

As the little steamer entered the Bay of Vatopedi, two or three boats rowed out from the shore, manned by monks in tall hats. Into these the travellers stepped with their luggage. At the pier a crowd of monks assisted them to land. When the luggage had safely passed the Turkish custom-house officer the party marched up to the monastery. Its great gate was thrown open to receive them. A monk bearing a lighted taper marshalled them through a labyrinth of courts, stairs and passages till they reached their suite of rooms. Their large sitting-room had two bed-chambers open-



OLIVE TREE.

ing out of it, one for the Archbishop, the other for the Englishmen.

Scarcely were they settled in their rooms when supper was announced. Four of the principal monks joined them at the festive board. Each guest helped himself with his own fork, but oil and garlic spoiled the food. They fared better than Curzon, who had only one good dinner on Mount Athos.

Mount Athos is the easternmost tongue of land which shoots out into the *Ægean* Sea from the southern portion of Macedonia. When Xerxes invaded Greece he cut a canal through the penin-