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LONG MAY IT WAVE!

Beautiful Flag Presented to Dickinson School.

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIES.

A large number of our guests gathered at Dickinson school on Wednesday, afternoon April 9th, to witness the presentation and raising of the fine United States flag, a gift of Lafayette Post, G. A. R., of New York. General R. H. Hall, U. S. A., a member of the post was instrumental in obtaining this honor for Dickinson school.

At about four o'clock the visitors assembled in the school house and General Hall made the following interesting and historical address:

"The Grand Army of the Republic is a society composed of men who, during the civil war, fought for the preservation of the Union, and who since that war, have had for the purpose of their being the teaching of loyalty to the country and reverence of the flag which is the country's symbol. One branch of this society has especially devoted itself in carrying out these purposes, to the distribution of flags to the schools of the country and its colonies, believing that in schools can best be laid the foundations of this loyalty and reverence; and to this branch, known as Lafayette Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, of New York City, Dickinson school is indebted for the beautiful flag to-day intrusted to its care.

"It is well that you should know something of the flag which is hereafter ever to remind you of your duties as citizens of the country, because in the outline of its origin and history which you are now to hear it is hoped you will find something to inspire in you that reverence and affection which the mere sight of the flag should create in the minds and hearts of all who are permitted to call themselves Americans.

"In the first place the Stars and Stripes compose one of the oldest flags of the world. The only nation that has a flag of a more ancient date is the kingdom of Denmark, whose flag was established in the thirteenth century and is the oldest in existence. On the 14th day of June, 1777, the Continental Congress, in session in Philadelphia, *Resolved*, 'That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.' This date is the birth-day of our Stars and Stripes and is one to be remembered. It is remembered in very many of the public schools of the United States. The flag of Spain is eight years younger; that of France, seventeen

years younger; that of Great Britain, twenty-four years; that of Italy, seventy-one years; that of Germany, ninety-three years; and so, as you will find by reading and study, of all the prominent countries of the world, all except Denmark, have adopted their present forms of flags since June 14th, 1777, when the Stars and Stripes came into existence.

"In August, 1777, about two months after the flag was adopted, some seven hundred and fifty brave Americans were in Fort Schuyler, where the city of Rome, Onondaga County, New York, now stands, and were there attacked and besieged for twenty-one days by an immensely superior force of Indians, Canadians, Tories and British troops. The Americans made a flag of pieces of red petticoats, white shirts and a blue cloak, and under this flag they repulsed the continued and furious attacks of the enemy. This is the first instance of the

still flying over the dead left on her decks, who had died to keep it flying. It is the only flag that ever went down flying on a ship which had conquered and captured the ship that sunk her.

"When the Stars and Stripes were adopted as the flag of the United States, there were only thirteen states in the union, and therefore Congress decreed that the flag should carry thirteen stripes and thirteen stars. But by the year 1795, the number of states had been increased to fifteen, and Congress then increased to fifteen the number of stars stripes in the flag. The flag of fifteen stars and fifteen stripes was the one carried by our army and navy during the war of 1812 with Great Britain, and to it surrendered the British frigates at sea and the British squadrons on Lake Erie and Lake Champlain. It was carried by the force which defeated and destroyed General Pakenham's command at the

fifth rows having eight stars each, and the second, fourth and sixth rows having each seven stars, making the total of forty-five the number of states now forming the United States of America.

"At every military post garrisoned by United States troops a flag is kept flying every day. It is hoisted by a non-commissioned officer and two privates immediately after the gun is fired in the morning, usually at five o'clock in the summer and six o'clock in the winter months. It is lowered at sunset by a similar party and this is attended by ceremony. The garrison is paraded and stands at attention while the band plays 'The Star Spangled Banner,' and the lowering of the flag is so timed that as the band finishes playing the flag reaches the bottom of the staff. It is not permitted to touch the ground. While the flag is flying it is saluted by all officers and men on passing it.

"On every ship of our navy the flag is hoisted, if the weather permits, at eight o'clock in the morning and is kept flying till sunset. While it is ascending the band plays 'The Star Spangled Banner,' and all officers and men stand facing it and salute it when it reaches the peak. While it is being lowered at sunset the band plays 'Hail Columbia' and the officers and men stand facing it and salute it as it touches the deck. Every officer and man on reaching the quarter-deck, or on leaving it to go over the ship's side, salutes the flag.

"Our flag was first carried around the world on the ship Columbia, which sailed from Boston, September 30, 1787, and going around Cape Horn returned to the same port by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, August 10th, 1790. It was carried to latitude 83 degrees, 24 minutes North, on May 30th, 1882, by Lieutenant Lockwood, of the 23d United States Infantry, its furthest north. It was carried to latitude 70 degrees, 14 minutes South, March 24th 1839, by Lieutenant Walker of the Navy, its furthest South. When there were twenty-eight stars in the union of the flag it was gallantly upheld at the battle of Buena Vista, Mexico, against odds of four to one. It was carried with twenty-nine stars from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico with never a defeat or even hesitation, although always opposed by greatly superior forces. At the outbreak of the civil war it held thirty-four stars. Blood and money without limit were expended to preserve it, and in the end, thirty-seven years ago to-day, it shone triumphant with thirty-six stars.—The flag with forty-five stars saw the destruction of the Spanish fleets in 1898, in Manila harbor and off Santiago, and was carried in triumph up San Juan hill and through the swamps and jungles of the Philippines.

"This flag now belongs to Dickinson school. Remember that it deserves care, and that it does not take care of itself. Always men have been ready and willing



display of the new flag in battle on land.

"On the 24th of April 1778, Captain John Paul Jones, of the American navy, commanding the American sloop-of-war Ranger, attacked and captured the British sloop-of-war Drake, near Carrickfurgus, Ireland, this being the first appearance of the new flag in battle at sea. And this battle is the first instance of the capture of a British war vessel by a vessel of smaller force. The Ranger carried a flag made expressly for Captain Jones by a party of ladies of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who cut up their best silk gowns for the purpose. Under this identical flag, Captain Jones, then commanding the American ship Bon Homme Richard, fought and defeated the British ship Serapis, off Flamborough Head, England, September 23th, 1779. The Richard was so much injured in this fight that thirty hours afterwards she sunk; and she was permitted to take down with her this flag

battle of New Orleans.

"By the last of the year 1817 the number of states in the union had been increased to twenty, and in April, 1818, Congress enacted that the flag should be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, and that in a blue field should be a white star for each state in the union. The thirteen stripes represent the thirteen states which won their independence from Great Britain in the war of the revolution. The stars represent the whole number of states in the union which constitutes the United States of America.

"There are seven red and six white stripes in the flag, the red being at the top and bottom. The blue union which contains the stars is placed in the upper quarter, next to the staff, and extends to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe from the top, and is one third the length of the flag. The stars are arranged in six horizontal rows, the first, third and