

5039

Canton, Ill. Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1890.

Mr. Albion W. Poussee;

Dear Sir:

Having devoted nearly five years of my life in active patriotic defense of the Old Flag, as a member of the Sixteenth Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry, I find myself on the down-hill side of life, poor, feeble and infirm; but desiring to give the Old Flag one more lift Heavenward before I take my place in the ranks of the great silent army, I have determined the publication of a volume containing letters from the prominent, patriotic men and women of the Nation, saying what the Old Flag has done for them. I shall do this for the benefit of the young. By thus gathering and binding together the experience and best thoughts of the Nation on this patriotic subject, I aim to teach them to love and reverence that dear Old Flag, and inspire a patriotic devotion to home and country.

In the proper training of the rising generation—intellectually, morally and patriotically—we lay the foundations of the Nation that is to be when we have passed away. To have rallied around that Flag, carried it, fought under it and defended it, should be esteemed the highest honor possible to man. It is *our* Flag, and we should give it a place in our fondest affections.

If you will kindly assist me with an article from your pen, saying what the Old Flag has done for you, with permission to publish the same, you will not only contribute to a noble cause, but will also help a worn-out old soldier to do a good work and at the same time help himself.

The book will be gotten up in the finest style known to the printer's art, and yet at such cost as to place it within the reach of all. If you grant my request I assure you the favor will be greatly appreciated by

Yours very respectfully,

Jno. Montgomery,