

Mr. M^r. Elroy,

9/1898

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In language most fitting, appropriate and eloquent, you have conveyed to our company this beautiful banner presented by that chivalrous and patriotic citizen, Mr. Luther R. Porter. Allow me on behalf of the company to thank you for your kind expressions and to doubly thank the generous donor. Already we bear with pride his honored name, hereafter we shall carry with honor ^{his} flag, Kentucky's flag, - our flag.

To-day on this broad land of ours, stretching from the lakes to Cuba and Porto Rico, from Hawaii to far off Manila, there is a triumph of flags. They dot the land and glimmer on the sea, while every nation doffs its hat and every American heart beats proudly at the sight of every floating stripe & gleaming star. But no band of warriors, no patriotic citizens are stirred with greater pride than the Porter Rifles to-night, as they look upon their

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our treasure. Under the mellowing influence of this Sept. Sun of 1898, there is a shimmering haze of red, white & blue and a gleam of silvery stars overspreading our land and enveloping the Atlantic & Pacific, 'tis the flag of our Country, "an omen to those who love it, a terror to those who hate it." This great flag not only floats from steaming ironclads, from mountain crests, from tower & steeple, but beautiful women are adorning their hats and girding their robes with its brilliant bars. Glorious flag, — Blessed flag — Envied flag.

But Kentucky's flag, our flag inspires us to-night with sentiments too lofty for utterance, too loyal for language, too grateful for words. Behold, we can see inscribed on its folds,

the brilliant heroic ^{3rd} deeds of Kentucky
 past history and with a seer's vision
 we can see that banner unstained and
 unspotted in the far future. For unite
 we stand"

Ladies & Gentlemen, this company offered
 its services of courage and experience
 to the country in its late crisis ~~with~~ the
 Spain, but alas, the Army & Navy &
 Rough Riders had accomplished their
 work too soon.

We may have been lost in war, but
 the fact confronts you that we are first
 in peace, and this magnificent flag
 supported by this company of valiant
 young soldiers is an assurance of
 future peace, because we are not
 likely to be mustered out.

The flag of our Commonwealth, with the
 greatest motto inscribed on any state
 or national flag, guarantees peace to
 the citizen, peace to the home however humble.

for the home is the ^{4th} basis & unit of government
 Tear down the home and you strike at the
 bed rock of civil liberty. Our mission in
 this community & state as an armed body
 of men, is to protect the rights, ~~and~~ liberties
 and property of her citizens, when the
 arm of civil authority is palsied by
 popular clamor and riot.

Statutes have taken the place of kingly
 prerogative.

Tyrannic will has given way to the
 Constitution.

We have ~~no~~ "King but law."

Before we can teach the lessons of en-
 lightened ~~lessons~~ citizenship to the
 benighted people of distant lands, before
 we can boast of our ability to govern
 islands in the far oceans, before we can
 talk of securing a stable form of gov-
 ernment for revolutionary peoples,
 we must of necessity, make our laws