

and all agree upon one point - viz that
our army cannot afford that our leaders
lay down their needles and fold their hands
if their ^{contributions} ~~labors~~ are not needed just - today
they may be tomorrow, - and somehow
they are needed today - and again all
agree in advising that whatever be sent be
gotten as nearly direct as possible from
the hands of the donors to the very spot
for which it is designed - not to pass
through too general distributors, strengthening
their advice by many reasons & circumstances
which I do not feel at liberty today before you.
no one can fail to perceive that a house
of general receipts & distribution of stores
of all description for the whole U.S. must
be a monstrous concern - abounding in
confusion - which always involves loss &
destruction of property - I am confident
that this idea cannot be incorrect - and there-
fore I will not hesitate to claim it upon
my own responsibility - viz that every State
should have in the vicinity of her greatest body
of troops a ^{depot} ~~house~~ of her own where all her
contributions should be sent - and disposed
if her own soldiers need it all to them, if

Washington

then let her share generously and intelligently
with those who ^{are} ~~are~~ but know what she has
and what she gives - we shall never have
any other precise method of discovering
the real wants of our soldiers, when the
~~of~~ store house of any State should be
found empty - it would be safe to
conclude that her troops are in ^{need} ~~want~~.
then let the full governors render the
^{required} ~~needed~~ assistance - this would system-
atize the whole ~~the whole~~ matter, and do
away with all necessary confusion, doubt
and uncertainty, - it would preclude
all possibility of loss, as it would be the
business of ^{every} ~~the~~ house to ^{look} ~~see~~ to its ^{property} ~~own goods~~.
There is some truth in the old maxim
that "what is every body's business is
no body's business," I believe that
as long ago as the early settlements of
our country it was found that the plan