



Washington, D. C., October 27th 1864.

This is to Certify, That *D. J. Brigham*
is hereby appointed a RELIEF AGENT of the UNITED STATES SANITARY
COMMISSION, and, in the performance of his duty in that capacity,
is commended to the courtesies and kind consideration of the Officers
of the Army and the Commission.

Fred N. Knapp
Associate Secretary.

by *Wm. H. Harvey*
Asst.

Commission of the U. S. Sanitary Commission issued to Johnson Brigham, 1864.

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

JOHNSON BRIGHAM AND THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

There appears in the Notable Death section of this issue of the ANNALS a sketch of the life and achievements of Johnson Brigham, long known as Iowa's outstanding literary character and librarian. There is in the autograph collection of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department the original from which the illustration accompanying this article is made and which throws a little more light on Mr. Brigham's interesting career. In the notable death sketch it is stated he spent the last year of the Civil War in the service of the United States Sanitary Commission at Washington. At the time this commission was given Mr. Brigham, he was a youth of only a few months past eighteen, and as is shown on the commission, he was introducing himself to the world by a name scarcely recognized now as his own. This is explained by a memorandum written in his characteristic hand on an under leaf of the commission and in the presence of the Curator of the Historical Department sometime prior to 1930. We give the memorandum:

Commission given to Johnson Brigham to accompany the exchange of prisoners below Savannah, Georgia, in November, 1864. (Mr. Brigham was named DeWitt Clinton Johnson Brigham, but early feeling he was too heavily loaded, he first dropt the "Clinton" from his name, and next dropt "DeWitt"—hence the name by which he is known in Iowa.) Mr. Brigham was representative of the Sanitary Commission on the "General Sedgwick," and this steamer with 500 exchange prisoners was first to return from the exchange, and first to report at Annapolis. His printed report, afterwards published in the Sanitary Commission Bulletin (in State Library), appeared just in time to add fresh impetus to the raising of funds at the great Sanitary Commission Fair then in progress in New York, and the circumstance resulted in his promotion from agent to chief clerk's first assistant in the central office of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C., which position he held until the disbandment of the Commission in 1865.

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