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located at Marsh Run, some
five miles more or less on
the road from Sunnysburg
to Gettysburg. Gen. Rey-
nolds, whose Command post-
er was the 1st Corps, had
~~been~~ actually been put in charge
of the Left Wing of the Army
of the Potomac, consisting of the
1st (his own) the 3rd and the 11th
Corps (Howard's). The two Generals

^{Studying} were in consultation for some
time, so that it was late in the
evening when we returned to

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our head quarters. ^{by the night of} (4)
order came from Gen. Howard ^{for the 11th Corps}
that we were to move on

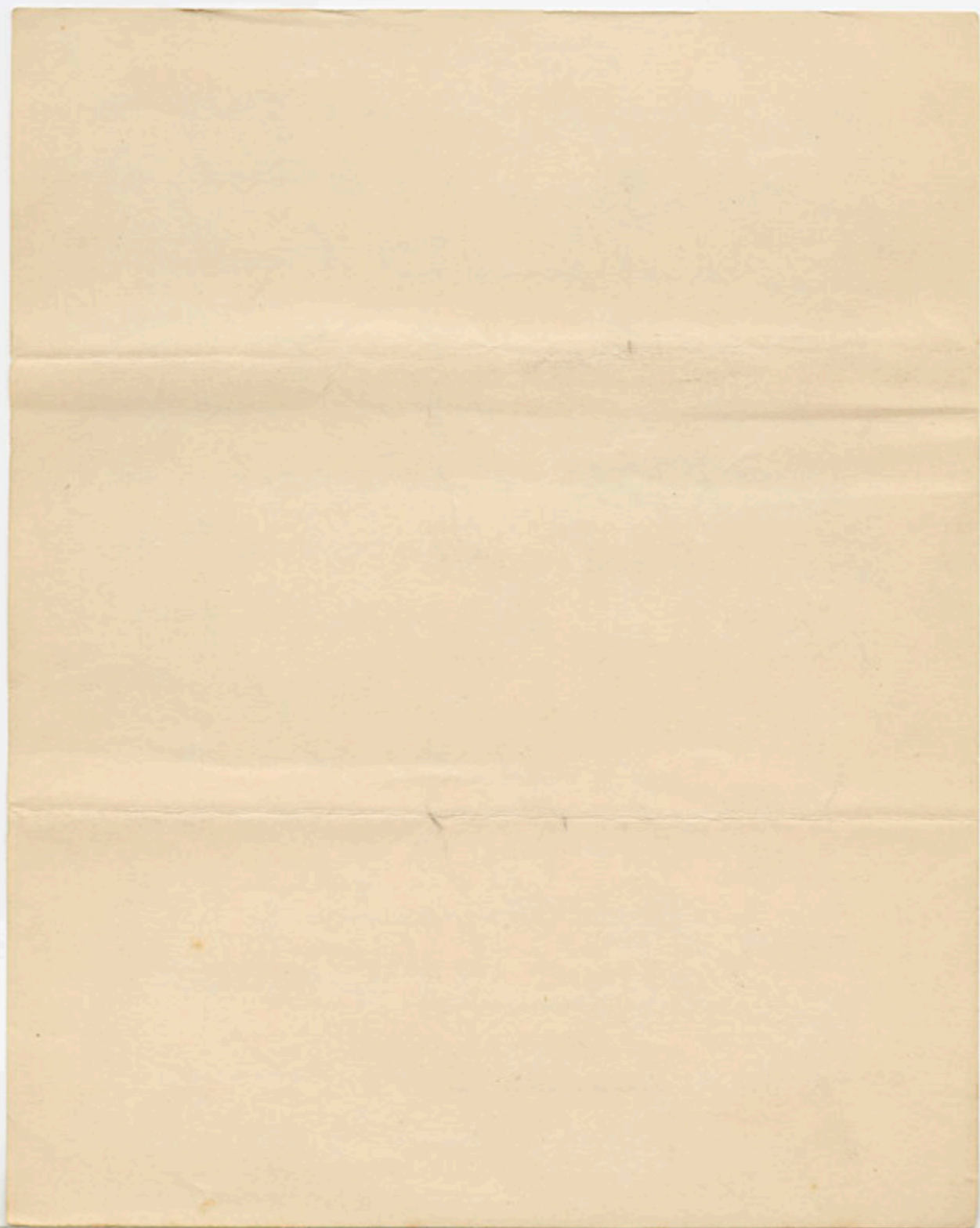
Bethsburg in the morning and
the order was issued by Gen. Howard
and ^{at once} ~~immediately~~ designating two
writers for the different Divisions
of his Corps so that the entire
Command might be well up
to the front in case of any action.

Early in the morning the Corps were
in motion. Not later than ten o'clock
as Gen. Howard and Stoff rode
on in advance, firing was heard
not many miles away. As we
came in sight of Bethsburg it
was seen to be the work of the
town. Our road from Summitburg

as we rode back,

3 1/2

Gen. Howard, expressed great respect
for Gen. Reynolds's military qual-
ities and seemed to entertain
him for time not only a profound
respect as an officer, but a
very kindly feeling as an old
Army friend. He expressed con-
fidence in Reynolds's judgment
as well as in his energetic character.
Reynolds reported some collisions
of the Cavalry with the enemy
and the conviction of both
squads seemed to be strong
that a battle was imminent
before long and probably some fighting
on the morrow.



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was along a ridge leading to the
East of Gettysburg. Before going
down into the town we turned
to the right and went up to the
highest ground north of the Cemetery
got - afterwards known as Cemetery
Hill. We remained for awhile
surveying with and without our planes
the lay of the country to the North and
West of Gettysburg. There was then
some firing of musquetry as
well as artillery and some troops
of the 1st Corps, My impression is they
were of the 3^d Division, passed
us going into Gettysburg. Col. A-

While we were there I remember that (6
Col Asmussen
~~Asmussen~~, Chief of Staff for 11th
Camps, ^{came up} ~~was present~~ and made
a remark to Gen. Howard to the
effect that here was the position
to fight the battle or else await
to such a remark from General
Howard. Col. Asmussen and
Capt Pearson ^{of the Staff} had come from
Emmettsburg by a different
road from that we had come.
Gen. Howard & part of the Staff
had come by the ^{most direct} (Stamper & Harlow)
road and two of our Divisions
were following that way while
the 3rd Division (Schuler) had
come by the other route. After
the firing became pretty brisk

A staff officer of the army
He must see before he writes the letter (2)

or possibly as soon as we
come in sight of the town and
know the situation, ^{and} ~~was~~ ^{for the troops} ~~was~~
back to the heads of ~~columns~~
move up as promptly as possi-
ble. # I was sent through
the city to examine the
situation at the front. I
found Gen. Doubleday
beyond and not far from
the Seminary and learnt
from him that Gen. Rey-
nolds had fallen. I re-
turned as quickly as pos-
sible to inform Gen. How-
ard but on meeting him
found that he had ^{already} seen a

~~A Little - Humphreys Division~~

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Staff Officer of Gen. Reynolds
and knowing the sad fact,
and orders were then sent to
Officers, were then sent to
the different Division Com-
manders on the road and
to Gen. Sickles, supposed to
be between Sumner's Army &
Gettysburg, to Gen. Meade
and to Gen. Slocum, ~~then~~
~~later~~ As soon as the
death of Reynolds was
known Gen. Howard's
Headquarters were es-
tablished on Cemetery Hill
near the northern promontory.
Here Gen. Schure's ^{met Gen. Howard when he} came up

a little in advance of his Division,
and I remember distinctly
that Gen. Howard pointed
out to him a prominent
hill on the Sweeney ridge
and to the north West of
the town and directed him
to occupy it. In general
terms he was ordered to
form on the right of the
1st Corps. Orders were
given for Major Osborne,
Chief of Artillery of the
11th Corps, to occupy base
by Hill with artillery.
It was not long before
and later two other batteries the
battery was located there.

several batteries of the Corps

- then

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Maj. Gen. Hamaker, Commanding
the 2nd Division of the
1st Corps, soon after arrived
and was ordered to take
position in support of the
guns on Cemetery Hill.
Gen. Barlow, ^{1st Division}, was sent
forward as soon as his
troops were up to a point
on the right of Schurz. As
the enemy began to appear
to the North, Barlow's Division
moved to the North rather than
to the West. ^{to the} ~~right~~ and Schurz
reported that he found the
enemy had already occupied
the hill, ^(called into Oak Hill) he was ordered to
take possession of it. I was

2.
1
Why didn't Schurz take

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sent to reconnoitre in that
quarter and found that the
enemy were coming in
from the North in such
force that our flank would
be turned unless both.

Saboury & Boslow pointed
him in that direction. Our
battery on Cemetery Hill
began now to do some effec-
tive work by firing upon
columns of the enemy's
troops or horsemen as they
came in from the North.

Capt. Pearson, the officer
sent to Sickles was to direct
that officer to bring ^{up} his Corps (3)

and taken forth on the ¹²
left. The different Divisions
of the 1st Corps were now
engaged under command
of Doubleday or ^{or Major} Loring Ridge.
The fighting at times was
very severe. Both Doubleday
and Loring sent for rein-
forcements and a part of
Hannibal's troops were
moved through the town and
located on the Western side so
as to be in supporting distance.
Some of the ^(Two batteries) artillery of the
11th Corps ^{was} pushed out
to the north of the town to
assist Barlow. Word
came that Barlow was

seriously wounded at ¹³
Ames succeeded to the
Command. He was an
experienced West Point
Officer and had been in
the artillery. Our troops
were for the most part
well off. As the
exigencies of the battle de-
manded, many of Steinwehr's
troops were used to reem-
brace the other divisions
at the front. At the same
time messages were sent
again to Sherman of the
12th and Sicks to urge
them forward. It seems

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that, unknown to Gen. Howard,
and, by your order directed
from Gen. Meade, Sickles
had gone into Sunnyside
instead of pressing on early
to Gettysburg, because
of some danger to the trains
in the rear of the Army.
But when Gen. Sickles
received the ^{request} (order), "He
left ~~Pearson~~ at about 1
P.M. ^{or possibly earlier (perhaps 2 or 2 1/2)?} He gave orders prompt-
ly to move on Gettysburg.
Gen. Sickles says he received
this order ^{from Gen. Howard} between 2 & 3 P.M.
The distance was about
11 miles. ~~He~~ We
saw nothing of Sickles until

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the point on Lanning
ridge had been given up
and the new line formed
on Cemetery Hill. When
Doubleday sent a very
pressing word about 3 P.m.
that he could not hold out
longer without ^{reinforcements} ~~any the Rebels~~ she
was sent back to Schoon-
er as all the other Staff offi-
cers were otherwise oc-
cupied and was ^{directed} to request
him to bring up his Corps
as soon as possible and take
position on the right, filing in
to the right of Culp's Hill;
and to come up in person,
even in command of his troops.

(16) 16
in order to survey the situation
from the summit of Swin-
more of Cemetery Hill. I
delivered these ^{two} messages in
person to Maj Gen. Sherman
whom I found at the head
of his column or a little
in advance. (His exact
words in reply I remember
but will not now put them
on record) I then galloped
back as quickly as pos-
sible and found Gen.
Howard where I had
left him and where he
had made his headquarters
throughout the day,
on Cemetery Hill, north
of the Breckinridge Pike.

(or 7) 17

I met some ~~Thaggers~~
I heard Conaty Ridge
which gave me apprehen-
sions that all was not
going well at the front.
When I reached Gen. Howard
and I reported where I
had found ^{about 2 miles back,} ~~flour~~
what he had said. It
was then nearly 4 o'clock.
I heard Gen. Howard and
word to Gen. Doubleday and
Schure to fall back dis-
tantly to the ground ^{the ground} ~~the ground~~
as best they could and
that Doubleday was to keep
to the left and take position

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on the left of Baltimore
Pike and that Schenck was
to keep to the right in pas-
sing through the town and
take position to the north
of the Baltimore Pike. ~~As~~
~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Baltimore~~ ^{Baltimore} ~~Pike~~ ^{Pike}.
~~Guests~~ ^{Guests} were also sent to
the Cavalry to make a special
demonstration on ^{each} ~~the~~
block so as to assist
in the withdrawal. This
~~little~~ request was complied with
and we ^{distinctly} ~~could see~~ the
columns of horse ^{as they appeared in the field south of the town} ~~in the~~
have always believed that
the Southern resistance and

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holding out so persistently
and this show of Corbly
just at this crisis
~~at this time~~ misled
the majority and that
they thought our reserve
forces were much greater
than ^{in fact} ~~what~~ they were. As
the troops began to emerge
~~in considerable~~ from the
trench and come up the
Hill they were met by
Genl Howard's
Staff Officers and located
along the main forces
on Cemetery Hill. Some
sharpshooters had got
possession of some of the

houses and the bullets ⁽¹⁰⁾
began to strike about as
~~the west side of~~ Hill. The troops
were ^{I not} in comfort order
as they came from the
town and there seemed
a little hesitation ^{at first} ~~to~~
focus about and file off
into the fields. At this
point Gen. Howard galloped
up to one regiment ^{of the seventh corps} and taking
~~the colors~~ ^{a flag} in his one hand
placed ~~them~~ ^{it} upon the
stone fence. The troops
raised a cheer and fol-
lowed him and it was
not long before we had a

About this time a Colonel of one of the Regiments sent to
 obey the order to face about his Company and make order was seen that they
 were all out to pieces "whereupon" Howard promptly put him in his sword and
 Howard hit him Court martialled and dismissed for ~~insubordination~~
 insubordination.
 Continuous line of rifles
 behind the stone fence
 The 1st Corps had been
 directed to form in like
 manner South of the
 Baltimore Pike. Soon
 after the occurrence just
 described Gen. Hancock
 arrived and for a mo-
 ment conferred with Gen.
 Howard, Gen. Han-
 cock then moved over
 to the South of the Pike
 and was occupied with
 the ^{it} Corps the rest of the

(Writ. Tell)

afternoon. Sickles arrived ¹²
(about #5 ^{2(5 to 7)}) and took post
as he had been previously
directed by Gen. Howard
to do. Gen. Sherman reached
Barnet Hill about the
same time as Sickles and
also located his troops
as Gen. Howard had sug-
gested ~~in the memory of the~~ ^{as the memory of the}
by myself. ~~The fifth~~ Our
artillery on Barnet Hill
had been very effectively
to check the pursuing army
as the ^{1st} and ^{2nd} divisions
of the 11th Corps retired. The
location of our batteries then

and then met by Stein-¹³
meier & Devin was
the longish nucleus for
the somewhat disorganized
troops which were withdrawn
from the point after being
being outflanked by the
enemy on either side.
Hardsworth, one of the
most gallant of the Devin
Commanders of the 1st
Corps, says in his report:
"I held the point a little
in front of the Seminary Ridge
until 4 o'clock in the
afternoon", Gen. Doubleday

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corroborates this, saying, that
he held the advanced
position "till 3-4 5 P.M.
and then fell back slowly".
Gen. Hancock dots &
disputed to Gen. Meade
at 5-25 P.M., and
says: "When I arrived
here, an hour since,
I found that our troops
had given up the front
of Gettysburg and the town".
This fixes by arrival at
about 4-25^{P.M.} and would
agree with Woodward and
Doubleday as it would take
at least 25 minutes for

their commands & re-
 tire through the town to
 Cemetery Ridge. I refer
 to this matter of ^(hour and minute) time
 because it is distinctly
 in my memory that not
 only had the orders been
 given by Gen. Howard
 to the two Corps Commanders
 to locate on Cemetery Ridge
 but he had with his
 staff began the formation
 of the line there by the
 retreating troops in conjunction
 with Steinwehr's Division
 and the artillery already there

before the arrival of Gen. Hancock ^{Gen.} or ^{in the morning} Hancock.

Gen. Howard had ^{with his personal staff} ~~detached~~ ^{and held} ~~come by~~ ^{all day} and then re-
 established the ^{and batteries} ~~troops~~ ^{there} which
 had come back by his
 orders from the advanced
 position on a higher ^{and} ~~lower~~ ^{higher} ~~lower~~
 Ridge. Gen. Hancock
 came upon the field, as
 we then understood, as a
 staff officer of Gen.
 Meade and assisted in
 carrying out the dispositions.
 Gen. Howard had already

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begun and ordered,
Gen. Sickles states:
"I found his (Howard's) troops
well posted on the ridge. Soon
after my arrival I met
there Gen. Hancock and
Gen. Hoxum". Gen. Birney
of Sickles Corps reports
concerning the order he rec'd
from Sickles to report to
Gen. Howard and says:
"We reached them about
5 P.M."

That night, in the mid-
dle of the night, Gen.
Meade arrived and Gen.
1 A.M.

Howard (the ^{only} man ^{along} as the 18
only member of his staff).
broke about the lines with
him - (Gen. Meade being accompanied only by his adjutant)
and as far as was
possible by the starlight
the topography was pointed
out and the situation of
our lines. Gen. Meade
asked Gen. Howard whether
he thought it was a good
position and suitable to
fight a battle and Gen. How-
ard replied that he thought
it was a strong position. Gen.
Meade then said that
he would bring up the entire
Army, ~~and fight the battle~~
Johnston credit there

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might be for first
solidating the Cemetery Ridge
as the advantageous posi-
tion (notwithstanding the fact
that the Cavalry & the
1st Corps had absolutely
become engaged to the
West of the town) and
making all his plans to oc-
cupy and hold it, before
General Hancock.

His persistence in
holding on at the front
as long as possible ^{in order} to
give time to Shuman

Fickles, to get up and
 to keep back the enemy
 till the day was nearly
 over and so make
 it practicable to hold
 ultimately the ~~front~~
~~his choice~~ military
 position of his choice, was
 characteristic of the man
 and helped to secure
 the grand, resolute mind
 that the parts of Gen. Har-
 cock, Hecum and Fickles
 in that first day's fight were
 only supplementary to what Gen.

How we had planned
and ^{were} exactly in accordance
therewith.

The personal heroism
in face of the rebuffing troops at
Gen. Howard's ~~side~~
~~the~~ ~~front~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~line~~
and
in the midst of deadly
leading them back in the face of a pursuing enemy
bullets was not surpassed
by that of any General
officer that day or Sub-
sequently and was in
harmony with Gen. Howard's
previous record as an officer
distinguished for coolness, bravery, and gallantry.

1st Day
Leg. Rethyphary

(Printed Copy sent to
L.R. Howard, Thompson St.
Aug. 26, 1941)

C.H. Howard

A letter printed 1 month to Captain Scott
in Feb. 1888 —

Bottle 9 Rethyphary

by C.H. Hott,