the surgeons in charge appended to this report.

I have drawn up for the consideration of the surgeon-general and the use of the medical department of the Confederate States the following tables, giving a consolidated view of the diseases of the Federal prisoners confined at Andersonville, and also of the Confederate forces acting as a guard around the stockade and hospital:

CONCLUSIONS.

1. The great mortality among the Federal prisoners confined in the military prison at Andersonville was not referable to climatic causes, or to the nature of the soil and waters.

2. The chief causes of death were scurvy and its results and bowel affections—chronic

and acute diarrhea and dysentery. The bowel affections appear to have been due to the diet, the habits of the patients, the depressed, dejected state of the nervous system and moral and intellectual powers, and to the effluvia arising from the decomposing animal and vegetable filth. The effects of salt meat, and an unvarying diet of corn-meal, with but few vegetables, and imperfect supplies of vinegar and sirup, were manifested in the great prevalence of scurvy. This disease, without doubt, was also influenced to an important extent in its origin and course by the foul animal emanations.

3. From the sameness of the food, and from the action of the poisonous gases in the densely crowded and filthy stockade and hospital, the blood was altered in its constitution, even before the manifestation of actual disease. In both the well and the sick the red corpuscles were diminished ; and in all diseases uncomplicated with inflammation the fibrous element was deficient. In cases of ulceration of the mucus membrane of the intestinal canal, the fibrous element of the blood was increased ; while in simple diarrhea, uncomplicated with ulceration, it was either diminished or else remained stationary. Heart clots were very common, if not universally present in the cases of ulceration of the intestinal mucus membrane, while in the uncomplicated cases of diarrhea and scurvy, the blood was fluid, and did not coagulate readily, and the heart clots and fibrous concretions were almost universally absent. From the watery condition of the blood there resulted various serous effusions into the pericardium, ventricles of the brain, and into the abdomen. In almost all the cases which I examined after death, even the most emaciated, there was more or less serous effusion into the abdominal cavity. In cases of hospital gangrene of the extremities, and in cases of gangrene of the intestines, heart clots and fibrous coagula were universally present. The presence of those clots in the cases of hospital gangrene, while they were absent in the cases in which there was no inflammatory symptoms, sustains the conclusion that hospital gangrene is a species of inflammation, imperfect and irregular though it may be in its progress, in which the fibrous element and coagulation of the blood are increased, even in those who are suffering from such a condition of the blood, and from such diseases as are naturally accompanied with a decrease in the fibrous constituent.

4. The fact that hospital gangrene appeared in the stockade first and originated spontaneously without any previous contagion, and occurred sporadically all over the stockade and prison hospital, was proof positive that this disease will arise whenever the condition of crowding, filth, foul air, and bad diet are present. The exhalations from the hospital and stockade appeared to exert their effects to a considerable distance outside of these localities. The origin of hospital gangrene among these prisoners appeared clearly to depend in great measure upon the state of the general system induced by diet, and various external noxious influences. The rapidity of the appearance and action of the gangrene depended upon the powers and state of the constitution, as well as upon the intensity of the poison in the atmosphere, or upon the direct application of poisonous matter to the wounded surface. This was further illustrated by the important fact that hospital gangrene, or a disease resembling it in all essential respects, attacked the intestinal canal of patients laboring under ulceration of the bowels, although there were no local manifestations of gangrene upon the surface of the body. This mode of termination in cases of dysentery was quite common in the foul atmosphere of the Confederate States military hospital, in the depressed, depraved condition of the system of these Federal prisoners.

5. A scorbutic condition of the system appeared to favor the origin of foul ulcers, which frequently took on true hospital gangrene. Scurvy and hospital gangrene frequently existed in the same individual. In such cases, vegetable diet, with vegetable acids, would remove the scorbutic condition without curing the hospital gangrene. From the results of the existing war for the establishment of the independence of the Confederate States, as well as from the published observations of Dr. Trotter, Sir Gilbert Blane, and others of the English navy and army, it is evident that the scorbutic condition of the system, especially in crowded ships and camps, is most favorable to the origin and spread of foul ulcers and hospital gangrene. As in the present case of Andersonville, so also in past times when medical hygiene was almost entirely neglected, those two diseases were almost universally associated in crowded ships. In many cases it was very difficult to decide at first whether the ulcer was a simple result of scurvy or of the action of the prison or hospital gangrene, for there was a great similarity in the appearance of the ulcers in the two diseases. So commonly have those two diseases been combined in their origin and action, that the description of scorbutic ulcers, by many authors, evidently includes also many of the prominent characteristics of hospital gangrene. This will be rendered evident by an examination of the observations of Dr. Lind and Sir Gilbert Blane upon scorbutic ulcers.

6. Gangrenous spots, followed by rapid destruction of tissue, appeared in some cases where there had been no known wound. Without such well-established facts, it might be assumed that the disease was propagated from one patient to another. In such a filthy and crowded hospital as that of the Confederate States military prison at Andersonville, it was impossible to isolate the wounded from the sources of actual contact

of the gangrenous matter. The flies swarming over the wounds and over filth of every kind, the filthy, imperfectly washed, and scanty supplies of rags, and the limited supply of washing utensils, the same wash-bowl serving for scores of patients, were sources of such constant circulation of the gangrenous matter that the disease might rapidly spread from a single gangrenous wound. The fact already stated, that a form of moist gangrene, resembling hospital gangrene, was quite common in this foul atmosphere, in cases of dysentery, both with and without the existence of the disease upon the entire surface, not only demonstrates the dependence of the disease upon the state of the constitution, but proves in the clearest manner that neither the contact of the poisonous matter of gangrene, nor the direct action of the poisonous atmosphere upon the ulcerated surface, is necessary to the development of the disease.

7. In this foul atmosphere amputation did not arrest hospital gangrene; the disease almost invariably returned. Almost every amputation was followed finally by death, either from the effects of gangrene or from the prevailing diarrhea and dysentery. Nitric acid and escharotics generally, in this crowded atmosphere, loaded with noxious effluvia, exerted only temporary effects. After their application to the diseased surfaces, the gangrene would frequently return with redoubled energy; and even after the gangrene had been completely removed by local and constitutional treatment, it would frequently return and destroy the patient. As far as my observation extended, very few of the cases of amputation for gangrene recovered. The progress of these cases was frequently very deceptive. I have observed after death the most extensive disorganization of the structures of the stump, when during life there was but little swelling of the part, and the patient was apparently doing well. I endeavored to impress upon the medical officers the view that in this disease treatment was almost useless without an abundant supply of pure, fresh air, nutritious food, and tonics and stimulants. Such changes, however, as would allow of the isolation of the cases of hospital gangrene appeared to be out of the power of the medical officers.

8. The gangrenous mass was without true pus, and consisted chiefly of broken down, disorganized structures. The reaction of the gangrenous matter in certain stages was alkaline.

9. The best, and in truth the only, means of protecting large armies and navies, as well as prisoners, from the ravages of hospital gangrene, is to furnish liberal supplies of well-cured meat, together with fresh beef and vegetables, and to enforce a rigid system of hygiene.

10. Finally, this gigantic mass of human misery calls loudly for relief, not only for the sake of suffering humanity, but also on account of our own brave soldiers now captives in the hands of the Federal Government. Strict justice to the gallant men of the Confederate armies, who have been, or who may be, so unfortunate as to be compelled to surrender in battle, demands that the Confederate Government should adopt that course which will best secure their health and comfort in captivity; or at least leave their enemies without a shadow of an excuse for any violation of the rules of civilized warfare in the treatment of prisoners.

John C. Bates, acting assistant surgeon under the rebel authorities at Andersonville prison, testified as follows on the trial of Wirz:

THE CONDITION OF THE PRISONERS IN THE HOSPITAL.

I reported to Dr. Stevenson, who assigned me to the third division of the military prison hospital, under Dr. Sheppard; I was assigned to the fifteenth ward, as then designated.

Upon going to the hospital I went immediately to the ward to which I was assigned, and, although I am not an over-sensitive man, I must confess I was rather shocked at the appearance of things. The men were lying partially nude and dying and lousy, a portion of them in the sand and others upon boards which had been stuck up on little props; pretty well crowded together, a majority of them in small tents, looking to be tents that were not very serviceable at best. I went round and examined all that were placed in my charge. That was the condition of the men. By and by, as I became familiarized with the condition of affairs, the impressions which were at first produced upon me wore off more or less. I became familiar with scenes of misery, and they did not affect me so much. I inquired into the rations of the men; I felt disposed to do my duty; and after the men found that I was inclined to aid them so far as I could in my sphere of action, they frequently asked me for a teaspoonful of salt, or an order for a little siftings that came out of the meal. I would ask them what they wanted the siftings for; some of them wished them to make some bread. I would inquire into the state of their disease, and if what they asked for would injure them, I would not allow them to have it. I would give them an order for sifted meal where I found that the condition of the patient required something better than siftings. They would come at times in considerable numbers to get these little orders

for an extra ration, or if not a ration whatever portion they could get. I spent a considerable portion of my time in writing orders, and I did it very laconically. I had three words that constituted a *bona fide* order, which should be respected by the head cook or baker. We commonly called him Bob—his name was Allen; he was from Illinois. The order would read in this way: "Bob—meal—Bates." If any more words were attached to it, it was not a genuine order. I used that discrimination in order to favor the sickest of them, so that they might get what they could, at the expense, perhaps, of those who could get along better without it. These orders were constantly applied for, and I would sign them till my patience was almost worn out. The meat ration was cooked at a different part of the hospital; and when I would go up there, especially when I was medical officer of the day, the men would gather around me and ask me for a bone. I would grant their request so far as I saw bones. I would give them whatever I could find at my disposition without robbing others. I well knew that an appropriation of one ration took it from the general issue; that when I appropriated an extra ration to one man, some one else would fall minus upon that ration. I then fell back upon the distribution of bones. They did not presume to ask me for meat at all. So far as rations are concerned, that is about the way matters went along for some time after I went there.

Clothing we had none; they could not be furnished with any clothing, except that the clothing of the dead was generally appropriated to the living. We thus helped the living along as well as we could.

Of vermin or lice there was a very prolific crop there. I got to understand practically the meaning of the term "lousy"; I would generally find some upon myself after retiring to my quarters; they were so numerous that it was impossible for a surgeon to enter the hospital without having some upon him when he came out, if he touched anybody or anything save the ground, and very often if he merely stood still any considerable length of time he would get them upon him.

When I went to the hospital I found the men destitute of clothing and bedding; there was a partial supply of fuel, but not sufficient to keep the men warm and prolong their existence. Shortly after I arrived there I was appointed officer of the day. I learned that the officer of the day was in supreme command of all pertaining to the hospital, and that it was my duty as such to go into the various wards and divisions of the hospital and rectify anything that needed to be cared for. In visiting the hospital I made a pretty thorough examination. As a general thing the patients were destitute; they were filthy and partly naked. There seemed to be a disposition only to get something to eat. The clamor all the while was for something to eat. They asked me for orders for this, that, and the other—peas or rice, or salt, or beef tea, or a potato, or a biscuit, or a piece of corn-bread, or siftings, or meal.

Medicines were scarce; we could not get what we wished. We drew upon the indigenous remedies; they did not seem to answer. We gathered up large quantities of them, but very few served for medicines as we wished. We wanted the best and most powerful anti-scorbutics, as well as something that was soothing and healing, especially to the lining membrane of the alimentary canal, and such things as were calculated to counteract a dropsical disposition and a gangrenous infection. Those were prominent things in the hospital. We had not at all times the proper remedies to administer, and the indigenous remedies did not serve us, and could not serve us in those complaints. We were obliged to do the best we could.

There was in my ward a boy of fifteen or sixteen years, in whom I felt a particular interest. My attention was more immediately called to him from his youth, and he appealed to me in such a way that I could not well avoid heeding him. He would often ask me to bring him a potato, a piece of bread, a biscuit, or something of that kind, which I did; I would put them in my pocket and give them to him. I would sometimes give him a raw potato, and as he had the scurvy and also gangrene, I would advise him not to cook the potato at all, but to eat it raw as an anti-scorbutic. I supplied him in that way for some time, but I could not give him a sufficiency. He became bedridden upon the hips and back, lying upon the ground; we afterward got him some straw. Those bedridden sores had become gangrenous. He became more and more emaciated until he died. The lice, the want of bed and bedding, of fuel and food, were the cause of his death.

I was a little shy. I did not know that I was allowed to take such things to the patient; and I had been so often arrested that I thought it necessary to be a little shy in what I did, and kept it to myself. I would put a potato in my pocket and would turn around and let it drop to this man or others. I did not wish to be observed by anybody. When I first went there I understood that it was positively against the orders to take anything in.

I can speak of other cases among the patients; two or three others in my ward were in the same condition, and there were others who came to their death from the bad condition of things and the lack of necessary supplies. That is my professional opinion.

I had occasion to visit the entire hospital occasionally, and, so far as I saw, its con-

dition was generally the same as I have been describing. At the time I went there, I think, from the best observations I could make, there were perhaps 2,000 or 2,500 sick in that hospital.

We had cases of chilblains or frost-bitten feet. Most generally, in addition to what was said to be frost-bite, there was gangrene. I did not see the sores in the original chilblains. I do not think I can say if there were any amputations or any deaths resulting from sufferings of that character, not having charged my mind as to whether the amputations were in consequence of chilblains, or because, from accidental abrading of the surface, gangrene set in. But for a while amputations were practiced in the hospital almost daily, arising from a gangrenous and scorbutic condition, which, in many cases, threatened the saturation of the whole system with this gangrenous or offensive matter, unless the limb was amputated. In cases of amputation of that sort it would sometimes become necessary to reamputate, from gangrene taking hold of the stump again. Some few successful amputations were made. I recollect two or three which were successful. I kept no statistics; those were kept by the prescription clerks and forwarded to headquarters. I did not think at the time that the surgeon-in-chief did all in his power to relieve the condition of those men, and I made my report accordingly.

In visiting the wards in the morning I would find persons lying dead; sometimes I would find them lying among the living. I recollect on one occasion telling my steward to go and wake up a certain one, and when I went myself to wake him up he was taking his everlasting sleep. That occurred in another man's ward, when I was officer of the day. Upon several occasions, on going into my own wards, I found men whom we did not expect to die dead from the sensation of chilblains produced during the night. This was in the hospital. I was not so well acquainted with how it was in the stockade. I judge though, from what I saw, that numbers suffered in the same way there.

The effect of scurvy upon the systems of the men as it developed itself there was the next thing to rottenness. Their limbs would become drawn up. It would manifest itself constitutionally. It would draw them up. They would go on crutches sideways, or crawl upon their hands and knees, or on their haunches and feet, as well as they could. Some could not eat unless it was something that needed no mastication. Sometimes they would be furnished beef tea or boiled rice or such things as those would be given them, but not to the extent which I would like to see. In some cases they could not eat corn-bread; their teeth would be loose and their gums all bleeding. I have known cases of that kind. I do not speak of it as a general thing. They would ask me to interest myself and get them something which they could swallow without subjecting them to so much pain in mastication. It seems to me I did express my professional opinion that men died because they could not eat the rations they got.

I cannot state what proportion of the men in whose cases it became necessary to amputate from gangrenous wounds, and also to reamputate from the same cause, recovered. Never having charged my mind on the subject, and not expecting to be called upon in such a capacity, I cannot give an approximate opinion which I would deem reliable. In 1864 amputations from that cause occurred very frequently indeed; during the short time in 1865 that I was there amputations were not frequent.

I cannot state with any certainty the proportion of prisoners treated in the hospital who recovered and were sent back to the stockade. There were clerks appointed to keep all those accounts, and I tried to confine myself strictly to my own duty, and did not interest myself in any statistical enumeration of facts or data.

The prisoners in the stockade and hospital were not very well protected from the rain; only by their own meager means, their blankets, holes in the earth, and such things. In the spring of 1865, when I was in the stockade, I saw a shed 30 feet wide and 60 feet long—the sick principally were in that. They were in about the same condition as those in the hospital. As to the prisoners generally, their only means of shelter from the sun and rain were their blankets, if they had carried any along with them. I regarded that lack of shelter as a source of disease.

THE ATTENDANTS AT THE HOSPITAL.

The attendants at the hospital were men from the ranks of the prisoners themselves; that is, the attendants, nurses, stewards, clerks, bakers, litter-bearers, water-carriers, police, and all such officers. Confederate sergeants called the rolls of the sick and of the attendants. The man that I spoke of as being bucked was W. W. Crooker; he was a Federal prisoner there; as well as I recollect he was chief clerk of what constituted the old division of the hospital. His headquarters were in my ward.

Q. Describe what kind of exhalations or odors arose from that prison.—A. There are two kinds of miasma laid down by medical writers: the *kino* and the *ideo;* one consists of the exhalations from the human body in a state of disease, and the other of

exhalations from vegetable decompositions and saturations generally. There were both kinds there. The miasmatic effluvia emanating from the hospital was very potent and offensive indeed.

Q. In what way would it affect the healthy?—A. If I had a scratch upon my hand—if the skin was broken or abraded in the least—I did not venture to go into the hospital without protecting it with adhesive plaster. I saw several sores originating from the infection of the gangrenous effluvia saturating the atmosphere. For this reason we were all very cautious. If a prisoner whose system was reduced by inanition, which would invite and develop disease, should chance to stump his toe (some of them were barefooted) or scratch his hand, almost invariably the next report to me, so far as my charge was concerned, was gangrene, so potent was the influence of the real regular-built hospital gangrene. If any one of the boys hurt himself in any way, he took particular pains to have the matter attended to as soon as possible, for they were all very apprehensive in reference to gangrene.

Q. Did the same state of things exist in the stockade?—A. I thought when I was in there that the effluvia was worse in the stockade than in the hospital. In the stockade the men were more thickly huddled together, like ants, or bees, or something of that kind. It was a hard matter to get through them. I found some of the prisoners inside the stockade tolerably well clad. Those that I saw moving round looked to be clad in the usual uniform of the United States. Those that were able to help themselves seemed to be clad tolerably well. Those that were unable to help themselves were not clad so well. Some were without blouses or anything of the kind. I was there during the winter of 1864–'65—not all the time, however. I think I went into the stockade in January, 1865, or thereabouts. I went in to make personal observations—to look around. At that time all the men were confined on the south side of the stream that passed through the stockade. They were huddled together very thickly. We had some pretty cold weather for Georgia during that winter; once or twice, I think, I saw ice; it was thin, perhaps. We never have much ice there. I do not know the prisoners were so crowded on the south side of the stream. I only know the fact existed. Those who wanted to go to the hospital were all permitted to go to the other side and report at the barracks, there to undergo this discrimination: Those that were refused admission to the hospital were ordered back to the south side of the branch and kept there.

THE SUPPLY OF WOOD.

Immediately upon the west side of the stockade, and between there and the depot, there was timber scattered; on the north side, beyond the cook-house a little, there was plenty of timber; on the south side plenty had been cut in logs and lay there, and down by the hospital there was plenty. That is a woody country, and there was plenty of wood within a mile. It was fine timber and could have been made into shingles or clapboards. I did not see any of it used to make shelter for the prisoners. A set of sheds were being erected there, as represented on the diagram, outside of the stockade and the hospital. They were in course of erection at the time of the abandonment of the place. No patients had ever been put in them. I regret to say that the supply of wood was not sufficient to keep the prisoners from what we term freezing to death. They would not, perhaps, actually freeze to death, but a patient whose blood is thin, and his system worn down, is very susceptible to the influence of cold. In the absence of sufficient food, sufficient stimulus, and especially in the absence of fuel, many of the patients (I speak now of what I saw in my own ward) would, during the night, become so chilled that in the morning, passing round, I would remark to my steward, "Last night did the work for that poor fellow; he will die;" or, "This one will die; I cannot resuscitate him with the means in my hands, his system is so reduced." Lying upon the ground during those chilly nights (the weather was not freezing, but sufficient to thoroughly chill the whole system) the patient would reach a condition in which resuscitation was a matter of impossibility after he commenced going down hill from this exposure. I have seen a number die in that way.

In my judgment there was sufficient timber growing in the vicinity to supply fuel for cooking and for keeping the prisoners warm, and also to furnish shelter for them. I frequently made observation while there, that there was plenty of wood to supply every demand—shingles, boards, logs to make huts, and plenty for fuel. That is a woody country; the wood is pine wood. I judged that it could be made into boards and rails from the fact that they were pretty plenty there, and from the fact that I saw the boys splitting boards for the new hospital shed that was going up. There was no deficiency of wood.

Lieut. Col. D. T. Chandler, inspector-general for the Confederacy, testifying before the committee appointed to investigate the treatment of prisoners of war, says:

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CHANDLER'S INSPECTION OF THE PRISON—ITS CONDITION—GENERAL WINDER'S BITTERNESS TOWARD THE PRISONERS—HIS FAILURE TO ALLEVIATE THEIR SUFFERINGS, ETC.

D. T. CHANDLER:

I was in the service of the Confederate Government from February, 1863, until the close of the war. I held the appointment of lieutenant-colonel in the adjutant-general's department, and latterly was assigned to duty as inspector-general. I was the officer who made the report signed "D. T. Chandler," which was read to the court yesterday. I have no retraction whatever to make in regard to the condition of the prison at Andersonville, as represented in my report. I devoted about a week, something less than a week, to an inspection of that place. The report was based upon information conveyed to me in official communications from General Winder and the officers of his staff, inspection of the books and papers, the records of the different offices of that post, and actual inspection of the troops, the stockade, and the hospital. I will further state that I had some conversation with the prisoners in the stockade. I noticed that General Winder seemed very indifferent to the welfare of the prisoners, indisposed to do anything, or to do as much as I thought he ought to do, to alleviate their sufferings. I remonstrated with him as well as I could, and he used that language which I reported to the department with reference to it, the language stated in that report.

Q. What particular language do you allude to?—A. When I spoke of that great mortality existing among the prisoners, and pointed out to him that the sickly season was coming on, and that it must necessarily increase unless something was done for their relief—the swamp, for instance, drained, proper food furnished them, and in better quantity, and other sanitary suggestions which I made to him—he replied to me that he thought it was better to let half of them die than to take care of the men. I would like to state to the court that before he used this language to me my assistant, who was with me, Major Hall, had reported to me that he had used similar language to him, made use of similar expressions. I mention this to show the court that I am not mistaken; that my recollection is clear. My assistant, Major Hall, had reported to me officially that General Winder had used this language in conversation with him about the prisoners. I told him I thought it incredible; that he must be mistaken. He told me no; that he had not only said it once, but twice, and, as I have stated, he subsequently made use of this expression to me.

I spoke to Capt. R. B. Winder relative to the affairs of this department, and examined his books. (To the court.) He was quartermaster. I looked into his means of transportation; saw what he was doing in the way of erecting a bake-house or furnishing facilities to Captain Wirz to do so. I talked with him officially about the affairs of his department, and he made known his wants to me, the difficulties under which he labored, and showed me the efforts which he had made to procure transportation and other supplies; he showed me his letter-book, with the requisitions in it. He was not the son of General Winder—I believe his cousin. W. S. Winder is the general's son.

Q. In your report you also speak of a great many things which might have been done and were not done, and censured General Winder for that reason. Will you state what it was in the power of General Winder at that time to do to alleviate the sufferings of the prisoners?—A. Shortly after my arrival at Andersonville I rode round the stockade and examined the swamp formed by the stream which flowed through the sinks. It was very offensive, and I requested General Winder to have an examination made, with a view to draining it. At my suggestion he detailed Colonel Harpie, I think, a civil engineer by profession, and directed him to make the examination and report. He did so, with a plat showing a stream a few hundred yards off on lower ground, by which the place might have been easily drained. That would have materially improved the condition of the prisoners as to health. I think more wood might have been furnished. I could have done it with the same transportation, and if nothing else could have been done I would have turned the prisoners out, with troops to guard them, and made them bring it in on their shoulders; and I should have removed the cook-house a great deal earlier than it was done, from the stream on which it stood, and placed it where it subsequently was removed and where they were about removing it then, on another stream in the vicinity, that did not flow through the stockade. I think the commissary might have been compelled to purchase some green corn. That might have been had in limited quantities, I think, from consultation with the officers there. I saw plenty of it, and cabbages in limited quantities might have been had. There was no way of constructing rude shelters; I don't think it could have been done. There was not room to construct them. They had a plan, and were trying to get lumber to put up barracks, but the difficulties they labored under were so great they could not get it. In the crowded condition of the place I don't think there was room for them to put up much shelter. I made an estimate in my report that, exclusive of the swamp and streets, &c., there was left about six square feet to a man, I think

That estimate was based upon a sketch furnished me by the engineer corps at my request. I calculated the area they laid down, and divided it by the number of prisoners. I mean six square feet, not six feet square. That was the calculation I made. The report itself will show if it is correct; it gives the area and number of prisoners. I may be mistaken in my calculation, but I think not. (To the court.) Six feet long by one foot inside, excluding the ground that ought not properly to have been occupied, though they did necessarily occupy some of the swampy ground. I think he (General Winder) might have compelled the medical officers who were attending the stockade to reside at the post; they did not do so.

I think that my report states that there were fifteen or eighteen medical officers attending on the stockade, exclusive of those in the hospital. There was one suggestion which I made to the doctor which he readily carried out. It was to the effect that inasmuch as they were so crowded inside the stockade, that a great many men who were sick there could not receive medical attention, it would be an act of humanity to take them out of the stockade and lay them in the hospital under the trees, if they could do no better; and acting on my suggestion, I think some nine hundred prisoners were moved out and placed where they could have some pure air and not be so much crowded.

I also urged on the department the removal of General Winder as the radical cause of many of the difficulties there. I believe that with another head of the establishment a good deal might have been done. He had not the inclination to exert himself. I also recommended the removal of the assistant commissary. I did not see him myself, but from the representation made to me of his physical condition, and an examination of such books and papers as I could get hold of in his department, I was satisfied of his inefficiency, want of experience, and physical inability for his position. (To the court.) I think his name was Armstrong. He was absent, sick, at the time I was there. I also recommended additional transportation to be sent to them, and authority to impress saw-mills for the purpose of constructing those barracks. I don't recollect all my recommendations, but the report shows for itself. Facts have come to my knowledge in relation to Captain Wirz of which I had no suspicion at the time I recommended him as an efficient officer. He seemed to me to be energetic and industrious and attended to his duties, and I neither saw nor heard anything to indicate cruel treatment of the prisoners on his part, and I made some inquiries about it. I will explain to the court. I have been a prisoner myself, and I know the unwillingness of prisoners to make complaints in the presence of those who have power over them, and for that reason I took the men aside and questioned them so that Wirz could not hear me as to any complaints they had to make, and none of them made any complaints against him. The complaints were mostly of insufficient food, of want of shelter, and want of clothing; no complaints were made about him to me. I cannot speak positively as to my recollection of paragraph 4 of the rules submitted by Captain Wirz, which I did not approve. My impression now is that it had reference to punishing men who attempted to escape. I remember having a conversation with General Winder on this subject, and calling his attention to the fact that it was the duty of a soldier to his country to escape if he could, and that it was his duty to keep him, to prevent his escape, but not to punish him for doing his duty, and he concurred in that. I think that was the paragraph referred to. I think that General Winder was not promoted to the supreme command of military prisons within two and a half months from the time I made my report. He was made commissary-general of prisons after I made my report. Whether you call it promotion or not, I don't know. It gave him control over a large number of prisoners, but removed him from immediate command of them. I was away for about two and a half months. I went to the western army, General Hood's army, and traveled through the southwestern States. I returned to Richmond, I think, in the latter part of October. I understood then that a commissary-general of prisoners was to be appointed, and that General Gardner was the officer selected. He then was commanding the city of Richmond. I met him and spoke to him about the matter, and he said, "Yes, it was so." He did not want the place and wanted me to accept it. I declined it; I did not want it myself. I went to southwestern Virginia on other duty, and shortly after arriving there I saw an order published appointing General Gardner, which was followed a few days after by another order appointing General Winder, constituting him commissary-general of prisons. On my return to Richmond, in October, I spoke to Colonel Chilton, chief of the bureau, with reference to my report, and he told me that it had not been acted on, that it was still on the secretary's desk. I returned again to Richmond the first week in February, and found from the same source that it had not then been acted upon. The former secretary had been released and General Breckinridge appointed secretary. At my instance Colonel Chilton urged the department to take the matter up, for the reason that General Winder had rather denied the correctness of some statements that I had made, and I made a counter report, furnishing evidence of the accuracy of my report. I went myself to Judge Campbell and asked him to take it up, and he promised that he would do it. I do not believe it was ever taken up; that is to say, I do not think it ever was decided. Judge Campbell might have been considering it at the time of the evacua-

tion. I have no evidence of its having gone to the President; on the contrary, I have reason to think that it did not. I do not pretend to say that I think the President did not know that there was a prison at Andersonville, and the condition in which it was. I speak only of my individual report and the accompanying papers.

The stream which flows through the stockade is formed by two smaller streams, which meet some hundred yards, as well as I remember, before entering the stockade. The banks of that stream are hilly, and there were troops, the Georgia reserves, camped on it, and the washings from the camps came down into the stream and flowed through the stockade. I pointed that out to General Winder as wrong, and before I left there he had moved one regiment and the other was under orders to move. I made no recommendation with reference to it. The men themselves complained of the stench arising from the vicinity of the stockade. I should think that after General Winder had been made commissary general of prisoners he reported to the war department through the adjutant-general. I suppose he was appointed by the secretary of war. The order was dated war department, and was signed by the adjutant-general.

It was signed by the adjutant-general, by order of the secretary of war, I think. I don't recollect now distinctly whether the order was dated war department or adjutant-general's office, but I think the war department. I remember the preamble was, "Brigadier-General John H. Winder is constituted commissary-general of prisoners." It did not say by the direction of the president, or by the direction of anybody.

My report was dated the 5th of August.

(The report was referred to, and found to bear date July 5, 1864.)

That is a mistake. It is indorsed August 5, "1864." I left Richmond on the 27th of July. The report is not in my handwriting; it is in the handwriting of my assistant, Major Hall. He made out the report from my notes and a rough copy that I made. He did it in my presence. My rough report was abbreviated in many respects. Not much of it was filled up by my assistant. This copy is, in fact, my own report from the original, and the mistake in the date is a clerical one.

The following letter and newspaper article show the knowledge of the rebel authorities of the treatment of our prisoners:

LETTER OF SABINA DISMUKES.

Another interesting document, captured from the rebel archives at Richmond, is the letter of a resident of South Carolina, directed to Jefferson Davis, inclosing an article from the Sumter Watchman, and calling the attention of the guilty chief of the confederacy to the terrible condition of our prisoners at Florence, imploring him to furnish relief:

STATEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA,
October 12, 1864.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed you will find an account of the terrible sufferings of the Yankee prisoners at Florence, South Carolina.

In the name of all that is holy, is there nothing that can be done to relieve such dreadful suffering?

If such things are allowed to continue they will most surely draw down some awful judgment upon our country. It is a most *horrible national sin that cannot go unpunished.* If we cannot give them food and shelter, for *God's sake* parole them and send them back to Yankee land, but don't *starve* the *miserable creatures to death.*

Don't think that I have any liking for the Yankee. I have none. Those near and dear to me have suffered *too much* from their tyranny for me to have anything but *hatred to them;* but I have not yet become *quite brute* enough to know of such suffering without trying to do something *even for a Yankee.*

Yours respectfully,

SABINA DISMUKES.

Sabina Dismukes, Stateburg, South Carolina, October 12, 1864. Forwards newspaper article on treatment of Yankee prisoners at Florence, South Carolina. Asks that they may be fed or paroled.

Respectfully referred, by direction of the president, to the hon. secretary of war.

BURTON N. HARRISON,
Private Secretary.

A. G.: Referred to Brigadier-General Winder.
By order:
OCTOBER 23, 1864.

J. A. CAMPBELL, *A. S. W.*

Respectfully referred to General Winder.
By order A. and I. General.

JOHN W. RIELY,
A. A. General.

A. and I. G. O., October 28, 1864.

Returned January 7, 1865.
Returned November 19, 1864.
Received A. and I. G. O., October 24, 1864.
Received October 18, 1864.
Received at Camp Lawton, November 12, 1864.

Respectfully returned to the adjutant and inspector general. The prisoners in South Carolina are not under my command. I can give no information nor can I express an opinion.

I telegraphed from Macon on the 10th of October to the authorities in South Carolina that we were ready to receive prisoners at Camp Lawton.

JNO. H. WINDER,
Brigadier-General.

CAMP LAWTON, *November* 14, 1864.

Respectfully referred to Brigadier General Gardner. By command of the Secretary of War.

H. L. CLAY, *A. A. G.*

A. and I. G. O., *November* 24, 1864.

[From the Sumter Watchman.]

THE PRISONERS AT FLORENCE.

Mr. EDITOR: It may not be uninteresting to your numerous readers to hear something from the Yankee camp at Florence. Your correspondent went over, upon the summons of one of those ominous O. B.'s which the times have made more familiar than agreeable, to take a drove of cattle to the camp. Our party had in charge animals of all sizes, sexes, and conditions, from the patriarch of the herd, whose seamed and wrinkled front bore the marks of many a bloody battle, to "auld crumpie," who had served her day at the milk pail and whose constitution was evidently unable to stand the blasts of another March. We lost three on the way—two straggled and one fell from exhaustion; the buzzards after all were not cheated of their long-expected prey. The country through which we traveled is "flat, stale, and unprofitable." The crops are poor and every cotton-field destroyed by the "army worm," as if in imitation of its more intelligent namesakes. No object of curiosity was encountered on the way, unless we take into account the "long bridge" over what the natives call "Spawa Swamp." Most of the houses were uninhabited, with fences and outbuildings going to ruin.

No product now the barren fields afford
But men and steel, the soldier and his sword.

The camp we found full of what were once human beings, but who would scarcely now be recognized as such. In an old field, with no inclosure but the living wall of sentinels who guard them night and day, are several thousand filthy, diseased, famished men, with no hope of relief except by death. A few dirty rags stretched on poles give them a poor protection from the hot sun and heavy dews. All were in rags, and barefoot, and crawling with vermin. As we passed around the line of guards I saw one of them brought out from his miserable booth by two of his companions and laid upon the ground to die. He was nearly naked. His companions pulled his cap over his face and straightened out his limbs. Before they turned to leave him he was dead. A slight movement of the limbs and all was over. The captive was free! The commissary's tent was near one side of the square, and near it the beef was laid upon boards preparatory to its distribution. This sight seemed to excite the prisoners as the smell of blood does the beasts of a menagerie. They surged up as near the lines as they were allowed, and seemed, in their eagerness, about to break over. While we were on the ground a heavy rain came up and they seemed greatly to enjoy it, coming out *in puris naturalibus*, opening their mouths to catch the drops, while one would wash off another with his hands and then receive from him the like kind office. Numbers get out at night and wander to the neighboring houses in quest of food.

From the camp of the living we passed to the camp of the dead—the hospital—a transition which reminded me of Satan's soliloquy:

Which way I fly is hell; myself am hell;
And in the lowest deeps, a lower deep,
Still threatening to devour me, opens wide.

A few tents, covered with pine tops, were crowded with the dying and the dead in every stage of corruption. Some lay in prostrate helplessness; some had crowded under the shelter of the bushes; some were rubbing their skeleton limbs. Twenty or thirty

of them die daily—most of them, as I was informed, of the scurvy. The corpses lay by the roadside waiting for the dead-cart, their glassy eyes turned to heaven, the flies swarming in their mouths, their big toes tied together with a cotton string, and their skeleton arms folded on their breasts. You would hardly know them to be men, so sadly do hunger, disease, and wretchedness change the "human face divine." Presently came the carts. They were carried a little distance to trenches dug for the purpose and tumbled in like so many dogs; a few pine tops were thrown upon the bodies, a few shovelsful of dirt, and then haste was made to open a new ditch for other victims. The burying party were Yankees detailed for the work, an appointment which, as the sergeant told me, they consider as a favor, for they get a little more to eat and enjoy fresh air.

Thus we saw at one glance the three great scourges of mankind, war, famine, and pestilence; and we turn from the spectacle sick at heart as we remember that some of our loved ones may be undergoing a similar misery.

Man's inhumanity to man makes countless millions mourn.

Soon eight thousand more will be added to their number, and where the provisions are to come from to feed this multitude is a difficult problem. Five thousand pounds of bacon or ten thousand pounds of beef, daily, seems, in addition to more urgent drafts upon her, far beyond the ability of South Carolina.

The question is, are we not doing serious injury to our cause in keeping these prisoners to divide with us our scanty rations? Would it not be better at once to release them on parole?

HOWARD.

Ambrose Spencer, of Americus, Georgia, residing, during the war, about nine miles from Andersonville, was a witness on the Wirz trial. He testifies as follows:

CONDITION OF THE PRISONERS IN THE STOCKADE.

I visited Andersonville during its occupation as a prison very frequently. I have seen the prisoner, Captain Wirz, very frequently. I was there nearly every month, I think, during the time it was a prison. I doubt whether a month elapsed in which I was not there, while it was in its crowded condition—every month except, perhaps, during March, 1865. I was there in April, 1865. I was at Andersonville constantly; nearly every month, as I have remarked. I had frequent opportunities of seeing the condition of the prisoners, not only from the adjacent hills, but on several occasions from the outside of the stockade where the sentinels' grounds were. I had opportunities of talking at different times with the prisoners, not only at Andersonville, but after they escaped, in several instances, when they came to my house. I can only answer the question by saying that their condition was as wretched and as horrible as could well be conceived, not only from exposure to the sun, the inclemency of weather, and the cold of winter, but from the filth, from the absolute degradation which was evident in their condition. I have seen that stockade, after three or four days' rain, when the mud, I should say, was at least twelve inches deep on both the hills; the prisoners were walking or wading through that mud. The condition of the stockade perhaps can be expressed most aptly by saying that in passing up and down the railroad, if the wind was favorable, the odor from the stockade could be detected at least two miles.

THE NUMBER OF SAW AND GRIST MILLS NEAR ANDERSONVILLE.

I believe I am familiar with the surrounding country. That section of Southwestern Georgia is well supplied with mills, both grist-mills, flour-mills, and saw mills. Between Andersonville and Albany (the distance by railroad being, I believe, fifty miles—there is railroad communication) there are five saw-mills. One of them, a large one, is owned by a gentleman named Drew. There are four others of considerable capacity; there is one saw-mill at a distance of six miles from Andersonville, owned by Mr. Stewart, that goes by steam. There is another saw-mill about five miles from Andersonville that goes by water. There are saw-mills on the road above Andersonville. As for grist-mills, there are five in the neighborhood of Andersonville; that farthest off being a distance, I should think, not exceeding ten miles. There were two at Americus, the one farthest off being about twelve miles distant. Of these mills the water-mills are run nearly the entire year, except occasionally in the summer months; in the months of July and August they may be temporarily suspended, owing to the want of water, but not for any length of time.

THE SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS IN GEORGIA IN 1864.

It is a very heavily timbered country, especially in the region adjoining Andersonville; it may be termed one of the most densely timbered countries in the United States. As for its fertility, Southwestern Georgia, I believe, is termed the garden of America; it was termed the garden of the Confederacy, as having supplied the greater part of the provisions of the rebel army. Our section of Georgia, Sumter County, is perhaps not as rich as the counties immediately contiguous. The land is of a lighter quality, but still it produces heavily. I suppose that the average of that land would be one bale of cotton to the acre; the wheat would average about six bushels to the acre. The average of corn throughout the county, I suppose, would be about eight bushels to the acre. I am stating the general average of the whole number of acres in the county. We have land in that county that will produce thirty-five bushels of corn to the acre. I am stating the general average. It struck me that there was an uncommon supply of vegetables in 1864. Heretofore, at the South, there has been but little attention paid to gardens on a large scale; but last year a very large supply of vegetables was raised, as I understood, for the purpose of being disposed of at Andersonville. Indeed, there was not a day that passed when the trains were not loaded going from Americus up to Andersonville, with persons carrying vegetables there. I know that some officer at Andersonville (I cannot say who it was) had agents at Americus to purchase vegetables; and large amounts of vegetables were sent up daily or weekly.

THE SUPPLY OF LUMBER.

I know of lumber having been used at Andersonville. I was there during June and July very frequently, at the time when Governor Brown had called out the militia of the State. The militia of Southwestern Georgia were stationed at Andersonville, and their tents were all floored with good lumber, and a good many shelters of lumber were put up by the soldiers. I noticed a good many tents that were protected from the sun by boards. There seemed to be no want of lumber at that time among the Confederate soldiers.

THE TEMPERATURE DURING THE SUMMER OF 1864 AND WINTER OF 1864–'65.

I did not take regular thermometrical observations during the summer of 1864 and the winter of 1864–'65; but I had a thermometer, and every day, sometimes two or three times a day, I examined it. I generally made it a rule to look at it when I got up in the morning, again about noon, and then in the evening. So far as I remember, the range of the thermometer during the summer of 1864 was very high. I think I have seen it as high as 110 degrees in the shade. Once, and only once, I put the thermometer out in the sun on an extremely hot day in June, 1864. It ranged then, if my memory serves me aright, 127 to 130 degrees that day. Last winter, according to my experience during more than twenty-five years' residence in Georgia, was the coldest winter we have ever had there. I have seen the thermometer as low as 20 and 22 degrees above zero—from 8 to 10 degrees below the freezing point. One night it was colder than that; it was the night of the 4th of January. It is very distinctly impressed on my memory. During the night I was waked up by my wife, who told me that somebody was calling in front of my house. I opened the side window (it was excessively cold) and asked who was there. A voice replied, "A friend." I answered that I had no friends at that time of night, and very few anyhow in that country. He said that he was a friend of mine and wanted to come near the fence to speak to me. I told him my dog would bite him if he came to the fence; he then approached and said he was an Andersonville prisoner, and asked me, calling me by name, if I lived there. I told him that I was the man and to wait a moment. I dressed myself, went out and chained my dog, and brought the prisoner in. He was nearly frozen; he could hardly stand; he had on only one shoe, and that was a poor one, and had a stocking upon the other foot. He was clad in the thin army flannel of the United States, badly worn. He had on a pair of light blue pantaloons, which were badly worn. This was on a Wednesday morning; and he told me that he had made his escape from Andersonville on the Saturday previous; that he had been apprehended and taken to Americus, where he had made his escape from the guard the night before, and was directed to my house by a negro. I asked him if he was not nearly frozen; he said he was. I looked at the thermometer then and it was 18 degrees above zero. This was about 2 o'clock in the morning—between 1 and 2 o'clock.

EFFORTS OF LADIES TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO THE PRISONERS.

I know that efforts were made by the ladies of my county to relieve the prisoners at Andersonville; at one time a general effort was made. All that I know is, that a gen-

tleman named Mr. Davies, a Methodist presiding elder, exerted himself to induce the ladies to contribute clothing and provisions to the Federal hospital at Andersonville. A large amount of provisions was collected, some three or four wagon loads, if I am not mistaken, and sent up there. I believe that the effort failed. First, the provost marshal refused a pass to carry the provisions to the hospital; and when application was made by Dr. Head, who acted as the spokesman for the ladies, to General Winder, it was positively refused to them. I had a conversation with General Winder three days afterward. The same matter then came up. General Winder stated, accompanied with oath, that he believed the whole country was becoming "Yankee," and that he would be damned if he would not put a stop to it; if he couldn't one way he would in another. I remarked that I did not think it was any evidence of "Yankee" or Union feeling to exhibit humanity. He said there was no humanity about it; that it was intended as a slur upon the Confederate Government and a covert attack on him. I told him that I had understood that it was done at his request; that he had requested Mr. Davies to bring this thing about. He said it was a damned lie; that he had not requested anything of the kind; that for his own part, he would as lief the damned Yankees would die there as anywhere else; that, upon the whole, he did not know that it was not better for them. That was his language, or words to that effect. Captain Wirz was not present at that time. My wife was with me at the time. There were other ladies present, but I don't think I knew any of them. They were not part of the committee.

Question. In what way did General Winder speak of the ladies and their humane effort?—Answer. He used the most opprobrious language that could possibly be used, language that no gentleman could listen to, especially in the presence of his wife, without resenting it in some way—language utterly unfit to be repeated in the presence of ladies. It was an intimation that he could very easily make loyal women of them by putting them in a certain condition that would bring them to it.

I was present at a conversation the day after this committee of ladies failed. It was at the depot at Andersonville. The conversation was principally carried on between the provost marshal, Captain Reed——

Q. Captain or Lieutenant Reed?—A. I believe we used to call him captain. He might have been a lieutenant, probably. He was the only Reed there. Captain Wirz and R. B. Winder were present. There were three or four officials there; I cannot recall any but those. Lieutenant Reed observed that if General Winder had done as he wanted, they might have made a good speculation out of the provisions and clothing that the ladies had brought; that he proposed that they should be confiscated, but the "Old General" would not do it. Wirz remarked that if he had his way he would have a house built there, and all the ladies should be put in it for certain purposes. That was a most scandalous, infamous purpose, which I do not wish to repeat. R. B. Winder's remarks were a general concurrence. I don't know that he said anything special that I can call to mind, any more than laughingly concurring in what had been said.

THE DOGS.

I know Turner, who had the hounds, very well; his name was Wesley W. Turner.

Q. What did you ever hear him say as to his duties there and what he was receiving?—A. It was some time in the early part of 1864—March or April, I think. He had purchased a piece of land up in the same district in which my place is. I met him one day in Americus and asked him if he was going to settle that land. He said he was not; than he was making more money now than anybody in that country. I inquired how he was making it. He said the Confederate Government was paying him for keeping hounds to catch escaped prisoners. I asked him if he got his pay from Richmond. He said no, he did not trouble Richmond; that "Old Captain Wirz" was his paymaster. I asked him how much he received; my impression is that he did not tell me what he received. He told me that he was making more money than anybody else in that country; better than cultivating ground. That was early in the history of that prison, I think during March or April. It was while he was there on duty; he told me that he then had a pack of hounds and was employed there.

GENERAL WINDER AND SONS—THEIR ANIMOSITY TOWARDS THE PRISONERS.

I know W. S. Winder—"Sid. Winder," as he is called. I saw him at the time he was laying out the prison. Between the 1st and 15th of December, 1863, I went up to Andersonville with him and four or five other gentlemen, out of curiosity to see how the prison was to be laid out. When we arrived there the limits of the prison had all been marked. They were then digging a trench to put the stockade posts in. Workmen were busy cutting down trees in and around where the stockade was. In the course of conversation I inquired of W. S. Winder if it was proposed to erect barracks or shelter of any kind inside the stockade. * * * I asked him if he was going to

erect barracks of any kind. He replied that he was not; that the damned Yankees who would be put in there would have no need of them. I asked him why he was cutting down all the trees, and suggested that they would prove a shelter to the prisoners from the heat of the sun at least. He made this reply, or something similar to it: "That is just what I am going to do; I am going to build a pen here that will kill more damned Yankees than can be destroyed in the front." Those are very nearly his words, or equivalent to them. That was before a stockade was erected in the trench. Capt. R. B. Winder came there to the post ten or fifteen days after that—I suppose about ten days. There was nothing said at that time as to who ordered W. S. Winder there to lay out the prison. I had frequent conversations with General Winder. I used to meet him very frequently, either in Americus or going up the railroad. I saw him a good many times at Andersonville.

Q. What was the general temper and spirit of his talk with regard to those prisoners?—A. The opinion that I formed of him was anything but creditable to his feeling, his humanity, or his gentlemanly bearing. I am not aware that I ever had a conversation with General Winder in which he did not curse more or less, especially if the subject of Andersonville was brought up. I can only reply to your question by saying that I considered him a brutal man; that I drew from his conversation and conduct as I observed them. I looked upon him as a man utterly devoid of all kindly feeling and sentiment.

THE CONDITION OF THE PRISONERS GENERALLY KNOWN IN THE SOUTH.

Q. How generally, so far as you observed, were the sufferings and horrors of the Andersonville pen known throughout the South?—A. So far as my knowledge and information went, the knowledge of those sufferings was general; it was so, at least, throughout the southern part of the Southern States; I cannot speak specially in regard to the neighborhood of Richmond. The matter was discussed in the newspapers constantly, and discussed in private circles. Perhaps I might have heard more of it than most, because it dwelt more on my mind; but it was a general subject of conversation throughout the entire southern part of the Confederacy.

TESTIMONY OF REV. WILLIAM JOHN HAMILTON.

The Rev. William John Hamilton was also examined on the Wirz trial, and testified as follows:

I am the pastor of the Catholic church in Macon, Ga. I visited Andersonville three times. It was one of the missions attached to my church. I went there, I think, in the month of May, 1864, and spent a day there. The following week I went and spent three days there among the prisoners, and then returned and wrote a report on the condition of the hospital and stockade to my bishop, in order that he might send the requisite number of priests to visit the prisoners there; and I visited it again after the prisoners had been removed from Andersonville to Thomasville. I do not remember the month that occurred. It was in the beginning of this year, in the month of February or March, 1865.

Question. State to the court in what condition you found the stockade when you first visited it, and subsequently, and all the time while you were there.—Answer. The first time I visited the stockade I only had about three or four hours to spend there. I merely went to see what the condition of the place was. My principal object was to find out, if possible, the number of Catholics who were prisoners there, in order that we might induce the bishop to send a sufficient number of priests. I did not pay much attention to what I saw or heard there then. The following week I returned and spent three days. I visited the stockade and the hospital, discharging my duties as a priest of the Catholic Church. On this my second visit to the stockade, I found, I think, about 23,000 prisoners there; at least the prisoners themselves told me there were that number. I found the place extremely crowded, with a great deal of sickness and suffering among the men. I was kept so busy administering the sacrament to the dying that I had to curtail a great deal of the service that Catholic priests administer to the dying, for the reason they were so numerous—they died so fast. I waited only upon those of my own church; they were the only persons who demanded my ministrations. When I speak of the number dying, I mean among those of my own church, and do not include others.

Q. Give the court some idea of the condition of the stockade?—A. I found the stockade extremely filthy; the men all huddled together, and covered with vermin. The best idea I can give the court of the condition of the place is, perhaps, this: I went in there with a white linen coat on, and I had not been in there more than ten minutes or a quarter of an hour when a gentlemen drew my attention to the condition of my coat. It was all covered over with vermin, and I had to take my coat off and leave

it with one of the guards and perform my duties in my shirt sleeves, the place was so filthy.

Q. State to the court any particular case which came under your notice that would help to illustrate the condition of things there.—A. That is about the only idea I can give of the stockade.

Q. State any particular case you observed showing the destitution of the prisoners.—A. The first person I conversed with on entering the stockade was a countryman of mine, a member of the Catholic Church, who recognized me as a clergyman. I think his name was Farrell. He was from the North of Ireland. He came over toward me and introduced himself. He was quite a boy; I do not think, judging from his appearance, that he could have been more than sixteen years old. I found him without a hat, and without any covering on his feet, and without jacket or coat. He told me that his shoes had been taken from him on the battle-field. I found the boy suffering very much from a wound on his right foot; in fact, the foot was split open like an oyster, and on inquiring the cause they told me it was from exposure to the sun in the stockade, and not from any wound received in battle. I took off my boots and gave him a pair of socks to cover his feet, and told him I would bring him some clothing, as I expected to return to Andersonville the following week. I had to return to Macon to get another priest to take my place on Sunday. When I returned the following week, on inquiring for this man Farrell, his companions told me he had stepped across the dead line and requested the guards to shoot him. He was not insane at the time I was conversing with him. It was three or four days after that when I was asking for him. I think it was the latter part of May, 1864. To the best of my recollection his name was Farrell. I do not know to what company or regiment he belonged; I did not ask him. When I speak of administering the sacrament of the Church to those dying, I refer to those in the stockade and in the hospital also—in both places. I spent two days in the stockade and one in the hospital during my second visit to Andersonville. This case that I have spoken of occurred in the stockade. He had no medical treatment at all; none of those who died in there, and to whom I administered the sacrament, received any medical treatment at all, as far as I could see. When I went in the hospital I found it almost as crowded as the stockade was; the men were dying there very rapidly, from scurvy, diarrhea, and dysentery; and, as far as I could observe, I could not see that they received any medical treatment whatsoever, or received any medicines at all.

Q. How were they situated as to beds or bedding?—A. They were all in tents; the hospital was composed of tents arranged in avenues, and I did not see that they had anything under them at all except the ground; in some cases I think that they had dried leaves that they had gathered together. In my ministration while at the hospital I saw one surgeon there, the surgeon in charge there at that time, Dr. White.

Q. State the circumstances.—A. I was attending an Irishman, I think, by the name of Connor, who was captured at the night assault made on Fort Sumter; at least I think he told me so. He was captured at Charleston Harbor, and he was in the last stage of dysentery. He was so bad that I had to hear his confession and give him the rites of the Church sitting upon a stool. While I was hearing the man's confession, Surgeon White passed through the hospital, and seeing me whispering to the prisoner and not knowing, I suppose, who I was, ordered the guard to bring me up to his quarters under arrest. I went up there and he apologized for having done so; he having in the mean time inquired of Captain Wirz who I was, and the captain having told him that he had given me the necessary pass. I conversed with Dr. White with regard to the condition of the men, and he told me it was not in his power to do anything for them; that he had no medicine and could not get any, and that he was doing everything in his power to help them. That was the only time I ever met a surgeon there. Captain Wirz gave me the pass. I first called upon Colonel Persons, who was the officer in command at Andersonville, and he referred me to Captain Wirz, and Captain Wirz gave me a pass and gave me every facility in his power to visit those men. He walked down to the stockade with me and showed me the entrance. That pass held good only for that day. That was the first day I went there. It was renewed afterward by Captain Wirz. It continued for the three days I was there. I did not have it renewed afterward. I did not visit Andersonville again until the prisoners had been removed to Thomasville. That was the beginning of this year.

Q. What did you observe with regard to shelter in the stockade and the suffering of the men from heat there?—A. When I visited the stockade there was no shelter at all, so far as I could see, except that some of the men who had their blankets there had put them up on little bits of roots that they had abstracted from the ground; but I could not see any tents or shelter of any other kind. I got the names of several prisoners who had relatives living in the South and wrote to their friends when I returned to Macon, and I had some tents introduced there; they were sent down, and the men received them.

Q. Can you illustrate to the court the condition of the prison, by stating any instance where you tried to make your way through the crowd to a prisoner who was

dying?—A. Yes, sir; during my second visit to the prison, I was told that there was an Irishman over to the extreme end of the stockade who was calling out for a priest. I suppose he had heard that I had visited the prison the day before, and he was very anxious to see a priest, and was calling for one all over the stockade. There is a branch that runs right in the center of the stockade, and I tried to cross the branch, but was unable to do so as the men were crowding around there trying to get into the water to cool themselves, and wash themselves. I could not get over the branch and had to leave the stockade without seeing the man. The heat there was intolerable; there was no air at all in the stockade. The logs of which the stockade was composed were so close together that I could not feel any fresh air inside; and with a strong sun beaming down on it and no shelter at all, of course the heat must have been insufferable; at least I felt it so.

Q. How did it affect the priests on duty there?—A. The priests who went there after me, while administering the sacrament to the dying, had to use an umbrella, the heat was so intense. Some of them broke down in consequence of their services there. In the month of August, I think, we had three priests there constantly. We had a priest from Mobile who spoke three or four languages, inasmuch as you could find every nationality inside the stockade, and two from Savannah, and we had one from Augusta at another time. One of the priests from Savannah came to Macon, where I reside, completely prostrated, and was sick at my house for several days.

There were saw-mills in that vicinity along the railroad. I do not remember if they were near to Andersonville. I used to visit Albany, which I suppose is 30 or 40 miles below Andersonville, once every month. It was my duty to go there that often, and I used to see saw-mills along the railroad in operation. I have heard that the prisoners proposed to cut wood for themselves. I have heard prisoners say so themselves. I did not keep an account of the dying men I used to attend per day to administer the last sacrament, but judging from the hours I was engaged and what I know to be the length of the service, I suppose I must have attended from twenty to thirty every day; sometimes more and sometimes less. That was about the average number, between twenty and thirty.

Q. Can you speak more particularly as to the bodily condition of those inside the stockade, their clothing, and the appearance of the men?—A. Well, as I said before, when I went there I was kept so busily engaged in giving the sacrament to the dying men that I could not observe much; but of course I could not keep my eyes closed as to what I saw there. I saw a great many men perfectly naked, walking about through the stockade perfectly nude; they seemed to have lost all regard for delicacy, shame, morality, or anything else. I would frequently have to creep on my hands and knees into the holes that the men had burrowed in the ground and stretch myself out alongside of them to hear their confessions. I found them almost living in vermin in those holes; they could not be in any other condition but a filthy one, because they got no soap and no change of clothing, and were there all huddled up together.

I never at any time counted the number of dead bodies being taken out of the stockade in the morning. I have never seen any dead carried out of the stockade. I have seen dead bodies in the hospital in the morning. In the case of the man in the hospital, of whom I was speaking awhile ago, after I had heard his confession, and before I gave him the last rites of the church sacrament in "extreme unction," as we call it, I saw them placing the night guards in the hospital, and knew that I would not be able to get out after that. I told him that I would return in the morning and give him the other rites of the church, if he still lived. I was in there early the next morning, and in going down one of the avenues I counted from forty to sixty dead bodies of those who had died during the night in the hospital. I had never seen any dead bodies in the stockade. I have seen a person in the hospital in a nude condition, perfectly naked. They were not only covered with the ordinary vermin, but with maggots. They had involuntary evacuations, and there were no persons to look after them. The nurses did not seem to pay any attention whatever, and in consequence of being allowed to lie in their own filth for some hours, vermin of every description had got on them which they were unable to keep off them. This was in the latter part of May. I never noticed in the stockade the men digging in the ground, and standing in the sand to protect themselves from the sun. I did not see any instance of that kind. I have seen them making little places from a foot to a foot and a half deep, and stretching their blankets right over them. I have crawled into such places frequently to hear the confessions of the dying. They would hold from one to two; sometimes a prisoner would share his blanket with another and allow him to get under shelter.

THE REBEL AUTHORITIES ADVISED OF THE CONDITION OF THE PRISONERS.

When I returned from the stockade after my second visit to it, at the latter end of May, I represented these things to General Cobb. I wrote to our bishop and told him that these men were dying in large numbers; that there were many Catholics there

and that they required the services of a priest, and he sent up Father Whelan. Father Whelan expressed a desire to see General Cobb before he went down to the stockade. I called upon General Cobb and told him that I had been there, and gave him a description of the place as well as I could, and he asked me what I would recommend to be done, as he intended to write to Richmond with regard to the condition of that place. *After I found out from his conversation that nothing more could be done for the bodily comfort of the men, owing to the stringency of the blockade, and so forth, I advised him to parole those men upon their own word of honor, and take them down to Jacksonville, Fla., and turn them into the Federal lines.* Whether that recommendation was acted on or not I do not know; he asked my opinion and I gave it. At that time, when I told him of the condition in which I found things there, it was known to the whole country, for it was published in the newspapers in the South. I do not know about its being common talk and rumor throughout the Confederacy. I am only speaking about Macon and Southwestern Georgia. The whole of Southwestern Georgia is included in my mission, and I know that the condition of the prison was well known in Macon and throughout Southwestern Georgia. I do not remember that I made any suggestion with regard to shelter at the time I had this conversation with General Cobb; it is very probable that I did. I cannot recollect whether he said anything about it or not.

Q. Do you remember whether he stated that he had written to Richmond, or that he was about to write to Richmond, to represent the condition of things at Andersonville?—A. When he asked me to give him a description of the condition of the place, he remarked, I think, that he was going to write, and wished to have some information from me on the point. He remarked also that he would like me to give him a description, because he knew the relations that existed between the Catholic priest and the members of his Church, and that they would be more unreserved in communicating with me than with others.

THE STOCKS.

William M. Peebles, Confederate clerk:

I saw several men in the stocks. I did not learn their names. They were Federal prisoners. I was passing around one day during a hard rain, and I saw a prisoner in the stocks. He seemed to be near drowning. I rode up and put an umbrella over him. I passed up to Captain Wirz's headquarters and told him that the prisoner was there and might drown. He remarked, "Let him drown," using an oath. His words, as well as I remember, were, "Let the damned Yankee drown; I don't care." In a few moments some one from his headquarters went down and released the prisoner—took him out from the stocks. It was during a very hard rain. The man's head was kind of erect, and it was raining down in his face. He looked as though he would drown. That was what caused me to make the report.

H. M. Davidson, for a time paroled for duty as a surgeon's clerk and a Union prisoner of war, whose statement was also incorporated into the report of the committee of the House on the treatment of Union prisoners of war, speaking of punishments inflicted at Andersonville and their life there, says:

THE STOCKS—BALL AND CHAIN—CHAIN GANG.

The prisoner upon recapture was subjected to several grades of punishment, the first of which was the "standing stocks." This instrument of torture, equaling in barbarity anything which history has ascribed to the cunning invention of the Spanish inquisition, was formed of four upright posts strongly connected together at the top and bottom, so as to make a nearly square frame. Upon the sides of this frame, and near the top, were movable bars, in which holes were cut for the hands; each of the bars was made to separate into two parts, for receiving the arm, the notches fitting closely to the wrist when the hand had been placed in position. Above these bars, and at right angles with them, in the middle of the frame, were two other bars, containing a notch for the neck, which also had a lateral and a perpendicular motion, the latter to enable them to be adjusted to the height of the culprit. At the bottom were two similar and parallel bars, with notches for the legs. When the victim was "put up," his feet were first fastened, then his arms extended on a line parallel with the shoulders, and also fastened, and finally his neck "shut in," when he was left to his misery for twenty-four hours. In this painful position, unable to change in the least degree, starving, thirsting, bleeding, with the hot sun of a July or August day pouring floods of liquid fire upon his unprotected head, the sufferer paid the initial penalty of his rash attempt to regain his liberty. After the stocks came the ball and chain. For this punishment two men were usually required; a thirty-two pound cannon ball was fas-

tened to the outside leg of each, with a chain about two feet long, and another ball, weighing sixty-four pounds, chained between them; the chains by which these balls were attached to the legs were so short that they could be carried only by attaching a string to the thirty-two pounder and raising it by the hand; the sixty-four pound weight was supported by a stick when the victims wished to "walk out." The "jewelry" was continued upon the men for three or four weeks, or during the whim of Captain Wirz.

There was one refinement upon the ball and chain which deserves special mention; it was devised by Captain Wirz himself, and did great credit to his fiendish nature and his hellish gust for torment. It was denominated the "chain gang," and was used in only one instance. The "gang" at first contained twelve men; they were first fastened together with short chains, twenty inches to two feet in length, which were attached to iron collars riveted around their necks, each man being thus chained to the man on his right and left, and the twelve forming a circle; to one leg of each a thirty-two pound ball was chained, while one sixty-four pounder was fastened to every four by the other leg. There was no possible manner in which the men could lie down, sit down, or stand erect, with any degree of ease; yet they were kept in this state for four weeks in the open ground outside the stockade, exposed alike to storm and sun, with no covering but their ragged clothing, and no protection against the cold dews of the night. One of the gang was sick with chronic dysentery, but the surgeon's clerks were all forbidden to give him any medicine, and he died under the torture. He was taken out of his irons after he was dead, and the remaining eleven forced to carry his share of the weight, attached to themselves, until the period of their torture had expired. The crime for which these men were "put up" in this atrocious manner was an attempted escape; some of them had broken from the hospital, and others had been recaptured once before.

Another form of punishment, but somewhat milder, was adopted for less flagrant offenses, although it was also sometimes employed for attempted escapes; this was the "lying down" stocks. The offender's feet were fastened about 12 inches from the ground, and he was left to lie down or sit up, as pleased him best. It was certainly no easy or desirable position, as the author had occasion to know, but was much preferable to the standing stocks, or the ball and chain.

HOSPITALS REMOVED OUTSIDE—PREVAILING DISEASES—MEDICINES—VACCINATION—INNOCULATION—SCENES AT SICK-CALL—CONDITION OF THE PATIENTS—THE RAINY SEASON—EFFECT OF THE HEAT—THE SICK IN HOSPITAL—GANGRENE—ITS TERRIBLE EFFECTS.

About the 20th of May the hospitals of the prison were removed to the outside of the stockade, and located in a piece of timber to the southeast of the main inclosure, and the two consolidated into one, which included about 2 acres of land. It was inclosed by a board fence about 6 feet in height, was laid out in regular streets or wards, and supplied with water from a creek that ran through the southwest corner, and was unadulterated with the filth and garbage either of the rebel camps or the prison pen. At first the only covering was several pieces of canvas stretched over poles, which formed simply a protection against the sun and rain; but afterwards wedge tents were provided, and in a few instances bunks were placed in them, upon which the sick men could be laid. Further than this there was nothing between the patient and the earth except his clothing and such a rag of a blanket as he might chance to possess.

There were two classes of paroled men whose duties connected them with the sick—the one was known as "surgeon's clerks," the other as "hospital attendants," or nurses. It was the duty of the former to attend upon the surgeons at sick-call, write, in a book prepared for the purpose, the name, company, rank, regiment, detachment, division, diagnosis, and prescription, for each man applying at the gate of the "sick-call" inclosure for medicine or treatment; they were also required to put up and distribute the prescribed remedies to the sick who were not admitted to the hospital. I was recommended by the men from No. 6 prison in Danville for the position of surgeon's clerk (for which act of kind remembrance on their part I shall ever feel grateful), and removed from the stockade, as above stated, on the 26th of May. In this position I continued to act until the 8th of September following.

When the hospital was first established outside only two surgeons were in attendance at the sick-call, but before the summer was past twelve additional ones, with each a clerk, were required, so rapidly had disease increased among us. It was the duty of the "sergeants of division" within the stockade to report with the sick at the south gate every morning at 8 o'clock, or immediately after roll-call. Those of the men who were able to walk marched to the inclosure, while the disabled were brought upon blankets, old coats, and sometimes by being supported upon the shoulders of two of their comrades. The inclosure used for the sick-call was built about the south gate,

and contained twelve clerk-stands or booths, which were fitted up with awnings and boards for writing upon and depositing the medicines.

The principal diseases treated at the sick-call were scurvy, diarrhea, dysentery, pneumonia, ulcers from vaccination, fevers, gangrene, ophthalmia, and erysipelas; a few others were sometimes met with, but they formed but a small part of the great whole of the misery and wretchedness to which the men were exposed. To facilitate the treatment for these diseases, formulas had been prepared in tabular form and numbered so as to conform to the name of the disease, or class of diseases, which they were intended to remedy; thirty of these formulas were used at the sick-call. The medicines consisted of quinine, mercurial preparations, cayenne, chlorate of potassa, acetic and tartaric acids, gum camphor, salts, sulphur, oil, and fly blisters, a few decoctions of indigenous roots and barks, and newly distilled whisky; but for a great part of the time no medicines of any kind were in the dispensary. All our prepared medicines came from Macon; quinine and the more valuable drugs had labels of English manufacture, and had run the blockade at Charleston and Savannah. Bandages were so difficult to be obtained that the same ones were washed and used again and again until worn out; they were made of common, coarse cotton cloth, and were used without lint or cotton, and from their repeated application became unfit for use, being liable to infect the wound to which they were applied with virus from the one from which they had been removed.

The patients examined at the sick-call were of two classes—those prescribed for at the clerk's stand and those admitted to the hospital; the former of these two classes was by far the most numerous on account of the lack of accommodations for the latter. Those who remained behind were such as did not require special care, and those too far advanced in their disease to be saved by hospital treatment. The number of admissions was limited to the number of vacancies; and these were caused, not by the recovery and discharge of the patients, not by the enlargement of the hospital, but by death, which silently and swiftly made way for fresh victims. Every man knew full well, when he received his ticket admitting him to that living house of death, that the grim messenger had removed a comrade whose place he was to occupy, waiting and watching painfully till his turn should come and another be brought in as he was carried out.

The prisoners who had not recently been vaccinated were compelled, under severe penalties, to undergo this operation, the surgeons having been requested, it was said, by the United States Government to do this as a preventive against the small-pox. It seemed strange to us that here, where the instances of that disease were so extremely rare, such an order should be given; but the sequel showed the devilish cunning of the authorities at Andersonville. *The virus was impure*, and if the inoculation with the poison failed (as it did in many instances) of carrying off the patient, the wound would not heal under the influence of the heat, starvation, and impure air, and invariably terminated in horrible-looking ulcers. I have said that the virus was impure; I judge it to have been so from its effects and not from a chemical analysis of it; but there were cases of inoculation which had been made at Danville, three months previous to our removal to Camp Sumter, that took the same form as every case assumed after our incarceration there. The worst cases at Andersonviile were caused by the vaccination. The ravages of the scurvy, it is true, were fearful, and it worked in slight scratches and open sores, caused by the bites of insects, but in none of these did it assume the horrible form that characterized the inoculated wounds; and the only inference that can be drawn from this fact is that our prisoners were deliberately poisoned by vaccination.

The scenes at the sick-call were horrible beyond description, yet I will attempt to paint the dreadful picture as clearly as it is possible with words, for here and at the hospital can alone be witnessed the true result of the privations and cruelties to which we were subjected. It must be remembered that diseases here are not of the ordinary form, such as may be seen at any hospital in the vicinity of a populous city, nor are they the result of voluntary excesses on the part of the patient; but they are such as were forced upon strong, able-bodied men, with robust health, made more robust by the regimen of long military service in the field, and fortified by the hardships of such a life against disease in every form; upon men in whose blood no disease had ever lurked, but who, from childhood until now, had been strong and healthy. And it must also be borne in mind that these diseases did not come suddenly upon us; but that they were the results of a slow process that crept quietly but certainly on, beginning with insignificant signs and ending in death, or what is worse, in permanent and incurable disease that must follow the victim as long as life lasts—an unremitting source of pain and misery.

When the surgeons and their clerks have taken their places within the sick-call inclosure, the gate in their rear is closed and the wicket in the great gate opened for the admission of the patients. My "stand" was situated near this wicket, and one-half the sick passed it on their way to their surgeon for examination. Each surgeon had charge of a certain number of detachments, the numbers designating which were painted upon

a board and hung conspicuously over the clerk's stand; by means of this guide any man could readily find the surgeon to whom he must apply to be examined; and severe punishment was inflicted upon any clerk who issued medicine to a sick man that had not submitted to this examination. From my position I could see the men as they came into the inclosure, and trace the line far back into the stockade itself. There, on the road running nearly across the area, the wretched invalids had gathered in a dense crowd; some were standing, or leaning, faint, emaciated, and weak, upon their stronger comrades; others were lying down upon the bare ground, and over all there hovered a hideous specter of death, which was reflected in their squalid forms, upon their thin, pale faces, and in their large, hollow eyes, that stared ghastly upon us. The earth was black with human beings, a living, writhing mass of famishing agonizing life. Three thousand men daily visited the surgeons for remedies at this place, beside those to whom medicine was administered without a daily examination. On my own book there were at one time nine hundred and forty-five names of sick men under treatment by one surgeon. Taking this as a basis, the fourteen clerks would have in charge thirteen thousand two hundred and thirty patients; and these were exclusive of the men who refused to report at sick-call, and those who were confined in the hospital—the latter numbering about two thousand men. At this time it is believed that there were not five thousand well men among the thirty-two thousand confined in the stockade. Those who had been longest in the stockade and those who had come among us in a destitute condition were the earliest and greatest sufferers. It required time, even in that den of filth and disease, and upon the scanty allowance given us, to break down the strong constitutional health of those men; but time did effect it, though some struggled long and bravely for life.

The detachments were called in regular order, each surgeon beginning with the lowest number on his list, and proceeding to the highest. The surgeon upon whom I attended had charge of thirteen detachments; this would give him, if each division were full, three thousand five hundred and ten men, over whose health he was called upon to preside; but the divisions were not full, many of them having become reduced more than one-half since they first entered the pen. Each applicant was separately presented, his name, &c., entered by the clerk, the date of his examination and the diagnosis of his disease, and the formula or formulas applicable to his case carefully noted, when he was turned back into the stockade to wait till 3 o'clock before his medicine was served out to him.

Let us take the list as it stands upon my notes, for one day's duty (and it shall be a fair sample of any day during the months of July and August and first eight days of September) and read the ills that prisoners at Andersonville are heir to. The first man in the file before us is called, and after being duly enrolled begins to remove the filthy rags that he has bound around his arm, disclosing a sickening sight. It is a case of vaccination; the impure virus has wrought its terrible design, and here is the result. The incision has become infected with gangrene, and the upper arm is one mass of putrid flesh, which hangs in lumps in the running sore; it is but slightly swollen, and where the flesh is not entirely gone presents a fiery red appearance; the arm is nearly eaten in two, and unless the progress of the gangrene is stopped at once the main artery will be severed, and death ensue from loss of blood. A nauseating stench arises as the bandage is taken off, and this the man must carry with him till death closes the scene; for though he is sent at once to the wound-dresser and his arm is washed with nitric acid, the disease is too far advanced to be cured, and only temporary relief can be afforded him. Eighteen similar cases follow, some of them in a less advanced stage, some even worse than this; all the cases of ulcerous vaccination usually report first in the morning.

Next follow the patients afflicted with gangrene; of these there are a great number, for the character of the food, the exposure to rains and sun, with the poisonous air they constantly breathe, render the blood impure, and the slightest abrasion of the skin soon becomes a putrid sore. A description of one of these cases will answer for all, for few of them ever received any attention until they were so far advanced as to obtain but little benefit from medicine. This is gangrene; the patient hobbles painfully to the stand, supported by a crutch which he has in some way procured, removes the foul shreds of woolen cloth that are bound around his left foot, and discovers the wound. The corrupted flesh has fallen from the bones, and the worms are crawling and tumbling riotously among the naked cords and ligaments, wantonly holding a premature feast upon their unburied food. Terrible as this may appear—it may be called impossible—it is the truth, and a hundred cases equally awful were to be witnessed daily at the sick-call and in the hospital. This man had become so weakened in his intellect by exposure and starvation that he was unable to take proper care of himself; to protect his naked feet from the blistering sun and the insects, he had torn off the sleeve of his coat and wrapped it around them; gangrene had found a scratch, and this was the result. The gangrene was a most fearful enemy, searching every pore of the skin for a wound, however slight or insignificant, where it fastened itself remorselessly and clung with a tenacity whose grasp could not be loosened. Sometimes where

the incision in which the vaccine had been placed had apparently healed, it would break out afresh, and the gangrene would find it out and commence its revels; sometimes kernels under the arm would swell and require the use of the lancet; a wound was thus made, in which the monster poison reveled, till death cut short its career. And these infected men were turned back into the crowded prison to communicate their infection to others until nearly all the wretched inmates were decaying, rotting, dropping piecemeal into the grave.

The scurvy is another and most frequent disease, and, like the gangrene, can receive only temporary relief here. It generally makes its first appearance in the mouth, the gums become spongy, frequently bleeding, and the teeth loosened; the breath becomes fetid; the patient is pale and languid, and the flesh swollen and livid in spots. It is caused by confinement to a limited range of food for a long time, and usually terminates in a dropsy, when the cords are drawn up, and the limbs become contorted and useless; the body swells to twice its natural size, the skin puffing out, as if distended with air; the flesh loses its elasticity, and being pressed upon by the finger retains the indentation for a long time. Sometimes the skin bursts open, when a wound is formed and gangrene, with its auxiliary worms, and tormenting vermin and insects, brings a horrible aid, and they, working in conjunction, soon destroy the victim. Nearly one-half the number of patients examined daily were afflicted with this fearful scourge, very few of whom recovered, some of them lingering for weeks before the fatal termination of the disease. The patients exhibit a hideous spectacle, with their long matted hair, their glaring eyes, in whose hollow depths the unappeasable craving for food is unmistakably read; their faces and hands and naked feet covered with dirt and filth; their foul rags hanging in tatters over their limbs and their bodies, and swarming with vermin; yet this spectacle was daily witnessed at the sick-call, was fully known and understood by the prison authorities, and nothing was done for our relief; no additional care bestowed upon us; no look of pity or sympathy from them ever met our eyes.

But these were not the only diseases to which we were exposed. Death busily plied his relentless work in other and, if possible, more painful forms. Diarrhea and dysentery, gaunt and grim, attacked the destined victim, and in a few days his strength waned, till the strong man was weak as childhood; his skin became livid, and clung tightly to the bones from which the flesh had wasted away; his eyes sank back deep beneath his forehead, and were dull and expressionless, and his thin lips were blue and trembling as if with cold. Eighty-seven names of men afflicted with these diseases are on my list for this day's work. Yet what can be done for these men here? They cannot be admitted to the hospital, for there is no room, and if there were room, it would be useless to send them there, as we shall presently see. We have no medicines that can counteract the influence of their scanty food, mixed, as it is, with dirt, and decayed till a dog would refuse to eat it; and in this climate, with its hot days and cool, damp nights, the naked earth to sleep upon, and the poisoned air to breathe, are swift auxiliaries to these diseases. The patients must inevitably die. Some of them may live a few weeks longer, but in ten days at farthest, eighty of those eighty-seven men will lie beneath the turf in yonder Golgotha, beyond the reach of the atrocious tortures that have made their last days a hell.

In the month of June, 1864, there were twenty-two days of rain and the sky was not clear of clouds for one moment during all that dreary period. At times the heavens opened and poured floods of water down upon us; then the sun forced its way through a rift of clouds, and for a few minutes scorched us with his flames, when his fire was extinguished by another torrent. The men were drenched in their open pen during the day, and at night they lay down still drenched, to sleep upon beds of sand which were saturated with water. When the long rain ceased at last, the hot sun burst out upon them, raising deadly vapors from the swamps, which they breathed, and scorching and parching them with fire; the thermometer stood at 104° in the shade, and in the open ground the heat was terrific. In consequence of this storm malignant fevers broke out among the prisoners, and for a long time after they raged with fearful violence. Pneumonia prevailed to a very great extent, and hundreds fell victims to its ravages. These cases continued for many weeks, and we find their diagnosis upon every clerk's list during the months of July and August. Erysipelas also appeared, but its career was soon run, for the unhappy patient died in a few days, unless the little wash of iodine, which was applied to the infected spot, succeeded in checking it at once. The glaring sun had smitten men with blindness, and they groped their way darkly among their comrades. Yet in all this misery, squalor, and filth, there was not a ray of hope; the men must suffer on without succor and without help; the weary days seemed months, and the weeks an eternity, till it was as if we had been removed to a land of fiends, which the omnipresence of God could not reach, and a demon more merciless, more relentless than the prince of hell ruled over us.

From 8 o'clock till 2 the work of examining the sick continued. Day after day, for weeks and months, those surgeons labored, breathing the unwholesome air, and in constant contact with those horrible diseases; but they were patient, faithful men, and

their sympathy with the victims often benefited them as much as the medicines they prescribed. But they acted under the orders of General Winder and Captain Wirz, and could do little beyond secretly expressing their abhorrence of the barbarity with which we were treated, and their wish to alleviate our sufferings. I gladly record the little acts of kindness performed by them, for they were verdant spots in that vast Sahara of misery. Drs. Watkins, Rowzie, Thornburn, Reeves, Williams, James, Thompson, Pilott, and Sanders deserve, and will receive, the lasting gratitude of the prisoners who received medical treatment at their hands during that memorable summer at Andersonville. These, with five others, whose names need not be mentioned, were connected with the sick-call, and are to be distinguished from the hospital surgeons, the latter being exclusively engaged within the hospital inclosure.

After the examination of the sick-call the clerks repaired to the dispensary, which was under the control of Chief Surgeon R. H. White, to put up the prescriptions made by the surgeons; this process required about an hour's time, and when it was completed they returned to the sick-call stand with the remedies, to distribute them to those for whom they were prescribed. The medicines were issued both in powder and in liquid form; the former were inclosed in papers, but the latter—the dispensary furnishing no bottles—were poured into tin and wooden cups, or whatever else the invalid possessed. It often happened that strong sulphuric or nitric acid was the medicine prescribed, and this was received in the same utensil as was employed in cooking their food. It is left to the reader to judge what the result might well be. Their work done, the clerks were at liberty till 6 o'clock, at which time they were required to report at the hospital, where they remained under guard till the following morning. Much of the time the dispensary was without medicines, and very often only a few of the remedies prescribed were to be had there. Yet the farce of examination was frequently gone through with and prescriptions made, even when it was known beforehand that there was nothing in the dispensary with which to put them up. There were many times, also, when there was no sick-call for several days in succession; and sometimes after the examinations had commenced the captain came down from his headquarters, ordered surgeons and clerks away, and sent the sick men back into the stockade. The reasons for these interruptions were various; sometimes a new lot of victims had arrived, and were to be admitted to the prison; a thing easily done, to be sure, without disturbing us, by opening the north gate; but the captain in such a case would have failed to exhibit his martial bearing at the head of his Georgia militia, and the whole prison must be collected to witness the warlike spectacle; sometimes rumors of an extensive outbreak had exercised his mind, and he must get his men in line of battle, a long and tedious undertaking (there being no fences against which they could be dressed), in performing which the doughty warrior expended much patience and many oaths; sometimes, again, the pen must be searched for tunnels or for missing men; and on all occasions of like public character, the sick must be neglected; perhaps the villain feared the Confederate medicines might be of benefit to the Yankees if regularly administered, a consummation most undesirable both to Winder and Wirz.

The number of men admitted to the hospital by each surgeon never exceeded eight at one time, but the usual number was three. On one occasion, however, soon after the enlargement of the hospital, Captain Wirz issued an order that all sick men who were brought to the sick-call upon blankets, should be admitted; acting under this order (the surgeon whom I attended being absent) I issued eighty tickets of admission, by far the largest number ever issued in one day. The captain was exceedingly angry with me for doing this, and cursed me roundly for it; but I pointed him to the order and continued about my business; none of the men were sent back into the stockade, but the order was speedily revoked.

Every person, to gain admittance to the hospital grounds, was provided with a ticket signed by the surgeon who examined him. This ticket contained the name, rank, company, and regiment of the patient, together with the name of his disease, and was necessary in order that in case the man died, as frequently happened, before reaching the hospital, his name might be properly registered in a book kept for that purpose. When he reached the hospital he was laid upon the ground near the gate and inside the inclosure, where he remained till the hospital attendants had sufficient unoccupied time to place him beneath the shelter of a tent; sometimes he was compelled to lie in the open air till sundown, and sometimes he was not moved till the next morning; many died at the gate while waiting to be placed in the tent. If he survived long enough, he was taken up by the nurses, carried to a vacant spot in the hospital, and deposited upon the bare ground, to remain until death should make his place also vacant.

The hospital inclosure was laid out in streets, and the tents were pitched in rows or blocks, to facilitate communication with the patients; the tents were of the wedge form, arranged so as to face due north, and were open at both ends; the center pole was about five feet high, and the canvas sloped quite to the earth, forming the sides of the shelter; five men were usually placed in each tent. There were, besides the "regular" tents, a few coverings made of canvas stretched over poles; these were

more open than the "wedges," and were larger and more convenient; a few wall tents were also to be found, but they were mostly used for storing the medicines. There was nothing on the ground for the sick to lie upon, and their feverish forms, with no covering except the wretched rags they chanced to wear, were deposited upon the naked earth. About two thousand sick were constantly in the hospital; some of the patients remained there for a long time, but the majority were speedily released by death.

The diseases treated at the hospital were similar to those already described while we were speaking of the sick-call, the only difference being that they were generally at a more advanced stage, and that there were a great number collected in a small area. For convenience in visiting the sick, the surgeons had divided the hospital into wards, in each of which was a ward-master, with a company of nurses. The internal regulations for performing duty were similar to those of the United States military hospitals. Each of the surgeons had charge of two or more of the wards, which they visited daily, passing around among the men and hurrying through with their disagreeable duty as fast as possible. There were generally six and sometimes seven physicians in attendance, and dividing the sick equally among them would give nearly three hundred to each. With so many to visit daily, and with so few conveniences for supplying these demands, these men could do very little good. The invalids did not want the surgeon's skill; food was the only medicine that could afford any relief, and the surgeons could not furnish that.

The rations for the hospital were prepared by paroled prisoners, and did not differ materially, either in kind, quantity, or mode of cooking, from those issued to the prisoners in the stockade. Occasionally, however, a few vegetables found their way to Andersonville, but their quantity was too small to effect much good; these, together with the liquor in which the meat had been boiled, were made into a soup—a kind of food which the men afflicted with bowel complaints could not eat with safety, and such as no well man would taste at home.

The sick who were afflic ed with gangrene were generally separated from the others, and filled two wards of the hospital. These wards presented a most horrible spectacle. I have passed through them in the cool of the morning and in the heat of the day, when the purer air of the one had caused an abatement of the corroding distemper, and when the sultriness of the other had spurred it into a swifter career; and I have seen living men lying there upon the bare ground, uncovered by anything except the filthiest rags, which were saturated with purulent matter, and green with mold, rotting silently away, though tortured with intense pain, the dead flesh dropping from their bones on the sand upon which they were lying; while hideous worms, too greedy to wait till life was extinct before commencing their ravenous feast, tumbled and reveled and rioted in the putrid mass. I have visited the field of battle, and walked among the dead, many days after the conflict, and witnessed the unburied bodies of men, thrown together in heaps by a bursting shell, slowly decaying in the hot sun, but the stench arising from them, and their horrid appearance, were less sickening and less repulsive than this. I have seen men in this hospital suffer amputation again and again, in a fruitless effort to stay the ravages of this fearful disease; and under the knife, and while lying upon the ground, blistering and burning, the ceaseless gnawing within forced from their otherwise silent lips the low, moaning, pleading cry for food; and I have listened to this heart-rending call, and looked upon those emaciated limbs, till my blood boiled with helpless rage against the worse than brutal villains who planned these atrocious crimes, and the coward who delighted in carrying out the details.

No language can describe this bed of rottenness; since the tongue of man first learned to syllable his thoughts such cruelties were never before devised and practiced, and words are wanted to depict them. The surgeons made their reports, in which were represented the true condition of these dying men, and begged for reform, for food, for covering; but they might as well have sought mercy from death—better have done so, for death is merciful sometimes, but our tormentors never.

The gangrene wards were the worst in the hospital, but the others were shocking. Famine! famine is everywhere. Pass among the fevers; hear the dying moans of the victims of diarrhea, of dysentery; listen to the hollow cough of the pneumoniac; look upon the trembling limbs and pallid faces of all these men, and the burden of every cry, as it goes out into the solitudes around us, is food! a morsel of food! And we hear that fearful cry, growing fainter and fainter, as the famished victim sinks down into the darkness; and the feeble echo vanishes as the turbid waves of death close over him forever.

There was among the surgeons who attended in the hospital a Dr. Burrows who belonged to a Massachusetts regiment; he had been captured and sent here early in the season, and was paroled to act in the capacity of surgeon. He was a kind-hearted and skillful physician, and devoted his time to the sick under his care with tireless industry and patience. Yet he could do little to alleviate their sufferings, in the condition in which they were placed. He attempted to procure men from the stockade to go with him, under guard, to cut timber in the adjacent woods with which to build cabins for

the hospital, pledging himself for their return; but Captain Wirz denied him the request, and the cabins were never built. Could he have succeeded in his attempt to erect these huts, he would have vastly reduced the suffering and wretchedness of the inmates of the hospital. His well-meant endeavors were fully appreciated by the sufferers, and the survivors will hold him in lasting gratitude.

The men who died in the hospital were carried out by the nurses of the ward to which they belonged, and placed in the streets in front of the tents, whenever, at any time of the day or night, they were found, whether in the melting heat or drenching rain. Here the bodies remained until the two men who were appointed for the purpose came around with a hand-stretcher and carried them to the dead-house.

In the stockade the dead were found in a great variety of places. Sometimes they were lying beneath their rude tents with their comrades, the time of their departure being unknown even to him by whose side they were lying. Sometimes they had crawled into a hole in the earth which had been excavated for shelter, and where they remained unknown till the stench arising from their decay or the search at the roll-call revealed them. Sometimes they had dragged themselves to the swamp to quench, by a draft of water, the burning thirst that consumed them, and died with the effort. Sometimes, unable longer to endure the misery and pain, they threw themselves beyond the dead-line and were shot by the guard. In the hospital the dead and the living lay side by side until the nurse discovered them, and it was not infrequent that hours passed before the living and the dead were separated. I have known three men in the same tent to bid each other good night, and the morrow's sun to waken the one to find his comrades upon the right and left sleeping forever. The prisoners at Andersonville died without a struggle, and apparently without pain. They expired so quietly that one standing beside and watching them could not distinguish when the last breath was drawn. They were so wasted by disease and famine that the spirit parted from its earthly tenement as quietly as the flame expires among the embers.

The dead-house had been constructed of insufficient dimensions to contain the bodies of all that died. Sometimes forty, often thirty, were placed upon the ground outside its limits, where they lay in the open air, with some vain attempt at familiarity in their arrangement. Within and around this place the final results of our treatment were to be seen. Here, indeed, were the fruits of the "natural agencies" which were to do *the work* "faster than the bullet."

I have said that the attempt to place the bodies in regular lines was vain. It became so because of the contorted forms of the deceased, particularly of those who died from the effects of scurvy. In these the cords had become affected, and by their contraction had drawn up the limbs into every hideous shape. The flesh was livid, and swollen even to bursting, in many places; large open sores—pools of corruption—were upon their bodies, and the vermin swarmed in the rags that covered them. The victims of gangrene presented a sickening sight; the flesh was eaten from their cheeks, exposing the teeth and bones, and upon their faces sat a skeleton grin, horrible to behold. There was also the meager frame-work of men wasted away by diarrhea and fever, and the pallid lips of the consumptive. And the dead lay there upon the bare ground, clad in the filthy rags in which they died, covered with filth and dirt and parasites, their sallow faces upturned to heaven, their lusterless eyes fixed, large, staring, and hollow, and their jaws dropped wide apart, their naked feet pinched with leanness and dark with smoke and grime, and their fingers, fleshless and bony and black beneath the nails, tightly clenched as they had faintly struggled in their last agony. Pinned upon the breast of each was a white label which contained the number of the deceased.

Nor were the numbers of the dead few and occasional. During the month of August 2,990 bodies were deposited in the dead-house previous to burial, an average of more than 96 per day, exceeding by 1,000 the largest brigade engaged in the battle of Stone River, and being nearly seven-eighths as many as the entire division of Brigadier-General Van Cleve in that famous engagement. But during the latter part of the month the mortality was much greater than at the first, the number of dead being 100, 110, 120, 125, and 140 per day.

In the early morning the dea-dcart came for the bodies. This was an army wagon without covering; drawn by four mules and driven by a slave. The bodies were tossed into the cart without regard to regularity or decency, being thrown upon one another as logs or sticks are packed in a pile. In this manner, with their arms and legs hanging over the sides, and their heads jostling and beating against each other, as the sable driver, whistling a merry strain, hauled them to the grave, hurrying rapidly over roots and stumps, the Federal prisoners were carried out to the burial.

The cemetery was located northwest of the stockade and nearly a mile from the hospital, upon a beautiful open spot, surrounded by the forest of pines and slightly sloping toward the northeast. The dead were buried by a squad of paroled prisoners selected for this purpose. A trench running due north and south, was dug about four feet in depth, six feet wide, and of sufficient length to contain the bodies for the day. In this

the bodies were placed side by side with their faces to the east and the earth thrown in upon them. A little mound a foot in height was raised over each body, a stake branded with the number on the label, placed at the head of each, and without a prayer said over the dead, without a tear from the strangers that performed the last rite, the ceremony was ended. The number upon the stake referred to a register kept in the office of the chief surgeon, by a Mr. — Atwater, a paroled prisoner, in which were the number, name, rank, company, regiment (when these were known), date of death, and name of disease. This register was kept with great care, and if it is still in existence will correctly refer the inquiring friend to the spot where the loved one lies. But some of those who died in the stockade expired without revealing their name; of such only the number is recorded, and the little word "unknown" comprises all that is left of many a brave man's history.

The sworn statement of Warren L. Goss, a Union soldier, and non-commissioned officer, is also incorporated in the report of the committee.

Mr. Goss was confined in Libby, Cary No. 2, Belle Isle, Andersonville, Charleston Fair Ground Workhouse, and Florence. He says:

THE DEAD-LINE—INCIDENTS OF MURDER—CONDITION OF PRISONERS—SCURVY—MAGGOTS—GANGRENE—CASE OF CORPORAL GIBSON—SINKS—TERRIBLE MORTALITY IN JULY—INCREASE OF PRISONERS—GREAT RAINS.

One of the great instruments of death in the prison was the dead-line. This line consisted of a row of stakes driven into the ground, with narrow board strips nailed down upon the top, at the distance of about 15 feet from the stockade on the interior side. This line was closely guarded by sentinels, stationed above on the stockade, and any person who approached it, as many unconsciously did, and as in the crowd was often unavoidable, was shot dead, with no warning whatever to admonish him that death was near. An instance of this kind came to my notice the second day I was in prison. A poor, one-legged cripple placed one hand on the dead-line to support him while he got his crutch, which had fallen from his feeble grasp to the ground. In this position he was shot through the lungs, and laid near the dead-line writhing in torments during most of the forenoon, until at last death came to his relief. None dared approach him to relieve his sufferings through fear of the same fate. The guard loaded his musket after he had performed this dastardly act, and grinning with satisfaction, viewed the body of the dying murdered man for nearly an hour, with apparent pleasure, occasionally raising the gun to threaten any one who, from curiosity or pity dared to approach the poor fellow. In a similar manner men were continually shot upon the smallest pretext, and that it was nothing but a pretext was apparent from the fact that one man approaching the dead-line could have in no manner harmed the cumbersome stockade, even had he been inclined so to do, and a hundred men could not, with their united strength, have forced it. Frequently the guard fired indiscriminately into a crowd. On one occasion I saw a man wounded and another killed; one was lying under his blanket asleep, the other standing some distance from the dead-line.

A key to this murderous, inhuman practice was to be found in a standing order at rebel headquarters, that "any sentinel killing a Federal soldier approaching the dead-line shall receive a furlough of sixty days; while for wounding one he shall receive a furlough for thirty days." This order not only offered a premium for murder, but encouraged the guard in other outrages, against which we had no defense whatever. Men innocent of any intention to infringe the prison regulations were not safe when lying in the quiet of their blankets at night. Four or five instances happened within range of my observation at Andersonville, and there were dozens of cases which I heard of, succeeding the report of guns in the stockade. Scarcely a night or day passed but the sharp crack of a rifle told of the murder of another defenseless victim. Men becoming tired of life committed suicide in this manner. They had but to get under the dead-line, or lean upon it, and their fate was sealed in death.

An incident of this kind came to my knowledge in July. A New York soldier had tried once or twice to escape, by which means he had lost his cooking utensils and his blanket, and was obliged to endure the rain and heat without protection, and to borrow, beg, or steal cooking implements, eat his food raw, or starve. Lying in the rain often at night, followed by the tropical heat of day, was torture which goaded him to desperation. He announced his determination to die, and getting over the dead-line, was shot through the heart. One cannot be a constant witness to such scenes without being affected by them. I doubt not he saved himself, by such a course, much trouble and pain, anticipating by only a few weeks a death he must eventually have suffered.

There being no sanitary regulations in camp, and no proper medical provisions, sickness and death were inevitable accompaniments of our imprisonment. Thousands of

prisoners were so affected with scurvy, caused by want of vegetables, or of nutritious food, that their limbs were ready to drop from their bodies. I have often seen maggots scooped out by the handful from the sores of those thus afflicted. Upon the first attack of scurvy, an enervating weakness creeps over the body, which is followed by a disinclination to exercise; the legs become swollen and weak, and often the cords contract, drawing the leg out of shape; the color of the skin becomes black and blue, and retains pressure from the fingers as putty will. This is frequently followed by dropsical symptoms, swelling of the feet and legs. If the patient was subject to trouble with the throat, the scurvy would attack that part; if afflicted with or predisposed to any disease, there it would seize and develop, or aggravate it in the system.

In cases of this character, persons ignorant of their condition would often be trying to do something for a disease which in reality should have been treated as scurvy, and could have been prevented or cured by proper food. A common form of scurvy was in the mouth; this was the most horrible in its final results of any that afflicted the prisoners. The teeth would become loosened, the gums rot way, and swallowing the saliva thus tainted with the poison of scurvy, would produce scurvy in the bowels, which often took the form of chronic diarrhea. Sometimes bloating of the bowels would take place, followed by terrible suffering and death. Often scurvy sores would gangrene, and maggots would crawl from the flesh, and pass from the bowels, and, under the tortures of a slow death, the body would become, in part, putrid before death. In this manner died Corporal Gibson, an old, esteemed, and pious man of my company. Two or three others also died in much the same manner. Corporal Gibson especially had his reason and senses clear, after most of his body was in a putrid condition. In other cases, persons wasted to mere skeletons by starvation and disease, unable to help themselves, died by inches the most terrible of deaths, with not a particle of medicine, or a hand lifted by those in charge of the prison for their relief.

There was a portion of the camp, forming a kind of a swamp, on the north side of the branch, as it was termed by the rebels, which ran through the center of the camp. This swamp was used as a sink by the prisoners, and was putrid with the corruption of human offal. The stench polluted and pervaded the whole atmosphere of the prison. When the prisoner was fortunate enough to get a breath of air outside the prison, it seemed like a new development of creation, so different was it from the poisonous vapors inhaled from this cess-pool with which the prison air was reeking. During the day the sun drank up the most noxious of these vapors, but in the night the terrible miasma and stench pervaded the atmosphere almost to suffocation.

In the month of July, it became apparent that unless something was done to abate the nuisance, the whole camp would be swept away by some terrible disease engendered by it. Impelled by apprehension for the safety of themselves and the troops stationed around the camp on guard, the rebel authorities of the prison furnished the necessary implements to the prisoners, who filled about half an acre of the worst of the sink with earth excavated from the hill-side. The space thus filled in was occupied, almost to the very verge of the sink, by the prisoners, gathered here for the conveniences of the place, and for obtaining water. Men reduced by starvation and disease would drag themselves to this locality to lie down and die uncared for, almost unnoticed. I have counted fifteen dead bodies in one morning near this sink, where they had died during the night. I have seen forty or fifty men in a dying condition, who, with their little remaining strength, had dragged themselves to this place for its conveniences, and, unable to get back again, were exposed in the sun, often without food, until death relieved them of the burden of life. Frequently, on passing them, some were found reduced to idocy, and many, unable to articulate, would stretch forth their wasted hands in piteous supplication for food or water, or point to their lips, their glazed eyes presenting that staring fixedness which immediately precedes death. On some the flesh would be dropping from their bones with scurvy; in others little of humanity remained in the wasted forms but skin drawn over bones. Nothing ever before seen in a civilized country could give one an adequate idea of the physical condition to which disease, starvation, and exposure reduced these men. It was only strange that men should retain life so long as to be reduced to the skeleton condition of the great mass who died in prison.

In June, prisoners from Sherman's and Grant's armies came in great numbers. After the battles of Spottsylvania and of the Wilderness, over two thousand prisoners came in at one time. Most of those who came through Richmond had their blankets taken from them, and in many instances were left with only shirt, hat, and pantaloons. These lay in groups, often wet through with rain at night, and exposed to the heat of a tropical sun daily. With such night and day were alike to be dreaded. The terrible rains of June were prolific of disease and death. It rained almost incessantly twenty-one days during the month. Those of the prisoners who were not by nature possessed of unyielding courage and iron constitutions broke down under the terrible inflictions of hunger, exposure, and mental torments. The scenes that met the eye on every side were not calculated to give hopeful tendencies to the mind distressed by physical and mental torture. Men died at so rapid a rate that one often found himself won-

dering and speculating when and how his turn would come; for that it must come, and that soon, seemed inevitable under the circumstances. No words can express the terrible sufferings which hunger and exposure inflicted upon the luckless inmates of Andersonville prison. During one week there were said to have died thirteen hundred and eighty men. Death lost all its sanctity by reason of its frequent occurrence, and because of the inability of suffering men, liable at any moment to experience a like fate, to help others. To show funeral honors to the dead, or soothe the last moments of the dying, was impracticable, if not impossible. Those whose natures had not raised them superior to fate, lost their good humor and gayety, and pined away in hopeless repinings—dreaming of home, and giving way to melancholy forebodings, which could be productive of no good result. Others, of an opposite mold of character, whom nothing could daunt, still retained something of their natural gayety and humor amid all the wretchedness by which they were surrounded. To such, trials were but so many incentives to surmount and overcome difficulties. If the prisoner gave way to languor and weakness, and failed to take necessary exercise; if he did not dispose his mind to take cheerful views of his condition, and look upon the bright side of that which seemed to be but darkness and misery, he might as well give up hope of life at once.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS AND MORTALITY—INSANITY—IDIOCY—REFLECTIONS ON PRISON LIFE—CASES OF PETER DUNN, CHARLES E. BENT, AND C. H. A. MOORE.

The occasion of so much sickness and death was found in the causes enumerated, with the insufficiency in quantity of food, its unsuitableness in quality, and the absence of all vegetables. The heating nature of Indian meal—the cob ground with the corn, also had its effects in producing an unhealthy condition of things. During July one could scarcely step without seeing some poor victim in his last agonies. The piteous tones of entreaty, the famine-stricken look of these men, their bones in some cases worn through their flesh, were enough to excite pity and compassion in hearts of stone.

Death by starvation and exposure was preceded by a mild kind of insanity or idiocy, when the mind felt not the misery of the body, and was unable to provide for its wants. We gave water and words of sympathy to wretches who were but a few degrees worse than ourselves. But there was danger when we gave food that we might starve ourselves, while that which we furnished to another would not preserve his life. If you allowed every sick man to drink from your cup, you were liable to bring upon yourself the terrible infliction of scurvy in the mouth, which was as much to be dreaded as death. Even a gratification of your keenest human sympathies thus became the potent cause of self-destruction and suffering to him who indulged in so great a luxury.

The terrible truth was, that in prison one could not attempt to relieve the misery of others more miserable than himself without placing himself in great peril. Was it wonderful that the cries of dying, famished men were unheeded by those who were battling with fate to preserve their own lives? If there were some who turned ears of deafness to distressed tones of entreaty, who forgot the example of the "good Samaritan" in their own distress, the fault and sin (if sin or fault there was under such torture and condition) were surely not upon their own heads, but upon the heads of those who had crowded into our daily existence so much of misery as to leave no room for the gratification of kindly sympathies, and had drowned out the finer sensibilities in the struggles with despair and death for self-preservation. Subjects of pity rather than of blame, they were not allowed the luxury of pity and sympathetic action. Yet many there were, surrounded by and suffering acutest torture, who moved like angels of mercy among suffering companions stricken by famine and disease.

It is a terrible thing to feel one's self starving; to brace every nerve against the approach of death, and summon to the aid of the body all its selfishness; yet men, in spite of the necessity of so doing in order to preserve life, assisted and soothed one another in hours of sickness, distress, and melancholy; and such had a reward in the consciousness of duty performed, of unselfish devotion, surrounded by famine and death—the bitter cup of misery pressed to their own lips, yet having still a care for others, under circumstances of trial when the thoughts of most men were turned upon themselves, and oblivious to others' woes amid their own misery.

Most prisoners, being only soldiers temporarily, have at variance two distinct elements of feeling: one springing from their habitual and the other from their temporary mode of life; one springing from peaceful associations, with the seclusions of home, or the luxury of the business activity of city life; the other from the more recent influences of the camp and battle-field. These incongruous elements are in constant antagonism. One moment it is the soldier, improvident and careless of the future, reckless of the present, laughing at discomforts and privations and merry in the midst of intense suffering. Then it is the quiet citizen, complaining of misfortune, sighing for home and its dear ones, dreaming of seclusion and peace, yielding to de-

spondency and sorrow. And this is perhaps fortunate, for at least there is less danger that the prisoner shall become improvident with the one element, or a miser dead to every feeling with the other. Most prisoners, in such misfortunes, are apt to indulge in a kind of post-mortem examination of their previous life, to dissect that portion of their past history which is seldom anatomized without arriving at the conclusion that present misfortunes are nearly in all cases due to some radical error in their own lives. Misfortunes render some men reckless; others, on the contrary, become cautious through failure and wise through misfortune. And such, retracing in their leisure hours their paths of life, question the sorrowful specters of perished hopes which haunt the crowded graveyards of the past. They draw from the past naught but cold realities; they cut into the body of their blighted life and hopes, and seek to learn of what disease it died. This is rational; it is instructive and courageous; but, unfortunately, it is not pleasant. Better to light anew the corpse of the dead past, to inwreathe the torn hair with blossoms, to tinge the livid cheek with the purple flush of health, to enkindle the glazed eyes with eloquent luster, to breathe into the pallid lips the wonted echoes of a familiar voice which may discourse to us pleasantly of long-departed joys and of old happy hours. There is a piteous consolation in it, like the mournful solace of those who, having lost some being near and dear to them, plant the dear grave with flowers. It is this inward self which is all his own that the prison leisure leads the speculative captive daily to analyze. After a voyage of memory over the ocean of the past, he returns to the sad present with a better heart, and endeavors, from the newly-kindled stars which have arisen above the vapory horizon of his prison life, to cast the horoscope of a wiser future.

I have spoken of a mild kind of insanity which precedes death caused by starvation and brooding melancholy, in which the mind wanders from real to imaginary scenes. Private Peter Dunn, of my company, was an instance of this kind. At an early date of his imprisonment he lost his tin cup, which was with him, as commonly was the case throughout the prison, the only cooking implement. His blanket was also lost, and he was left destitute of all shelter and of every comfort except that which was furnished him by companions who were sufferers in common with himself, and not overstocked with necessaries and comforts. Gradually, as he wasted away, his mind wandered, and in imagination he was the possessor of those luxuries which the imagination will fasten upon when the body feels the keenest pangs of hunger. With simple sincerity he would frequently speak of some luxury which he imagined he had partaken of. Suddenly a gleam of intelligence would overspread his face; he would speak of the prison, and say: "This is a dreadful place for the boys, isn't it? I don't enjoy myself when I have anything good to eat, there are so many around me who look hungry." And then, gazing in my face, said, in the saddest modulations I ever heard in human voice, "You look hungry, too, Sarg." And then, sinking his voice to a whisper, added, "Oh dear! I'm hungry myself, a good deal." Poor, poor Peter! he soon died a lingering death from the effects of starvation and exposure. In the lucid moments that preceded death, he said, as I stood over his poor famine-pinched form, "I'm dreadful cold and hungry, Sarg." He again relapsed into a state of wandering, with the names of "Mary" and "Mother" on his lips; and the last faint action of life, when he could no longer speak, was to point his finger to his pallid, gasping lips, in mute entreaty for food!

Charles E. Bent was a drummer in my company, a fine lad, with as big a heart in his small body as ever throbbed in the breast of a man. He was a silent boy, who rarely manifested any outward emotion, and spoke but seldom, but, as his comrades expressed it, "kept up a thinking." I observed nothing unusual in his conduct or manner to denote insanity, until one afternoon, about sundown, one of his comrades noticed the absence of a ring commonly worn upon his hand, and inquired where it was. "When I was out just now," he said, "my sister came and took it, and gave it to an angel." The next day as the sun went down, its last rays lingered, it seemed to me, caressingly upon the dear pallid face of the dead boy. His pain and sorrow were ended, and heartless men no longer could torture him with hunger and cruelty.

But while the minds of many became unsettled with idiocy or insanity, there were other instances where a vivid consciousness and clearness of mental vision were retained to the very verge of that country "from whence no traveler returns."

C. H. A. Moore was a drummer in my company—the only son of a widowed mother. All the wealth of maternal affection had been fondly lavished upon him. In him all her hopes were centered, and it was with great reluctance that she finally agreed to his enlistment. A soldier's life, to one thus reared, is at best hard; but to plunge one so young and unaccustomed even to the rudiments of hardships into the unparalleled miseries of Andersonville, seemed cruelty inexpressible. He was just convalescent from a typhoid fever when captured. In prison he gradually wasted away until he died. The day previous to his death I saw and conversed with him, tried to encourage and cheer him; but a look of premature age had settled over his youthful face, which bore but little semblance to the bright, expressive look he wore when he enlisted. He was perfectly sane, and conversed with uncommon clearness and method, as though

his mind had been suddenly developed by intense suffering. His face bore an unchanged, listless expression, which I have noticed in prison betokened the loss of hope. He spoke of home and of his mother, but his words were all in the same key, monotonous and weary, with a stony, unmoved expression of countenance. On a face so young I never saw such indescribable hopelessness. He was despair petrified! And when I think of it, even now, it pierces me to the heart. His was a lingering death by starvation and exposure, with no relief from unmitigated misery.

THOMAS N. WAY, of the First Ohio Volunteers, also testifies:

I know of the use of hounds at Andersonville; they caught me three times. I remember about a soldier being torn to pieces by hounds. He was a young man whose name I don't know. I knew him by the name of Fred. He was about seventeen years old. When we heard the dogs coming, I and another prisoner who was with me, being old hands, climbed a tree. He tried to do so, but he had not got up when the hounds caught him by the foot and pulled him down, and in less than three minutes he was torn all to atoms. Turner was close behind. He got up just as the man was torn to pieces, and secured the hounds, and we came down. Fred died; he was all torn to pieces. No other of our number was torn at the same time. That occurred in the latter part of August, 1864, just before we were moved from Andersonville, which was on the 24th of August. Turner said, "It is good for the son of a bitch; I wish they had torn you all three to pieces." I do not know by whose order he came out there for us. I cannot say whether it was by order of Captain Wirz or the general commanding the post. It was Turner who usually had the hounds. He went by the name of Sergeant Turner. I believe he only captured me once. A man by the name of Sergeant Harris captured me twice before.

FELIX DE LA BAUME, Thirty-fifth New York Volunteers:

I remember about the hounds. In the month of September, 1864, I was allowed to go out after wood. At that time Captain Wirz allowed squads of twenty-five to go out after wood about a mile distant from the stockade. At that time I myself was not able to carry any wood, but I availed myself of the opportunity to go out to have some fresh air. I went out with a man named Louis Holm, of the Fifth New York Cavalry; we were both starved; we had had nothing to eat, in consequence of being unable to cook our meal which we received. When we came out Holm made a proposition to me that we should hide ourselves and try to get away from the guard and go to some farm to obtain something to eat. We were too weak to run off; we did not intend to run off or "skedaddle," because we could not walk far; but we wished to obtain some food from some of the farmers; we always heard that the farmers around there were good Union men, and always aided our prisoners whenever they could do so without being detected. Holm and I hid ourselves in a very large tree in a kind of a mud-hole among the bushes, and remained there for over an hour; then we heard the dogs bark. An old Indian had once told me that in case of being overtaken by bloodhounds I should pretend to be dead and the hounds would not attack me. So I told Hold to remain quiet in the bushes and not make any noise, but he was so much frightened by the dogs that he tried to get up a tree so as not to torn to be pieces by them. While he was trying to get up the tree the dogs came up and caught hold of him by one of his legs, biting quite a large hole. I have drawn a representation of that scene. [A paper being shown to witness.] That is the drawing; the man climbing the tree represents Holm, and I am represented lying under the tree. That represents the character of the dog; it was a dog looking like this. My comrade was torn by the dogs very badly; we were brought in by a sergeant and by the men who had the dogs. At that time they had only two dogs out, and one of them captured us. They brought us in to Captain Wirz's headquarters, and one of the sergeants—I don't remember his name—spoke a few words for me and the other man. Captain Wirz did not punish us, but sent us back to the stockade, and gave orders to the sergeant of the detachment not to let us go out any more.

The following are statements of Union officers who were prisoners of war, and reported by the same committee of the Fortieth Congress:

Statement of John B. Dibeler, of Philadelphia, Pa.

I enlisted as a private, and was promoted to first sergeant, first lieutenant, and was captain at the time of my capture at Petersburg, Va., July 30, 1863. The next day (Sunday) we were marched through the streets, sandwiched in the ranks with wounded negro troops, after which we were shipped to Danville, Va. In a few days we were shipped to Columbia, S. C., and twenty of us packed into a room ten by fourteen feet, in the jail. I made several attempts at escape, and finally brought

up at rebel General Wheeler's headquarters, and was exchanged by agreement with him and General Kilpatrick. The slaves were always willing to assist in feeding and making me as comfortable as possible. An old colored man concealed me and an escaping comrade in an old cotton gin, where he fed us for several days. His master, fearing Sherman's approach, fled to the mountains, taking our protector with him. Before going he turned us over to another slave, who fed us well and did all he could for us until we were discovered and recaptured.

J. B. DIBELER,
Late Captain Company B, Forty-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers.

WEST PHILADELPHIA, *May* 18, 1867.

Statement of R. Bartley, Allegheny City, Pa.

I was a lieutenant in the United States Signal Corps. Was signal officer with Colonel Dahlgren's expedition to Richmond, when he was killed and his body mutilated. With the other officers of Colonel Dahlgren's force, was kept in close confinement in a cell in Libby Prison with negro enlisted men, for five months and fourteen days, as felons, not entitled to the treatment of prisoners of war; we were treated as brutes by the prison officials, under orders from James A. Seddon, rebel secretary of war. When taken out of the cell to be taken south the projecting bones of my body were cutting through the skin from starvation, which has left me permanently disabled, having almost lost the use of my eyes. I have known officers to be shot and bayoneted for no cause; and as for robbery, it was one of the lesser evils to which we were subjected.

R. BARTLEY,
Late Lieutenant United States Signal Corps.

ALLEGHENY CITY, PA., *July* 23, 1868.

Statement of M. P. Buffum, first Lieutenant Fifteenth United States Infantry.

I was lieutenant-colonel Fourth Rhode Island volunteers; was taken prisoner July 30, 1864, in front of Petersburg; was taken to Danville and from thence to Columbia, S. C., where we were put into Richland County prison. On Sunday we were marched through streets of Petersburg, formed in line of march as follows: Four white men (officers), then four wounded negro soldiers captured at the same time, and so on alternate fours of whites and negroes, subjected to the taunts and jeers of men, women, and children. Our ration at Columbia was one pint of meal and a gill of sorghum per day.

M. P. BUFFUM,
First Lieut. Fifteenth U. S. Infantry, late Lieut. Col. Fourth Rhode Island Volunteers.

MOBILE, ALA., *November* 8, 1867.

Statement of Caleb S. Bowen, of Quidnick, R. I.

I was captain in Fourth Rhode Island Volunteers; was first captured at the battle of Antietam, where I was severely wounded in the thigh. I was found by the enemy about 9 p. m., on the field, and carried to the rear with others, and placed under a large tree. The night was cold, and the next day rainy. I received no attention whatever. All that was done for my wound I did myself. I gave one of the guards a dollar for a piece of an old shirt, with which I used to bind up my wound as best I could. All I had to eat was corn and green apples. I remained under the tree for three days, when I begged them to take me to some shelter, feeling that I could not survive another night as I was, being wet, cold, hungry, and exhausted by loss of blood. They carried me to an old barn, and the next day paroled me. I was found by our soldiers the next day. I was again captured at Petersburg. On the following Sunday we were paraded through the streets, arranged as follows: Four white, then four colored soldiers, alternately. We were subjected to the most brutal and abusive language I ever heard, and this from men, women, and children alike. We received nothing to eat until the following night; then only a small amount of hard-tack and a little piece of bacon, which was so wormy I threw it away. We were then taken to Danville, where we were separated from the enlisted men, crowded into filthy cattle-cars, and conveyed to Columbia, S. C. The weather was extremely hot and the car so crowded, we could not sit down, which caused us to suffer much on the way. At Columbia we were confined in the Richland jail, fourteen of us in a cell or room, which was so small that we could not all lie down at the same time. There was but one window in the room. There was no furniture of any kind, not even blankets to lie on. Our ration was a pint of cob-meal and a gill of vinegar per day, and a pint of rice once in ten days. We were allowed to go into the small jail yard an hour in the morning and evening. As most of us were suffering from diarrhea our condition must be left to imagination. I was attacked with inflammatory rheumatism and sent into

the hospital for a short time, but was soon returned to the jail. On the night of December 12 we were put into the stockade, where there was no shelter but the rude hospital. We suffered severely from the cold, as we had no clothing except our thin summer clothes, now worn threadbare. Most of us had been robbed of our hats, shoes, and some other garments. I have been present at the capture of many rebel prisoners, and have been placed guard over them. I know they were treated as well as our own men. In all cases where I have seen them, they were provided with shelter, good food, and were furnished with blankets, if they had none of their own.

C. S. BOWEN,
Late Captain Fourth Rhode Island Volunteers.

QUIDNICK, R. I., *December* 7, 1867.

It is impossible, however, to do more than present a few extracts from the mass of facts relating to the treatment of our prisoners.

From the report of the treatment of prisoners of war by rebel authorities made by the committee appointed by the Fortieth Congress we make some extracts as to various prisons together with other appropriate data:

CAMP LAWTON, MILLEN, GA.

This prison, situated 80 miles north of the city of Savannah, embracing an area of 44 acres, and surrounded by a stockade of timber, took its name from Captain Lawton, one of its commanders. It was opened in August or September, 1864. When first occupied, a number of huts were constructed by the prisoners out of the timber felled in clearing the camp, furnishing sufficient shelter until November, 1864, when the number of prisoners was increased to about nine thousand. These could not all be sheltered by the huts, and although the camp was surrounded by timber, they were not allowed to provide shelter for themselves, and in consequence suffered severely from cold.

The stockade at Millen, like that at Andersonville, was open and unprotected. In the fall of 1864, when the number of prisoners was largely increased and the grounds had become saturated with autumn rains, the men were compelled to lie unprotected on the muddy surface, the authorities furnishing no means of building more huts or places of shelter. There was a great lack of cooking conveniences, an insufficient supply of fuel being the common condition of the camp, although it was surrounded with large quantities of growing wood. Even the hospitals here afforded no fit place for the dwelling of man. The rations were insufficient, consisting of a few tablespoonfuls of rice, less than a pint of corn-meal, about a quarter of a pound of fresh beef, in place of which the inevitable black peas were sometimes substituted. The men fell and died as at Andersonville. In their terrible extremity they burrowed themselves in the earth to gain shelter from the pelting storms, from whence they crawled forth to die from starvation and disease.

Here, as at Andersonville, too, the Confederate recruiting officer plied his vocation, gathering for the rebel ranks a few victims whose courage quailed before the gaunt and stalking famine which had driven from their bosoms the last vestige of hope. Prisoners died here at an average of 9 per cent. a month. An inmate describes the scenes there in the following language:

'A month's experience at Camp Lawton proved to us that our condition had been in no wise improved by the transfer from Andersonville. The exposure was rapidly thinning our numbers; our rations were not sufficient to support life for any extended period of time under the most favorable circumstances; and here, where no artificial heat could be obtained, the blood of the strong man became torpid and refused to do its office. A hospital for receiving the sick was established in the southwest corner of the area; but no shelter was provided, no blankets given those who occupied it, and medicines were not issued there. The only advantage to the sick man in this arrangement was that he would be certain to be found by the surgeons who were examining with reference to the special exchange. From this hospital those who were deemed unfit to stay in the stockade were transferred to a hospital outside the pen, where they remained until forwarded to the exchange point. Those who were not taken to the outer hospital were left to roam at will through the inclosure without medicine and with no other treatment than that afforded to the other prisoners. They died at an average rate of 9 per cent. per month. It was horrible to pass around the area at sunrise and see the dead men who had expired the night before. Some of them had fallen upon the open space and been unable to rise; others crawled wearily to the side of a stump as if to be near some object, however inanimate, when the last agony came upon them; some sought the borders of the stream perchance that its soft ripple might soothe the parting spirit with gentle music as it quitted the poor tenement which had

been its home; others forced themselves into the empty ovens and beneath the unused kettles; while still others burrowed themselves more deeply into the ground, digging their own graves as they nestled down into the bosom of earth for its genial warmth to shelter their freezing limbs from the beating storms; and when they were gathered up and removed for burial their clenched hands still clung to the friendly breast that had cherished them, refusing to release their hold and carrying the torn fragments with them to the tomb. And yet the dead, turning their glassy eyes upon us as we passed, were not more horrible than the living with their pinched faces, blue with cold, trembling as they hugged their almost naked forms with their bony arms, in a vain attempt to retain the heat which was not there, or collecting in groups to gather warmth from numbers, ever and anon changing places that the outer circle might be relieved from the pinching cold, while those within assumed their places to come back in turn. So these pale, haggard wretches starved and froze day by day unnoticed, and were buried like brutes."—(Fourteen Months in Southern Prisons.)

An examination of the evidence will fully justify this graphic statement of Mr. Davidson.

The number of graves of Union prisoners at Millen is seven hundred and forty-eight.

SAVANNAH, GA.

The prison here was located in the grounds adjoining the United States marine hospital, and embraced an area of about one and a half acres, inclosed partially by a high brick wall—the remainder by a board fence. The guard consisted of a line of sentries overlooking the camp, with a second chain of sentinels entirely surrounding it. The customary dead-line was established here, the camp being lighted at night by fires developing the movements of the prisoners. The commandant was Colonel Wayne, who is described as a good officer. The treatment experienced by our men here compares most favorably with that of any other prison in the South. Tents were issued, nineteen to every ninety men. Several large trees in the yard afforded a pleasant shade, and as fuel, water, and rations were properly supplied, but little sickness or mortality occurred among the inmates. Only two graves of Union prisoners are found here, illustrating forcibly the fact that even in a tropical climate the health and endurance of the Northern prisoners when subjected to good treatment were well sustained and favorable.

BLACKSHEAR, GA.

The camp located at this point was situated on the side of a hill, in a thickly wooded country, at a station on the line of the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad. There was no stockade inclosure, but the prisoners were guarded by a chain of sentries which surrounded the camp. The only shelter was that constructed by the prisoners themselves, consisting of stakes driven into the ground, across which pine boughs were laid, serving to keep out the sun's rays, and for a time the rain also.

The treatment experienced contrasts favorably with that of the other prisons herein described, and it never contained a large number of prisoners for any length of time, serving chiefly as a temporary camp or depot for prisoners moving from place to place.

LIBBY PRISON, RICHMOND, VA.

This bastile was situated at the southeast corner of Carey and Eighteenth streets. It consisted of a building, or block, of three stories, with an attic. The first story and attic were used for enlisted men, officers being confined on the second and third floors. The dimensions of the rooms were 105 by 45 feet, connected by door-ways and having five windows at each end.

Dungeons below the level of the street and under the sidewalk were used for the confinement of prisoners who violated any known or unknown rule of the prison. Into the six rooms devoted to the confinement of officers as many as twelve hundred have been crowded at one time, which allowed but 20 square feet, or 4½ feet each way, for each prisoner. Maj. T. P. Turner commanded the prison and Richard Turner was prison inspector. This was the place to which prisoners were usually taken to be searched and robbed. It was one of the first established by the rebels, and continued in use until nearly the time of Lee's surrender. Many thousand prisoners were temporarily confined here previous to being sent south. Eleven hundred prisoners, however, were confined here many months. As early as 1863, men were starving in this prison. They were fed with broth made of rusty and decayed bacon, covered with white maggots, and from beans and peas. Here the inmates slept on the hard and naked floor, or, in colder weather, sought protection on filthy blankets covered with vermin.

It was here that Colonel Streight was lured into an attempt to escape by the

perfidy and murderous intentions of the commandant of the prison. He was captured, ironed, thrust into a cell full of filth and vermin, and reduced to a diet of bread and water. Here he found six soldiers confined in the foul stench of this loathesome cell.

The foul and uninhabitable condition of Libby prison was well known to the higher officials and officers of the Confederacy, who were accustomed to visit it.

On the 9th of February, 1863, one hundred and nine men made their escape from this prison through a tunnel extending some sixty feet across the street on which the prison was situated. Fifty-five of them, including Colonel Streight, succeeded in reaching our lines.

The horrible purpose and intention of the rebels, of sacrificing our officers confined in this prison in cold blood, rather than permit their release by the armies of the Republic, appears to be well established A magazine containing several hundred pounds of powder was placed in an excavation beneath the building, with a fuse attached, with a view to its explosion in case the raid of Kilpatrick in February, 1864, had proved successful. The Richmond papers of the time boasted that measures had been taken to prevent the release of the Union officers by Federal troops.

The witness, Mr. Goss gives us the following account of Libby:

"The filth and heat were greater than even the place I had left. With some five hundred others I was crowded into the garret, next the roof of the prison. The hot sun, beating down upon the roof, made the filthy garret, crowded with men clamoring for standing-room, suffocating in a degree which one cannot well understand who never experienced it. During the day, in the corners of our garret, the dead remained among the living, and from these through all the rooms came the pestilent breath of a charnel-house. The vermin swarmed in every crack and crevice; the floors had not been cleaned for years. To consign men to such quarters was like signing their death warrant. Two men were shot by the rebel guard while trying to get breath at the windows.

"The third day of my confinement in this abode of torture I noticed a young soldier dying; his long, fair hair was matted in the indescribable liquid filth and dirt which clotted and ran over the floor of the prison. He was covered with vermin; the flies had gathered on his wasted hands, on his face, and on the sunken sockets of his eyes. But, even in this condition, hunger had not left him. The scene seemed to fascinate me, and in spite of the repulsiveness of the picture, I continued to look upon it, though it was much against my will. I saw him try to get to his mouth a dirty piece of bread which he held in his hand; the effort was in vain; the hand fell nerveless by his side; a convulsive shudder, and he was dead. After he had been dead half an hour, his hand still clasped over the poor dirty piece of bread, a zouave, who had one leg amputated, observing the bread, dragged himself through the filth and dirt, and, unclasping the dead man's fingers, took the bread from the rigid hand and ate it like a famished wolf.

"Men lay on the filthy floor unable to help themselves, gasping for breath, while their more healthy companions trod upon and stumbled over them. The common expression used was, "I shall die unless I get fresh air." Every breath they breathed was loaded with the poison of fever and the effluvia of the dead. When rations were issued, two-thirds of the very sick got nothing, for the manner of issuing was without order. and the distribution was by a general scramble among those who were the best able to wrangle for it. I was fortunate in getting rations the first day in Libby, but the second and third I got none. Meanwhile my fever grew worse and worse; oppressed for breath, crowded for room, unable to get into the prison yard to perform the common functions of nature, to which was added the want of medicines and even common food, made my situation so horribly intolerable that I could only hope for relief in death. All this was made worse by the constant wrangling for room, for air, and food. I succeeded in obtaining some pieces of board, by which means I raised myself from the dirty floor and the liquid filth around me."

BELLE ISLE, VIRGINIA.

Belle Isle, situated in James River, opposite the city of Richmond, Va., was used as a prison during almost the entire period of the war. The lowest part of the island was occupied as the prison proper, which was surrounded by an embankment three feet high, ditched on either side. The low ground and other causes made this prison very unhealthy, in fact the ratio of mortality equaled that of any other in the Confederacy. The number of prisoners confined here varied from one to ten thousand; the largest number was during the extremely cold winter of 1863–'64. The prisoners were without shelter or clothing, and perished in large numbers.

In the winter of 1863–'64 this prison was destitute of tents, barracks, or shelter capable of furnishing protection to the prisoners confined there. They lived like the savages of Africa, burrowing in the sand and starving on unwholesome, poisonous

and insufficient rations. Filth, exposure, nakedness, and the diseases and madness which follow in their train, banishing energy and hope, prevailed here during this terrible winter. They were herded together in the sand like swine; starving, festering remnants of the brave and heroic men who had sacrificed all at the call of their country. The hospitals are described as unfit for stables, and patients seldom reached them till ready to die.

Captain Montgomery commanded the camp in 1862 and 1863, and was succeeded by Lieutenant Bossieux.

One of the witnesses, Mr. Atwater, speaks of this prison as follows:

"The island contained about one hundred acres. The present camp at the southern end of a sandy plane containing about ten acres. A mound of earth inside, three feet high, constituted the dead-line; water readily obtained from barrels sunk in the earth, but was impregnated with human filth from the camp. Ten thousand men were confined here in August, 1863; prisoners allowed to go to the sinks only in the day-time. The men were without shoes, stockings, or shirts, and lay upon the bare ground. Instances are mentioned of eight men frozen to death in one night. The prisoners went several days in the severest weather without any fuel. The tents used were unprovided with any outlet for smoke."

Mr. Atwater was quartermaster's clerk for seven or eight months at Smith's tobacco warehouse, Richmond. Enough clothing was received from the North during that time to have furnished every prisoner with a complete suit, and a change of underclothing, blanket, and overcoat; but none of the prisoners were provided with all of them. But the rebel soldiers, and even citizens, came out each day with the new clothes—the Federal blue. The rebel officers had suits of clothes made out of the clothing sent to our men. Not one-third of the food received was issued to the prisoners. Express boxes were pilfered by the rebels. Fifty-five thousand dollars in greenbacks that had been taken from our men were in the hands of the rebel quartermaster at one time.

The land on which the camp was situated was almost on a level with the river and consequently unhealthy. The guard regulations on the island were very strict. No prisoner was allowed to come within three feet of the railing or fence which inclosed the prison. The guard had orders to shoot or bayonet any one infringing the rules. The food was so poor and insufficient as to reduce the inmates to a starving condition. The prisoners picked up bones rejected by others and gnawed them like dogs; struggled for potato peelings—anything that was of an eatable character. The witness, Mr. Goss, speaks of the rations as consisting of one-half loaf of bread, beans cooked in water in which bacon had been boiled for the guard, usually containing about 20 per cent. of maggots, 30 per cent. of beans, and the remainder in water. The issues were very irregular. Sometimes no rations were issued from Saturday morning until Monday night. The ration was brought in in blankets infested with vermin. At the commissaries, molasses, pies, and sugar were kept for sale at exorbitant rates. Molasses, $1 a pint; sugar, $1.50 a pound; onions, 25 cents apiece, and other things proportionably high. As early as July, 1863, the sufferings of the prisoners were intense. Deaths increased in the prison to such a degree that a load of bread for the living was usually accompanied with a load of coffins for the dead.

This state of things continued during the fall of 1863, and the winter succeeding was to the unfortunate men confined there a period of inconceivable horror. There can be no doubt, in fact the evidence is irrefutable, that this state of things was well-known to all the highest officials of the Confederacy. It occurred beneath the eye of Davis himself, and furnishes the strongest proof of the well-understood intention on the part of the Confederate Government to burden our prisoners with the grossest indignities and unheard-of privations which the ingenuity of man is capable of devising.

DANVILLE, VA.

Danville is situated on the southerly bank of the river Dan, and its prisons, several in number, consisted of old tobacco warehouses, usually three stories high, and numbered one, two, three, four, &c. The lower stories were used as passage-ways to the yards, the second as hospitals, while the prisoners were in general confined in the third story.

In the treatment of the inmates it bears a close resemblance to Andersonville, though the temporary confinement of the prisoners at this point relieves it in some degree from the protracted horrors which marked the history of the latter prison. Most excruciating and fatal suffering disgraces the history of prison life at Danville. The buildings were crowded and filthy, without any attempt at proper ventilation; the rations of the poorest quality, and miserably deficient in quantity, while water was supplied, without regard to the requirements of the prisoners, in small quantities—less than one-fourth enough for their proper comfort—and brought from the river only by details of men. No means were supplied for warming the buildings,

and during the cold inclement months of the year the prisoners were unprovided with fire or fuel.

The filth and stench of the rooms were horrible, of course adding largely to the discomfort, sickness, and mortality of the prisoners.

The character of the rations is described by the witnesses, and was such, both in quality and amount, as to insure the starvation and death of many a prisoner. An instance is mentioned of the finding of a hogshead of old wheat bran, which was discovered in the cellar of one of the prisons, and which was eagerly devoured by the victims of famine. The inevitable black peas, together with musty rice, at times formed the daily ration. Instances of starvation are testified to by the witnesses, and, in fact, it requires little reasoning to deduce this fatal result from the causes which were in constant operation at Danville. The same reckless conduct on the part of the guards was observable here as in the prisons at Richmond. The prisoners were kept from the windows under pain of being shot at, and when driven to resort to them by the intolerable stench of the room or from any other cause were wantonly shot and killed. Instances of such murders—where, after a night of terrible confinement, the victim had sought a little fresh air by thrusting his head from the window—were not uncommon. Sometimes the guard would leave his beat and go out twenty feet from it in order to get aim at the prisoner.

At this prison, also, our men were searched and robbed under the authority of the officers, and stripped of everything of value, including necessary clothing. The supplies of clothing forwarded by the United States Sanitary Commission to the prisoners at Danville were stolen by the Confederate authorities, the guards helping themselves and afterward appearing warmly clad in the suits intended for our men. No attempt seems to have been made at concealment. Probably not one-tenth part of the clothing sent from home was honestly distributed among the prisoners. The boxes of food and other articles of comfort sent to the prisoners from their friends seem to have shared a like fate. They were rifled by the rebels of the best portion of their contents, and the "lion's share" secured by them.

These prisons were used for the confinement of officers and soldiers, both white and colored, and we have the testimony of all classes as to the suffering and privation which prevailed there. The officers were confined in number three, enlisted men in the other buildings. Into number two six hundred men were at one time crowded together. Their confinement in this condition, deprived of air, water, and food, caused most intense suffering. Major Moffit, who commanded the post, is described as being harsh in his manner and brutal in his treatment. He was succeeded by Colonel R. C. Smith, who seems to have borne the same general character, and who is denounced by all confined under him.

The number of graves of Union prisoners at Danville, as stated by the report of the War Department, was one thousand three hundred and twenty-three.

SALISBURY, N. C.

A brick factory, four stories high, 40 by 100 feet, with five buildings, formerly used as boarding-houses for the operatives, constituted the prisons at Salisbury. A board fence surrounding them inclosed about five acres of ground. Prior to October, 1864, comparatively few prisoners had been received here, and those are represented to have been favorably treated. In the fall of 1864 ten thousand prisoners were sent to this point, crowding the inclosure to its utmost capacity. The buildings were soon filled with the sick and dying. Those who were unable to obtain admission remained without shelter other than one Sibley tent for each hundred men, and were exposed to the rigors of the following winter. Nearly one-half of them perished.

In November, 1864, the prisoners, driven to desperation by starvation and torture, attempted to escape by forcing the guard, but were soon overpowered with the loss of seventy killed and wounded. The guards continued to fire into the prison for some time after the wretched inmates had surrendered and were begging for mercy. The infamous John H. Gee, who had no rival in his brutality save Winder and Wirz, commanded this prison. His beastly and hellish nature reveled in the misery and suffering which surrounded him. He has thus far escaped the just penalty of his crimes through the technicalities of the law.

The customary dead-line was established at a distance of ten feet from the stockade. Here, as elsewhere, it was the trap which lured the unsuspecting victim to sudden death. About one hundred and fifty citizen prisoners were also confined here, together with deserters from the Federal army, United States seamen, and officers held as hostages. The surface of the ground on which the prison was located was a red clay, which the heavy rains converted into another "slough of despond." Water for the camp was brought from a distance of half a mile in barrels.

The number of graves of Union prisoners, as appears by the report of the War Department, is 12,112.

As indicative of the course of prison life at Salisbury, we introduce here the diary of one who perished a prisoner at that place. The original diary of Lucien Holmes, of the Tenth New Hampshire, is incorporated into the testimony herewith submitted, authenticated by the statement of his father, Rev. James Holmes. He was captured in October, 1864, and gives the following account of his imprisonment:

RICHMOND, Va., *November* 3.—We have drawn two days' rations, about enough for one good meal.

November 4.—Seventy crowded into one car. We are seeing rough times.

November 5.—At Greensboro' about dark; water very scarce indeed.

November 6.—Stopped in an open field overnight, hungry and almost choked; cold and only a little wood. After dark that night at Salisbury, N. C. No rations to-day, and have to sleep on the ground.

November 7.—Drew a little rice soup, about half a pint. There are ten thousand of us here—one thousand in a division, one hundred in a squad. Our regiment, fifth squad, tenth division.

November 8.—We have drawn half a pint of flour and no salt. No tents yet. Water very scarce. This is a rough place.

November 9.—It rained all last night. We had to lie in the mud. We drew, this afternoon, two tents and two flies for one hundred men, a pint of meal and no salt. I am well. I wish I could get word home. It is a shame for any civilized nation to treat men as we are here—thirty and forty dying a day and are drawn off in carts just like so much wood. It is awful! I hope something will be done soon to relieve.

November 10.—It rained almost all night; has been terribly muddy to-day. We drew bread this morning.

November 11.—We drew meat for the first time for a week, and drew meal. The men are dying off very fast indeed, and no wonder, exposed as we are to cold and hunger.

November 12.—We drew bread this morning. I saw twenty-three dead bodies in the dead house. Men are dying off fast from exposure—are allowed only a little wood.

November 13.—I don't know what we shall do if we have to stay here this winter. I do hope and pray for better times to come soon.

* * * * * * *

November 19.—Three men are allowed to go for wood out of one hundred in the squad, but it is not enough to do us much good.

November 20.—Rained all night and all day. We are suffering everything here. I wish I could get word home in some way.

November 21.—Still raining. This yard is worse than any hog-pen I ever saw. We get just enough to eat to live.

November 22.—I wish I could describe the misery and suffering there is in this pen. It cannot be called anything else.

November 23.—Ground frozen solid. I never suffered so much with cold as I did last night and to-day. Ninety-six have died in the twenty-four hours past.

November 24.—I suppose this is Thanksgiving Day in New Hampshire, but it does not seem much like it here. To-day they gave us only quarter rations. God only knows what is to become of us here, but we must hope for the best, putting entire confidence in our heavenly Father. He only can bring us out alive.

November 25.—Only one-quarter rations again to-day. The men are dying fast.

November 26.—No more rations yet.

November 27.—We got half a loaf of bread to-day and some meat.

November 28.—Only quarter rations to-day. I would give almost anything for enough to satisfy my hunger.

November 29.—About four hundred enlisted in the rebel army to-day. I shall have to be reduced more than I am now to enlist in their army. I never felt so weak as I have to-day. Hope for more rations soon. I wish I could get some money from home in some way.

These memoranda were closed November 30, 1864. Young Holmes lingered in Salisbury prison until January 4, 1865, the date of his death. This simple and affecting narrative, which may be considered almost as the dying statement of one who suffered and fell a martyr to Southern cruelty, gives us a glimpse of the fearful character of the sufferings endured in this prison.

Mr. Irvin H. Smith, who was a prisoner at Salisbury, reaching there December 6, 1864, says that no shelter was provided, and for the first few nights they slept on the ground. After a little while they went to digging holes with any tools they could procure, using a case-knife and half canteen, digging a hole about two feet square and five feet deep and then tunneling out. A fire-place was built in one end. In this they slept nights, and staid most of the day-time.

The rations were issued at any time in the day that happened. The divisions were in charge of a sergeant-major, and the squads in charge of a sergeant. The regular ration was bread, rice, and soup—the bread being sometimes made of corn-meal, sometimes of corn-meal ground cobs and all, some from wheat, some from shorts, and

some from a mixture of these. The rations were cooked in houses inside of the yard. Besides these rations they got occasionally about three spoonfuls of molasses two or three times in three months, and now and then a few small potatoes. The bread was from four to eight ounces in weight, and issued once a day. Once in six or eight days they drew half rations of bread. The ration of soup was about half a pint, without seasoning of any kind. He says:

"One day while dipping the rice soup out to our squad we found the front part of an ox's head, with no meat on it except the eyes. Sergeant Alvin S. Eaton, of the same company and regiment as myself, took the head to our hole as our portion of the soup. We took the eyes out and ate them with a good relish."

Meat was issued to the men once in six to ten days, two ounces or thereabouts, at each time. Such luxuries as tails, paunches, and wind-pipes of beeves were issued to the men occasionally, but did not reach the division of Mr. Smith.

The quantity of wood issued to each squad was what one to seven men could carry by going once a day a distance of ten or fifteen rods. It was broken up with railroad spikes. The supply of water was very limited, there being some five or six wells in the yard from which the water was drawn in tin cups. These wells were exhausted very early in the morning. About ten thousand prisoners were put into Salisbury from the 1st of October to the 1st of December. The men were very dirty, filthy, and ragged. The camp was kept comfortably clean, except around the sinks. The first floor of the building was occupied as a hospital, and the second and third floors by the rebel authorities for rebel prisoners. Citizen prisoners were confined in a building near the mill. The hospital room was insufficient for the wants of the prisoners, and badly furnished. Many of the prisoners almost entirely lost their senses. Snow fell several times to the depth of several inches, and remained on the ground from one to three days. Most of the time during the winter it was quite cold for a Southern climate. Mr. Smith describes the shooting near him of one of the prisoners by the rebel guard, a case apparently of unprovoked murder, for which no punishment followed. At this time guard duty was performed there by the Sixty-ninth South Carolina, composed largely of boys from sixteen to twenty years of age.

The dead were carried out and deposited in what was termed the dead-house. From thence they were taken in a cart about half a mile from the yard, and buried in ditches. From twenty to sixty bodies would be lying in the dead-house in the morning.

Mr. Smith arrived at Salisbury soon after the attempted escape, and states that some thirty or forty were wounded. The prisoners were released from Salisbury February 22, 1865. Out of a squad of one hundred, sixty died.

Closing his description of the prison, Mr. Smith says:

"I was able to march to Goldsborough with the rest of the well men, but I was very weak, physically and mentally. After arriving home I was confined to my room six weeks. It was an awful sight to see these wretched men move about the yard, and hear the *hack, hack, hack,* that came from the lips of those about to die. But more horrible than all other scenes was the dead-cart. There was no day in the week, or hour in the day from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m., but that this dead-cart could be seen carrying the lifeless forms of Union prisoners to their long resting-place, with their bodies piled one on the other, as market men pile hogs. There is an expression that goes to the grave on the face of a man that dies of starvation that is heart-rending to look upon. I have seen men killed on more than a dozen battle-fields; I have seen men die from battle-field wounds of almost every description; but never have I witnessed anything that so horrified the senses, shocked the imagination or led the mind to such diabolical thoughts toward the enemies of my country and humanity, as the sight of these, my brother soldiers, thrown into that dead-cart as nude as when born, and so covered with dirt that it was almost impossible to tell a white from a black man."

The following report of the rebel commandant of the post in December, 1864, gives us the number of prisoners, with the percentage of mortality at that time:

HEADQUARTERS POST CONFEDERATE STATES MILITARY PRISON,
Salisbury, N. C., December 14, 1864.

GENERAL: In accordance with your verbal instructions of yesterday, I have the honor respectfully to submit the following report of the average number of prisoners daily, and the average number of deaths among the Federal prisoners of war confined at this post, from the 12th of October, 1864, to the 12th of December, 1864 (sixty days):

Daily average of prisoners	8,200
Daily average of deaths	22
Percentage	$16\frac{4}{41}$

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. FUQUA,
Captain and Assistant Commandant Post.

Brig. Gen. J. H. WINDER,
Commissary-General of Prisoners, Salisbury, N. C.

The following indorsements appear upon this report:

C. S. M. PRISON, *Salisbury, N. C., December* 14, 1864.

J. A. Fuqua, captain and assistant commandant post, respectfully submits a report of the average number of prisoners daily, and average number of deaths among prisoners of war confined at this post, from the 12th of October, 1864, to the 12th of December, 1864.

Respectfully referred to adjutant and inspector general, Salisbury.

JNO. H. WINDER,
Brigadier-General.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

H. L. CLAY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

A. and I. G. O., *December* 29, 1864.

Noted.—Filed January 1, 1865. J. A. S., Secretary War. Received A. I. G. O., December 20, 1864. Returned January 9, 1865.

GENERAL WINDER'S REPORT.

The following inspection report of General John H. Winder, made to the Confederate Secretary of War, December 13, 1864, gives us an insight into the condition of Salisbury prison at that time. This report also includes the result of his inspection of the prison at Florence, N. C., and is inserted here in full, with the indorsements found appended, as a matter of convenience:

HEADQUARTERS PRISONS EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
Salisbury, N. C., December 13, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that, having inspected at Florence, from whence my last communication was dated, I proceeded where I now am.

I am sorry to say I fear I shall be detained some days, as I find an unpleasant state of things among the officers. Indeed I fear I shall be obliged to assume command of the post for a short time, but this I shall not do unless forced to do it.

In my communication from Florence I spoke of the unfitness of both that place and this as sites for prisons.

I will now state at some length the reasons why I hold that opinion:

The site at this place is very objectionable for six reasons, either of which I think conclusive:

1. There is a scarcity of water, as the wells fail and cannot afford a sufficient supply for the number of prisoners even now here.

2. There is not nor can there be a place for sinks, as there is no stream, and the sinks have to be dug inside, or if outside could only be removed a few feet. The stench is insupportable both to the prisoners and the people in the vicinity.

3. The soil is entirely unfit for a prison, being a stiff, sticky clay, and after a slight rain is over shoe-tops in mud, without a dry spot within the inclosure.

4. The prison is immediately within the town, and defenses could not be erected without destroying much property, and could not be defended when erected on account of the proximity to the buildings, which if fired would drive out the garrison. In the last outbreak one of three shots fired struck the principal hotel in the town.

5. Experience has proved that proximity to a town is extremely objectionable and injurious.

6. Wood is so distant that it is next to impossible to keep up a sufficient supply, and the expense is enormous. Thirty-nine wagons and teams are required, and then only a scant supply furnished to prison and guard. One hundred cords per day are required for troops and prison, which at $20 per cord is $60,000 per month or $720,000 per year.

In a month the saving would probably cover the expense of purchase. On the land proposed to be purchased the tops of the trees used for a stockade and the wood already on the ground would serve the post for more than a year.

A raid has reached within 80 miles of this place, and would, I am informed, have reached here but for the accidental escape of one of the prisoners captured.

I stated in my communication from Florence some reasons why I thought Florence unfit as a site for a prison. I will here repeat them. The site itself is entirely unfit for the purpose, as about one-fourth or more, probably one-third, is an impracticable morass, and cannot, without more labor and expense than building a new stockade, be in any manner reclaimed, as it would require the whole of the soil on the dry parts for three or four feet to cover the morass or marsh, and when covered would not be fit for use.

The prison at Florence is only 60 miles from Georgetown, S. C., with a good ridge road, and only one river intervening, which is fordable in five or six places.

I see that spies have been captured, one having visited the prison at this place, and the other the prison at Danville. From this we may fairly infer that Florence has not been neglected.

This would indicate a disposition on the part of the enemy to operate against the prisons.

Having said this much by way of objection to the present sites (most of which objections hold good in regard to Danville), I will take the liberty to suggest the remedy.

I proposed in my communication from Florence that I be permitted to purchase a tract of 900 acres at the 14-mile post from Columbia, S. C., on the railroad to Charlotte, N. C., for the purpose of erecting prisons. The purchase of that or some other tract, instead of renting, would save a large sum, as experience has shown at Andersonville. The place is, I think, as far removed from raids as any place I know, and such defensive works could be erected as would make it secure against any raid. This locality is situated in poor land, country thinly settled, and very few persons to be annoyed by the proximity of a prison. The prison at Andersonville, with a sufficient guard, could resist any raid that would be likely to be set against it.

I would make this further suggestion: I think the property here (Salisbury) on which the prison is erected could be sold for at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($150,000). It cost originally fifteen thousand dollars in bonds ($15,000). This would pay the purchase money for another tract, complete the prison, and put up all necessary work-shops, to employ usefully to the Confederate States the labor of the prisoners. The purchase would have another advantage. All the labor bestowed and improvements made would be for the benefit of the Confederate States, and when prisons would be no longer required could be profitably employed or sold as thought best.

With this arrangement the prison at Andersonville, the prison at Camp Lawton, and the new prison, with the small prisons at Richmond and Cahaba, Ala., as receiving depots, would answer all purposes.

The ratio of mortality at Florence and Salisbury exceeds, I think, that at Andersonville.

I feel satisfied that, if authorized to carry out the above suggestions, I could arrange the prisons to the entire satisfaction of the authorities, and by that means relieve the Confederate States of all expense connected with the prison, except, perhaps, feeding, and to a great extent pay for that.

I respectfully ask that as early an answer as possible be given, as it is very important to know exactly what course will be adopted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. H. WINDER,
Brigadier-General.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.

FLORENCE, ARLINGTON COUNTY.

This prison was in command of Lieut. Col. J. F. Iverson. It was a stockade, inclosing about 23 acres, and resembled in many respects the one at Andersonville. A stream of water ran through the center, bordered by a swamp containing 6 acres. The dead-line was a furrow encirling the camp on the inside of the stockade, except at the swamp, where the line was wholly imaginary. It appears from the official reports of the rebel inspectors, which we shall introduce, that the sentinels were ordered to fire, without warning, upon all prisoners who crossed this real or imaginary line.

The descriptions of this prison and the sufferings endured there are but a recital of those which accompanied imprisonment at Andersonville. In January, 1865, there were 7,500 prisoners confined at Florence, and it is understood that the number at no time exceeded 15,000; yet in proportion to the number of prisoners the suffering was equal to, and some witnesses testify that it even surpassed, that at Andersonville. The mortality here reached 11 per cent. a month. With the exception of the few sheds improvised by the prisoners, covered with branches of trees, they were without any shelter, inducing, of course, the most painful suffering and great mortality.

Of the barbarous punishments inflicted upon our prisoners by the stocks, chain gangs, bucking and gagging, spread eagle, wooden horse, tying up by the thumbs, &c., we have not space to dwell.

In the matter of fuel, clothing, water, shelter, and rations we make additional extracts from the report of the same committee:

FUEL.

The allowance of wood to each mess of six men in the United States Army is, per month, from April to October, inclusive, one cord of 128 cubic feet. "In November,

December, January, and February the fuel is increased one-fourth at stations from the 39th degree to the 43d degree north latitude, and one-third at stations north of the 43d degree." This amount has been deemed necessary for the health and comfort of the soldier, above the quantity necessary for cooking purposes. The contrast between this allowance, the measure of the necessity and comfort of the soldier of the United States, as well as its prisoners in time of war, and the amount provided for the prisoner in rebel confinement, affords a striking illustration of the difference in the general treatment of prisoners by our Government and the rebel authorities. During the extremely cold winter of 1863–'64, the quantity of wood issued for a day at Belle Isle could not, by the most careful and economical means, be made to last more than one or two hours. During the remaining hours of the twenty-four prisoners were compelled to resort to other means to avoid freezing, such as lying down in piles like animals, and walking through the camp as rapidly as its crowded condition would permit. A similar condition of things is disclosed by the evidence in relation to many of the stockades, which were, almost without exception, located in well timbered sections of country. The details of prisoners sent out for fuel were so small that they were unable to bring in an adequate supply, although they overtasked themselves in the effort.

At Pemberton prison, Richmond, Va., but four armfuls were issued each day for one large room, and at Danville the allowance was about the same. The first prisoners at Andersonville found enough wood inside the stockade for cooking purposes, but as the number increased fuel became very scarce.

The quantity brought in by the small details sent out was never sufficient. The prisoners dug several feet under ground for roots with which to cook their food. There was great irregularity in issuing fuel; frequently none could be obtained for several days; at such times the prisoners were compelled to eat their food in its raw state or starve. Wood was issued in large sticks, and no means furnished for splitting it, and unless a knife or other implement could be borrowed from some fortunate prisoner it could not be used economically.

At this time there was an abundance of wood surrounding the camp, which the prisoners would willingly have provided themselves with if they had been allowed the privilege. Much suffering was occasioned by this want of fuel, not only from having to eat uncooked food, but from exposure to cold at night, when, even after the hottest days, the dews would be so heavy as to thoroughly drench the unsheltered prisoners.

At Cahawba, Ala., in the winter of 1863–'64, but one fire-place was provided for the six hundred men there confined. In order to keep warm, fires had to be built on the ground, and fed with green pine wood, which filled the room with dense, stifling smoke. The want of fuel at some stockades was so great that the prisoners would even quarrel with each other for the opportunity of carrying the dead bodies of their comrades outside of the camp to the dead-house, as they could generally manage to gather a few chips to bring in on their return. Wood was so scarce and highly prized by the prisoners that they would cut the pieces issued to them into splinters and conceal them about their persons, fearing that the necessities of their comrades might induce them to appropriate it to their own use. The prisoners, in order to economize the fuel, dug small holes in the ground, in which they made fires for cooking purposes, often making a small handful of splinters serve to prepare a meal. The smoke from the pine wood blackened and penetrated the food, giving it the taste of turpentine, rendering it at once offensive and unhealthy.

The frequent application of prisoners for permission to procure fuel, which lay in abundance almost within reach of the shivering, starving victims, was met by the rebel officers with curses and abuse. This neglect to provide fuel was general. It existed at other stockades as well as at Andersonville and Belle Isle.

Thus, at Salisbury, eight sticks of cord wood were at first allowed each squad of one hundred men daily; the allowance being afterward reduced to an amount which four men could bring in daily for the use of the whole camp, when there were several thousand prisoners confined in it.

The existence of an abundance of wood in the vicinity of the camps and stockades, and the refusal and neglect of the Confederate authorities under these circumstances to allow an ample supply, is one of the most suggestive evidences in the whole history of prison life of the wanton, cruel, and deliberate purpose of the rebels to withhold from the Union soldier in their hands those elements of necessity and comfort without which he was sure to become the victim of suffering, sickness, and, in many cases, death.

CLOTHING.

The custom, elsewhere referred to in this report, which prevailed among the rebel captors and officers of robbing the prisoner of his clothing at the time of capture rendered his destitution in this respect truly deplorable during imprisonment. In the last two years of the war it was an uncommon occurrence for prisoners who had been subjected to the plundering process to be found with an entire suit of clothing. In nearly every individual case some article of clothing was taken from them, while in

many instances prisoners were stripped to shirt and drawers, and, in others, shirt, pants, coat, *or* drawers, constituted their *only* raiment.

At times, prisoners who had remained long in captivity were found exposed to all vicissitudes of climate and weather, entirely naked, while their parched skins, first blistered by the scorching rays of the sun, had at last assumed the hue and semblance of leather. To supply their pressing need of clothing they were compelled to strip the bodies of their dead comrades, frequently becoming infected with the disease of which they had died.

This destitution of clothing, where the prisoner was without shelter, was one of the most fruitful causes of disease and death.

The entire absence of all necessity or excuse for this destitution is found in the fact that the rebel guards were well and comfortably clad. The rebels had enough for their own men, why not for their prisoners, against whom all hostilities should have ceased when as captives they laid down their arms? No record has been found to show that the rebel authorities ever issued to their prisoners clothing from their own stores, even in the higher latitudes, where snow and ice are found during the winter months. Nor is this all. There is plenary evidence that they not only took the clothing from the person of the prisoner, but when blankets and clothing were sent in quantities to the larger stockades and prisons by the sanitary and Christian commissions of the North, they were, with few exceptions, withheld from the prisoners, wholly or in part, as the spirit or disposition of the commandant might dictate. It is true there were exceptions, cases where officers were found not quite brutal enough to execute with fidelity the intentions and orders of Jefferson Davis and his agent, Winder.

A noticeable feature in the distribution of these supplies of clothing and blankets was the custom, common to most of the prisons, of withholding them until within a day or two of an exchange. Then, or just as a body of prisoners was starting, the issue would be made. What was the result? The prisoners, or many of them, feeling sure of speedy relief under the protection of their own flag, and among anxious and waiting friends, were easily induced to barter the articles which they had just received for scanty supplies of food, for which they had been so long famishing.

There can be no doubt that the prisoners would have been spared much excruciating suffering, and that the lives of many heroic men would have been saved, had the distribution of clothing, blankets, and other comforts been faithfully carried out. But it was far otherwise. Numerous boxes containing clothing and food were forwarded by the immediate friends of the prisoners. Before they were delivered the persons for whom they were intended were required to receipt for them. When the pretended delivery took place it was usually found that the box or package had been robbed of its most valuable contents, and in some cases neither box nor package came to the hand of the prisoner. At several prisons the arrival of such supplies was made known to the prisoners by the rebel guards, who would appear upon their posts with the uniforms and blankets fresh and new, bearing the stamp of the United States, or of the Sanitary Commission. To enable the reader to form some idea of the extent to which the prisoners were supplied through the agencies referred to, the following list of articles sent by the Sanitary Commission to one prison, Andersonville, from July to November, 1864, is submitted:

Stores sent to prisoners at Andersonville, Ga.

5,052 wool shirts.
6,993 wool drawers.
3,950 handkerchiefs.
601 cotton shirts.
1,128 cotton drawers.
2,100 blouses.
4,235 wool pants.
1,520 wool hats.
2,565 overcoats.
5,385 blankets.
272 quilts.
2,120 pairs shoes.
110 cotton coats.
140 vests.
46 cotton pants.
534 wrappers.
69 jackets.
12 overalls.
817 pairs slippers.
3,147 towels.
5,431 wool socks.
50 pillow-cases.
258 bed sacks.
122 combs.
100 tin cups.
2 boxes tinware.
4,092 pounds condensed milk.
4,032 pounds condensed coffee.
1,000 pounds farina.
1,000 pounds corn starch.
4,212 pounds tobacco.
24 pounds chocolate.
3 boxes lemon juice.
1 barrel dried apples.
111 barrels crackers.
60 boxes cocoa.
7,200 pounds beefsteak.
Paper.
Envelopes, &c.
Pepper.
Mustard.
1 box tea (seventy pounds).

This statement is sworn to by Dr. M. M. March, agent of the United States Sanitary Commission at Beaufort, S. C., as being a correct list of articles transferred "to same agent deputed by the Confederate Government to receive them."

The testimony adduced compels the conclusion that in the matter of clothing the rebel authorities acted with the same disregard of the comfort and health of the prisoners, and with the same intention to incapacitate them for active service in the future that characterized their conduct with reference to fuel, water, shelter, and rations.

WATER.

The importance of a bountiful and constant supply of pure water to the comfort and health of men assembled in large numbers cannot be overestimated. Its absence is at all times, even under ordinary circumstances, a fearful and certain source of disease and suffering. No stronger instance of the appalling effects of such deprivation exists in the annals of human affairs than is found in the history of the Southern military prisons. The fearful accounts which all have read of the terrible effects of thirst in siege and shipwreck have their counterpart in the experience of the Union prisoners, and on a scale seldom equaled in the magnitude of its horrors. If there is a country in the world where facilities for the attainments of this great sanitary feature, the bountiful supply of pure water for camp, prison, and hospital, exist beyond all others, it is between the Potomac and the Rio Grande. In this respect no country can be more fortunate. It is a land of sparkling brooks, bubbling springs, and noble rivers. No shadow of excuse can exist on the part of the rebels for a deprivation which even the instinct of man and brute seeks to avoid. Yet, among the sufferings and agonies of the rebel prison-house, there is hardly one that cannot be traced to the want of the necessary supply of pure water. Why was it? The location of some of the rebel stockades appears to have been made for the purpose of avoiding a full supply of this most precious auxiliary to the comfort and happiness of man—denying its use to the prisoners, and providing only for the officers and guards of the camp—while the rules of others were such as to prevent its use when it flowed in the magnificence of the river, at the very foot of the camping ground. The evidence submitted is replete with facts which show that this deprivation was intentional and willful. No other conclusion can be drawn from the facts. Particularly was this the case at Andersonville, and Belle Isle, Danville, and Florence. Even where wells, properly dug, would have increased the supply, it was prevented by the want of tools, which the rebels had the power, but refused, to furnish.

So much occurs in other portions of this report to sustain and strengthen these views, that it seems unnecessary to enlarge upon the subject here. We content ourselves with calling attention to the following prominent facts:

The stockade at Andersonville was located, as has been stated by W. S. Winder, the officer and agent of the Confederate Government, upon a narrow stream not more than 6 feet wide, which had its rise in a swamp. Its banks were marshy and swampy. The water was of a dark color, and when allowed to stand for a short time would deposit in the bottom of the glass a thick, loathsome sediment. Such was the condition of the stream at the time the location of the stockade was decided upon. Its condition after it became the sink for the use of the camp is described elsewhere. Within half a mile of the stockade ran "Little Sweet Water Creek," a stream varying in width from 15 to 25 feet. The water in this creek was clear and good, and the land on either side much better adapted for a prison camp than the spot on which it was located.

The witness, Maj. Gen. J. H. Wilson, tells us that—

"The stream here called 'Little Sweet Water' is a large creek, running as much as 15 feet in width and 5 feet deep, and runs only about 250 feet from the corner of the hospital inclosure. If the main inclosure had been simply enlarged so as to cross that creek, which could have been done very easily, it could have supplied all the troops that could possibly have been put there with ample water both for culinary purposes and for the purpose of police."

* * * * * * *

"I examined Little Sweet Water Creek with some care; I waded into it. At the time I examined it it was about 25 feet wide, and about 4½ feet deep; that was just after a rain, but by inquiry of citizens in the neighborhood I learned that the stream was then at its usual stage, though probably somewhat swollen. By a rough calculation, I infer that the average width of the stream was about 15 feet, and the average depth about 5 feet, with a velocity of probably a mile an hour; it might not be so much. It is rather a sluggish stream, though the water is clear and apparently sweet and good. At the bottom the creek is somewhat wide, and it shelves off very gradually. It has not steep banks."

* * * * * * *

"There is a little swamp in Sweet Water Creek, none that would be unhealthy after taking the timber off it and letting it be exposed. The ground would have been

quite as good there, and probably better, because where it was the ground washed a good deal; the men in burrowing disturbed the soil, and it washed down into the creek, but the Sweet Water Creek was large enough to clear itself; the ground was not so that the washing of the camps would wash into it; I hardly think so much on the 'Little Sweet Water' as the other; I think the slope at the 'Little Sweet Water' is more gradual and gentle; being a large creek, it would necessarily be so. At the little creek the escarpments are very sharp, and it could not clear itself very readily, particularly when covered across by the stockade forming drains in it. I think there can be no question as to the desirability of the two locations. If you are going to put a prison there, ordinary humanity would require that it should be put across the main creek, if it were intended to accommodate such a large number of men; it would have been only three-quarters of a mile from the depot; the creek runs up in that direction, and it may possibly cross the railroad."

Visiting Andersonville in June or July, 1865, General Wilson describes the creek on which the prison was located as "not a large one, but simply a spring branch, little springs running out of the side of the hill, making a creek which, I suppose will not run more water than would supply for the purposes of an army a larger command than four or five thousand men, because the water does not flow rapidly." The water of the stream which ran through the stockade, naturally unfit for use, was rendered still worse by being made the sewer to carry away the impurities and filth of the prison cook-house, which was located upon its banks just above the stockade, the grease and refuse from which covered the surface of the stream and floated sluggishly into the limits of the prison. The rebel guards were also encamped on the stream above the cook-house and emptied their filth into it. Can the mind conceive of a greater mockery than this pretense of furnishing water for the prisoners to drink, which, even when used to bathe wounds, often produced gangrene.

Benjamin F. Dilley, a Union prisoner at Andersonville, describes the water thus:

"There were a number of small wells inside the stockade while I was there—there were no large ones while I was in the stockade. I suppose there were seventy-five or one hundred on the south side. The number increased, but the men who owned the wells would not allow their comrades to drink from them. Very good water was in the wells, better water than we had outside. That water would not supply more than one-fifth the wants of the stockade, I suppose. I judge the wells would supply all the water that was wanted to drink; we also got water from the creek that ran through the stockade. The creek water when I was inside the stockade was very bad, excepting some portions of it—the upper end of it, and even there the water was bad."

At Danville, Va., when the prisoners were crowded almost to suffocation, the victims of raging thirst, but two men from each squad of one hundred men were allowed to go to the river for water a few times daily. The supply thus obtained was not more than one-fourth of what was really necessary.

At Belle Isle, where the James encircles three sides of the camp, the prisoners were not allowed to get water from the river, but were obliged to obtain it from a small canal dug for the purpose, leading from the river to the camp and returning to it at a point below, forming a semi-circle. This canal or ditch was so arranged as to form a current through it, but the sinks were so located that the excrement found its way into the canal, where it received the water from the river. The prisoners could have had plenty of water for bathing and other purposes if they had been allowed to go to the river bank. But a very small number each day were allowed this privilege. The prisoners were obliged to dig wells to obtain water enough to supply their absolute wants. The prison camp at Florence, S. C., resembled Andersonville in its general features, a small stream of water (though of better quality) running through it. The banks of this stream were so soft that the prisoners were compelled to wade knee-deep in mud to get to the water, a task impossible for the sick and feeble to perform. Some prisoners devoted their time to standing in the mud on the bank, and for a small compensation procuring water for those who had means to employ them, in this way obtaining for themselves means to buy extra food. The practice of digging wells by the prisoners was common at Belle Isle, Florence, S. C., Andersonville, Camp Tyler, Tex., and many other prisons. No tools, however, were furnished for this purpose. The prisoners were compelled to dig in order to get tolerable water for cooking and drinking purposes, with old case knives, pieces of canteens, &c.

Instances under this head might be multiplied, but the cases already cited are sufficient to show that this deprivation must be charged to the deep-seated cruelty and intense hatred of the Confederates toward the Union soldier, fostered by a spirit of barbarism which sprang naturally from the influence of slavery, in the midst of which they had been reared, and for whose perpetuity they were struggling. The prophesy of the younger Winder in which he declared, "I am going to build a pen here that will kill more damned Yankees than can be destroyed at the front," met its fulfillment largely through this fell agency.

SHELTER.

The accompanying testimony shows that in all the stockades and prison camps the shelter provided was wholly inadequate to the wants and necessities of the prisoners

and that this was one of the most fruitful causes of suffering, disease, and death. In fact some of these camps were entirely without shelter of any kind, except such as was improvised by the prisoners by the use of sticks with their blankets and clothing, and by digging holes and caves in the ground, which they did with case-knives and half canteens. For this deprivation no reasonable excuse has been or can be offered. These camps and stockades were situated in thickly wooded sections of country, where lumber could have been readily procured or huts constructed by the prisoners if proper details had been made for the purpose. Yet in the midst of all these facilities thousands of prisoners were crowded together in open camps, not allowed to obtain material from without to construct shelter for themselves, and were exposed unprotected to drenching rains, scorching sun by day, and chilling frosts and dews by night, in fact to all the changes of winter and summer, spring and fall.

At Salisbury, N. C., ten thousand men were confined in the winter of 1864–'65 with shelter for less than half this number, and the report of Captain Hall, inspector in the rebel army, shows *that at this very period fifty unused horses were standing in the quartermaster's stables at this place, with plenty of timber adjoining the camp and an abundance of straw in the neighborhood,* thus furnishing every facility for providing adequate shelter for all.

At Andersonville no shelter was provided, notwithstanding the stockade was surrounded on three sides with immense forests. Particular mention is made by a number of witnesses of a terrible rain storm which occurred at Andersonville in June, 1864, continuing almost without intermission twenty-one days, rendering usless the temporary provisions for shelter made of blankets, and driving those who had dug caves in the ground from them, compelling the twenty thousand men there confined to make their bed in the mud and water. The detailed description of suffering during this storm, which occurs in the accompanying testimony, would make one of the most heart-rending chapters in this whole record of prison life.

At Belle Isle, in the winter of 1863–'64, four thousand prisoners were without shelter. It will be remembered that during this severe winter the James River was frozen over, so that persons crossed safely from the island to the city of Richmond on the ice. Sleet and rain storms occurred, and snow fell several times to the depth of 3 or 4 inches, rendering the few A tents furnished almost useless. Every expedient was resorted to by the prisoners to keep from freezing. They crawled into the ditches which surrounded the camp; burrowed into or lay close together on the bare ground, and were often found frozen to death between their sleeping comrades.

At Savannah, Ga., tents were furnished.

At the jail yard prison in Charleston, S. C., A tents were furnished for a portion of the officers confined there in the summer of 1864; many of them, however, being entirely without shelter, or the means of providing it. Being surrounded by a high wall their sufferings from the heat were intense.

At Florence no shelter was provided by the rebel authorities. A few were occasionally allowed to go out under guard to gather pine brush for the purpose of protection. It is shown in the testimony that a number died at this prison from exposure during the winter of 1864–'65.

At Macon, Ga., the United States officers were for some time left without shelter, except such as they provided for themselves by digging caves or improvising with sticks and blankets. They were afterward furnished lumber to build sheds or roofs, but only to a limited extent.

At Columbia, S. C., the United States officers were permitted to bring in material to construct shelter, only sufficient, however, for a portion of them, and during October and November, 1864, they were entirely unprovided for.

At Camp Asylum, Columbia, S. C., shelter was provided for about half of the prisoners during January and February, 1865.

RATIONS.

Having discussed the subjects of fuel, clothing, water, and shelter, we come now to a brief review of the testimony in regard to what, in the technicalities of military language, is known as the "ration." This term embraces all that in military service constitutes the daily aliment of the soldier. To meet the requirements of service, health, and comfort, the ration must be varied in kind, pure in quality, adapted to the climate, ample in quantity, and regular in issue. Upon the Northern soldier, accustomed to receive such a ration at the hands of a generous Government, its absence or curtailment bears with peculiar hardship. Especially is this true when he is subjected to undue exposure, or the rigors of an unfavorable climate. Food is the sustaining power which enables us to supply vital heat and resist the encroachments of exposure and cold, while a freezing temperature is one of the most urgent occasions of hunger. In treating of this subject we should therefore bear in mind that men exposed unprotected to the inclemency of the weather, and destitute of the customary supply of clothing and fuel, demand an increased supply of food, while

for those who are placed under the more favorable influences of a warm climate or comfortable quarters, the ration may be shortened and reduced. So when the proper facilities for its cooking and preparation are not provided, economy is sacrificed, waste ensues, and a ration sufficient in itself becomes wholly or partially lost to the soldier, the same consquences resulting as from a deficiency in the original issue. It may be said with exact truth that except in special cases the rations of our men and officers in the hands of the rebels were insufficient to sustain life and health under the most favorable circumstances of climate and shelter. Sometimes the prisoner was not furnished with food for two or three days after capture, even while upon long and rapid marches. Rations were afterward issued raw, in which state prisoners were compelled to eat them for want of means to cook. In the crowded state of the prisons it was impossible to preserve or retain them long after issue. At most of the large prisons few or no vegetables were issued except the "everlasting corn meal," or bread, and in many prisons the rules prohibited the supply from any source. Nazareth Allen, a private in the Third Georgia, Reserves, on duty at Andersonville, states that he has known prisoners robbed of onions and other vegetables at the gates of the stockade. "The orders were not to allow such things to go in." This rule was relaxed only when it afforded the camp sutler an opportunity to fleece the Yankees of their secreted greenbacks by an exchange at most exorbitant rates. Captain Wright, quartermaster of the Fifty-fifth Georgia, on duty at Andersonville, testifies that "when the ration was cooked and they received it inside, it was not as good as the Confederate soldiers', and not near as much. I know that the condition of the cook-house was such that it rendered the rations almost unfit for use." He says they mixed up the dough with a hoe, or something like it; and that upon breaking open the loaf flies were found in it; that he had seen a great deal of beef there not fit to eat.

The rations issued by the United States to their prisoners of war, previous to June 1, 1864, were the same in quantity and quality as those issued to the troops in garrison, viz:

Bread, eighteen ounces per ration; or corn meal, twenty ounces per ration.

Beef, one pound per ration; or bacon or pork, three-quarters of a pound per ration.

Beans, eight quarts per one hundred men; or hominy or rice, ten pounds per one hundred men.

Sugar, fourteen pounds per one hundred men.

Rio coffee, seven or nine pounds per one hundred men.

Adamantine candles, five per one hundred men; or, tallow candles, six per one hundred men.

Soap, four pounds per one hundred men.

Salt, two quarts per one hundred men.

Molasses, four quarts per one hundred men, twice per week.

Potatoes, one pound per man, three times per week.

When beans were issued, hominy or rice not issued.

These were the rations to which the prisoners were entitled. Bread was issued, in point of fact, and not corn meal. Fresh beef was issued, during this time, four times a week. When fresh beef was issued a pound and a quarter was given.

After June 1, 1864, the rations *issued* on the returns remained the same as before but the amount *given* to the prisoners was as follows:

Pork or bacon, ten ounces (in lieu of fresh beef).

Fresh beef, fourteen ounces.

Flour, or soft bread, sixteen ounces.

Hard bread, fourteen ounces (in lieu of flour or soft bread).

Corn meal, sixteen ounces (in lieu of flour or bread).

Beans or peas, twelve and a half pounds; or rice or hominy, eight pounds; soap, four pounds; vinegar, three quarts; salt, three and three-quarter pounds; potatoes, fifteen pounds, to one hundred rations.

Sugar and coffee, or tea, was issued only to the sick and wounded, on the recommendation of the surgeon in charge, at the rate of twelve pounds of sugar, five pounds of ground or seven pounds of green coffee, or one pound of tea, to the one hundred rations. This part of the ration was allowed for alternate days only.

The surplus rations between the amounts issued on return and the quantity given to the prisoners were sold, and the proceeds placed to the credit of the "prison fund," out of which was purchased extra vegetables, bed-ticks, straw, knives and forks, and like comforts and utensils, suitable for, or demanded by, the health and well being of the prisoners.

A Confederate ration at Andersonville was as follows: Corn meal (unbolted), nine ounces; beef, four ounces; bacon, four ounces; peas, one-sixteenth of a quart; rice, one ounce; soft soap, one thirty-second of a drachm; salt, one one-hundredth of a quart; molasses, one three-hundredth of a quart.

Your committee desire to call attention to the facts disclosed by the testimony, showing the striking contrast between the quantity and quality of food issued by the

rebel authorities and that issued by our Government as shown in the foregoing tables. It should be remembered, in this connection, that the rations issued by the United States were supplied to prisoners in well-sheltered quarters, well-clothed, and bountifully supplied with blankets and fuel, while the rebel authorities issued to prisoners almost totally destitute of shelter, fuel, blankets, and clothing.

With this general remark we proceed to consider more specifically

Of the diseases in rebel prisons the same report states:

DISEASES IN REBEL PRISONS.

The diseases most prevalent in rebel prisons were diarrhea, typhoid fever, pneumonia, scurvy, rheumatism, small-pox, and diseases having their origin in one or more of these. To this list may be properly added insanity and total blindness.

The long-continued filthy and crowded condition of prisons and prisoners, with consequent impure air, and foul and insufficient water, the constant exposure to the burning sun and chilling dews, with scant and insufficient clothing, and without shelter, the great scarcity of fuel for warming and cooking purposes, the inferior quality and limited quantity of food, the almost total absence of vegetable diet, together with harsh personal treatment, causing great bodily suffering and mental anxiety, all combined to induce and aggravate these diseases. It is not enough to say that many sickened and died from the treatment they received in rebel prisons. The testimony shows that thousands of prisoners of war who were originally able-bodied men, whose habits were good, whose minds were cultivated, and whose patriotism was pure, were, by a pre-arranged and zealously-executed plan, deliberately sacrificed by the introduction and carrying out of a system of privations, hardships, and cruelties without a parallel in the history of civilized nations.

The surgeons in the employment of the confederate authorities at Andersonville, and at other prisons, under pretense of vaccination as a precautionary measure against disease, carelessly inoculated many prisoners with vaccine virus which, if not within itself pois nous and vicious, at least in its contact with the systems of men infected with disease from exposures in unhealthy prisons, became a prolific source of destruction of human life. The prisoners who have testified upon this point give it as their firm belief that the use of this poisonous vaccine matter was intentional, and for the purpose of destroying life. The committee state the case and refer to the accompanying testimony without comment, preferring to leave the matter to the judgment of the reader after a perusal of the statements referred to.

From this cause, and from scurvy and gangrene, the limbs and bodies of prisoners became infested with putrid, offensive sores; often the flesh decayed and sloughed from off the bones of the arms and sides of the sufferers. Worms entered the sores and became a source of great torment to them. Many died whose skin was so diseased that portions of it slipped from the flesh and adhered to the wagons in which their bodies were hauled to the grave, and in the hands of their comrades who were detailed to bury them.

Amputations from these causes were common, and the testimony shows that the arms of many rotted from their bodies and became detached at the joints without amputation. Burial parties testify that arms were often sent for burial separated from the bodies to which they belonged, and showing no marks of having been amputated, but having been detached at the joints consequent upon the diseases under which they suffered.

The percentage of deaths were very great at Andersonville. Out of 40,611 imprisoned there at various times, from the 24th of February, 1864, the date of the first entry of prisoners, to the close of the war, 13,705 died while imprisoned; being 33¾ per cent. of those confined at this prison. Many have died since from the effects of their sufferings in prison.

The percentage of deaths among cases treated in the field, meaning the guards at Andersonville prison, during July and August, 1864, were $\frac{28}{100}$, or little over one-fourth of 1 per cent., or one in four hundred cases. The percentage of deaths among cases treated at Andersonville prison for the same two months was $15\frac{2}{10}$ per cent., or one in 6½ cases.

The mortality statistics are alone conclusive of the treatment of our prisoners if we had no other evidence.

From the same source as above we incorporate data bearing upon this question.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY—COMPARISON BETWEEN UNION AND REBEL PRISONS AND PRISONERS.

While a partial result only can be given of the total number of deaths of Union prisoners occasioned by prison treatment and the various incidental causes already

described, even where the hospital and other returns have been procured, by reason of the subsequent mortality of the survivors who lived to reach our lines, and which has been alluded to elsewhere, the committee will endeavor to approximate the ratio of deaths as compared with the whole number imprisoned on each side.

Let us take Andersonville:

Whole number of prisoners confined at Andersonville	40,611
Deaths from February 24 to September 21, 1864 (seven months)	9,479
Per cent. of mortality	23.34

Or nearly one-fourth of the whole number of prisoners confined there.

The War Department estimates that 20 per cent. should be added to this mortality for reasons stated in the accompanying report, among which is the fact that the deaths were not all recorded. The committee accept the estimate as very nearly correct. This is shown in part by a comparison of the record with the number of graves of Union prisoners there ascertained by actual count. For instance:

Number of deaths shown by record	12,631
Number of graves	13,705
Difference	1,074
Per cent. of difference (nearly)	8

There are other causes stated in the report of the Department which swell this per cent.

Again, the condition at Andersonville in the month of August, 1864, according to Confederate reports, was as follows. The report of Captain Wirz shows:

Prisoners on hand	31,678
Died during the month	2,993
Average daily deaths (nearly)	100
Monthly per cent. of mortality	9.45
Yearly per cent. of mortality	113.40

At Salisbury, from September, 1864, to February, 1865 (five months), the condition was as follows:

Number of prisoners confined	10,000
Deaths during that time	5,000
Per cent. of mortality	50

At this prison 12,112 prisoners died during its occupancy. "My squad," says one witness, "numbered one hundred men on the 6th of December, 1864, and when we came out from there on the 22d day of February, 1865, we drew rations for twenty-eight men, sixty-one of the number having died, the remaining eleven having been transferred to other prisons."

At hospital No. 21, Richmond, according to the statement of Dr. Jones, a Union prisoner, who was hospital steward at "No. 21," the mortuary result was:

Union prisoners admitted in three months	2,700
Deaths during that time	1,450
Per cent. of mortality (nearly)	50

The prisons at Florence and Belle Isle, with others, would show a mortality approximating that in the prisons above described. We know the causes and, Dr. John C. Bates, Confederate surgeon at Andersonville, says in his testimony: "I feel myself safe in saying that 75 per cent. of those who died might have been saved had these unfortunate men been properly cared for as to food, clothing, bedding, &c."

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MORTALITY.

The report of the War Department shows the following captures by the Confederate forces:

Federal officers		7,092
Enlisted men		179,091
Union citizens		1,962
Total		188,145
Of these there were legally paroled and exchanged	154,330	
Illegally paroled	1,143	
Total paroled and exchanged		155,473
To be accounted for		32,672

As the statement of the War Department consolidates the Federal prisoners paroled and exchanged, the committee are unable to determine from this source what proportion of captives were actually confined in rebel prisons. But the Federal authorities paroled 10,514 in excess of one half of their captives. Let us then take this proportion of one-half as the basis of our calculation, assuming (although it gives undue advantage to the rebels) that the rebels paroled one-half of their prisoners. This would leave us the following result:

Total number of captures by rebels	188,145
Number paroled, estimated at one-half	94,072
Number actually confined in prison	94,072
Number of deaths in Confederate prisons ascertained by the graves	36,401
Per cent. of mortality in rebel prisons	38.70
Per cent. of mortality of entire rebel captures	19.35

Let us compare this with the mortality of rebel soldiers captured by the Federa armies.

Total number of captures by Federals	476,189
Paroled	248,599
Number actually confined in prison or left as prisoners of war in our hands	227,570
Mortality of Confederate prisoners, ascertained by the graves	30,152
Per cent. of mortality in Federal prisons	13.250
Difference per cent. in favor of Union authorities	25.450
Per cent. of mortality of entire Union captures	6.330
Difference per cent. in favor of Union authorities	13.020

If the mortality of rebel prisoners captured by the Union forces had equaled that of Union soldiers captured by them, taking the whole number of captures as a basis of calculation, the deaths among the 476,169 Confederates in our hands would have been 92,000 instead of 30,152. Or, calculating it upon the reduced basis of the prisoners retained in custody on both sides, to wit: 227,570 Confederate prisoners in our hands to 94,072 prisoners in their hands, the mortality would have been 88,000 instead of 30,152. Instead of this the mortality is reversed, and out of 94,072 prisoners in confinement by the rebels 36,401 died, while out of 227,570 in the hands of the Federals only 30,152 died. In other words, nearly two out of five or forty of each hundred died in their hands, while one in seventeen or six of each one hundred died in ours.

This showing makes the difference of mortality nearly seven times as great among the prisoners in their hands as among the prisoners in ours.

The entire number of officers and soldiers, white and colored, killed in action during the war of the rebellion was 44,238, and the total number of officers and soldiers who died of wounds received in action during the same time was 33,993. This as against the 60,000 who died in prison or immediately after being released show a difference of but 18,221 more men killed in action and dying of wounds received in action than died from confinement in rebel prisons.

The aggregate number of officers and soldiers entering the Union Army during the war, as appears by the records, was 2,335,951, while the total number of Union officers and soldiers captured by the rebels (including mortuary record) was 198,218, but of the latter number one-half are estimated to have been in confinement less than thirty days. So that of the last-named number it will be remembered that a large majority were either paroled or exchanged immediately after capture or within a few weeks of that time; few, if any, prisoners were kept in confinement as long as sixty days until after the cartel was interrupted, less than 100,000 being kept and retained prisoners for the period of 60 days or longer.

Although the number of prisoners so held bore the proportion to the whole number of troops in the service of 1 to 23, yet the number of deaths, as above shown, of prisoners and those killed in battle and dying of wounds received was as 10 to 13. In other words, had the number killed in action and dying of their wounds received in action equaled the mortality of those confined in prison more than 60 days the loss by

death in killed and those dying of wounds received on the field would have been more than 900,000 men, instead of 78,221, the actual number.

The number of enlisted men who were killed and died of wounds in the service was 1 to 28, while the number of enlisted men who died while prisoners was 1 in 5—thus showing clearly the extraordinary excess of mortality among prisoners of war, and disposing effectually of the assertion rarely made that Southern military prisons were havens of safety. More Union soldiers died in prison at Andersonville alone than were killed in battle and died of wounds and disease throughout the Mexican war.

The undersigned members of your committee are indebted for many statistical facts to the very valuable and scholarly work of Augustus C. Hamlin, late medical inspector, United States Army, antiquarian, &c. The ordinary amount of solid food per day required to sustain human life is forty-two ounces, as ascertained from the best scientific and practical sources. This varies slightly under different climatic conditions while the clothing and quarters occupied are also important in estimating the amount required.

The Russian soldier is allowed fifty ounces of solid food per day. The Turkish soldier more than forty ounces. The British soldier receives in home service forty-five ounces; the British navy forty-four ounces, and the soldiers and sailors of the United States Navy about fifty ounces.

The amount allowed our prisoners captured by Great Britain during the war of 1812 was over thirty-two ounces, besides which our Government was allowed to supply them for the most part with coffee, sugar, potatoes, and tobacco, while those of our prisoners confined in Dartmoor prison, England, during the same war were allowed fully fifty ounces a day.

At Andersonville the food allowance, according to the evidence of prisoners and others, varied from six to sixteen ounces of solid food—the average being less than ten ounces each for men who were comparatively destitute of both clothing and shelter.

It is an unvarying law of nature that when the weight of the body is reduced beyond a certain degree, usually forty one-hundredths to fifty one-hundredths of the usual weight, death ensues.

The average mortality in the hospitals of Dublin is less than 5 per cent.; in the civil hospitals of France from 5 to 9 per cent.

At the Moyamensing prison it was for many years 1 per cent., and for seven years in the New York penitentiary it was less than 1 per cent.

The average of deaths in the prisons of Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Maryland was about 2 per cent.

The official records at Andersonville show that 2,678 men died in September, or more than 15 per cent., in October more than 27 per cent. died, in August 3,000 men died, and on the 23d day of that month one died on an average every eleven minutes out of the number present. The Federal hospitals of Nashville received during the year 1864, 65,000 sick and wounded, of whom only 4 per cent. died.

The hospitals of Washington treated in 1863 68,000 patients, and lost 2,600 or less than 4 per cent.

By the records of the British army it appears that out of 438,000 British soldiers who were engaged in the twenty-two great battles of the British Empire from 1801 to 1854 but 14,000 men were killed or died from their wounds, or 3 per cent.

Had not the movements of Sherman compelled a transfer of a large

portion of the prisoners at Andersonville all would have died in a brief period at the rate of mortality then prevailing there.

Careful estimates show that the average duration of life of a prisoner of war at Andersonville was ninety-five days.

The men who were thus imprisoned and died so rapidly were in no way enfeebled when captured by the enemy. They were, by far the greater part, young men and middle-aged men, strong and robust, who had served from one to two years and were inured to all the hardships of the field. Only those having the greatest vitality and the strongest constitutions lived to return. If because a soldier was by nature endowed with a constitution and power of endurance equal to two ordinary men and has sacrificed one-half of it or more, but is yet able to labor to some extent, and not able to prove disability to a pensionable degree under the rules of the Pension Office, he must not, under the views of the majority, be granted a pension. *This we cannot indorse.*

All suffered alike. The soldier who died often suffered less than he who lived; the red dew of one baptism is upon them all. While we cannot repay our indebtedness to the dead we can be just to the living.

Who that has examined, even superficially, the treatment of these soldiers of the Republic with all the shocking details of the dying and the dead, almost aggregating the total of those killed in battle and dying of wounds during the war, and say they could have passed such an ordeal and be sound and able-bodied men?

Who that has intimately known the survivors of those fatal death-pens, will say they are not disabled—are not entitled to a pension?

Who, in short, can endure similar abuse with health and physical ability unimpaired? In the opinion of this minority such a case cannot be found. Well might Winder say (referring to Andersonville):

> I am going to build a pen here that will kill more damned Yankees than can be destroyed in the front.

Physicians, committees, and others who investigated the condition of these men, have stated that they would never recover from the injuries there received—that they had sustained permanent disability.

Your minority are aware of the incredulity which often obtains among the men of the present generation who were not engaged in that great drama concerning the applications of soldiers for pensions on the grounds of diarrhea, dysentery, and ailments apparently no more serious, and which even to the physician on a superficial examination, present no serious evidence of specific disease. Yet the mortality records of Andersonville, showing the various diseases resulting in death, heads the list with chronic diarrhea, which alone was fatal to 4,000; next appears scurvy credited with 3,574 victims; next dysenteria, 1,384; then acute diarrhea, 817. Other prisons, so far as records were kept, showed similiar results. Thus at Andersonville more than two-thirds of the deaths were owing to the four causes named.

The diseases named result in a gradual weakening and breaking down of the system without perhaps marked symptoms of any specific disease creating a pensionable disability. The soldier has perhaps no former hospital record; his comrades are dead, or their residence in many instances unknown, and so for years his application remains on file at the Pension Office awaiting proofs which he cannot obtain. As long as pensions are granted only for disability, so long the Pension Office must be governed by rules defining disability, and require strict proof in support of them. The disabilities affecting prisoners of war, and the circumstances attending their captivity, render it more difficult for them

to comply with these requirements. The permanent impairment of the digestive functions from the unwholesome and indigestible food also seems a general characteristic of prisoners of war who have undergone any protracted confinement.

It is not deemed pertinent or necessary in this report to discuss at any length the policy of our Government in the matter of exchange of prisoners.

Whether exchanges were interrupted because of the refusal of the rebel authorities to recognize and exchange as prisoners of war the colored Union soldiers captured by them, or for other reasons either on the part of our Government or the rebel authorities is, immaterial to the bill under consideration.

Suffice it to say that those who would be the beneficiaries in this bill were in no manner responsible for the failure to exchange, and that the direct result of their remaining in prison was to aid most materially in bringing the war to an early close.

Thus the total number of Confederate prisoners captured was 479,547. While the number of Federal prisoners captured was 188,145, or, adding mortuary record, 198,218. Showing that more than twice as many Confederates were captured as Federals.

The number held prisoners on each side at the close of the war was in about the same proportion as the total number captured by each.

By the failure to exchange at all our Government held and kept out of the field more than twice as many rebel prisoners as were held by the rebels of our troops.

Between our Government and its citizens, as well as between individuals, there are in all undertakings certain obligations, either expressed or implied. In that of the Government with its citizens who agreed to enter its service as soldiers and sailors there was an obligation by the latter that they would obey the commands of their superiors and render good service; on the part of the Government that it would care for and protect them, and suffer no cruelty or indignity to be perpetrated upon them not in accordance with the rules of warfare among civilized nations. If, therefore, indignities and cruelties were perpetrated upon them in violation of the laws of nations, and beyond anything they were called upon or expected to undergo by their contract of service, then certainly it cannot be denied that the Government should, if it is able, make such additional compensation or reparation as would be equitable; this alike whether such results were owing to the fault of the Government or came about through unavoidable casualty. In support of this proposition, and as a judicial determination of the fact that our prisoners were treated in a barbarous manner unknown to the law of nations, nothing more could be reasonably asked than the findings of the court-martial in the trial of Henry Wirz. The more forcibly to illustrate this point, we herewith present the first charge and specification against Wirz; also the finding of the court-martial upon that charge and specification, which will be sufficient in substantiation of the proposition made:

[From "Trial of Henry Wirz," pages 3, 4, and 5, second session, Fortieth Congress.]

CHARGE I. Maliciously, willfully, and traitorously, and in aid of the then existing armed rebellion against the United States of America, on or about the first day of March, A. D. 1864, and on divers other days between that day and the tenth day of April, 1865, combining, confederating, and conspiring together with John H. Winder, Richard B. Winder, Joseph White, W. S. Winder, R. R. Stevenson, and others unknown, to injure the health and destroy the lives of soldiers in the military service of

the United States, then held and being prisoners of war within the lines of the so-called Confederate States and in the military prisons thereof, to the end that the armies of the United States might be weakened and impaired, in violation of the laws and customs of war.

Specification.—In this, that he, the said Henry Wirz, did combine, confederate, and conspire with them, the said John H. Winder, Richard B. Winder, Joseph White, W. S. Winder, R. R. Stevenson, and others whose names are unknown, citizens of the United States aforesaid, and who were then engaged in armed rebellion against the United States, maliciously, traitorously, and in violation of the laws of war, to impair and injure the health and to destroy the lives, by subjecting to torture and great suffering, by confining in unhealthy and unwholesome quarters, by exposing to the inclemency of winter and to the dews and burning sun of summer, by compelling the use of impure water, and by furnishing insufficient and unwholesome food, of large numbers of Federal prisoners, to wit, the number of thirty thousand, soldiers in the military service of the United States of America, held as prisoners of war at Andersonville, in the State of Georgia, within the lines of the so-called Confederate States, on or before the first day of March, A. D. 1864, and at divers times between that day and the tenth day of April, 1865, to the end that the armies of the United States might be weakened and impaired, and the insurgents engaged in armed rebellion against the United States might be aided and comforted.

And he, the said Henry Wirz, an officer in the military service of the so-called Confederate States, being then and there commandant of a military prison at Andersonville, in the State of Georgia, located by authority of the so-called Confederate States for the confinement of prisoners of war, and as such commandant fully clothed with authority, and in duty bound to treat, care and provide for such prisoners held as aforesaid, as were or might be placed in his custody, according to the laws of war, did, in furtherance of such combination, confederation, and conspiracy, and incited thereunto by them, the said John H. Winder, Richard B. Winder, Joseph White, W. S. Winder, R. R. Stevenson, and others, whose names are unknown, maliciously, wickedly, and traitorously confine a large number of such prisoners of war, soldiers in the military service of the United States, to the amount of thirty thousand men, in unhealthy and unwholesome quarters, in a close and small area of ground wholly inadequate to their wants and destructive to their health, which he well knew and intended; and while there so confined during the time aforesaid, did, in furtherance of his evil design, and in aid of the said conspiracy, willfully and maliciously neglect to furnish tents, barracks, or other shelter sufficient for their protection from the inclemency of winter and the dews and burning sun of summer, and with such evil intent did take and cause to be taken from them their clothing, blankets, camp equipage, and other property of which they were possessed at the time of being placed in his custody; and with like malice and evil intent did refuse to furnish or cause to be furnished food, either of a quantity or quality sufficient to preserve health and sustain life.

And did refuse and neglect to furnish wood sufficient for cooking in summer and to keep the said prisoners warm in winter; and did compel the said prisoners to subsist upon unwholesome food, and that in limited quantities entirely inadequate to sustain health, which he well knew; and did compel the said prisoners to use unwholesome water, reeking with the filth and garbage of the prison and prison guard, and the offal and drainage of the cook-house of said prison, whereby the prisoners became greatly reduced in their bodily strength and emaciated and injured in their bodily health, their minds impaired and their intellects broken; and many of them, to wit, the number of 10,000, whose names are unknown, sickened and died by reason thereof, which he, the said Henry Wirz, then and there well knew and intended; and so knowing and evilly intending did refuse and neglect to provide proper lodgings, food, or nourishment for the sick, and necessary medicine and medical attendance for the restoration of their health; and did knowingly, willfully, and maliciously, in furtherance of his evil designs, permit them to languish and die from want of care and proper treatment; and the said Henry Wirz, still pursuing his evil purposes, did permit to remain in the said prison, among the emaciated sick and languishing living, the bodies of the dead, until they became corrupt and loathsome, and filled the air with fetid and noxious exhalations, and thereby greatly increased the unwholesomeness of the prison, insomuch that great numbers of said prisoners, to wit, the number of 1,000, whose names are unknown, sickened and died by reason thereof; and the said Henry Wirz, still pursuing his wicked and cruel purpose, wholly disregarding the usages of civilized warfare, did, at the time and place aforesaid, maliciously and willfully subject the prisoners aforesaid to cruel, unusual, and infamous punishment upon slight, trivial, and fictitious pretenses, by fastening large balls of iron to their feet and binding large numbers of the prisoners aforesaid closely together with large chains around their necks and feet, so that they walked with the greatest difficulty; and being so confined were subjected to the burning rays of the sun, often without food or drink, for hours and even days, from which said cruel treatment large numbers, to wit, the number of 100, whose names are unknown, sickened, fainted, and died.

And he, the said Wirz, did further cruelly treat and injure said prisoners, by maliciously confining them within an instrument of torture called "the stocks," thus depriving them of the use of their limbs, and forcing them to lie, sit, and stand for many hours without the power of changing position, and being without food or drink, in consequence of which many, to wit, the number of thirty, whose names are unknown, sickened and died; and he, the said Wirz, still wickedly pursuing his evil purpose, did establish and cause to be designated within the prison inclosure containing said prisoners a "dead-line," being a line around the inner face of the stockade or wall inclosing said prison, and about 20 feet distant from and within said stockade, and having so established said line, which was in many places an imaginary line, and in many other places marked by insecure and shifting strips of boards nailed upon the tops of small and insecure stakes or posts, he, the said Wirz, instructed the prison guard stationed around the top of said stockade to fire upon and kill any of the prisoners aforesaid who might touch, fall upon, pass over, or under or across the said "dead-line;" pursuant to which said orders and instructions, maliciously and needlessly given by said Wirz, the said prison guard did fire upon and kill a large number of said prisoners, to wit, the number of about three hundred.

And the said Wirz, still pursuing his evil purpose, did keep and use ferocious and bloodthirsty beasts, dangerous to human life, called bloodhounds, to hunt down prisoners of war aforesaid, who made their escape from his custody, and did then and there willfully and maliciously suffer, incite, and encourage the said beasts to seize, tear, mangle, and maim the bodies and limbs of said fugitive prisoners of war, which the said beasts, incited as aforesaid, then and there did, whereby a large number of said prisoners of war, who, during the time aforesaid made their escape and were recaptured, and were by the said beasts then and there cruelly and inhumanly injured, insomuch that many of said prisoners, to wit, the number of about fifty, died; and the said Wirz, still pursuing his wicked purpose, and still aiding in carrying out said conspiracy, did use and cause to be used for the pretended purposes of vaccination, impure and poisonous vaccine matter, which said impure and poisonous matter was then and there, by the direction and order of said Wirz, maliciously, cruelly, and wickedly deposited in the arms of many of said prisoners, by reason of which large numbers of them, to wit, one hundred, lost the use of their arms, and many of them, to wit, about the number of two hundred, were so injured that they soon thereafter died; all of which he, the said Henry Wirz, well knew and maliciously intended, and in aid of the then existing rebellion against the United States, with a view to assist in weakening and impairing the armies of the United States, and in furtherance of the said conspiracy, and with the full knowledge, consent, and connivance of his coconspirators aforesaid, he, the said Wirz, then and there did.

[From the trial of Henry Wirz, second session Fortieth Congress, pages 805, 806, and 807.]

FINDINGS AND SENTENCE.

The court, being cleared for deliberation, and having maturely considered the evidence adduced, find the accused, Henry Wirz, as follows:

Of the specification to Charge I, "guilty," after amending said specification to read as follows:

In this, that he, the said Henry Wirz, did combine, confederate, and conspire with them, the said Jefferson Davis, James A. Seddon, Howell Cobb, John H. Winder, Richard B. Winder, Isaiah H. White, W. S. Winder, W. Shelby Reed, R. R. Stevenson, S. P. Moore, ——— Kerr, late hospital steward at Andersonville, James Duncan, Wesley W. Turner, Benjamin Harris, and others whose names are unknown, citizens of the United States aforesaid, and who were then engaged in armed rebellion against the United States, maliciously, traitorously, and in violation of the laws of war, to impair and injure the health and to destroy the lives, by subjecting to torture and great suffering, by confining in unhealthy and unwholesome quarters, by exposing to the inclemency of winter and to the dews and burning suns of summer, by compelling the use of impure water, and by furnishing insufficient and unwholesome food of large numbers of Federal prisoners, to wit, the number of about forty-five thousand soldiers in the military service of the United States of America, held as prisoners of war at Andersonville, in the State of Georgia, within the lines of the so-called Confederates States, on or before the 27th day of March, A. D. 1864, and at divers times between that day and the 10th day of April, A. D. 1865, to the end that the armies of the United States might be weakened and impaired, and the insurgents engaged in armed rebellion against the United States might be aided and comforted.

And he, the said Henry Wirz, an officer in the military service of the so-called Confederate States, being then and there commandant of a military prison at Anderson ville, in the State of Georgia, located by authority of the so-called Confederate States, for the confinement of prisoners of war, and, as such commandant, fully clothed with authority, and in duty bound to treat, care, and provide for such prisoners, held as

aforesaid, as were or might be placed in his custody according to the law of war, did, in furtherance of such combination, confederation, and conspiracy, maliciously, wickedly, and traitorously confine a large number of prisoners of war, soldiers in the military service of the United States, to the number of about forty-five thousand men, in unhealthy and unwholesome quarters, in a close and small area of ground, wholly inadequate to their wants and destructive to their health, which he well knew and intended; and while there so confined, during the time aforesaid, did, in furtherance of his evil design and in aid of the said conspiracy, willfully and maliciously neglect to furnish tents, barracks, or other shelter sufficient for their protection from the inclemency of winter and the dews and burning sun of summer; and with such evil intent did take and cause to be taken from them their clothing, blankets, camp equipage, and other property of which they were possessed at the time of being placed in his custody; and with like malice and evil intent did refuse to furnish or cause to be furnished food either of a quality or quantity sufficient to preserve health and sustain life; and did refuse and neglect to furnish wood sufficient for cooking in summer and to keep the said prisoners warm in winter, and did compel the said prisoners to subsist upon unwholesome food, and that in limited quantities, entirely inadequate to sustain health, which he well knew.

And did compel the said prisoners to use unwholesome water, reeking with the filth and garbage of the prison and prison-guard, and the offal and drainage of the cook-house of said prison; whereby the prisoners became greatly reduced in their bodily strength and emaciated and injured in their bodily health; their minds impaired and their intellects broken; and many of them, to wit, about the number of ten thousand, whose names are unknown, sickened and died by reason thereof, which he, the said Henry Wirz, then and there well knew and intended: and so knowing and evilly intending, did refuse and neglect to provide proper lodgings, food, or nourishment for the sick, and necessary medicine and medical attendance for the restoration of their health, and did knowingly, wilfully, and maliciously, in furtherance of his evil designs permit them to languish and die from want of care and proper treatment; and the said Henry Wirz, still pursuing his evil purposes, did permit to remain in the said prison, among the emaciated sick and languishing living, the bodies of the dead, until they became corrupt and loathsome, and filled the air with fetid and noxious exhalations, and thereby greatly increased the unwholesomeness of the prison, insomuch that great numbers of said prisoners, whose names are unknown, sickened and died by reason thereof. And the said Henry Wirz, still pursuing his wicked and cruel purpose wholly disregarding the usages of civilized warfare, did at the time and place aforesaid maliciously and willfully subject the prisoners aforesaid to cruel, unusual and infamous punishment, upon slight, trivial, and fictitious pretenses, by fastening large balls of iron to their feet, and binding numbers of the prisoner aforesaid closely together with large chains around their necks and feet, so that they walked with the greatest difficulty; and being so confined, were subjected to the burning rays of the sun often without food or drink, for hours and even days, from which said cruel treatment numbers whose names are unknown, sickened, fainted, and died.

And he, the said Wirz, did further cruelly treat and injure said prisoners by maliciously tying them up by the thumbs, and wilfully confining them within an instrument of torture called the stocks, thus depriving them of the use of their limbs, and forcing them to lie, sit, and stand for many hours without the power of changing position, and being without food or drink, in consequence of which many whose names are unknown sickened and died; and he, the said Wirz, still wickedly pursuing his evil purpose, did establish and cause to be designated within the prison inclosure containing said prisoners a "dead-line," being a line around the inner face of the stockade or wall, inclosing said prison, and about 25 feet distant from and within said stockade; and having so established said dead-line, which was in some places an imaginary line, and in other places marked by insecure and shifting strips of boards nailed upon the top of small and insecure stakes or posts, he, the said Wirz, instructed the prison guard stationed around the top of said stockade to fire upon and kill any of the prisoners aforesaid who might fall upon, pass over or under, or cross the said dead-line, pursuant to which said orders and instructions, maliciously and needlessly given by said Wirz, the said prison-guard did fire upon and kill a number of said prisoners.

And the said Wirz, still pursuing his evil purpose, did keep and use ferocious and bloodthirsty dogs, dangerous to human life, to hunt down prisoners of war aforesaid who made their escape from his custody; and did then and there willfully and maliciously suffer, incite, and encourage the said dogs to seize, tear, mangle, and maim the bodies and limbs of said fugitive prisoners of war, which the said dogs, incited as aforesaid, then and there did, whereby a number of said prisoners of war who, during the time aforesaid, made their escape and were recaptured, died; and the said Wirz, still pursuing his wicked purpose, and still aiding in carrying out said conspiracy, did cause to be used for the pretended purposes of vaccination impure and poisonous vaccine matter, which said impure and poisonous matter was then and there, by the

direction and order of said Wirz, maliciously, cruelly, and wickedly, deposited in the arms of many of said prisoners, by reason of which large numbers of them lost the use of their arms, and many of them were so injured that they soon thereafter died; all of which he, the said Henry Wirz, well knew and maliciously intended, and, in aid of the then existing rebellion against the United States, with the view to assist in weakening and impairing the armies of the United States, and in furtherance of the said conspiracy, and with the full knowledge, consent, and connivance of his co-conspirators aforesaid, he, the said Wirz, then and there did.

Of charge I, "guilty," after amending said charge to read as follows:

Maliciously, willfully, and traitorously, and in aid of the then existing armed rebellion against the United States of America, on or before the 27th day of March, A. D. 1864, and on divers other days between that day and the tenth day of April, 1865, combining, confederating, and conspiring together with Jefferson Davis, James A. Seddon, Howell Cobb, John H. Winder, Richard B. Winder, Isaiah H. White, W. S. Winder, W. Shelby Reed, R. R. Stevenson, S. P. Moore, ——— Kerr, late hospital steward at Andersonville, James Duncan, Wesley W. Turner, Benjamin Harris, and others unknown, to injure the health, and destroy the lives of soldiers in the military service of the United States, then held and being prisoners of war within the lines of the so-called Confederate States, and in the military prisons thereof, to the end that the armies of the United States might be weakened and impaired: in violation of the laws and customs of war.

The majority of this committee object, it would seem, to pensioning any soldier who is not found to be disabled by an examining board of physicians, unless he has arrived at the age of sixty-two years, and is dependent for his support upon his own manual labor.

The general objection, indeed, of the opponents of this bill, is that they are opposed to service pensions. This objection must be assumed upon the grounds either—

(1.) That the enactment of this bill into a law will establish a bad precedent for the future of the country.

(2.) That the class sought to be pensioned are not deserving of it; or

(3.) That the money required to pay the pensions contemplated by this act could not be raised without proving burdensome to the people of the United States.

We will examine these objections briefly. Service pensions are not new in this country. By the act of Congress, February 14, 1871, all the honorably discharged surviving soldiers and sailors of the war of 1812 who had served sixty days in the war with Great Britain, or who not having served sixty days, had been personally named in any resolution of Congress for any specific service in that war, were entitled to a pension. This regardless of disability.

Sections 4736 and 4737 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, embracing a portion of the last-named act, reads as follows.

SEC. 4736. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to place on the pension-roll the names of the surviving officers and enlisted and drafted men, including militia and volunteers, of the military and naval service of the United States, who served sixty days in the war with Great Britain of eighteen hundred and twelve, and were honorably discharged, and such other officers and soldiers as may have been personally named in any resolution of Congress for any specific service in that war, although their term of service may have been less than sixty days, subject, however, to the provisions of section forty-seven hundred and sixteen.

SEC. 4737. Pensions, under the preceding section, shall be at the rate of eight dollars per month, and shall be paid to the persons entitled thereto for the term of their lives, from and after the fourteenth day of February, eighteen hundred and seventy-one. But that section shall not apply to any person who is receiving a pension at the rate of eight dollars or more per month; nor any person who is receiving a pension less than eight dollars per month, except for the difference between the pension now received and eight dollars per month.

By the act of Congress approved March 9, 1878, it was further provided that the Secretary of the Interior should place upon the pension-roll the names of all honorably discharged surviving officers and enlisted and drafted men, without regard to color, including militia and volun-

teers, of the military and naval service of the United States, who served for fourteen days in the war with Great Britain of 1812, or who were in any engagement and were honorably discharged, and also the surviving widows of such officers and enlisted and drafted men.

The soldiers and sailors of the Revolutionary war were pensioned without regard to disability by the act of Congress of May 15, 1828. It was provided as follows:

SEC. 26. That each of the surviving officers of the army of the Revolution in the Continental line who was entitled to half-pay by the resolve of October twenty-one, seventeen hundred and eighty, be authorized to receive, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the amount of his full pay in said line, according to his rank in the line, to begin on the third day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-six, and to continue during his natural life: *Provided*, That under this act no officer shall be entitled to receive a larger sum than the full pay of a captain in said line.

SEC. 27. Whenever any of said officers has received money of the United States as a pensioner since the third day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-six, aforesaid, the sum so received shall be deducted from what said officer would otherwise be entitled to under the first section of this act; and every pension to which said officer is now entitled shall cease after the passage of this act.

SEC. 28. Every surviving non-commissioned officer, musician, or private in said army, who enlisted therein for and during the war, and continued in service until its termination, and thereby became entitled to receive a reward of eighty dollars, under a resolve of Congress passed May fifteen, seventeen hundred and seventy-eight, shall be entitled to receive his full monthly pay in said service, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to begin on the third day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-six, and to continue during his natural life: *Provided*, That no non-commissioned officer, musician, or private in said army who is now on the pension list of the United States shall be entitled to the benefits of this act.

SEC. 29. The pay allowed by this act shall, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, be paid to the officer or soldier entitled thereto, or to their authorized attorney, at such places and days as said Secretary may direct. And no foreign officer shall be entitled to said pay, nor shall any officer or soldier receive the same, until he furnish to said Secretary satisfactory evidence that he is entitled to the same in conformity to the provisions of this act. And the pay allowed by this act shall not, in any way, be transferable or liable to attachment, levy, or seizure, by any legal process whatever, but shall inure wholly to the personal benefit of the officer or soldier entitled to the same by this act.

Afterward, by the act of Congress of the 7th of June, 1832, it was further provided:

SEC. 31. That each of the surviving officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, soldiers, and Indian spies, who shall have served in the Continental line, or State troops, volunteers, or militia, at one or more terms, a period of two years, during the war of the Revolution, and who are not entitled to any benefit under the act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution, passed the fifteenth day of May, eighteen hundred and twenty-eight, be authorized to receive out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated the amount of his full pay in the said line according to his rank, but not exceeding in any case the pay of a captain in the said line, such pay to commence from the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-one, and shall continue during his natural life. And any such officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, as aforesaid, who shall have served in the Continental line, State troops, volunteers or militia, a term or terms in the whole less than the above period, but not less than six months, shall be authorized to receive out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury during his natural life, each according to his term of service, an amount bearing such proportion to the annuity granted to the same rank for the service of two years as his term of service did to the term aforesaid, to commence from the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-one.

SEC. 35. The officers, non-commissioned officers, mariners, or marines, who served for a like term in the naval service during the Revolutionary war, shall be entitled to the benefits of this act in the same manner as is provided for the officers and soldiers of the army of the Revolution.

In the present Congress the House of Representatives has already passed the bill giving a service pension to the surviving soldiers of the

Mexican war. We do not desire to draw comparisons between the soldiers of the war with Mexico and those who served in the Union armies during the late war. The heroism of both we remember with pride. Without commenting more, your minority think that our Government cannot upon any ground of equity or public policy pension the surviving soldiers of the Mexican and other wars and refuse to provide in the same manner for those embraced in the provisions of this bill.

Considering its duration and sanguinary character, the war for the Union may justly be termed the most important of modern times.

Congress has from time to time in our history passed more than fifty acts giving pensions of different classes and of various grades to the soldiers and sailors engaged in her wars—this without including the pension acts passed in aid of those engaged in the late war for the Union.

In addition to the pensions granted by Congress to the soldiers and sailors engaged in the military service, there have been made to the same classes numerous grants of land.

By resolution of Congress of September 16, 1776, it was provided that, in addition to a money bounty of $20 to each non-commissioned officer and private soldier who should engage in the service and continue therein to the close of the war or until discharged by Congress, and to the representatives of such officers and soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy, there shall be given lands of the United States as provided in the act, according to grade, ranging from 500 acres to a colonel down to 100 acres to a private.

Again, by act of Congress approved December 24, 1811, it was provided that soldiers enlisted from that period for the term of five years, in addition to a money bounty, should on their discharge from the service, after having procured from the commanding officer of the soldier's company, battalion, or regiment in which he served a certificate that he had faithfully performed his duty while in the service, be granted 160 acres of land. In addition to the benefits conferred by the last-named act there was further given each soldier by the act approved January 10, 1812, three months' extra pay.

By the act of December 10, 1814, the land bounty to soldiers was increased from 160 to 320 acres for each non-commissioned officer and private soldier.

By the act of February 11, 1847, it was provided that every non-commissioned officer, musician, or private of the Mexican war who received an honorable discharge from that service, including the representatives of those who were killed, should receive 160 acres of land. By the act of September 28, 1850, it was provided as follows:

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That each of the surviving, or the widow or minor children of deceased, commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians, or privates, whether of regulars, volunteers, rangers, or militia, who performed military service in any regiment, company, or detachment, in the service of the United States, in the war with Great Britian, declared by the United States on the eighteenth day of June, eighteen hundred and twelve, or in any of the Indian wars since seventeen hundred and ninety, and each of the commissioned officers who were engaged in the military service of the United States in the late war with Mexico, shall be entitled to lands as follows: Those who engaged to serve twelve months or during the war, and actually served nine months, shall receive one hundred and sixty acres, and those who engaged to serve six months, and actually served four months, shall receive eighty acres, and those who engaged to serve for any or an indefinite period, and actually served one month, shall receive forty acres: *Provided,* That whenever any officer or soldier was honorably discharged in consequence of disability in the service, before the expiration of his period of service he shall receive the amount to which he would have been entitled if he had served the full period for which he had engaged to serve: *Provided,*

The person so having been in service shall not receive said land, or any part thereof, if it shall appear, by the muster-rolls of his regiment or corps, that he deserted, or was dishonorably discharged from service, or if he has received, or is entitled to, any military land bounty under any act of Congress heretofore passed.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the period during which any officer or soldier may have remained in captivity with the enemy shall be estimated and added to the period of his actual service, and the person so detained in captivity shall receive land under the provisions of this act in the same manner that he would be entitled in case he had entered the service for the whole term made up by the addition of the time of his captivity and had served during such time.

Under the act last referred to, the soldiers of the war of 1812, of the war with Mexico, and of all the Indian wars since 1790, were given a land bounty if honorably discharged, and provided that such soldier or his representatives has not received or is not entitled to receive any military land bounty under any act of Congress before passed.

Section second of the last named act is a direct recognition and precedent sustaining the proposition that captivity in the hands of the enemy involves greater privations and hardship than service in the field. Here Congress, without regard to any especial hardship endured in captivity, provides that the time of all officers and soldiers captured in all the wars named, no matter where or when, shall have the time of such captivity added to his actual service, and that he—

Shall receive land under the provisions of this act in the same manner that he would be entitled in case he had entered the service for the whole term made up by the addition of the time of his captivity and had served during such time.

And yet the hardships endured in captivity by those engaged in the earlier wars referred to cannot be said to nearly equal in degree those at Belle Isle, Andersonville, Salisbury, and other Southern prisons.

The relief provided, therefore, by the bill under consideration by this committee is not a new departure in the policy of our Government, but is supported in the strongest possible manner by precedent; thus, instead of the present bill being a precedent, it but follows a precedent already established.

At no time in the history of this Government has the practice of giving pensions and bounty to those engaged in the military service produced evil results, nor has there been serious complaint as to any burdens created by taxation in raising the sums so expended, even when our national resources were few and the wealth of our people was insignificant compared with their present condition. While the soldiers and sailors engaged in earlier wars have received land bounties, those engaged in the late war have received none. When the nature of the service in the war for the Union is considered—the cruelties, amounting to murder, that were practiced upon our prisoners—and the present ability of the country to deal justly with the survivors of Southern military prisons, the minority sustaining this report can but recommend the passage of the bill under consideration, in the belief that the relief granted falls short of justice rather than exceeding it.

As to the justice of pensioning the class named in this bill, and the reasons that make it proper, we have spoken more fully elsewhere in this report.

Nor is it believed that the passage of the present bill will add oppressively to the public burdens. Already a majority of the class named in this bill, numbering some 15,000, as nearly as can be ascertained, are borne upon the pension-roll by reason of disability, and cannot receive any benefit under the present bill.

From the most reliable data obtainable there are not to exceed 8,000 to 10,000 surviving soldiers who would receive a pension under the

present bill, at an estimated cost of about $700,000 per annum to commence with, and which would rapidly diminish.

In addition to the annual appropriation above named there would be required to pay the per diem of those confined the sum of about $10,000,000 to be paid at once; this on the estimate that the average time of confinement of prisoners was eight months, which is probably in excess rather than short of the exact average.

Further, the term of enlistment of many Union prisoners expired shortly after their capture, and some of them remained in prison for many months after they should have been discharged, and after they had already rendered three years' faithful service to their country.

What compensation could have induced them to re-enlist for confinement in rebel prisons had the matter been left open to them on pecuniary considerations? Certainly none. Loyalty to their country in the period of her distress animated them under every vicissitude, and the nation should now remember them in its prosperity.

The mortality among surviving prisoners is now about 15 per cent. yearly. No complaint can be made that taxation will be increased under the appropriation thus required, as a small part of the annual surplus now received is sufficient. Meanwhile these soldiers of the Republic who assisted in carrying our banners to victory, and afterward survived the barbarity of rebel prisons, are now nearly or quite all physical wrecks, themselves and families in many instances the objects of charity. Many of them, suffering from disease, are grimly striving to support their families by labor, with spirit as unbroken as when sick and starving in prison they braved, unsheltered, southern storms and southern suns.

The majority of the Committee on Invalid Pensions have introduced a substitute for the bill under consideration, viz, H. R. 1189. In this substitute it is provided that prisoners of war under sixty-two years of age shall not be pensionable unless they are suffering from disability, and can show that fact by a medical pension examining board.

In the opinion of your minority the proposed substitute is little or no improvement in this respect over the general pension law now in force—in both a disability must be shown to exist to entitle the soldier to a pension, and upon the settlement of the issue of whether disability exists, the applicant must often wait a long time to procure a final settlement of his claim.

We understand the disability clause of the substitute to have been stricken out by a majority of the committee, and as this amendment practically destroys its purpose and intent we are not advised as to the line of argument of the majority.

The fifth section of the substitute provides that all soldiers, sailors, and marines, who have served for six months or more in any war in which the United States has been engaged, shall, if disabled so as to interfere with the performance of manual labor, be placed upon the pension-roll. This provision would include many who practically never did any real field service against the enemy, yet were enrolled in the service more than six months.

The further clause in the same section of the substitute, providing that all officers, soldiers, and sailors who have served as aforesaid, "and who *are now of the age of sixty-two years or more*, who are compelled to earn their subsistence by manual labor," shall receive a pension, seems expressly designed to exclude all Union soldiers engaged in the late war who at any time after the passage of the act shall become sixty-two years of age. The man who is now sixty-one years old or less is, if he

has faithfully performed his duty, as much entitled to a pension when he arrives at the age of sixty-two years as the man who has reached that age at the time of the passage of this act. This provision is unquestionably very inequitable in its terms.

The same remark would apply to the bill as affecting prisoners of war. If not able to establish a disability the ex-prisoner would secure no pension, and when he arrived at the age of sixty-two years if unable to perform manual labor he would still not come within the terms of the substituted bill, because that bill has very conspicuously omitted any provision or mention of those who have not at the date of the passage of the substitute reached the age of sixty-two years.

The criticism upon the last-named clause is not so material, however, to prisoners of war as to other soldiers and sailors; the instances of prisoners of war reaching the age of sixty-two years will, we think, be few and phenomenal.

The further provision in the same section of the substitute—

> That no person shall be entitled to receive a pension under the provisions of this section, nor under the provisions of section 1 of this act when the examination of the board of surgeons show that the disease or injury discovered was, in the *opinion of said board*, the result of his own gross carelessness, disreputable conduct, or vicious habits.

This provision by its terms makes the *opinion* of the examining surgeons final and conclusive; from it there is no appeal. This would be inferior to the existing law by far, because under the present law the Commissioner of Pensions could after the report was made review it and take other and further proof; then, further still, there is now left an appeal from the Pension Commissioner to the Secretary of the Interior. The mere opinion of an examining board of surgeons should not, we think, be forever conclusive; "doctors disagree" unfortunately, and the opinion of one physician or board as to the disease or disability an individual may labor under, as also the causes producing it, is not always coincided in by other learned gentlemen in the same profession; from which we only wish to conclude that these opinions are not infallible, and should not be forever conclusive in the first instance, to say nothing further of the objection that the medical board are permitted to go outside of their professional sphere and make equally finally decisions as to whether the applicant's injury is the result of gross carelessness.

These and many other objections to the substitute are apparent to your minority. The radical question at issue, however, between the majority and minority of the committee is whether Union soldiers captured while in line of duty and confined in Southern military prisons for more than sixty days, and who have received an honorable discharge, shall be placed upon the pension-roll without proving disability.

Your minority are firmly of the opinion that they should all be so pensioned, and that they should not be required to prove disability. The torture and suffering that has proved fatal to a majority of their comrades and the present condition of the survivors are alone mute answers to every adverse argument. In view of the fact that a number of soldiers and sailors of the United States were, during the late war, captured and held as prisoners of war after their discharge from the service and while on their way home from the seat of war and various points where they had been ordered or assigned to duty, your committee have thought proper to so amend the original bill H. R. 1189 as to include this class.

Your committee also think that justice demands the pensioning the widows of those who are or would have been entitled to the provisions

of this bill. A very large majority of those so left widows are, it is believed, in very reduced circumstances financially.

Most of the pension laws enacted in the history of our Government, as well as in those of other countries, have provided for the widows of any pensioned class. The humanity and justice of such a policy seems to demand no argument in its support.

It is the opinion of your minority that House bill 1189 should be amended by inserting after the word "duty," in the seventh line of the first section of said bill, the words "or who after being honorably discharged and while on their way home."

Also that said bill be amended by adding at the end of line 14 thereof the following:

"And the surviving widows of those who were prisoners as aforesaid shall be placed upon the pension roll and be entitled to have and receive during the time they remain such widow the same amount of pension under this act that their husbands would have been entitled to receive if living."

Also that the title of said bill be amended so that the same shall read:

"A bill for pensioning prisoners of war, and the widows of prisoners of war, who were confined in Confederate prisons during the late war."

And with these amendments your committee recommend that the bill do pass.

A. J. HOLMES.
WM. CULLEN.
L. C. HOUK.
OSSIAN RAY.
E. N. MORRILL.
H. B. LOVERING.
J. D. PATTON.
BENJAMIN LE FEVRE.

I concur, for the above and other reasons.

JAMES H. BUDD.

VIEWS OF HON. JOHN S. WISE.

I have not had an opportunity to read the minority report or the arguments on which it is based, but I concur in the general proposition that in nine cases out of ten a soldier who was confined in prison for any length of time suffered more for his country than one who was slightly or even seriously wounded.

The report omits a class which I think ought to be included. In the South there was in every State a small class of citizens liable to military duty, but who were so firm in their attachment to the Union that they not only refused to serve in the Confederate army but in the face of an overwhelming sentiment around them—in the face of threats, ostracism, and every social pressure—remained loyal to their faith, and suffered long imprisonment. I know of several instances of this sort, and they ought to be remembered now.

JOHN S. WISE.