

General Notes.

The correspondent of the Columbia State writing from Camp Cuba Libre, Fla., under date of October 2, says: "Everyone has heard of the epidemic and the general state of affairs here, but everyone has not experienced one of those crises which is a military camp. Some time during last night a storm broke on us and certain means were taken to the righting of the tent poles, under which those of the Second South Division were placed. The writing of this note was given and it was somewhat of a surprise. A general alarm was given and a telegram was received stating that a terrible storm was approaching. The tent poles and hammer were then hoisted on every hand, making ready for the distinguished guests whose arrival was heralded by the signal at the government's expense. But to one, at that time, had any idea how severe he was. This was not found out until this morning. As a consequence of the bad weather, breakfast was delayed, and in some companies, unfortunately, postponed. During breakfast there was a hail for a short while. During the fall the wind shifted towards the northwest, and then towards, in spite of that, upon gust was hurled against the camp and it was with a great deal of difficulty that any of the tents were kept in place.

There were some who had intended taking advantage of the weather, and setting up for the day. Maj. Evans was among that number. He had taken to his tent, when a heavy gust came and left him without a shelter. He got himself out of bed and scrambled off to a nearby tent until his clothes could be brought to him.

By this time the whole camp was in a state of excitement. Men were in every direction out holding the guy ropes, their efforts to avoid the tent poles in holding their own. In some cases the wind, although, but in others all the reward the inmates got for their trouble was good weather and the job of putting their tent in place again.

Your correspondent did not have his tent blown down, but had to waste for fear of a pole tree standing just in front of his tent. When he went out to leave Capt. Moss struggling with his tent all that the captain lost was the fire. I hadn't been out long when my attention was called to the T. M. C. A. tent. The wind went in at the rear entrance, and tore the tent in half. It was a complete wreck. Standing next to it was a photographer's tent, which stood a few moments longer than the T. M. C. A. tent, but which finally left its occupant in the act of putting it up.

The tent on a great covered into the two tents erected for their accommodations, for protection, but when they were both leveled to the ground, and the men had to seek their shelter.

Lieut. Quartermaster Sullivan's tent was laid low, as also was the chaplain's. The commissary sent of a majority of the companies were blown down and the hand truck spoiled.

The shelter over the dining tables of Co. I was blown down. It was not quite complete.

While the men were struggling with their own tents, the tents in which their more fortunate comrades were quartered were suffering heavily. The winds played havoc in the Third Division hospital. One of the wards was blown down and the rain blew through all the others. The tent in which the dead are laid out was also blown down.

Quite a number of tents were also blown down. When the storm was at its worst Maj. Wagner, who, although he is on the sick report, went over to the hospital to see what was happening. He could not find his way out, but with the help he soon returned to his quarters.

The Second South Carolina and the One Hundred and thirty-five Indian regiments turned out in a body and all the other commands furnished their coats towards making down the tents. All the tents which were in a position to fall on the tent were ripped and cut down. The men all worked like slaves to keep the tents in place. No one thought of himself, but of his comrades. The lady nurses were most of them drenched to the skin, but went on with their heroic efforts to give relief to the suffering. The tents of the doctors, nurses and attendants suffered most. They blew down like scores.

There were several persons injured during the morning. The sergeant major of the Sixteenth Indian regiment was killed by a falling flag pole. The pole struck him in the back breaking the spinal column. Private Geo. J. Blanton, of Company I, while on trip of a hospital tent, pulling a rope in place was hurled to the ground and his right arm spoiled. There were no other serious injuries.

In company with the News and Courier correspondent the writer visited the camp of the French Illinois regiment. The Fourth is in darkness and no powder, arms, and their tents here are complete wreck. There seems to have been a battle between the tents and the wind and the wind seems victorious. Where the tents once stood will be seen occasionally a white rag waving from a tent pole as a flag of truce begging the wind to cease its domination and destruction.

The Sixth Missouri suffered very little.

The rain has about stopped but the wind is still high. It appears that there will be a full moon night.

The hospital train has been put on the siding here for ease of emergency, should there be need the patients will be placed on board and carried to Jacksonville and Atlanta.

S. Frank Perrot.

Columbia, S. C.

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Sun, Feb 5, 2017