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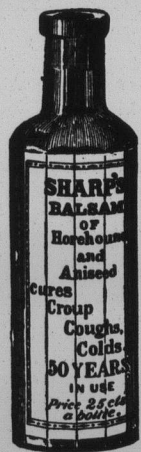
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GIVING OUT THE POTATOES.

An old Soldier's Reminiscences of an
Event in Army Life.

'Sometimes,' said the old soldier, 'we
got considerable many potatoes, and then
again we wouldn't have any at all for
weeks; very likely nothing but hard bread
and coffee and pork, and may be corned
beef, and perhaps beans; but whether we
got them often or seldom, potatoes were
always more or less of a luxury.'

'It was likely to be known in the com-
pany when we had potatoes. When we
had something the men didn't care any-
thing about, or something that we had
been having right along, it might be that
not more than half the men would get into
line at the cook's tent or at the fire, when
the call sounded; there was sure to be
enough—there might be some men who
wouldn't want their ration at all; and you
would see men straggling across the com-
pany street toward the fire singly, later,
carrying their tin plate and moving leisure-
ly. No hurry; they were quite willing to
take their place at the end of the line, and,
in fact, they didn't try to get there until
the line had been pretty nearly all served,
so that they wouldn't have to wait long,
and they wouldn't have cared much if it
had been all gone when they got there. But on
days when we had potatoes it was different;
then the whole company turned out prompt-
ly, and formed in line, single file, the right
resting on the cook's tent, and the whole
line moving forward as the men got their
rations.'

'When potatoes were issued by the com-
missary, when we came to draw our rations
we would of course get a certain quantity,
proportioned to the number of men we
had on duty in the company. If we had
forty men the potatoes we got, when we
came to count them out, might number
sixty. If there were sixty potatoes for
forty men obviously some of them would
have to be cut in two, or else they would
have to be given out two to some men and
one to others, and that is what was done;
a man got two small potatoes or one big
one. For myself I preferred two small
ones; but of course I took whatever was
given to me, and said nothing; but I liked
it better to get two potatoes, so as to not
risk everything in one package. I have
known a big, handsome potato that a man
had carried gravely to his tent, filled with
delightful anticipations as he went along to
turn out bad inside.'

'There was no greater test of a cook's
management than the way in which he
gave out potatoes, and the man who could
do this to the satisfaction of everybody
was a good deal of a man. It was impos-
sible to give everybody exactly the same
quantity, but an effort to get as near to
them as possible, a spirit of fairness, was
recognized instantly, and nobody expected
more. The potato he got might not be
so big by a quarter as the one he saw put
on the plate of the man ahead of him, but
he said nothing; somebody had got to
have the other potato, and it might just as
likely have come to him.'

'But something more than fairness was
required to give out the potatoes success-
fully; a man had got to keep the run of
what he had given out and the number of
men supplied, and have some idea
of the number of potatoes left and
of the number of men to come. He
could give himself some margin by issuing
the big potatoes generally first; on a pinch,
along at the end, he could give out to three
or four men a single one of the biggest of
the smaller potatoes, instead of two. But
he must know whether they were likely to
turn up or not, and he must keep the run
of all these things without stopping to
think, as he forked up the potatoes from
the camp kettle and put them on the plates
held out to him by the men as they passed.
And generally he came out just right.
More than once I have known him to put
the last potato on the last man's plate.'

'But he did not always bring things out
with that nicety. I have known as many
as three men on the end of a line to be
left without any potatoes. All gone.
Well, now, there was a situation. No
potatoes issued for a month before, and
none likely to be issued for a month again.
Here they were, all the other men in the
company eating potatoes at that minute
and none for them. You can't very well
describe just how they did feel; but they
never said a word. They looked at the
cook and the cook looked at them. It was
a miscalculation and that was all there was
to it. The cook had given out his own
potatoes and had none for himself; and
the three men walked down the company
street, looking neither to the right nor to
the left, and to their tents; and ate hard
bread on a day when all around the camp
was filled with luxury.'

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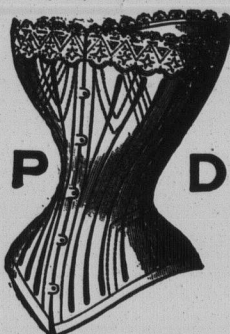
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give relief.

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and a pure breath obtained by
using ADAMS' TUTTI FRUTTI.
Take no imitations.

ANCIENT AND MODERN ATHENS.

The City is Nearly as Populous Now as
Ever in Its History.

Ancient Athens spread round the Acro-
polis, especially on the hills facing the
south, which are now uninhabited. The
new town lies to the north of the antique
citadel—an extension of the cluster of
houses already existing at the foot of the
rock when the war was ended. Two main
interesting streets were laid out—Acolus
street, starting from below the Acropolis
and running northward, and Hermes street
leading from the royal palace toward the
Piræus. The capital was thus designed to
lie in the valley between the Acropolis
on one side and Mount Lycabettus on
the other. No ambition of future develop-
ment is traceable in the original plan. The
ground chosen and the width of the main
streets tend to show that the founders of
the new city little dreamed of its rapid ex-
tension. Squeezing herself out of her nar-
row confines, the city has gradually scaled
the foot of Lycabettus and spread beyond
the valley on both sides principally in a
southwesterly direction. If the extension
had been in a straight line toward the sea,
Athens would now be nearing a junction
with the Piræus; but both towns, as if
avoiding each other, extend in parallel
lines, and one must look to a probably dis-
tant future for the day when they shall be
connected by rows of houses, instead of
the long walls of ancient days.

The fashionable quarters of the capital
are to be found in the new additions to the
primitive plant—the Neapolis, as it is called.
Large thoroughfares have there been
opened, fine buildings erected, both pub-
lic and private and Athens already the
finest city in the east of Europe, bids fair
to become, if no stop is put to her pro-
gress, one of the handsomest cities on the
Mediterranean.

Under King Otho's reign progress was
comparatively slow. At the accession of
King George, in the year 1863, the popu-
lation did not exceed 45,000. The ad-
vance has been more rapid since then, es-
pecially during the last twenty years of
material prosperity, which has lately been
interrupted, let us hope temporarily, by
the financial entanglements of the Greek
Government. During that period
the immigration of well-to-do Greeks
from abroad has not been one of the
least causes of this development. In
1879 the census showed a population of
nearly 84,000; in 1889, 114,000; and to-
day, judging by the vital and building
statistics, the number of inhabitants, if it
does not exceed, cannot fall short of 140-
000. The progress of the newly created
town of Piræus is not less remarkable.
From 5,000 to 6,000 souls, which had al-
ready gathered there some thirty years ago,
its population had grown to 34,000 in 1889
and is now estimated at more than 40,000.
Together the two towns number as many
inhabitants as they probably possessed in
the fourth century B. C.

The sources of information as to the
population of ancient Athens are indeed
vague; but from a passage of Xenophon
giving the number of families as 10,000,
and from a passage of Athenæus indicat-
ing the proportion of slaves to freemen at
the time of Demetrius Phalereus, it may be
calculated that at that epoch the population
of Athens including that of the Piræus,
was about 180,000. The area included
within the walls of both towns seems rather
to confirm this estimate. The surrounding
country was thickly populated—much more
so than at any succeeding period; but it is
more than probable that the inhabitants
never exceeded 200,000.—D. Bickel, in
the Century.

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ing.

It is needless to say that success in your
work depends upon the colors you give
your cotton and wool rags. When you
have a handsome design, rich, bright and
brilliant colors give life and beauty to the
work of your hands.

Let it be remembered that the best
carpet, rug and mat makers in Canada al-
ways use the celebrated Diamond Dyes,
and as a consequence achieve the success
they desire.

The "Diamond" are the only dyes in the
world that give perfect colors and satisfac-
tory results. Ask your dealer for the
"Diamond" and see that you get them;
refuse imitation and adulterated dyes.

DANCING BIRDS.

They Live in Southern Brazil and Dance
Hornpipes.

In Southern Brazil is a little bird that
comes as near to holding a regular dar-
key 'hoe-down'—a minstrel song and
dance—as it is possible for birds to do.

It is called the 'dancing bird' by the
natives. It is a tiny blue bird with a red
crest. Mornings and evenings the little
fellows gather in a group of a score or so
on a smooth, sandy, or gravelly spot, or at
least a spot that is free from grass or any
obstruction. Then one of the males flies
to a twig somewhere overhead, and begins
singing in the jolliest jig-voice imaginable,
and immediately the birds begin to step in
perfect time with the song, and twit-

ter an accompaniment, and more
than that, move their wings in time with
the music as they step about.

Akin to this dance is one where there is
but a single dancer on the floor at a time.
The bird is known as the rupicola or cock
of the rock, also a Brazil bird.

Like the little blue bird, it selects a
smooth, hard floor as its dancing place,
and there must be plenty of bushes about,
for it does not seem to like spectators.

About this kind of platform the birds
gather, some on the ground and some on
the bush.

Then all sing, except one, who gets into
the center of the floor, and there leaps and
gyrates in a most comical fashion until ex-
hausted, then he staggers off but another
instantly takes his place and repeats his
performance; and so they go on, it un-
derstood, till everyone of them has had his
fling.

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