

## An Appeal the Citizens of Maine.

The Maine Freedmen's Relief Society, auxiliary to the National Freedmen's Relief Association, was organized in Representatives' Hall, on the 24th of February last.

The Executive Committee take the liberty of stating the objects of the Society, and of appealing for aid in behalf of distressed freedmen.

The objects of the Association are :

1. To relieve the sufferings of the freedmen, their women and children, as they come within our army lines; by clothing the ragged and naked; furnishing hospitals and medicine for the sick; asylums for the orphans and shelter for the houseless, by aiding in the erection of hundreds of cabins.

2. To aid in placing the freedmen in positions of self-sustenance, by procuring them employment furnishing agricultural implements, and seeds suitable for the field and garden: giving them instruction in the best modes of cultivation; and encouraging the mechanic, by furnishing tools and stock to the carpenter, blacksmith, and shoemaker.

3. To establish and sustain schools at all points in the South, where it is safe to do so, for the education of the freedmen and their children. Day schools for children and youth, night schools for adults, industrial schools to teach the women to cut and make clothes for themselves and families, and Sunday schools for all. Such schools are in operation, in the District of Columbia, in southeastern Virginia and Maryland, along the Atlantic coast and Gulf of Mexico, on both banks of the Mississippi river, to St. Louis, Cairo, etc.

The teachers are also the mediums of correspondence, designating the places the destitute collect, their number, and the extent of their sufferings. To the Superintendents the means of relief are consigned, and by them, with the aid of the teachers, distributed without additional compensation.

4. To furnish relief to suffering white loyal refugees, to the extent of the means contributed for this specific object, and upon this deserving class thousands of dollars have been expended.

Being assured that there are tens of thousands of freedmen in the Union army, who have had no bounty for themselves or aid for their families, whose wives, children and other dependents are in an utterly destitute condition, suffering and dying for the want of food, clothing and medicine, we propose, as a duty, *systematic* and *immediate* efforts for their relief. And we beseech all the good people of this State, waiving all sectarian and political considerations, to unite in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and administering to the necessities of the sick among God's specially afflicted children. This do in remembrance of Him who has said: "Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

All moneys contributed should be sent without delay to the Treasurer, Hon. Nathan G. Hichborn, State House, Augusta.

Any kind of cast-off clothing for men, women or children, which one would wear for comfort or decency, provided nothing better could be had, is earnestly solicited. Common school and Sabbath school books are also wanted.

Goods should be directed to Hon. C. C. Leigh, Nos. 1 & 3 Mercer street, New York, care of George R. Davis, Portland.

The places from which goods are sent should be marked on each case, barrel or package; and notice should be sent by mail to Mr. Davis.

Rev. Dexter S. King has been appointed General Agent for Maine, with power to appoint sub-agents and to receive donations. He is at this time engaged in visiting the cities and larger towns of the State.

The following are the officers of the Society:

*President*, His Excellency SAMUEL CONY.

*Vice Presidents*, Hon. Esreff H. Banks, of Biddeford; Hon. J. McLellan, of Portland; Hon. J. J. Perry, of Oxford; A. M. Jones, Esq., of Lewiston; Hon. C. Stone, of Jay; G. F. Patten, Esq. of Bath; W. A. P. Dillingham, of Waterville; J. J. Taylor, Esq., Newcastle; Hon. N. A. Farwell, of Rockland; Hon. J. S. Tenney, of Norridgewock; Hon. Wm. McGilvery, of Searsport; Hon. A. D. Manson, of Bangor; Hon. E. J. Hale, of Foxcroft; Hon. E. M. Hamon, of Eden; Hon. George Downes, of Calais; Hon. P. P. Burleigh, of Linneus. *Secretary*, Hon. Ephraim Flint, Jr., of Augusta.

*Treasurer*, Hon. Nathan G. Hichborn, of Augusta.

*Managers*, Rev. Dr. Burgess, of Gardiner; E. Steel, Esq. of Portland; Rev. Charles Munger, John L. Stevens, Esq., Rev. Henry W. Brown, John Dorr, Esq., Rev. C. F. Penney, Charles Brown, Esq. of Augusta.