

Woodbury N.J.

Nov 5. 1861



His Ex., Abraham Lincoln,  
President of United States.

Dear Sir.

On behalf of the Young  
Men's Christian Association  
of Philadelphia, & with the  
sanction of Gen. McClellan,  
I had the privilege a short  
time since to make a visit  
of inquiry to the camps in  
the vicinity of Washington,  
having in view the moral &  
religious condition & wants  
of the army. One of the results  
has been the organization of  
a system of religious Associ-  
ations of which I herewith  
submit the constitution. The  
Havelock Association has for



its single object the combina-  
tion & invigorating of the mor-  
al & religious influences which  
exist in the army. How im-  
portant the object to the  
morale of the army & the con-  
sequent triumph of our cause  
& future welfare of our country  
as well as to the higher interests  
of the troops individually, I  
need not suggest.

It was the desire of the  
members of the First New  
Jersey regiment who formed  
the First Association, that  
their movement could be  
strengthened by the con-  
tinuance of our honored  
president. In accordance  
with their wishes I submit  
to you the constitution, &  
respectfully ask from you  
such expression of approv-



al as you may think proper.  
It will be grateful to the  
feelings of many both in  
the army & in the country  
at large.

The movement is designed  
to be in intimate concert with  
the Young Men's Christian  
Association throughout the  
country, & to be carried, if  
possible into every regiment  
& corps of the army.

I send herewith a letter  
of introduction which I  
had hoped to have de-  
livered in person.

Trusting to receive a fa-  
vorable response, & with the  
most respectful regard &  
prayer for God's blessing on  
you & our country, I am

Respectfully Yours,  
Samuel J. Baird.



## Constitution.

1. This society shall be known as the Havelock Association of the First Regiment of New Jersey Volunteers in the service of the United States.

2. Its object is the moral & religious improvement of the members & of the regiment to which they belong.

3. The following pledge, with a corresponding life & character is the unalterable & only condition of membership & shall be solemnly adopted by each candidate in presence of the Association prior to the entry of his name upon the roll: viz

"Adoring the grace of the Triune God, & hoping for salvation through the blood



of Christ, & promise to endeavor by the help of the Holy ~~Ghost~~ Spirit, to live according to the rule of the Sacred Scriptures, & to be faithful to all the duties which may devolve upon me as a member of this Association."

4. Any person belonging to the regiment may become a member, but no one shall be entitled to any authority or distinction in the Association, by virtue of official rank or position in the army. Nominations for membership shall be over one meeting & be approved by a majority of votes.

5. The officers shall be a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary & a Treasurer, with any others that



from time to time may be found expedient. The stated elections shall be held on the first Mondays of January, April, July, & October, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient.

C. The design of the Association being moral & religious improvement, no other business shall be admitted. It ~~shall~~ <sup>is to</sup> be pursued by the obtaining & distribution of suitable reading, the forming of Bible classes & prayer meetings & similar means. When it is possible, there shall be at least one devotional meeting of the Association every week. The exercises shall be conducted by the presiding officer, or by some proper persons designated by him.



[1861, Nov. 5]

[Young Men's Christian Assoc.]

7. Any violation of the rules of Christian morality, if persisted in after proper measures have been tried to reclaim the offender, shall be followed in all cases by expulsion. A member so excluded shall not be restored except upon full evidence of amendment & by a vote of two thirds of those present, on a motion of which notice shall have been given at a previous meeting.

8. "The powers that be are ordained of God," & we are in arms in defense of that ordinance. It is, therefore, the duty of the members of this Association to distinguish themselves by the exemplary & fearless performance of all the duties of good soldiers,



rendering prompt obedience to our officers, & conforming to all the regulations of the authorities, doing unnecessary violence to no man, & respecting the property of our enemies & the lives & comfort of the wounded & vanquished.

9. The Association may from time to time adopt such Bye Laws as may be requisite to facilitate business.

10. It shall be the duty of the members to use diligence in endeavoring to advance, especially, the spiritual welfare of their fellow soldiers, & to induce all proper persons to unite with the Association.

11. It shall in like manner be a duty to seize every suitable opportunity for ~~seizing~~ securing the organization of



similar Associations in all other regiments & corps of the army with which they may be brought into communication.

12. The motto of the Association is Psalm xx. 5. "He will rejoice in thy salvation, & in the name of our God we will set up our banners;" & its badge, a breastpin in the form of a Bible surmounted by the flag of the Union.