

citizen gazes on his native banner floating to the breeze, a thrill of ecstasy and pride moves his inmost being. As he sees embodied in its fluttering folds the power of his country and protection of his rights, he is conscious of an exalted feeling and his blood surges through his body with fresh and invigorating strength. At home or abroad, who can gaze upon our beloved ensign without being thrilled with an indescribable feeling coming o'er his person, enraping one in its resistless influence! The Stars and Stripes call forth every ennobling thought and sentiment—every patriotic feeling. Under their ample folds rests the greatest republic the world has ever seen; under their sheltering care flourish the free institutions of America. Everytime we behold its sacred presence let us draw from it new lessons of purity and truth.

Each stripe of red, dyed in the blood of perishing heroes and the fallen brave, should be hallowed to every American heart; each stripe of white should present the purity of purpose and the motives that prompted the minds of the brave men of the nation to do and to dare. Its field of blue with its constellation of stars should always represent the ever growing strength and prosperity of the Union.

Sacred to us as citizens and countrymen, how much dearer must it be to the daring heroes who go out to fight for its silken folds, to battle for liberty and right. The influence of the Stars and Stripes over the American soldier at all times, especially in war, can be described only by those who participated in its triumphs and defeats. We can but guess what its influence must have been on the wasted fields of Cuba; we can but imagine its thrilling effect on the American soldiers in the Philippines. Drake aptly put it when he wrote:—

“Flag of the brave! thy folds shall fly,  
The sign of hope and triumph high,  
When speaks the signal trumpet tone  
And the long line comes gleaming on;