

**REPORT TO THE CONTRIBUTORS  
TO THE PENNSYLVANIA RELIEF  
ASSOCIATION FOR EAST  
TENNESSEE**

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Report to the contributors to the Pennsylvania relief association for East Tennessee by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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TENNESSEE**



REPORT TO THE CONTRIBUTORS

TO THE

PENNSYLVANIA RELIEF ASSOCIATION

1864

FOR

EAST TENNESSEE.

BY A

COMMISSION SENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



TO

VISIT THAT REGION, AND FORWARD SUPPLIES TO THE LOYAL  
AND SUFFERING INHABITANTS.

PHILADELPHIA:  
PRINTED FOR THE ASSOCIATION.  
1864.

# PENNSYLVANIA RELIEF ASSOCIATION

FOR

## EAST TENNESSEE.

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**PRESIDENT.**

**EX. GOV. JAMES POLLOCK,**  
U. S. Mint.

**SECRETARY.**

**JOSEPH T. THOMAS,**  
245 South 5th Street.

**TREASURER.**

**CALEB COPE,**  
306 Walnut Street.

**Chairman of the Committee on Collections and for the Forwarding of Supplies.**

**J. B. LIPPINCOTT,**  
715 Market Street.

**Chairman of Executive Committee.**

**LLOYD P. SMITH,**  
Philadelphia Library.

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At a meeting of the Pennsylvania Relief Association for East Tennessee, held March 26th, 1864, Ex-Gov. Pollock in the chair, the Commission appointed at the last meeting to visit Knoxville and make arrangements for the transmission of supplies, made a Report; whereupon the following resolutions were, on motion, unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Report be accepted and that the earnest and heart-felt thanks of this Association be returned to the Commissioners for their untiring industry and efficiency in the discharge of their duties.

*Resolved*, That the Report be referred back to the Commission, with a request to prepare the same for publication for the use of the Contributors to the Fund.

## R E P O R T .

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THE fact that throughout the Southern States a large proportion of the people has never, in heart, renounced allegiance to the Federal Government, is proved by the immense numbers, in that section of the Union who have been imprisoned, exiled, robbed, and murdered by the rebels. It is shown by the numbers who have braved every peril to reach the lines of our army, with a view to enlist under the flag of the United States; and by the welcome which our troops have met with in every part of the Southwest, in North Carolina, and elsewhere. If any justification were needed in the court of conscience and before the tribunal of History for taking up the gauntlet thrown down by the Southern leaders when they dared to fire upon the flag of our common country, and for prosecuting the war thus commenced to a successful issue, the mute appeals of Union men, who have been imprisoned in great numbers rather than take the hated oath to a pretended government; whose crops have been destroyed, whose houses have been burned; who have been murdered upon their own thresholds, or while following the plough, for refusing to enter the rebel ranks; who have been hunted with bloodhounds, and shot in the woods and swamps like wild beasts, for trying to evade the conscription; these indications of southern loyalty would be justification enough. They are enough to bind us of the North by every consideration of honor and self-respect to carry on this war until indemnity for the past and security for



the future can be afforded to those who, relying on our strength and perseverance, ventured to range themselves on our side. We cannot desert these men without disgrace. They have stood by us in this awful conflict, and we must stand by them. Nearly all parts of the South have shown these signs of loyalty in a greater or less degree, but the record of EAST TENNESSEE will go down to posterity in colors eternally bright with the noblest evidences of unflinching patriotism. The story of the wrongs endured by that brave and noble people during two years and a half of rebel rule, and of their present destitution, is told in language eloquent with the force of simple truth in the Address of the East Tennessee Relief Association of Knoxville, which forms an Appendix (A.) to this Report. To that Address your Commissioners beg leave to call the attention of every one who would understand the condition of things in that most interesting section of the United States. It contains many facts previously unknown to Northern men.

Although the cloud of war has hitherto obscured from our sight the sufferings of our brothers in East Tennessee, glimpses have been obtained from time to time sufficient to excite our sympathies; and when a delegate from that land, Col. N. G. Taylor, appealed on behalf of his people to this community, in a speech delivered on the 29th January last, at the Academy of Music, Philadelphia at once responded. An association was organized on the spot, and a committee appointed to collect funds for the relief of East Tennessee. Our citizens did not fail to show, by liberal contributions, their admiration for the patriotism and fortitude of their suffering though far-off brethren, and in a short time a considerable sum was collected and handed over to the Treasurer to purchase food and clothing for them.

To the ladies of Philadelphia, however, ever patriotic, and ever full of good works, belongs the honor of being the first to answer the cry of the famishing. So far back as the early part of December, 1863, Mrs. Joseph Canby and Mrs. Caleb W. Hallowell heard

some soldiers of Kearney's regiment speak of the famine in East Tennessee, and of how they had sometimes themselves lived on a cracker a day, in order to give to the children who flocked to the camp begging for the remnants of their rations. Touched with compassion, they quietly went to work to sew and collect articles for a Fair; and being joined by their friends and neighbors, including some from Norristown and Lancaster County, the Fair will be held next week.

The Governor of Pennsylvania, in an earnest appeal, recommended in January an appropriation by the Legislature, and a Bill for that purpose is now pending. Col. Taylor has also since visited Boston and other places, in company with Col. Jesse E. Peyton, to whom East Tennessee is under deep obligations for his valuable and disinterested services in her behalf; and has met with a response similar to that of this State. In Boston his appeal resulted in the voluntary contribution of very large sums, out of which the Hon. Edward Everett, Treasurer of the Massachusetts Association, generously intrusted to our care ten thousand dollars, to be applied at once to the object in view.

In the meantime some of the leading Union citizens of East Tennessee, men of intelligence and probity, hearing of the work going on at the East, formed themselves, at the instance of Col. Taylor, into "The East Tennessee Relief Association," to co-operate with us, by raising additional funds, and by undertaking to distribute the supplies about to be forwarded, in an impartial and judicious manner. They also appointed a committee to address the President of the United States, and through him, both Houses of Congress, on the condition and wants of the people of East Tennessee, and ask their attention to the necessity of some action on the part of the government for their relief. The interesting and touching Address of that committee is appended to this Report, as mentioned above.

This action at the scene of distress at once relieved our Association from an onerous and difficult part of its labor, and it only

remained to purchase such supplies of food, seeds, clothing, &c., as were indicated by the Knoxville Association, and to transmit them to their destination. Here, however, a serious difficulty presented itself. The only practicable communication with East Tennessee was by the military railroad from Nashville to Chattanooga and thence to Knoxville; and this road is always so choked up with army supplies that it is impossible to forward anything save by favor of the military authorities.<sup>1</sup>

Impressed with this fact, your Executive Committee, at a meeting held on the 16th February, appointed a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Joseph T. Thomas and Frederic Collins, to lay the case before the War Department, and ask for free transportation for our supplies.

At a meeting held on the 29th February, the sub-committee reported that they had had an interview with the Secretary of War, who assured them that whenever commissioners were appointed to proceed to Tennessee, he would give them a letter to General Grant, requesting him to furnish them with all the facilities of transportation in his power. Accordingly a commission consisting of Frederic Collins, N. G. Taylor, of East Tennessee, and Lloyd P. Smith, was appointed to proceed to Cincinnati, and purchase supplies of food there; to appoint agents at Cincinnati, Nashville, and Chattanooga; to make all necessary arrangements for transportation, and to have a personal interview with the officers of the East Tennessee Relief Association at Knoxville. The names on this commission were forwarded to the Secretary of War, and in due time the promised credentials from the Department were received. They are given herewith (see Appendix B), and were of essential service in carrying out the work of your Commissioners.

Col. Taylor, who was absent from the city at the time of his

<sup>1</sup> It is understood that the other road from Nashville to the Tennessee River (at Decatur) has been opened within a few days. This will somewhat lessen the difficulty of transportation.