

**EXCERPT FROM**  
*DIARY OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1860-1865*

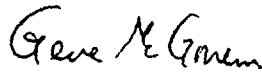
*George Templeton Strong*  
*edited by Allan Nevins*  
*(introduction by Eugene McGovern)*

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George Templeton Strong (1820-75) was a New York lawyer who during the Civil War worked heroically for the United States Sanitary Commission. No private citizen did more for the Union cause, and his is the most famous, and the most important, of the diaries that survive from those years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugene McGovern". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Eugene McGovern

Authentic story about E. B. Elliott, whilom actuary to the Sanitary Commission. He has much talent for mathematics and a great faculty of working with entire concentration on abstract questions, but he is quite without common sense. He called on Dr. Woodward, United States Army, to find fault with certain blanks Dr. Woodward has been issuing to army surgeons calling for information as to the medical history of the war.

"Dr. Woodward," said Elliott, "I have looked over these forms of yours very hastily, but I am shocked to discover at the first glance omissions in your list of diseases that must deprive the returns of all scientific value." Woodward requests to hear it, and begs for particulars. "Why, sir, in your catalogue of fevers—malarious, typhoid, and so on—you have omitted and overlooked a most important form of fever, a fever which according to foreign statistics constitutes 8.2376948" (or whatever it may be) "per cent of the aggregate of febrile cases. What will foreign statisticians think of us if we publish returns founded on so imperfect a classification???? I have studied the subject thoroughly and exhaustively and feel it my solemn duty to warn you that this oversight destroys the worth of all your work."

"Gracious goodness!" said Woodward. "You don't mean it—do tell me what species of fever has been forgotten." "Why, puerperal fever," said Elliott, "and here are the tables that shew the percentage," and so on. "But soldiers cannot have puerperal fever," quoth Woodward. "I don't see why they are not as much exposed to it as civilians," replied Elliott, and Woodward told him why, in very vigorous Saxon English. Elliott fled in consternation.

-entry for Jan 14, 1865  
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