Woodbury, N.Y.
Nov. 5, 1863

His Ex. Abraham Lincoln,
President of United States.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia and with the sanction of Genl. M' Clellan, I had the privilege a short time since to make a visit of inquiring into the camps in the vicinity of Washington. Having in view the moral and religious condition and wants of the army, one of the results has been the organization of a system of religious associations of which I have the honor to submit the constitution. The

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its single object the combination + incorporating of the moral + religious influences which exist in the army. Now important the object is the morale of the army & the consequent influence 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 joined the First Association, that their movement could be strengthened by the compliance of our honored President. In accordance with their wishes I submit to you the constitution, & respectfully ask from you such expression of appro
all 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 delivered in person.

Trusting to receive a favorable 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 and religious improvement of the members of the regiment to which they belong.

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

"Adoring the grace of the Eternally God, & hoping for salvation through the blood..."
of Christ, I promise to endeavor by the help of the Holy Ghost and Spirit, to live according to the rule of the Sacred Scriptures, and to be faithful to all the duties which may devolve upon me as a member of this Association.

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

5. The officers shall be a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary and 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.

6. The design of the Association being moral & religious improvement, no other business shall be admitted. It shall be promoted 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 person designated by him.
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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, or a motion of which notice shall have been given at a previous meeting.

8. The powers that be are ordained of God, and 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 and 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 none, respecting the property of our enemies & the lives & comfort of the wounded & vanquished.

9. The Association may from time to time adopt such rules 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 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 xxv. 5. & the will 
    rejoice in thy salvation, & in the name of our God we 
    will set up our Banner; & it's badge, a Breastpin in the 
    form of a Bible surmount
ed by the Flag of the Union.