

ARRIVAL AT CAMP No. 2.

Here, as at Columbus, on the previous evening, a large and brilliantly illuminated encampment had been prepared for the reception of the guests.

A military encampment had also been established during the previous day by Colonel Mizner, in command of Fort McPherson on the opposite side of the Platte, so near the excursionists' camp as to preclude any fear from the roaming bands of Indians, which were said to infest this portion of the country.

Comfortable quarters were immediately assigned to each one of the party, and very soon thereafter an elegant supper was announced, and partaken of with a gusto, known only to a party whose only sustenance for hours had been the pure bracing air of the illimitable plains.

When the excursion party left New York, it was understood that it would overtake the western end of the Union Pacific Railroad track, at or about the one hundredth meridian of longitude, some two hundred and forty-seven miles west of Omaha; and that then and there the great celebration would come off, as per invitation and programme. But here we now were, more than thirty miles west of the one hundredth meridian, and no end of track yet visible. Nothing remained for the excursionists, therefore, but to take another night's rest, and endeavor by an early start on the following morning, to overtake this long-sought-for goal, which to many of the party seemed only a myth, or most perplexing illusion.

The spacious headquarters tents, which had been hung about with transparencies, and elegantly decorated with flags for the occasion, were therefore soon bereft of their occupants, who had sought the greater retiracy of the