nurses, and this was heartily welcomed at the military hospitals.' It soon became apparent that Clara Barton possessed the qualifications for such labours in an exceptional degree, and it is recorded of her that 'she could go in her quiet, self-contained way among hospitals and camps anywhere in Washington, unchallenged by even the closest sticklers for routine and red tape.' Not only did she receive the wounded as they poured in, from the seat of fighting in Virginia, but actually travelled in the military train to the field, and saw the battles of Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburgh. She spent eight months at the siege of Charleston, Fort Wagner, and Petersburg, and took a leading share in the labours of the hospitals of Richmond and Morris Island. Nor, when the fighting was over, did her work cease, for she spent six weeks at Andersonville in order to verify and distinguish, as far as possible, the graves of the Union prisoners buried there.

A long European tour, with complete rest, was imperatively necessary after all these hardships and anxieties, and in 1869 she visited Geneva, where to her surprise she was called upon by a deputation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (which has its headquarters in that city) 'to congratulate her personally upon her work, and to express astonishment that a people who had shown themselves so thoroughly in harmony with the Convention of 1864 should stand outside it. Miss Barton candidly confessed that she had been unaware of the existence of this great organisation, though America had been represented at the first two and subsequent conference (in 1868), and surmised that indifference, and perhaps some misrepresentation or misunderstanding, had been the reason of the aloofness. She undertook, however, to leave no stone unturned to induce the United States to subscribe to the Treaty of Geneva, But many years were to pass before success was to attend her efforts. Meantime the Franco-German war had broken out, and she was then specially invited to join the relief corps of the Red Cross, and upon the battlefields of France she again showed an untiring devotion to the succour of the wounded. For her services here the Emperor William conferred upon her the Iron Cross of Merit, and she was also the recipient of a medal and jewels from the Empress Augusta. Not until 1877 could she take up the canse of international humanity, when a small committee was formed, and gradually won recognition of its aims. In President Garfield the movement found a warm supporter, Mr. Blaine accorded his approbation, but the assassination of the President caused a little delay. Ultimately Congress agreed to the accession of the United States to the articles of the Geneva Convention, and President Arthur on March 1, 1882, signed the treaty.

"America is one of the very few countries which has a woman for the president of its Red Cross Society, the others being Germany, Baden, and Japan, whose sovereign ladies fill the position. It should be perhaps explained that these national societies are independent and can make their own laws and regulations, subject only to a few simple principles laid down by the parent International Society of Switzerland. At the present moment, therefore, it is particularly interesting to note that in joining the Convention America insisted upon certain modifications on the ground of her 'comparative exemption from the dangers of war.' For this reason, and in order to subscribe to its great second article, namely, 'That the societies shall in time of peace keep themselves constantly prepared for war, thus securing permanency of organisation,' the American society was specially permitted to undertake work of relief in emergencies 'other than those of warfare.' Thus in any great national calamity of floods, cyclones, fire, epidemic, or earthquake, the society comes forward to pursue its noble mission of helping the sufferers. An enormous reserve of provisions and portable dwellings are kept in store, special trains can be instantly requisitioned, a staff of nurses and workers marshalled at once, and aid given without a moment's delay. Among the great calamities to which Miss Barton has thus given immediate and personal help with her subordinates were the great forest fires of Michigan, the terrible floods in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, and the fearful catastrophe in the Conemaugh Valley, when the very first train that arrived on the scene brought her, with all sorts of creature comforts, to the 3,000 families rendered homeless. During the outbreak of atrocities in Armenia the American Red Cross Society was foremost in sending help and in mitigating the miseries under Turkish misrule, and it is not necessary to do more than allude to its presence in Cuba as soon as the need for its gentle ministrations became apparent in that unhappy island.

"The main offices of the Society are at Washington, in a fine house, which was during the Civil War the headquarters of General Grant. The house itself looks on to the rear of the White House, and faces the War Department, while over it floats the red cross flag. Miss Barton devotes the whole of her large fortune to the cause, and whenever any calamity calls for the intervention of the society, money and supplies are sent to her from all quarters for distribution. Some five years ago the society received a somewhat curious gift, when Dr. Joseph Gardner, of Bedford, Indiana, presented to it a fully-stocked farm and land of more than a square mile. It may be interesting, therefore, to quote the terms on which Miss Barton, as president, accepted the benefaction: 'While its business headquarters will remain as before at the capital of the nation, the gift forms a realisation of the hopes so long cherished that the national red cross may have a place to accumulate and produce material and stores for sudden emergencies and great calamities, and if war should come upon our land, which may God avert, we may be able to fulfil the mission that our adhesion to the Geneva Treaty has made binding upon us. I will direct that monuments be erected defining the boundaries of this domain, dedicated to eternal peace and humanity, upon which shall be inscribed the insignia which all the nations of the earth are bound by solemn covenant to respect."

"In spite of advanced years and the ill-health caused by her untiring labours, Miss Barton would probably herself again take active direction should the worst fears of war be realized. Her energy is boundless, and it is hard to belive how much she has done in her long and busy life. Perhaps, however, the best description of her has been given by Miss Laura M. Doolittle, in a sketch written some three years ago for an American magazine devoted to scientific nursing, and characterized by knowledge of both the woman and her work. Of her this lady says: 'Her superb executive ability must impress all who meet her. She influences and controls

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