

St Louis  
May 7 1862

J.A. Roosevelt Esq

Dear Sir

I was forced to telegraph you to day to send us if you could 2000 shirts and drawers. The sick and wounded in this department is so large and so many are under our care that our stock is completely exhausted. We have our Union ladies hard at work [ ] them, but state they are sent out faster than we can get them in. Fresh sick are coming in every day. New hospitals are being established and more are expected. The wounded from battle are almost entirely destitute and their every want has to be supplied. I wish that you could be here for a week to see what has to be done, but your citizens I know will esteem it a privilege to have the opportunity of giving. I shall have copied an appeal just now from an agent at Pittsburg Landing, will also send a memorandum tomorrow or next day showing what has been done with the supplies of money and goods sent to us. The US Sanitary Comm from Washington object to our [ ] of proceeding, think that we should not make appeals for aid while the good people do not object and continue to give and the soldiers need comforts so will be forced to disregard their objections. If they will send us from their well filled stores, there would be no necessity for our making the appeals which we do. We offered to act as their agents and distribute their supplies but this they declined and sent two agents at high salaries to do that which we offered to do at without cost. I regret to see the unkind feeling exhibited by them. We are not only willing but would be most happy to cooperate with them if it could be done without the intervention and circumlocution of red tape which is required. We have a work to perform and wish to do it in the simplest and most direct manner possible. Excuse the length of this letter. Believe me very truly yours

James E Yeatman