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18 Astor Place  
New York  
Jan'y 20/894

No. 10

Subject:  
Cal. S. P. Lee & Maine Vol.

Letter for the  
12 Boston Press  
New York  
Jan 20/94

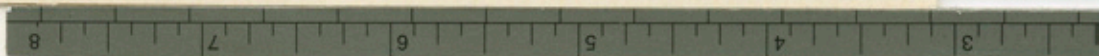
No. 10

Dr. J. L. L.  
Dr. J. L. L.



1

This morning at our breakfast-  
Table the presence of a lady  
whose <sup>gallant</sup> husband had in our  
great war a phenomenal record  
caused us to speak of the battle  
of Fredericksburg in which  
he exceeded his comrades in daring.  
Before however giving a sketch  
of him & what he did there,  
let me tell <sup>of a brief story</sup> a private-soldier  
whose name has gone from <sup>me</sup>  
You will recall how our  
army <sup>the sum of</sup> pushed <sup>Repblican</sup> over the 7<sup>th</sup> Mich. <sup>men</sup>  
in boats in order to clear away  
those notched rifles which  
behind the banks of rifle pits kept  
up such an incessant firing  
that our good-bridge-engineers  
could not put in their ~~boats~~  
pontons or construct a bridge-way.  
They killed some & wounded more till





2.  
H. Col Bayter came to  
their relief. "Get your  
surre boats. Away they  
went filled with his men.  
A few wicked shots were fired  
when the Seventh, with Bayter  
& others severely wounded  
scrambled up the south  
bank of the river and  
put to flight or captured  
every <sup>hostile</sup> skirmisher <sup>who had</sup> & picked  
along that line. ~~Regiments~~  
The bridge <sup>was completely</sup> now went to place  
and regiments, brigades & divisions  
followed the Seventh Michigan &  
swept the part of the city  
nearest at hand.  
The next day <sup>concluding work in</sup> three divisions  
Smith's, Hancock's & Howard's  
cleared that front - storm meeting  
storm at the Marge Heights.  
General Couch at one time cried

the first thing I saw  
their relief. I saw  
a man lying on the ground  
a few minutes later was found  
when the search was made  
at other points around  
several miles up the trail  
back of the main line  
but to fight or capture  
any of them was  
along that time. However  
the troops were unable to place  
any reports. I felt a little  
followed the search for  
except the part of the  
movement of the  
the next day the  
thought. I was  
them that part of the  
movement of the  
movement of the





out to me "Oh, General see  
how our <sup>poor</sup> men cover the  
ground in blue!" They  
literally showed the plain  
wounded, dying & dead. The  
skelter of the confederates was  
perfect; mounds previously laid out  
& ready - rifles & cannon in  
abundance & ammunition  
without apparent limit! Our  
men going up the slight ascent  
in crowds, shower after shower  
soon help-less against the  
fierce pelting of the <sup>unceasing</sup>  
hail. Such was the situation  
all that one long day the 15<sup>th</sup>  
of December 1862.

Two days later while I was, with  
several officers standing near  
my tent on the <sup>left</sup> side  
of the river, I saw <sup>as far as appearance</sup> rather a  
disreputable looking soldier  
slowly approaching. He was

A horizontal ruler with markings from 3 to 8. The markings are in inches, with major ticks every inch and minor ticks every millimeter. The numbers 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are printed below the ruler.



4.  
above the medium height;  
his hat was shagreened & soiled;  
his trousers rent & muddy;  
~~and~~ his blouse in worse  
condition, his hair uncombed  
and his face browned with  
dirt. I thought he must have  
been on a long spree.

As soon as I accosted him  
he raised his hat & said that he  
had stayed in Fredericksburg  
behind the army when it  
retreated. "Oh," I exclaimed,  
you are a straggler."

"No, sir, not I!" was his  
brief answer. He then opened  
his blouse & showed me where  
a bullet had pierced his vest &  
shirt & passed through his  
body piercing the lung & coming  
out under his shoulder blade.





you may be sure ~~that~~ 5.

my manner toward the  
man instantly changed.

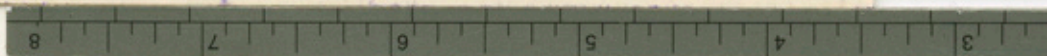
<sup>even now after 30 years</sup>  
I cannot speak of the effect  
of his ~~speech~~ <sup>action</sup> upon me ~~at the time~~  
without tears. He told me

he had lain out there at  
the extreme point ~~for two nights~~ <sup>one night</sup>

& part of two days hardly  
conscious. At last he <sup>came to himself</sup> ~~regained~~

& found he could walk  
and somehow managed to  
get back to us across the  
river.

Now as to another, the one to  
whom I alluded in my  
introduction. Here is my  
letter concerning him.





those <sup>strong</sup> ~~then~~ in always, in <sup>impressions</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>commotion</sup> ~~great~~ ~~states~~,  
like a hurricane, an  
~~earthquake~~, a flood like  
a flood, an earthquake,  
a hurricane, or a battle,  
reaches upon an observer.  
The impressions of the contest  
of Fredericksburg, such a  
~~hopeless~~ ~~hopeless~~ ~~hopeless~~ ~~hopeless~~ ~~hopeless~~  
conflict, are to me  
among the ineffable.

I recall an order that  
my brother, <sup>then</sup> Major Co. H.  
Howard, had to carry  
to a remote & dangerous  
point. When he returned  
he was obliged to cross a  
street where the enemy had

These  
The  
which  
like a  
a floor, or  
a hammer, or a  
worked upon an  
the influence of the  
of the  
the  
sufficient to  
concerning the  
I mean an  
and Graham, Major  
to a  
point. When  
be  
about





a clear way for his / 9  
artillery & infantry fire.

As he rode up to my  
station, I saw he was  
very pale. He exclaimed,  
as ~~he~~ a smile of satisfaction  
broke over his face, "They  
fired a whole volley at me!"  
his sense of danger.  
His narrow waist, for the guns  
of the confederates were  
aimed a little too high,  
his heroic resolution, and  
peculiarity of manner  
and graphic words have  
ever since been on the  
Tablet of my memory with  
unusual clearness.

So these three the soldier  
almost rising from the dead; the

about six feet from the bed of the  
river there  
is a small stream  
Tablet of my burning with  
ever since been on the  
and granite words have  
fossilized of numerous  
his lower resolution, and  
around a little too high,  
of the configuration of the  
the narrow valley, for the  
find a whole valley of  
hills and mountains, they  
as a result of contraction  
very pale. The explanation  
Station. It is the river  
as he looks up to see  
nothing & is fairly good  
a stone way for feet





Officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine,  
Major S. P. Lee, who could  
not be kept from the battle  
by an early & severe wound,  
and my aide, Major C. K.  
Howard for whose safe  
return my soul longed  
passing a dark fire in hurt.  
These three put my remembrance  
of Fredericksburg for ever  
into the concrete and  
characterize the great  
battle which Burnside  
lost & Robert Lee gained.

3  
I have of the 22nd  
writing 2. I see who could  
not be kept from the battle  
by an empty stomach means  
and may only. Writing 6  
provision for other safe  
return may suit myself  
having a horse for out but  
then there are my remembrance  
of the 22nd day for me  
into the coverlets and  
strawed the great  
batter which brought  
last + Robert Lee found





HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC,

Governor's Island, N. Y.,

(Brief of Record.)

December 13, 1890.

Dear Sir:-

I remember very well when <sup>he</sup> (the late) Colonel S. P. Lee, 3d Maine Volunteers, left the Navy and was commissioned in <sup>the</sup> (the) regiment, having had considerable <sup>sea</sup> experience in regulation and discipline, as an officer not only in the Merchant marine but also in the Navy, he readily and ably performed his part and rose to the majority and finally to the command of his regiment. He was in the field in many of the severest battles of the Army of the Potomac. At "Fredericksburg" his record was especially brilliant. General Ward in his dispatches very truthfully says that "Colonel Lee has well sustained the reputation of his regiment and his State." And further he notes the fact that he, Colonel Lee, was severely wounded in the thigh but remained in the field the whole day. The truth is, that after he had his severe wound dressed, during the battle, <sup>he</sup> he mounted <sup>when his pain & bleeding he did his man's work the whole day.</sup> his horse and returned to the field. Surely Maine may be proud of heroism like this. General Birney had Colonel Lee upon his staff during the battle of "Fair Oaks" or "Seven Pines." He represents him, as he always was when his services were required, as untiring in his efforts and as rendering him on the field gallant and distinguished service.

Again his regiment was most severely engaged at "Gettysburg",



HEADQUARTERS DIVISION ON THE ATLANTIC

Governor's Island, N. Y.,

(Brief of Record.)

December 18, 1890.

Dear Sir:-

I remember very well when the late Colonel S. P. Lee, 34 Maine Volunteers, left the Navy and was commissioned in the regiment, having had considerable experience in regulation and discipline as an officer not only in the Merchant Marine but also in the Navy, he readily and ably performed his part and rose to the majesty and finally to the command of his regiment. He was in the field in many of the severest battles of the Army of the Potomac. At "Red Bank" his record was especially brilliant. General "Bird" in his dispatches very truthfully says that "Colonel Lee has well maintained the reputation of his regiment and his State." And further he notes the fact that he, Colonel Lee, was severely wounded in the thigh but remained in the field the whole day. The truth is, that after he had his severe wound dressed, during the battle, he mounted his horse and returned to the field. Surely Maine may be proud of heroes like this. General Winney had Colonel Lee upon his staff during the battle of "Fair Oaks" or "Seven Pines." He reports him, as he always was when his services were required, as untiring in his efforts and as rendering him on the field gallant and distinguished service.

Again his regiment was most severely engaged at "Gettysburg."



no officer of his rank could have rendered more effective service than Colonel Lee did on that field. I am not acquainted with the detail; but I know that he was left unconscious, with his arm so badly shattered that after he had been carried to the hospital <sup>by a soldier of his regiment John Bryant, & 3</sup> and <sup>the arm</sup> was revived; the surgeons were obliged to amputate ~~it~~ at the shoulder joint thus crippling him for life. Perhaps there never was a healthier, stronger man than Colonel Lee before the terrible wound; after that, his existence became one of pain and affliction until the time of his death.

General Sickles, on whose staff he served for a short time, speaks of him and of his noble qualities in the highest terms, and commends his untiring energy and his perfect fearlessness in battle. <sup>and General Birney mentioning John Oakley & Chandler as well as</sup>

These few things I have learned in regard to the brave, gallant and meritorious soldier from the War Records and from friends. I myself so soon left the brigade to which the 3d Maine was attached that I am not so well acquainted with the detail as with that of many another regiment. Still I have been proud to have organized and to have commanded <sup>the 3d Maine</sup> it for even a brief period, and surely there was no commissioned officer in that regiment whose war work was <sup>according to his opportunities</sup> superior to that of Colonel S. P. Lee.

Very truly yours,

O. O. Howard

Major General, U. S. Army.

him at

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BRIEF OF RECORD of  
Colonel S. P. LEE, 3d Maine Vols.