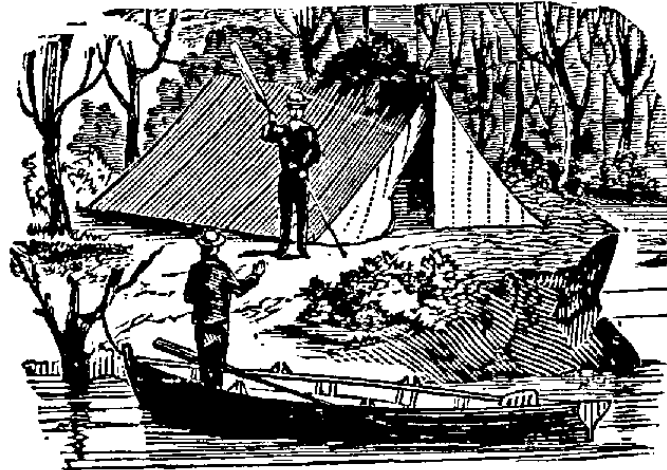




and driven in the direction of the prolongation of the tent cords (if they are inclined from the tent, they will soon be jerked loose). When the pegs will not hold at all, fasten the tent cords to brush or rocks buried in the soil.

A few trees add very much to the comfort of a camp, and when they are so situated as to permit the guy or ridge



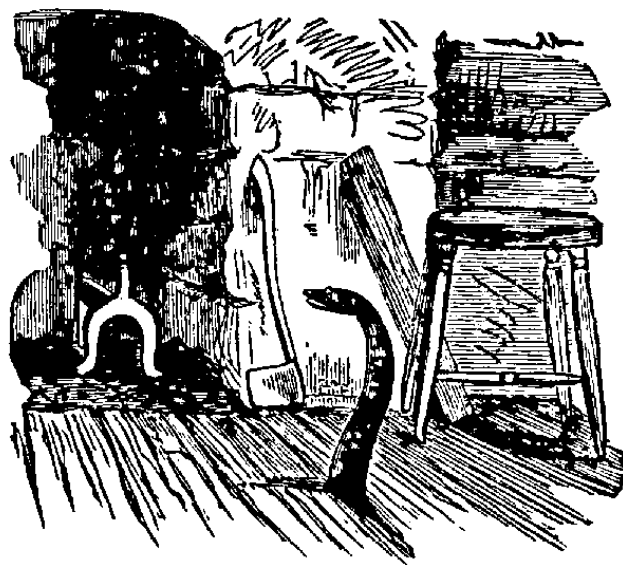
ropes to be made fast to them or their branches, the wind storm need not be dreaded.

So far as may be prudent, the camp should be protected by bluffs and thickets, and the backs of the tents should be placed towards the wind. It is not wise to camp beneath certain trees, whose branches are liable to suddenly fall off.

In a hostile country, the security of the command will depend very much upon the judicious selection of a camp as regards its capability of defense. If on the bank of a stream, a concave bend, where the water is deep, should be selected. In such a position the defending party can cross his fire in case of an attack from the other bank, or can herd the stock in the concavity of the bend in order to avoid a stampede. When the camp is remote from a stream or river, a portion of it should rest on the highest hill or bluff within range. As a rule, the tents should be pitched on that side of the camp most exposed to attack. When the packs and aparejos are removed, in camp, they should be arranged so as to form a fortification in case of need.



body. He is very susceptible of cold and, at night, will



crawl into a tent or shanty and coil up near the fire or in the bedding.

As a usual thing, venomous snakes congregate close to the water. If holes are discovered in the ground, in the vicinity of the beds, it will be well to stamp the earth and rocks into them, as they are frequently the burrows of various reptiles.

When hostile Indians are supposed to be about, the place selected for camp should be carefully examined on all sides, in order to discover any tracks or Indian signs, before removing the packs or unsaddling. It is a favorite trick of the Indians to stampede the animals upon first arrival in camp, when the attention of every one is preoccupied and more or less confusion reigns. They seldom attempt a stampede at night, preferring the day-light for such work, and invariably select the early dawn of day or some moment when the command is in a probable state of confusion.

A stampede is one of the most dreaded disasters that can happen. Frequently, the animals are not only widely scattered, but irretrievably lost; and much damage follows the rush of the infuriated herd through the camp, frequently trampling the men and tents, and killing themselves by coming in contact with trees and projecting rocks.













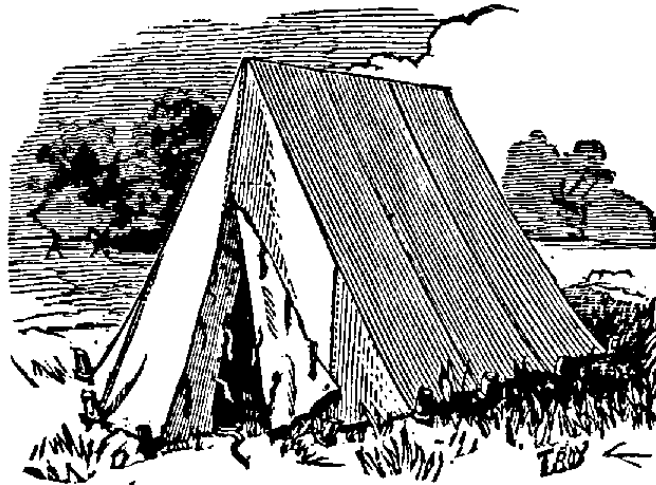
Horses, mules and dogs exhibit a wonderful instinct in finding pools of water where it would scarcely be expected to exist.

Trees and water generally go together in sections of country where timber is very scarce.

Water may be secured in large quantities during a rain shower, by catching the drippings of the tents, and by suspending pieces of canvas and blankets by the corners and placing small weights on their centers. It may also be collected by dragging the blankets over grass, wet with dew, and then wringing out the water that has accumulated. This should be resorted to only in cases of necessity; and as a rule, the stock should not graze on grass covered with dew.

It is not well to drink water that is putrid or charged with salts, as they do not quench the thirst, but increase it and produce fevers and dysenteries;—in such localities, the best remedy is to bathe in the water.

The tents usually used in field service or hasty marches are the shelter tents already described and the 'A' or com-



mon tents. The drawing shows the ordinary 'A' tent composed of a single piece of canvas, which in consequence of its weight is not so well suited for light travel as the author's combination 'A' tent described on page 145.

I have received from *Gilbert Thompson, Esq.*, the designs of a tent that offers many advantages over the heavy tents



If possible, a level spot should be selected for the tent or bed, and when the wind is high, it should not be placed near a single tree, as this is apt to create a violent eddy. This may be frequently observed in a corn-field after a wind storm, the stalks being knocked down in circles around isolated trees, while elsewhere they remain standing.

Sleeping in hollows and slight canyons during quiet weather is not wholesome, as cold air pours down into these from the higher ground. Horses are frequently noticed to draw up to the surrounding plain, where the frosts are less severely felt as the night sets in. If compelled to sleep on the snow, it should be piled upon each side, and if possible the face and ears should be smeared with oil or grease.

Remembering that the favorite times for an Indian attack are at sunrise or sunset, or when coming out of or going into camp, it appears most proper to have reveille about 4 A. M., so as to have the column in motion by the dawn of day.

There is nothing more annoying about the time of breaking camp than the difficulty experienced in bridling wild stock, or the delay occasioned by the loss of such animals as are prone to stray off from camp. A good way to catch a refractory animal is to have two men stretch a long rope about the height of his neck, and while other men drive the animal against it, let one of them, with the rope, run round behind the animal, and quickly make a turn about his neck. In turning the wild stock out to graze, it is a good plan to leave the lariat ropes upon them, the ends trailing on the ground.

If time be an object, it will be better to leave lost mules behind (when their services can be spared), for they will, in consequence of their very acute power of smell, trail the stock and follow to camp. A *bell mare* of quiet and regular habits is indispensable in the camp—serving to keep the herd together and close in hand.