


4-25-1888

Letter: Lafayette McLaws to Isaac R. Pennypacker, April 25, 1888

Lafayette McLaws

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Savannah Georgia
April 25. 1888

Doan A Pennyfather
Editor Weekly Press
Rt 10 Pa

Dear Sir

Yours of 17. received to day
together with the paper containing
the remaining portions of my article
in review of, Longs Book, for
which please accept my thanks - If
I could obtain copies of those papers,
nos. of 15. 22. & 29. I would like to send
one to each of my friends, who were
prominent in that battle - among
them, Gen Longmont. Gen D. B. Kershner
Camden &c. - Gen E. P. Alexander
Sav &c. - Gen Wesley Sowell - Sav - and
retain two or three copies for myself
& family. - Have just received a
note from Gen Longmont asking
for copies - will send him mine.

In reference to the re-union at Gettys-
burg, neither Gen Alexander, Sowell
nor myself have thus far been no-
ticed in connection with it - Gen
Sickles on a previous occasion
sent me a very pressing invitation

Whate's report is very minute & anything - He has also obtained my statements in regard to some matters which are not down in the books, in ~~my~~ official report - How far his views as to the cause of failure in this Campaign ^{with mine} may agree, I of course cannot say, or yet. Whether he thinks, that it was not intended to be a success or was unsuccessful, because success was not possible, I doubt know. - If I don't do so, I think I could make others besides myself, think that it was not intended to be a success.

Gen Law wrote an article, whether published or remains to be, I do not know - Concerning matters that happened after the battle of Chancellorsville, he sent it to me, for perusal. - I found that

promising me good cheer, and to give me a tent on the field, next to himself - But now I suppose as he may think I am not a Pickles Man - it will not be in Order to have me - However, although the invitation would be taken as highly complimentary - I could not go, for the reasons given for not accepting, your very kind wish, for me to go in Company with yourself, out to town the field.

Gen E M Law was - Brigadier in Hardee's Division and was harshly treated by Gen' Longstreet and perhaps is inimical to him to day, He has given many points from me in reference to my Division and his my official Report as published in the "War of the Rebellion".

he had made statements of affairs -
 for instance - another, that the enemy
 were not pursued after the battle.
 Was knowing, that I was ordered
 in pursuit & went at Once - follow-
 ing the army to the outskirts of the city
 (causing them to burn all the houses
 in front of the fortifications), and
 holding my ground, with 1000
 Quarters at Watkins Hill - overlooking
 the town. Finding four hours in advance
 of the rest of the army - I have no
 credit was even given me
 for it, simply perhaps, because I never
 claimed any - I have told him that
 a pursuit was ordered by Gen Bragg
 and I was to follow other Divisions
 - but as the others did not come, I
 advanced, expecting ^{the} others to follow
 - but was mistaken - Gen Cheatham was
 ordered to report to me, but although he
 came into the valley, he withdrew his troops
 because of the large bodies of the enemy he
 encountered - leaving me on Watkins
 Hill - he reported in person, after dark, & I
 told him to stay on the heights, 3 miles away

I made no official report of this
although our troops were quite
boldly engaged, while in the per-
sist. & my loss was considerable.
and ~~that~~ it has been positionally
to ~~a~~ abuse General Bragg, attri-
-buting every thing that happened
Wemy, to his negligence for command.
- This I would be very glad indeed
if you would add your influence
to cause a call to be made for such
Bragg papers, so that he may be
heard in his own defence - I un-
-derstand that he left a very full
record, and as he was a very ready
and very forcible writer
- equal to any then in U. S. A.
- and occupied the highest positions
- his narrative of events would be
in the highest degree interesting
- If his papers could be obtained
I know that it would be shown
that pursuit was ordered, - that
my command alone was forward

and those who were ordered and
did not go - will be named? I

Can only recollect now that Mrs Black-
-welder was ordered with the Division
to lead, but she did not come - Why
not, I never inquired - The way
would have gone on another road.

Several papers of Alabama, once told
me that Mrs Bragg had offered to give
them control of the papers of her
husband - She may be holding them
for publication on her own account,
if so they should be purchased, but
the War Record of Rebellion?!

Would be glad should you think
my last contribution a worthy one

Very truly
Yours &c

L M^o Law

I have just returned from a long
trip into the interior of State, and will
be home again in the morning, - Thus have
hesitated to reply.

Very

I M^o Law