Skirmishing on Thursday—Artillery Duel —Hot Weather—The Losses of the Second Corps, &c.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, June 25, 1864.

Another letter from the Army of the Potomac dated near Petersburg, June 23, 8 p. m., says: We have had plenty of skirmishing all day. The sharp shooters on both sides are continually exchanging shots and frequently pick off men who are perhaps a thousand yards distant.

One battery of thirty-two pounders is trained on the rebel batteries near Petersburg, and every morning we are treated to a splendid artillery duel.

The weather has been unusually warm and oppressive and cases of sunstroke are quite numerous.

Every indication of rain gradually melts away with the morning mists, and by midday the heat is insufferable.

Some men were captured from the Second corps when the rebels got into their rear and took McKnight's battery of the Twelfth New-York artillery. It is impossible to tell with accuracy how many men were lost.

Parts of Owen's, McAllister's and Mott's brigades are among the number.

Gen. Barlow was marching rapidly towards the Weldon railroad. Gibbon followed. The troops moved by division.

Major Crowinshield, of the 17th Massachusetts Cavalry, had 700 mounted men of a provisional brigade, composed of detachments from all its regiments and companies. He fought the Rebels on the right of the Plank Road long after his ammunition was exhausted, holding with determined valor a whole brigade of Rebels in check.

In the mean time the Rebels had succeeded in getting between Gibbon and Barlow. They were as much surprised as our men, but, being first to make a discovery of the position of affairs, were quick to take advantage of it.

There was very little hard fighting, and the men were taken before they were fully prepared for resistance. The horses were cut from the battery and the guns spiked.

When the line was reformed the Rebels came up again but were twice repulsed with dreadful losses.

The 6th Corps charged them, driving them some distance, and forming on the left of the 2d Corps.