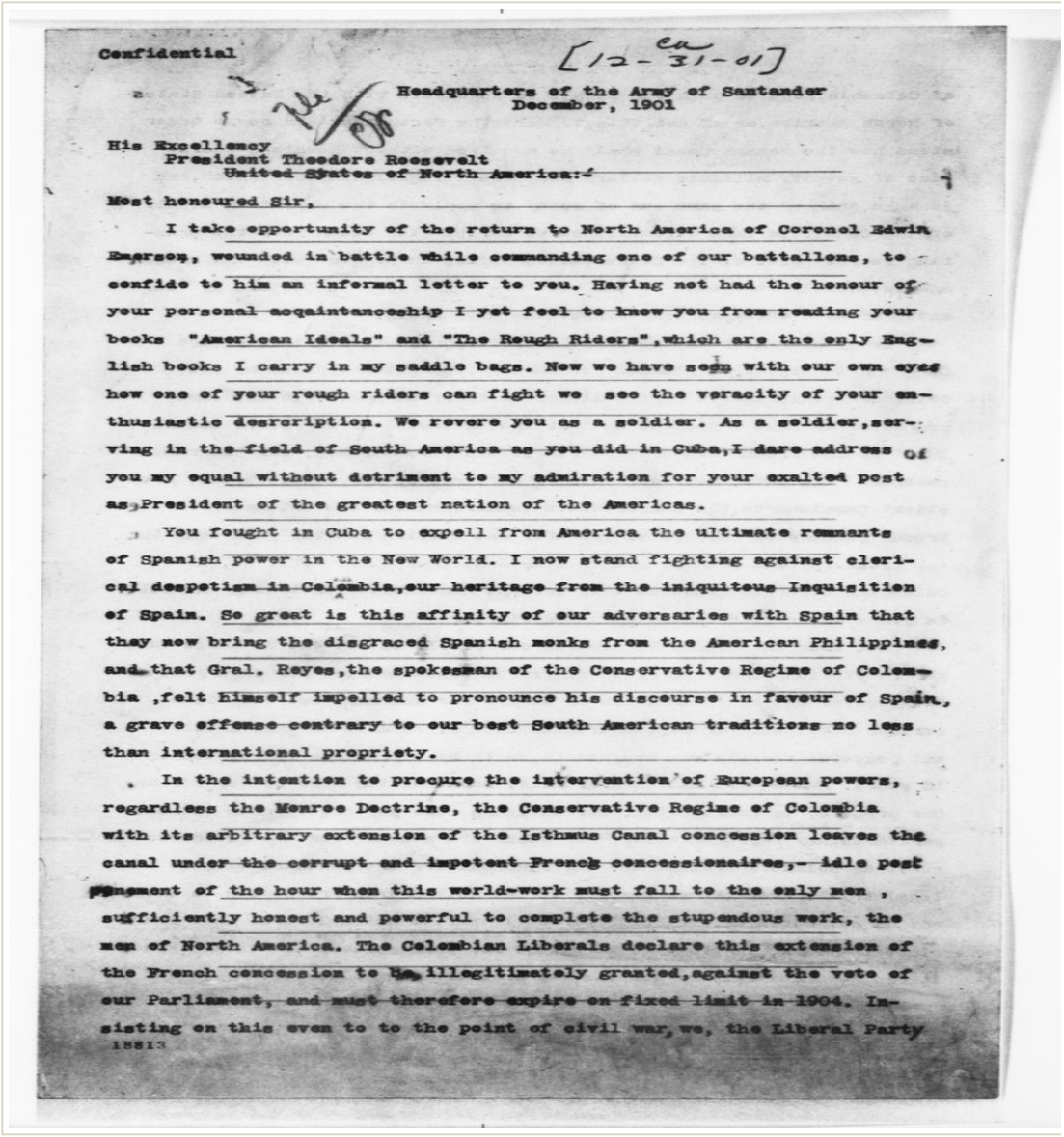
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Letter from Rafael Uribe Uribe to Theodore Roosevelt



Confidential

[12-31-01]

Headquarters of the Army of Santander
December, 1901

His Excellency
President Theodore Roosevelt
United States of North America:

Most honoured Sir,

I take opportunity of the return to North America of Coronel Edwin Emerson, wounded in battle while commanding one of our battallons, to confide to him an informal letter to you. Having not had the honour of your personal acquaintanceship I yet feel to know you from reading your books "American Ideals" and "The Rough Riders", which are the only English books I carry in my saddle bags. Now we have seen with our own eyes how one of your rough riders can fight we see the veracity of your enthusiastic desrciption. We revere you as a soldier. As a soldier, serving in the field of South America as you did in Cuba, I dare address of you my equal without detriment to my admiration for your exalted post as President of the greatest nation of the Americas.

You fought in Cuba to expell from America the ultimate remnants of Spanish power in the New World. I now stand fighting against clerical despotism in Colombia, our heritage from the iniquitous Inquisition of Spain. So great is this affinity of our adversaries with Spain that they now bring the disgraced Spanish monks from the American Philippines, and that Gral. Reyes, the spokesman of the Conservative Regime of Colombia, felt himself impelled to pronounce his discourse in favour of Spain, a grave offense contrary to our best South American traditions no less than international propriety.

In the intention to procure the intervention of European powers, regardless the Monroe Doctrine, the Conservative Regime of Colombia with its arbitrary extension of the Isthmus Canal concession leaves the canal under the corrupt and impotent French concessionaires, - idle pastime of the hour when this world-work must fall to the only men, sufficiently honest and powerful to complete the stupendous work, the men of North America. The Colombian Liberals declare this extension of the French concession to be illegitimately granted, against the vote of our Parliament, and must therefore expire on fixed limit in 1904. Insisting on this even to to the point of civil war, we, the Liberal Party

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