"American National Red Cross"

William Bode.
The command "love thy neighbor," which has stood for ages, yea centuries has not had its true, practical accomplishment fulfilled the way it should have. The Master's words have not been carried out wholly, by those who classify themselves among his followers. Even Rome claiming to be the seat of justice, of piety, of God has not lived up to this command. During the middle ages Rome's belief were quiet, the reverse. The cruel and unjust punishment inflicted upon Savonarola, Higclif and other forerunners of the Reformation show that
Rome was degraded, false, erroneous. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, when the Netherlands were burdened with the most cruel, the most barbarous, the most inhuman treatment by the rules of Spain, sustained by the Holy See, injustice was done to Christ's teaching.

Thus we find things to exist throughout the whole history of man, since the day of Christ. He was, he fought, he slays. But as time went on, man has been more and more the value of this command of love for fellow-men, for friend and foe. He had
found it expedient, and deemed it necessary for an organization to exist which would inculeate love, and which would do away with all partiality - working wholly for the cause of love, equality and humanity. Hence we have the Red Cross.

The occasion of the society was the great battle of Solferino in 1857. Henri Dunant, a Swiss travelling thru Italy at the time of this bloody battle was greatly impressed by the scenes of suffering, dying men left on the battle field uncared for. His benevolent emotions forced him to enter the army, not to aid in...
attacking the enemy, but to protect and care for the hundreds of brave soldiers who fell for the love and for the defense of their country. While continuing his work for the suffering in the army, he elaborated and developed a scheme which would place the wounded under a neutral flag and thus protect the sick and wounded from being captured by the enemy. His system was presented to the "Geneva Society of Public Utility" and warmly received. After a committee was appointed the conference adjourned awaiting the report, which
was submitted on the 26th day of October, 1863. At this meeting in October, every sympathizer and supporter of such a movement was invited. Having fully discussed the newly proposed plans of the committee, resolutions were adopted, laying the fundamental principles of an international organization, which every nation was urged to join. The "articles" had as their basis: "humanity," equal distribution without respect of person or race or color, and protection to the sick in the army.

The need of such an organization can be clearly seen when we acquaint ourselves...
with the horrors of war, whereas war still sweeps over the world, and whereas nations have not yet laid down their arms, then we must conclude that the work of the Red Cross can not be put aside.

Again, we find in times of disaster & war, always generous people who have a heart open to give to the suffering, provided that they know for certain that whatever they give for the suffering shall reach the destitute place. The Red Cross is the only reliable organization to receive such help. Wherever it exists, it works in harmony
with the government.

To the General Convention in a short time, twenty-two nations had agreed, not including the U.S. The U.S. remained rather indifferent to this great movement. The government had been begged from time to time to join the stream, but for some reason was not adhered to. It was not till Miss Clara Barton, returning from her visit abroad, that an actual movement towards the establishment of this peace association was thought of. She had worked among the wounded during our civil war & this work
She was recognized abroad as one who was in full sympathy with a system which would look after the helpless and needy. It was thus her efforts that the Red Cross was planted in America. She met with many oppositions at first. Yet her continual enticements, her unyielding requests, her philanthropic emotions touched the new Garfield Administration and led the Executive to consider carefully the organization, which had shown its usefulness in the war of '66 between Austria and Germany; and also in the war of '70 and '71 between France
and Germany. Garfield and Blaine, both approved of this society, being legally organized in America. At once a correspondence was brought about between the U. S. and the Geneva Conference. This was the first fruit of that germ sown under such difficulties by that philanthropic woman—Clara Barton.

The outcome of this correspondence was the adhesion of the U. S. by act of Congress March 1, 1882, and the ratification on June 6, 1882, by the Congress of Berne.

With the approval of President Garfield and Secretary Blaine the Red
The cross had already been established about a year before the ratification by the Congress of Berne. Clara Barton persuaded the International Red Cross to add to the original resolutions provisions for internal disasters and calamities. This was gladly adhered to, and under these later provisions the Red Cross of America first started out to begin its great work.

The first work of the American Red Cross was in 1881, when the great forest fires of Michigan broke out and consumed with that deadly fire lives, homes, property and...
forest & even lives. It was a time, when people (as they have often told us) thought that the end of life and of the world had come, that time was to be swallowed into eternity, that the great final judgment had come; a time, when sorrow and woe, grief and great agony befell the people & almost exhausted them. It was with such poor, needy, homesick that the Red Cross first started its work, which was so well done that it obtained much honor and fame for its glorious work. It distributed among those bereaved, who were facing
a severe, cold winter, $80,000 in clothing, bedding and other articles of great benefit to the poor.

Not even a year elapsed before the Red Cross was called again to do another philanthropic work in another part of our land. The years 1882 and 1883 marked another year of oppression. The Mississippi & Ohio Rivers being unable to carry their channels the foregoing waters, overflowed the land and devastated millions of acres of the richest and most fertile valleys, thereby depriving hundreds from employment, from food,
from homes, from live.
To these 9,26,000 in money,
and seed was distributed,
thus giving them seed, so
as to prevent them from
an other famine.

Another great disaster
happened in 1883 in
Mississippi and Louisiana,
when Acolus turned loose
the wind in its wildest
form, going thru' cultivated
fields and inhabited towns,
destroying with that
invisible strength the work
of man, carrying aloft the
dwelling houses and whirling
them in the air, as they
were feathers, tearing them
asunder, casting the remnant
on the ground, devastating all, leaving many without home, without food, leaving many even to death. It was then again that the people placing their gifts into the hands of the Red Cross, that its agents, forth with their loving hands and pleasures among these hungry, naked and starving.

Such is but a mere beginning of the lifting up of humanity accomplished through this society. Its work soon grew so extensive that sub-stations were established throughout the whole country, mostly under direction of
the Ladies Auxiliary societies.
All these gifts from various persons and societies have made it possible for the Red Cross to meet any emergency which may befall our people. Thus we find the Red Cross always prepared to relieve those whose life is in danger, whether this lack and want of food, or this insufficient protection.

In 1888, when rumors of drought visited Texas, followed by destruction and starvation, and also rumors of the good state of affairs reached the people in general, every one doubted as to the
real situation. Rev. J. Brown was the first one to awaken the governmental authorities of the sad situation in Texas, but alas! his labor was in vain. Finally he went to Washington and called upon this Human Society. Miss Barton at once investigated the condition and found many people in a sad condition. She, as President of her society, pressed the button and her whole army of peace was set at work to help those that were in distress. 120,000 was raised, thus voluntary gifts and partly by the Texas Legislature. Had it not
been for the tremendous labor of Miss Barton and her society, undoubtedly. The condition of the poor in Texas would have been as the reconcentrados are in Cuba.

Thus can be seen the actual good the American Red Cross has done. In many other small emergencies, it has been first to extend its hand to the suffering, as for example: the Charleston Earthquake in 1886; to which $500,000 was distributed; Mt. Vernon (Ili.) cyclone -1888; money and supplies $85,000; Florida Yellow Fever in same year: physicians and nurses $15,000; Johnstown disaster - 1889; money, etc. $250,000.
But the work of the American Red Cross had not been confined to our own country altogether. It has even gone to foreign shores, to help those whose condition was so severe that had not this aid come, doubtless hundreds and probably thousands would have died, and left to the wild animals to devour.

The first work across the great deep Ocean was in the Russian famine -1891-92. Here, it is estimated, that from thirty to thirty-five millions of people were suffering, and on the verge of starvation. The first impulse to help these wretched people,
who, for fear would answer Count Tolstoi when asked: "What sort of a harvest they had & how they were getting along": "Of right enough, God be praised!" was chiefly in New York, Philadelphia, Minnesota and especially in Iowa. Iowa the state "flouring with milk and honey" was especially liberal. The people in general gave as a free gift, 223 carloads of corn, exceeding 500 barrels to the car. This was forwarded to the Red Cross at New York without delay and thence to Russia. Besides this, large sums of money were received, so that the whole
amount contributed to this cause is estimated by Charles Smith, American Ambassador to Russia at that time, to have supported more than 700,000 people for a month. The appreciation of this noble work by our society is expressed in a letter of thanks addressed to the People of the U. S. by the Nobility of St. Petersburg: "In the annals of Russia for 1892, painful tho' the memory be, history will point out many a bright and joyous page scattered throughout the Empire, on which will be written in letters of gold the beautiful story of brotherly love as exemplified by the good people of the U. S. of America."
Hardly had human voices been heard calling for bread ere that friendly people across the Atlantic moved by an earnest desire to help the afflicted and feed the hungry, collected — shipload after shipload of corn and dispatched them, one after the other, on their errand of mercy and relief. "Deeply grateful for such evident signs of evangelical feeling and interest, the Assembly of Nobles has resolved to express their warm and heartfelt gratitude to those friendly people who form the great nations of the U. S. of America."

The letter is still to be seen in the Army and Navy building in Washington.
Hardly had the thousands of starving people in Russia been helped, when on our own shore, the cries of woe and distress and agony from hundreds, yes thousands, came to the benevolent working society for aid. The weak cries came from suffering people, who were caught in the Sea Island Hurricane. From 5000 to 5000 went down in that black night; others in the darkness of despair, clinging to the swaying limbs of the tree tops till the roots were washed away, and the sufferers fell upon reckless, merciless billows of the boiling
waters of the mad ocean, deprived from home, shelter, protection, food and relatives.
The rushing water filled the wells, and destroyed all vegetable growth, all the animals, all possibility of ever recovering to a former position, after the tireless waves were calmed, unless this aid from outsiders. The Red Cross undertook the work and with great success gave assistance to these 30,000 ill-fated people. Mr. McDonald, who had 2,554 of these unfortunate ones dependent upon him for all necessaries of life says, "At daylight the applicants
would be around the tent waiting to see Mr. Red Cross, and from then on, a stream of people, some sick, wanting medicine; some hungry, wanting food; some ragged, wanting clothes; some loafers, wanting everything they could get. As soon as this stream could be stemmed, and a little breakfast eaten hastily, came visits to the sick, who were unable to come to us; and in all sorts and conditions of vehicles, we went wherever we were called.

Thus can be seen how many lives were saved this, the noble work of the brave peace warriors.
But the work did not end here; several other workers were kept busy to do all in their power to save these poor people. Other, in addition to this work gave instruction to the ignorant.

From this place, elevated as it had been there the agents of the Red Cross so that the people were about able to depend upon their own income, the society was called for a second time to the foreign shore. This time the work was under great difficulties and much hazard, it was under the Christian Armenia. Under the yoke of the Mohammedan
rule came a great cry from the dying Christians under the sword came an appeal to all civilized nations for deliverance. 60,000 of these innocent souls fell by the sword; others were driven into utmost servitude, into the deepest degradation.

When Europe was in bondage to Rome, Luther arose and proclaimed: "In sight of God, all men are equal." When the South insisted upon slavery, Thomas Paine declared, "That man has no right in man." When the Armenians cried to all free people of her great distress, the Sultan answered: "Sign this pledge..."
signifying that you are free or die!

Under such stringent laws, combined, as they were with existing racial and religious differences, the Red Cross ventured much hazard to save those whose pulse was about to stop, and whose throbbing heart was about to be silenced in death. The beginning of this work was met with many oppositions, yet the members of this body, who represented humanity, could not leave the call unheard, and therefore, taking all risk, they set sail upon the mighty ocean to the fields of honor 6,000 miles away.
near which "once milky rich
the sweet fragrance of the rose,
violet and hyacinth," now the
odor of human carcases; the
country upon which once
dlay a curse and destruction
now leading to a similar
direction; the country in
which once the Hebrew
Patriarchs offered heastly
sacrifices to the 'True God'
now fallen -- sacrificing
human beings to the false
religion.

That any foreign organization
or person should find opposition
in working its way into such
a country, can be clearly seen
when we hear of those, who
have seen the interior of this
country and found the English language inadequate to express the scenes of horror as they existed in that country. Yet all difficulties were soon removed, and the true, faithful workers set at work immediately. After having seen some parts of Turkey, where distress was very great, Miss Barton says: "By scores, by hundreds they die; no help, no medicine, no skill, little food and the last yard of cotton gone to cover the sick and dying. 'They call: 'Help or we perish!' Send us physicians.' In such a condition the people were found. To raise them out of this wretched
condition, the Americans that the Red Cross, sent $116,000 to Turkey. The distribution of these gifts was left to the representative of the Red Cross. The most needy places were sought for, and placed in a position so that many were restored to their former condition and lifted from that terrible situation.

An other field were this society did such excellent work is in Sudan. The sad condition of this country needs no introduction, for the minds of the American people are still suffering sad sights of horror which the various writers and travelers have tried to
picture.

Before the destruction of our battle-ship Maine work of relief had already begun. The work was first started by the Red Cross, to feed and elevate those pale, lifeless, starved women and children, which this Wheeler's command had been forced into the cities, and their left with hardly any means to support them. That relief was necessary, every true lover of "humanity" will admit.

To enter this new field permission must be granted from those in authority. Spain was not so cruel
as to reject the proposed service of the American Red Cross, to enter upon the concentrated and desolate fields, but heartily assented with the addition of "her majesty's gracious thanks for the kindly thought."

The work of the Red Cross was in harmony with the U.S. government. The President of the U.S. made a call to the generous givers of America and the work was started. Miss Barton, having had much experience in the line of caring for starving people, went to Havana to assist in planning for the relief of those thousands of people.
whose bodies had almost become like skeletons. She found most of the reports, which had told of the sad condition of affairs, to be true.

While speaking of a building (Lou Fossa) near Havana, she says: "Over four hundred women and children in the most pitiable condition possible for human beings to be in, and live; and they did not live, for the death record counted them out a dozen or more every twenty-four hours, and the ghastly pile of rude black coffins, that confronted one at the very door, was told to reach farishing applicant at her entrance what her exit..."
was likely to be. We went from room to room each filled to repletion, not a dozen beds in all. Some of the inmates could walk, as many could not, lying on the floors in their filth, some mere skeletons; others swollen out of all human shape. Death, piled mothers lying with glazing eyes, and a famishing babe clutching at a motherless breast. --- The massacres of Armenia seemed merciful in comparison.

Many of these buildings were found, a reform was made at once. The rooms were cleaned and purified; the sick were attended to; the starving were fed; the naked, clothed, and the dead, buried.
The accounts of the different workers showed that at the first place 1000 were fed; at an other place, 1300; at an other 1200 and so on.

The work was carried on with great prosperity till the time when the 'Maine' was destroyed. All aid possible was given to the sailors of the fallen ship. Many of the surviving were nursed with great care. Their names and addresses were taken, and work sent to the respective homes of the sad fate which had befallen them. "As Miss Barton was doing this, she came to one who asked: 'Isn't this Miss Barton?' "Yes" was the reply. "I thought it"
must be. I knew you were here and thought you would come to us. I am so thankful for us all. He desired to have a message sent to the one whom he loved. This was done.

The message as dictated read:

“Wounded, but saved!”

Two days later, when all the care of these faithful servants had been in vain, he passed away under the list of the martyred heroes, who went down in the gallant ship Maine.

Thus, the American Red Cross did not prove to be wholly for the Cuban's in Cuba, but also for its own people. From that memorial day, they worked inward.
and established many hospitals, while old ones were rebuilt, cleaned and purified. This purifying of old hospitals seems to have been essential, for it is said that their greatest enemy was not the Spaniard, but the smell of dead, putrefied bodies which had been left unburned. Besides this, in Jarina, Matanzas, Artemisa, Sagua La Grande and thirty to forty other villages, food was given to the starving women and children.

The work had progressed nicely till the war broke out, when all Americans were called away from Cuba.
The good work begun had to be dropped, and left under protection of the ruling authorities, which was done with much better care than the people in general expected. Yet the work of the Red Cross did not end here. It took its abode with the army and navy, providing the men with food, medicine and clothing, paying special attention to the sanitary condition of camp life, and doing all in their power to keep the soldiers in good health and dressing their wounds.

Several vessels floated under the flag of the Red Cross.
The ships "Solace" and "State of Texas" were two of those which did such splendid service to our suffering heroes. The former was turned into a hospital ship and near Guantanamo on the 25th of June had 50 wounded sailors who were treated with great care and under the protection of the Red Cross. The "State of Texas" was sent with provisions for the starving Cubans, but their being a blockade she was compelled to withhold her provisions for some time. Soon the fighting near Siboney took place and while many of the Red Riders fell, and the Red
Cross people of the State of Texas, who had asked for aid, were summoned at once to aid and to take care of many of the wounded soldiers.

Aid was also given to Gen. Garcia's men, who were poorly cared for. Gen. Shafer's men had fallen short of supplies while fighting on July second, so that he sent word to the President of the Red Cross, "to seize any empty wagon coming in and send by them hospital supplies, medical stores, "which," the general says, "were badly needed at the front." Had it not been for the quiet
action of the relief workers in the field, many soldiers would have remained uncafed for.

After the battle fields around Santiago had received as good treatment as possible under the circumstances and Santiago had fallen, the Red Cross hastened to this city as soon as possible and forced their way in the city as hundreds were within the walls without food & water. The first entrance which was made on that same day 10,000 people were fed with hot soup and in addition about the same number received dry food consisting
of crackers, meat and meal, while to the sick condensed and malted milk was sent as soon as possible. All around Santiago the sick, wretched, wounded, fever stricken and dying received an uplifting hand.

The work of the Red Cross in the army can be best known by testimony of the General, Major L. La Sara U. S. A. Hospital says: "Had it not been for their assistance (i.e. the Red Cross) and the quantities of supplies furnished by the "State of Texas," the sufferings of the hundreds of wounded would have been magnified more than 2 cau
now venture to express. "Gen.
Adams (levolamde) says: "When the
record of the New York in the
recent war is made up, Miss
Barrow's name --- will head the
list." Gen. Shafter says: "Her
work (i.e. Miss Barton) with
my army was of the greatest
assistance." Gen. A. Neece, Depart-
ment of Justice, says: "The men of justice, says: "The
all
those who worked with her
under the R.S. flag belong
to the Academy of Immortals."
President McKinley in his
annual message of Dec. 1898,
says: "In this connection
it is a pleasure for me to
mention in terms of cordial
appreciation the timely and
useful work of the American
National Red Cross, both in relief measures preparatory to the campaigns, in sanitary assistance at several of the camps of assembly, and, later, under the able and noble experienced leadership of the President of the Society, Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front in Cuba.

But the work has not yet been finished since the war ended. The alleviation of human misery and the saving of life has been renewed. With the request of President McKinley and the Secretary of War, a new call by Clara Barton was made, March 9th, 1899, to those whose charity and liberality
knows no bounds" for further gifts. The work is expected to be carried on in Cuba till the helpless people become self-sustaining and dependent upon themselves.

Thus has been seen how much real good work for humanity has been accomplished through the Red Cross. Hundreds and thousands of poor people have been saved from starvation. Millions have received treatment through the society, whatever their condition was—whether caught in fires as in Michigan, or in floods as in Mississippi and Ohio and Johnstown, or in contagious diseases as the “Yellow Fever Epidemic” in...
Florida. Malaria and Typhoid in Cuba, or wounded as in the late war, they have all received as quick and as good treatment as possible under the circumstances.

No other organization can show such records. There may be charitable institutions or church organizations which have accomplished wonderful deeds, but there is none that can claim an equal to that accomplished by the Red Cross of America, taking the short period of its existence into consideration.

The future of the Red Cross is not a veiled mystery, nor a dark night. If it continues in the path which it has been pursuing, it will be the
greatest organization for uplifting humanity that exists under the sun. As long as man rises against man, foe against foe, enemy against enemy, as long as the legal peaceful reign has not been established; and as long as calamities and disasters come upon our people; as long we must recognize the use of this society of public good; as long we need the aid of the Red Cross.