

8-30-1889

Letter: Lafayette McLaws to Isaac R. Pennypacker, August 30, 1889

Lafayette McLaws

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Jan 5th Aug 30. 1889

JOHNSON
Isaac R Penny Parker
Ohio Press

Dear Sir

Your kind note of the 10th
duly received, after my return from
on Short Trip.

I have been for the first time
in my life - half-Dum drunk, and
have been disinclined to write or
do anything else, until the Coal
wasn't, came to us, yesterday.

The heat has been more continuous
than ever before in my experience
and the dry weather, all together has
made the climate plummining ex-
haustive.

I hope soon to comply with your
kind call for more matter from me,
and am much obliged to you for making
it

I delivered a lecture before the 'Sa. Historical Society'
in June 1862. Subject the Battle of Funderburg,
1862. which will be published in the Century
some time in the future - I am assured -
- or rather so much of it as relates strictly
to the battle. So I am led to believe?

According to my understanding of that battle
if Franklin had pushed his forces with vigor
and enthusiasm, bringing all his troops into
the fight - as the Confederates always did - I
believe that Gen Lee would have probably
been retired towards Richmond. And it only
confirms my belief that if Franklin had
pushed his advantages gained, when he
found Crampden Gap in Maryland
in his rear - Gen Lee would have had
to retreat across the Potomac, or have met
great disaster about Sharpshooting.

I used to know Franklin well, was
at West Point, with him, some classes
ahead, and always did admire him

as a gentleman, great ability, and of
high character. But he was not of
that class of commanders, who would
risk very much, even to obtain the
greatest results, should he succeed;
He saw too many dangers, and
shrank from a number of them, which
existed in his own position only - or
were so remote, and depended on
his adversary possessing information
that it was nearly impossible for him
to know, as to justify them being called
unforgiving, and therefore I think he
should be held responsible in the
greatest measure for the failure of
McClellan to drive our Lee army in
Maryland, and for the disaster which
followed the assault on Chancellors
Village at Funderburg.

I would like to send you an article
which would go to sustain the assertion
that if Franklin had been energetic in

putting the advantages gained in firing
 Cramp's Ship in rear of de^c Laws
 in Maryland. The battle of Shaysburg
 would not have been fought. But
 Gen Lee would have retired across
 the Potomac... and incidentally I
 will bring in the conduct of Franklin's
 Command at Fort Mifflin, to show that
 he was of the class of Commanders, who
 were too jealous of their reputation ever to
 risk disaster, and therefore was as unsafe
 to rely on, in a great enterprise, as it would
 be upon one day after Gen Sickle's, who
 would do anything, to bring fame to
 Sickle's. That was his first consideration.

Very respectfully

Yours truly

L^d M^c Laws