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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 company when we had potatoes. When we had something the men didn't care anything 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 company street toward the fire singly, later, carrying their tin plate and moving leisurely. 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 promptly, 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

'When potatoes were issued by the commissary, 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 torty men obviously some of them would A LEROY, M. A., University of Paris.
B. AUDEN, B. A. Emmanuel Coll., Cam.
G. M. ACKLOM, M. A., Queen's Coll., Cam.
C. T. MUNDY, B. A., Pembroke Coll., Cam., and 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 impossible 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 potatoe 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 successfully; 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 ot 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 e left, and to their tents; and ate hard bread on a day when all around the camp

His Own Free Will.

was filled with luxury.'

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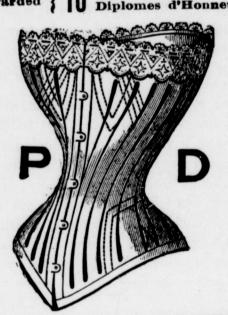


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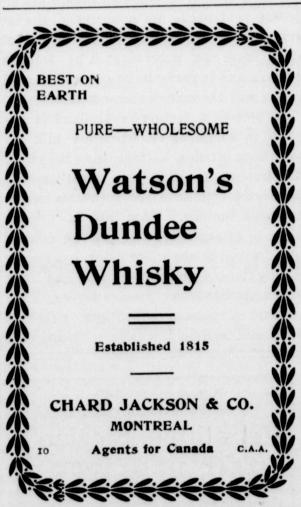
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ANCIENT AND MODERN ATHENS. The City is Nearly as Populous Now as Ever in Its History.

Ancient Athens apread round the Acropolis, especially on the hills facing the south, which are now unhabited. 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 intersecting streets were laid out-Aeolus street, starting from below the Acropolis and running north ward, and Hermes street leading from the royal palace toward the Piraeus. 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 development 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 extension. Squeezing herselt out of her narrow 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 Piraeus; but both towns, as if avoiding each other extend in parallel lines, and one must look to a probably distant 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 te 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 public and private and Athens already the finest city in the east of Europe, bids fair to become, if no stop is put to her progress, 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 population did not exceed 45,000. The advance has been more rapid since then, especially 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 64,000; in 1889, 114,000; and today, 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 Piraeus is not less remarkable. From 5,000 to 6,000 souls, which had already 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 ss 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 Athenacus indicating 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 Piraeus, 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. Bikealas, in the Century.

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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- RELMONT HOTEL 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

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





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