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As it is the duty of the duty of the chief of the
medical staff of a Department to suggest what
ever he may think beneficial to the health of
the troops, I have here freely & rapidly committed
to paper some things which I deem important
to us as a nation.

I am diffident of conversing with the
President of the United States, and yet why
should I keep my thoughts to myself if there
be a chance that these communications
may do good. My favorite motto is — "No
effort is entirely lost." Beside, I am
General, although you have not lived nearly
so long in the world as I have, you know
that half the people in it do not think at all
and the other half do not know what to
think. very respectfully yours

B. Wathouse M.D. Sur. & Director
in 2^d Mich^y Dep't —

allowing six barrels to each family.

Here then is a species of noxious liquor, injurious to health & morals, totally unknown to the Greeks & Romans, a race of men who seem raised up by Providence, to show to what a degree of perfection our species might attain, without the aid of intoxicating liquors.

Is there no wholesome substitute for the pernicious liquor? Will not the Cerevisia supply our soldiery, & our laboring people a succedaneum more congenial to our nature, and less destructive ^{to our steady energies} to morals? The hardiest race of men on earth, our northern Indians are half consumed by rum. What has happened to them may happen to us, unless Legislative & Executive wisdom, should, in the language of scripture "stay the plague by standing between the living and the dead."