Prof. M. Jacobs.

As a member of Maj. Genl. Reynolds' staff + therefore a participant in the first days fight at Gettysburg I have taken great pleasure in reading your "notes" on "Rebel Invasion."

There are [?_______] some slight inaccuracies that I am sure need only be mentioned to you to recieve an Early correction in the future edditions of a book that is likely to be an invaluable guide book over the battle field.

Thus for instance in your map you have a 2nd line formed by the Eleventh Corps. in rear of that of the First although the [better proofs?] at page 25, as to the arrival of [Peking?] + Barlow + their position on our extreme right, shows that you did know exactly where they belonged on the map.

The statement at page 24 that "an effort of Genl Archer to flank & capture one of our brigades (the Iron Brigade) they captured him + the whole of his brigade" should be corrected to this effect Archers tried to drive out of the Mc Pherson woods the left of the 2nd Brigade of our First division, which had first gained that position from the Rebels + as he moved up, The Iron Brigade, the first of the same division was [?_______] round so as to [catch?] Archer [behind/between?] our lines + temporarily surround him. This was done by Maj. Riddle + Capt. Wads worth of Reynolds staff + it was to the former that Archer surrendered with his men. Almost at this instant Reynolds fell.- he had gone into the woods to [?____] on the men who were driving back the Rebel lines + When he saw that his troops there were successful turned to come out again. it was almost at the outer edge of the woods that the
fatal volley was fired, killing him +
at the same time wounding a
member of his escort who were actively
engaged [prior ________?]  

You are mistaken in saying that-
"Reynolds had but little direct agency
in bringing on the battle" at page 26
+ almost the whole of the succeeding
statements are wrong. The fact was
that Reynolds had for some time been
in command of three Corps-
The First- under Doubleday, the Eleventh
under Howard, + the Third under Sickles-
That Buford reported the advance of the
Rebels,+, that Reynolds ordered up all
his troops with the [express?] purpose of
holding the town + the Cemetery Hill, that
he sent a staff officer to Genl. Meade
with a message, that he meant to hold
the enemy in [?____ _____] of the
town + that he would dispute their
passage by fighting from the houses

if need [?____], so that the Army might
concentrate, that the delay in the
arrival of the troops was unexpected [as?]
[?________] for Reynolds had issued his
orders early + positively + as he himself had
[obtained?] his own Corps + had received from
Howard a message that the 11th Corps
was within reach it was only necessary
to send back word to move up at the double
quick- This was not done [?______] his
1st Division under Wadsworth stood the
[?_____] of the first attack successfully alone
for an hour or more. After the General's
death his Third division came up + took
the left while the 2nd division arriving
soon after was put in at once + the
11th Corps was not engaged till two or three
hours later.  

At page 29 there is an [im?]important
error as to Reynolds' advice to the residents
of the town to leave their houses. I was
directed by him at the the [_____ _____]
to the Mayor of the Town, with word
that he should keep the people at home, to have the [s____?] fire for the troops, and that if the Genl. determined to fight in the town they could get away together + in order. On inquiring I found that the Mayor, the Provost-Marshall, + all the leading men were away from home but by gathering together two or three of the Burgesses + some clergymen I made known the General's wishes + for a time the streets were quiet again for the hurried entrance of our troops had made a beholding appearance that was out of all keeping with the serious business we knew was at hand.

I put a [guard/patrol?] too on the [Emmetsburg/ Mummasburg?] road to warn the country folks back to their houses, for they were crowding in to the [road sight?] ignorant of their own peril + regardless of the inconvenience to our movements. I [?_____] particularly to impress upon the townspeople the fact that there was risk + danger in exposed themselves unnecessarily + that they could do more good by staying in their own houses than by foolishly hurrying to the battlefield to satisfy a only natural but dangerous curiosity

There is among all the participants in the battle but one opinion as to the excellent conduct of the women both young + old, in assisting our wounded soldiers as they returned from the front to the temporary hospitals in the town but there were a great many young men idling about all day who could easily have found arms + a place in our ranks to fight.

However my main object is to call your attention to the fact, that Reynolds meant to drive the Rebels back, from the position which our army afterward occupied, that he appreciated + understood the importance of that ground + reported to Genl. Meade the steps he meant to take to keep it, that his rapid movements
to the relief of Buford + his energy in throwing his troops on the Rebels held them at bay so long that in spite of unaccountable delays on our part + [?_______] temerity [in others?], for they never fight at disadvantage, our small force held its own against three or four times their number, + that with more skillful execution or better understanding of Reynolds' purpose, after his death, our troops could have been fought with much less loss than that sustained in their irregular but not hasty or disorder-ly retreat- if he had lived, all that was done could have been better done & with much more injury to the enemy + safety to ourselves.

I have all along been pained to [?____] see + read in the newspapers + other current statements of the battle accounts that cast some [?____] on Reynolds as if he had sacrificed his men + himself to [more?] impetuous + reckless courage

I believe that Genl. Meade knows that truth + that his report & that of all the Corps Commanders will do Reynolds justice in this respect. No man was more [?_______] + careful of his men than Reynolds [?____ ______] in this last trial he handled them with caution + if those who took the command after his death for Doubleday first + then Howard were at once informed by Reynolds' staff of his orders + his plans as far as they knew them. had executed his purpose with the same vigilant personal + [?____] participation that made him successful there can be little doubt that we would have held the town + secured a much more speedy victory more glorious [nor?] man could make it.

I hope now that I am a civilian again to be able to visit Gettysburg + to look once more on the spot where Reynolds fell. [rained?] to me by reason of my love for him as a man & my
unstained admiration for him as a soldier. I shall certainly take part in the solemn [?__________] of the Cemetery + will take great pleasure in paying my personal respects to you. in the meantime I have written this such that you may know the truth of the few corrections that I suggest. When we meet I shall be glad to talk more at length on the matter + have hastily put together my [resolu-?] tions of these points in order that I may claim the privilege of a fuller [?_____][?____]. This letter of course is at your [?______] for any statement that it contains but I need hardly say that I have made it informal so that you may [best?] (+ can [?_____] wish to) use it as it is cast. Mr. Lippencott thinks I may address you without formal introduction + yet as his [?______] I feel more certain of your kindness.

Very Respectfully
Joseph G. Rosengarten

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Call Number: E475.51 .J17 c.5

signed by Eleanor Reynolds. Contains ALS (9 p.), dated October 15, 1863, from Joseph G. Rosengarten to the author, Michael Jacobs, in which Mr. Rosengarten lists some inaccuracies found in the text. Letter inserted into the front of the book.
DBCN: AAJ-6391
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