

Belmont Gonzales Co Texas
Sept. 18th 1866

Mrs Lewis N. Webb

Dear Madam

After much delay your favor of the 16th ultimo, has been received, causing me heartfelt pleasure, for it showed me that I was not forgotten, and that the heroic dead of my state who had fallen in defence of Richmond & Southern rights were still held in remembrance by the ladies of Richmond -

There are memories that never die, recollections that time cannot obliterate, and among them are the reminiscences that crowd upon me when I think of Virginia and her noble women.

Such unwearied devotion, such a self-sacrifice

sacrificing spirit, such entire forgetfulness of self in the unrelenting attention to the wants of soldiers, the angelic ministrations of the battle field and the tender & watchful assiduities of the hospital & sick room, have no parallel in history, and perhaps may never be manifested again. The soldier who has been the object of the tender solicitude of these noble women & could forget it, is an ingrate, devoid of every manly impulse & feeling.

Your zeal ~~and~~ & your interest in the cause & its defenders will never fail. Having done all you could for the living in their hours of need, you now turn your attention to the gallant dead - like Magdalene of old, you are last at the cross and first at the Sepulcher.

The work in which you are all engaged is a noble one, and it ever must

that the ladies of Richmond should
be the first to move, ^{in it} and it affords me
the greatest pleasure to know that they
have chosen one to preside over this
"Association", who in the dark hours
of the Confederacy gave herself up so
unreservedly to ^{the} holy work of alleviating
the sufferings, & mitigating the sor-
rows of the wounded & the dying.

The work in which you are engaged
will elicit the approbation & the co-
operation of almost the entire South
I believe -

I shall write immediately to the editors
of the most prominent journals of
the State, to enlist them in the work,
and will call the attention of my friends
of the "Texas Signal" to the matter, they
will need no incitement but their own
feelings - Enclosed is the names
of a few ladies in this section of
the country who I think will take

a dup in list in this matter.

Other names will be forwarded soon.

You make inquiry for Cal Banc;
his address is Seguin Texas.