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TENTS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

The Israelites of old were dwellers in tents, as many of their Semitic kindred, the Arabs, are to this day. So also are many of the wandering pastoral tribes of Northern and Central Asia, who have during two centuries past given so much trouble to the military power of Russia. The "lodge" or "wigwam" of the North American Indian is a tent, of such construction as savages can accomplish in their native wilds.

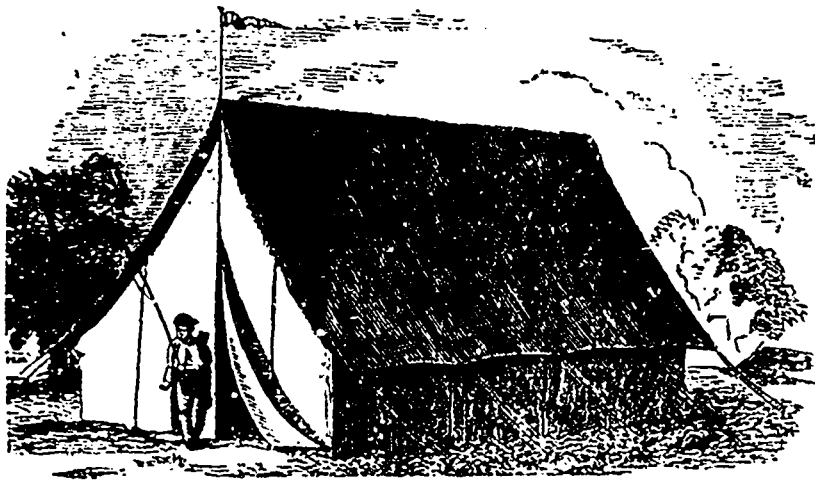
It may be said that in all these instances, tents were or are used for the reason simply that houses or fixed homes were not or are not available under the circumstances. This would be true of the Israelites, who, after they were fairly settled in the Promised Land, built houses, and even fortified towns or "fenced cities," as they are called in the Bible. But it would not be true of the wandering Tartar and Arab tribes, or yet of the Indians of the far west, whose manner of life renders necessary their frequent movement *en masse* from place to place. These tribes must continue to be dwellers in tents, until they adopt new modes of obtaining subsistence.

With their way of living, very many acres or even square miles of land are required for the support of each individual, and so they have to shift ground frequently, carrying their tents with them.

The early Greek military tents were small coverings of skins under each of which two soldiers slept. The Roman tent was a great improvement on those of the Greeks; it was made of cotton cloth, similar in shape to the "wedge" tent of the present day, and would accommodate ten soldiers. Alexander the Great is said to have had a pavilion of extraordinary magnificence. Its roof, one mass of gilded embroidery, was sustained by eight pillars covered with gold. In the centre was the royal throne, and one hundred beds could be made up within the temporary edifice.

Now, it may be said, are civilized men in this advanced age actually thinking of going back to certain habits of savage or half-civilized life, and becoming dwellers in tents? We answer, yes, at certain times and for certain purposes, but in a civilized way. What may be called the popular science of health has very much interested the people of both Canada and the Northern States in recent years, and it is every year receiving greater attention. Our own country, to confine ourselves to that for the present, abounds with romantic health-giving resorts, where Nature is seen in various attractive aspects, and where overworked citizens and their families may for a while during the summer season revel in the luxuries of pure air and sylvan and aquatic diversions in great variety. The thing can be done cheaply, too; no need of paying monster hotel prices

in order to secure such recreation and enjoyment as Nature furnishes free of cost. The tent of most modern make, a great improvement on the ancient construction, is what renders it possible for civilized people, at small cost, to carry the indispensables of civilization with them to the sylvan scenery of Muskoka, the picturesque wilds of the Upper Ottawa and



the Gatineau, to the cool, healthy breezes that blow among the Thousand Islands, and other such like resorts.

The extraordinary development of the Canadian Northwest is another cause of a new demand for tents. There the rush of new comers is so great that the tent is in many cases indispensable for the summer. The cheap temporary accommodation of the tent made use of during the hot weather gives opportunity for the immigrant, on the spot, to prepare a permanent dwelling all tight and snug for the winter.

We say all this pleasure and health may be cheaply acquired, and we purpose to back up these statements by solid facts, and show how it may be done. There is no need for instruction in the art of enjoyment; all one has to do is to get equipped with a suitable outfit, and start for one or the other