

[Elbert Corbin to Emily]

Gettysburg, PA , 5-6 July 1863.

Autograph Letter, 4 pages.

[3] (Corp R. F. Thorn – wounded both Feet)

(" Hooker Rt " Run over)

John M Scovil " Rt arm & sides Minnie B.

Lt. A.S. Sheldon Rt. & Lt Groin ")

S. Sherman Gun Shot Lt Arm

August Roger, Rt Leg ampt'd upper leg & gun shot in Rt arm

Coraden Wallace Lt Foot Gun Shot

A.B. Mallery Shell, head

Geo Rabb, " "

Theo Denoyer " "

O.L. States Lt. arm gun shot

Sarg Childs Bruised leg

John Buckley Rt upr leg slight

Pat McGowan Lt Sholder Gun Shot

89 Horses killed – 3 wheels smashed 3 Cassions smashed – nearly all our clothing – This is all I can say this Sabbath Eve – I want to rest A kiss love. Kiss our Darlings. God Bless us –

Monday Eve July 6th. 10.^o Clock – Em I have passed another busy day – Lieut Sheldon was fixed up by me and made as comfortable and sent off with some other officers I am left here in Care of the Boys – Several of the boys who had very slight wounds are with the Battery. We have Patched up just so as to man 4 guns all told and the Battery is ready for the front. I have an other Recommend form Lieut Sheldon [4] for a Commiton in an Independant Command,- if you can use it – Charley Minard has been clerk at Head Qtrs of our Corps a long time and Gen Hays is in command of our Corps now- And he would not keep on his staff of a Volunteer Officer, there was a splendid Officer who was Adj't Gen. and he would not keep him because he was a Vol and has put in a Pumpkin head – (A Regular) – All tell me to give that up, and try for A Com in some of the new Batteries, Independant –

It is a long time since I got a letter from you but I hope in time we shall get a mail – After getting off Lt. S. I dressed our Boys wounds then 15 or 20 of the Boys of other Batteries then I was sent to work assisting to cut out balls and dress the wounded Rebels and we now have an quantity of them and I shall have to help tomorrow I can do up wounds from shot or shell or Bullits quite like an M.D. – I have had quite a Dicipline I do it for that I can see an Arm or Leg taken off and it has no more affect on my feelings, than cutting so much Beef – Dead men and plenty here and I saw plenty [5] in all shapes and on the field – Help to wound and Kill men then Patch them up I could show more suffering here in one second than you will see in a Life at home It is strange how I have disciplined my feelings to see Dying and suffering men and have no feelings only a passing thought, I have some but they that were cut out of men I have had quite a chat to day with Rebels – We get no mail of any kind here – I hope you will get my last letter It is a bright starlight night and I hope a dry day for the morrow I think of you at home and I know you know of this Battle and I think of your anxiety for me. I think of you as at home, But cannot know what news you have rec'd of this Battle, – Give God the Glory so to him with me in prayer and thank him that he has kept me through this Bloody Battle – Oh that I was more thankfull to him His mercy endureth forever such a 4th of July such a Sabbath I shall long remember and these days work here among the wounded & dying – But I have learned much – I must say a little only we suffered so much in this Battle and I think if Capt Pettit had been here instead of this fool of a Rority we should have lost [6] less The first day we [*illegible strikeout*] (ie our Corps) was thrown in to fill a Gap in our lines where the enemy were marching and here we here we suffered much – we were driven back about ¼ mile took another Position and held until we had No support and were ordered out – the second day the line of battle was the same shape only farther back. the enemy had their Artillery conceled much – and then the Position that our Capt. put us in was the worst we could have Capt Pettit would never have put us in such a Place. I will mark out a little and show a little as to our Position and the Position Capt would probily have taken had he been here. I cannot map out the whole but will where we were (the center)