

Letter to  
Editor  
New York Times  
"Marked not to be sent"

No. 8

Subject  
Sumner Howard and Hauser  
at  
Gellingsburg

Letter to  
Barnes  
Newark  
"March 2nd 1861"

No 8

Charles  
Sumner  
Washington



HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC,

San Francisco, Cal., July 10th, 1888.

The,

Editor New York Times,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

A copy of your issue of July 2nd, is just received at my office in San Francisco. I take the following extract from the article "On Gettysburg's Field."

"Many ask why General Howard is not here, and to these is pointed out the main gate of the old cemetery, with the remark: 'There's the spot where Hancock and Howard exchanged courtesies on the night of the first day's fight.' It was there that Hancock informed Howard that Meade had instructed the superb to take command of the field, and it was there that Howard claimed that he outranked Hancock. He paid no attention but issued his orders and found them obeyed."

The above extract is like so many things of the same kind which has so much truth in it, that it almost conceals the untruth and so is calculated to create a wrong impression.

General Hancock did come to me at the time I was forming the troops on Cemetery Hill just at the close of the first day's action



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and while skirmishing was yet going on. He and I did have an interview near the Cemetery gate but no controversy whatever.

As I understood him at the time, he was sent by General Meade without his troops to represent him (Meade), on that field. So that with this understanding, though I was his senior, I should have most cheerfully conformed to any instructions that he gave me; but he gave me no instructions whatever, either in his own name or that of General Meade.

We arranged together in an instant that he should take one side of the Baltimore pike and I the other, for rushing the troops into position.

I did not know till three hours after, the actual orders that General Hancock had received. Then a copy of them came to me by a special messenger from the Headquarters of General Meade.

It has been frequently sought by people who have brighter imaginations than memories to represent a quarrel between me and General Hancock on the field of Gettysburg.

Such a quarrel never existed. I did my work and it must go for what it is worth. Hancock did his gallantly and well, and has gone to his reward.

I hope that occasions like that at Gettysburg will not be taken advantage of to injure or belittle the reputations of soldiers which have been honestly earned and become matter of public record.



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(Page 3.)

Very truly yours,

Major General U.S. Army.



*An unusual letter*  
*Do not read.*

(Page 2.)

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