

community has contributed liberally to the Fund. On the one hand, the nobility, the gentry, the great corporate mercantile bodies of the kingdom, have proportioned their donations to the greatness of the occasion, and to their large share of the blessings bestowed by Providence upon this favoured land. On the other, we have found that the brilliant deeds of our countrymen in arms have awakened equal sympathy in every class of humble life, even among those whose generous impulses can be gratified only at the cost of privation and self-denial. Contributions of large amount have been received from agricultural districts and rural parishes, swelled by the spontaneous bounty of the peasantry, artizans, domestic servants, workpeople, labourers, individually and in associations, have felt a patriotic pride and a generous satisfaction in answering their Sovereign's appeal. In one striking instance the inmates of the Reformatory Asylum, Smith Street, Westminster, having literally nothing of their own to give, denied themselves a meal, that its value might be offered as their gift. We deem it a fact deserving your Majesty's notice that even the children of the poorer classes have very generally contributed their "mite" to enlarge the amount of the Nation's bounty.

Sums collected from Colonies, English residents abroad, and from Foreigners.—Collections from Foreign Countries.

4. It will be our duty hereafter to submit to your Majesty as detailed a statement as may be practicable of the sources from which the Patriotic Fund has been derived. Your Majesty will be gratified to hear that the contributions have not been confined to Great Britain, or even to your Majesty's subjects. Very large sums have been received from British residents abroad. Your Majesty's representatives in the colonies, acting as Commissioners in Aid, have been warmly seconded by the loyal feelings of your Majesty's colonial subjects, in proof of which we can point to magnificent contributions from India, from the North American colonies, from Australia, and in fact from nearly every British possession; amongst other contributions may be mentioned that of the Six Nation Indians, who have subscribed the sum of £100. Your Majesty's Consuls-General, Consuls, and other influential British subjects also, in all parts of the world, have manifested a laudable zeal in contributing themselves, and in encouraging and collecting contributions to the National Fund. We have peculiar pleasure in reporting to your Majesty that the natives of many foreign countries also have spontaneously and largely contributed, and have accompanied their donations with kind expressions of sympathy for the sufferers, and testimony to their sense of the justice of the war in which your Majesty and Allies are engaged.

Amount of Fund.

5. We beg to submit, in Appendix B, a detailed account of the sums received in each month since the opening of the subscription, and a statement of the mode in which they have been invested.

Distribution of Relief by Honorary Secretaries.

6. The distribution of relief was commenced by the Honorary Secretaries in the month of November 1864, under a sanction provisionally given to them for that purpose, by one of your Majesty's Secretaries of State. Under this arrangement about 13 widows and 114 orphan children were actually receiving assistance at the period when

we first entered upon the active discharge of the duties which your Majesty had been pleased to impose upon us. A list of our meetings, of which regular minutes have been kept, will be found in Appendix C.

Appointment of Finance Committee.

7. In conformity with the authority given to us, we proceeded at once to nominate an Executive and Finance Committee, composed of the following:—

The Right Honourable Lord St Leonards.
Colonel the Honourable James Lindsay, M.P.
Lieutenant-Colonel Shafto Adair, M.P.
Thomas Baring, Esquire, M.P.
George C. Glyn, Esquire, M.P.
Sir Alexander Spearman, Bart.
Vice-Admiral Henry Hope, C.B.
Major R. J. Little, Royal Marines.
W. G. Anderson, Esquire, Treasury.
R. C. Kirby, Esquire, War Office.
Captain E. G. Fishbourne, R.N.
Captain J. H. Lefroy, R.A.

Having selected the Lord St Leonards as their Chairman, this Committee has since held regular meetings, and has made us two reports, of which we have approved, and which we humbly submit to your Majesty in Appendix D, 1 and 2.

Powers conferred by the Commission.—Claims of Widows of Superior Officers deferred.—Amateur Artists' Fund, Burlington House.

8. Upon a careful consideration of our powers, we are led to the conclusion that while they do not exclude the Widows and Orphans of Commissioned Officers of the Army, Navy, and Marines, yet, inasmuch as a provision has been made by your Majesty's pension warrant and compassionate allowances for the relief of claimants of that class, they cannot in general be considered as primary objects of the royal commission. Consequently, we have deferred for the most part the claims of this class till the number and urgency of those of the primary classes, viz.—those of Widows and Orphans of Non-commissioned and Petty Officers, Private Soldiers, Seamen, and Marines, for whom no such provision exists, should be known and provided for. We are happy, however, to be able to report, that through the instrumentality of the Committee of Amateur Artists, several sums of money have already been placed at our disposal for immediate distribution amongst the Widows and Orphans of all classes of Officers. We have already offered our warm acknowledgments to the Committee; and we have to report to your Majesty that the money has been applied in the relief of several pressing claims, and has elicited very grateful acknowledgments from the recipients.

Applications of Officers' Widows and Orphans.

9. Omitting, from motives of delicacy, the names of the Applicants, we submit to your Majesty, in Appendix E, the cases of all those ladies who have applied for assistance, as an index to the circumstances in which it is too probable that many gallant Officers may leave their Widows and Families in the event of their falling in the present war.

First Estimate of the Number of Widows and Orphans.

10. Truly gratifying, and indeed magnificent, as is the amount of the subscription received, there is little reason to doubt that the claims upon it will be correspondingly great. In February we were led to suppose, upon the best data we were able

