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## Civil War Resources

**Title:** Army Committee Circular Letter

**Date:** December 15, 1864

**Location:** O-Original-1864-2

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## Army Committee Circular.

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CARLISLE, December 15, 1864.

The army and navy of the United States, numbering not less than 500,000 men, besides a vast number of persons attached to the various departments of field, office and hospital duty, now present the widest of all fields, and the strongest of all claims to the services of christian men and women. There are very many almost insuperable obstacles in the way of the supply of Government Chaplains. In this emergency, the Christian Commission calls for the voluntary efforts of delegates clerical and lay; and seeks to establish throughout the country, as many army Committees as possible, for the maintenance of a constant succession of religious and other ministrations among our brave defenders. The plan proposed is to secure the attendance of one delegate after another for six weeks' time, from every part of the country; and by furnishing a commission, an outfit and transportation, to provide, wherever our men are required to go, the serving ministry of the word of God and the comforts of home.

This appeal was powerfully urged here on Sunday, (the 4th inst.,) by the Rev. T. Atkinson and Dr. Patterson; and a Committee was appointed to work up the awakened interest of the community into something practical and tangible. That Committee enlarging its members, appointed us its executive, to present the appeal to as many as possible, for such help as each can render to our soldiers and sailors. Will you not consider whether you cannot devote a few weeks to the work of a ministering servant, to the souls and bodies of those who are exposed to every hardship and deprived of almost every comfort, in order that you and your's may enjoy the blessings of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, under the Constitution and Government? The demand comes home to us all; and some here are ready to volunteer their services, provided others will follow them. The undersigned are authorized to make all the arrangements necessary for the execution of this plan here; and respectfully solicit the names of any who may be willing to work in hospitals, or with the army or navy in the service of the Christian Commission. No salaries, but all necessary expenses will be paid.

SAMUEL PHILIPS,  
FRANCIS J. CLERC,  
H. SAXTON.