

their mouths. At their feasts the same deference to old age is manifest, the elders sing first those idyls which are only found on Karpathos, and are of a genuine archaic type. Very few of them can write or read, and anyone that does so is honored at once with the title of Diakos, or deacon, and is a person of great importance at the assemblies, for he it is who keeps the minutes, and can write down pretty nearly what he pleases, sitting cross-legged, with the inkstand on the ground before him. By the stream which flows down a narrow valley from Olympus to the sea, great reeds grow which are often used for the ceilings of their flat-roofed houses and for hedges. A peasant housewife of Olympus, who wishes to carry a light from one house to another, will put the embers into one of these reeds to prevent it being extinguished. Amongst the games played by the boys of Samos, I saw one which bore a curious resemblance to single-wicket cricket; they call it "ball." There are five players on each side; one side is in, the other fields; the one who is in defends his wicket, a stone erected on the grass, with his hand; when he hits the ball he does not run, but counts one when the ball is sent beyond a certain boundary line they have, if the ball hits the stone he is out. In their medical lore, the Greek peasants of the present day retain a close resemblance to their ancestors. Various quacks and charms were held as secrets in families, and known to old women only, who performed them, and it is precisely the same now. Old witch-like women are the recognised village doctors; they pretend to drive out diseases, by muttering incantations, or by passes with a siekle, the point of which has been dipped in honey. Sudden illnesses, especially epilepsy, "the sacred disease of the ancients," are attributed to the direct influence of the devil, and the usual cure for these is to burn incense morning and evening at cross roads, which ceremony must be performed for forty days, and concluded by a priest reading an "office," while the sufferer must wear the priest's sacred girdle. Many believe that the devil can be propitiated by lighting a candle to his honor in church. The idea is prevalent that if you light a candle to the devil, the demons of the lower air will be so much astonished at the unexpected compliment, that they will hasten to perform the behests of the lighter. For a similar reason, doubtless, in many places the devil is called "the good man" for the same love of euphemisms is exhibited now-a-days that gave the name of Eumenides to the Furies. Many unpleasant diseases bear euphemistic names.—*Fortnightly Review.*

DOINGS AT PORT HOOD.

To the Editor of the Critic:—

DEAR SIR,—Items of general public interest are a very scarce commodity in this part of the Province just now. We had a long visit from the cruiser *Acalia* last week; but owing to the fact that during the whole of the time she was in, heavy North-west gales prevailed, none of our citizens were able to take advantage of this opportunity for inspecting the flag ship of the Canadian navy. The *Conrod* also looked in on us on Saturday, but left again almost immediately. They are keeping their eyes open on the large fleet of American schooners which is hovering about the coast, on the watch for the enormous schools of mackerel that have just struck in, seemingly preferring Canadian waters to the high seas. Reports of some very large catches have reached us lately; during the past week, a schooner owned in Port Hawkesbury captured 165 barrels at one time, while another succeeded in seining 120 barrels. I was told the other day of an American who had at one scoop landed 225 barrels, but this story sounds almost too fishy for me. Still, there is no doubt about it; the fish have struck in in unusually large quantities; and if the run will only continue for a while, and the weather remain favorable, our fishermen may yet be able to make up for the poor catch of the earlier part of the season. A great deal of interest is being manifested in the coming Term of the Supreme Court here. There are three criminal cases to be tried, including one case of homicide; while among the "Civics," the excitement culminates in the case of Cameron and McDonald, which is an action for slander, the defendant being the Parish Priest at Mabou. A great deal of hay and grain is still out, the weather for the past three weeks having been very unfavorable for harvesting. The County Exhibition, to be held at Mabou on the 13th and 14th inst., promises to be a great success, everybody seeming determined to do his best towards ensuring this end. Municipal Elections are already a common topic of conversation; the general opinion expressed being one of dissatisfaction with the working of the County Incorporation Act.—MONE ANON.

OUR COSY CORNER.

TOMATO SOUP.—Take four medium-size tomatoes, cut them in halves and remove the pips, put the tomatoes in a saucepan with a bundle of sweet herbs, an onion stuck with three or four cloves, some allspice, whole pepper, and a little salt; just cover with water, place the saucepan on a gentle fire, stirring the contents occasionally. When the tomatoes are thoroughly cooked turn them out in a hair-sieve, remove the onion and sweet herbs; work the tomatoes through the sieve until nothing remains on the top but the skins. Have a quart of plain stock boiling hot, stir the tomato-pulp into it and remove the saucepan from the fire; stir in the yolk of an egg beaten with a little water and strained; serve with toasted sippets.

CHILD'S UNTEARABLE SCRAP BOOK.—Take for the foundation brown Holland and bind each leaf with a cross-way piece of calico of a different tone. Paste on the pictures with paste mixed with a little glue, which makes them stronger, pass a cool iron over them at once as it flattens them without much trouble. Make the outside of a double piece of red calico, pasting borderings round the edge and a frontis piece picture in the centre with the initials or monogram of the child if possible. It is best to do each page separately and then bind it together before putting on the cover.

Hanging pincushions of plush or velvet with a flat surface, on which a watch can be hung, by means of a large gilt hook sewn strongly on are useful as well as pretty.

Danube blue will be one of the favorite new shades the coming season.

Very large wooden beads, highly polished, are used as a finish for short wraps and the front of jackets. These wooden beads are much lighter than jet, and quite as effective.

Fancy hair pins are very much in vogue. Rubber and tortoiseshell, having rhino stone headings in crescent, star, and other fancy shapes.

The making of paper flowers is a fashionable fancy just now, and some of them are very artistic.

Full vests are the distinguishing feature of dresses for young girls this season. These vests may be developed in dresses of any style or fabric because of their adaptability to soft, contrasting goods.

Long overdresses with scant drapery are trimmed with large buttons, or with disks of passementerie, or braid.

TAPIOCA.

The additional acreage that has been brought under cultivation for tapioca in Penang, Singapore, Sumatra, and on the west and east coast of peninsula of Malacca to Sarawak, Labuan, Borneo, and various other islands, has tended of late years to lower the market price. The Chinese demand for wild government lands for the purpose of growing the root has been large in the Malacca provinces. European planters in the Straits settlements are extensively engaged in the culture. In preparing the product for market, where grown, whether as flake, pearl, or barley, there is required a liberal supply of clear spring water, large vats, pans, and heating and roasting arrangements. On very good land it takes from fifteen or eighteen months before the roots sufficiently mature to furnish market supplies. The marrow of the root much resembles in hue and form the chestnut when its outer integuments are removed; it is, however, fattier, having more gluten and less sugar. The bleaching of tapioca to suit the taste of consumers really detracts from the strength.

COMMERCIAL.

The state of trade has been fairly active as regards volume. Evidently a good, healthy business is doing. The points that have a bearing on trade matters are favorable and the fall business that has now fairly set in is entirely satisfactory. Halifax, however, is heavily handicapped by rents and taxes, so that outside towns are usurping much of the trade in the wholesale line that should be hers.

Truro, Windsor and Kentville all have wholesale houses who not only import direct but also have travellers out who undersell those representing Halifax, and in some cases have been able to place their wares in the hands of city retailers at lower rates than they were purchasable from city men. Of course the profits in such transactions must be very small, but the mere fact that the legitimate business of Halifax houses is being diverted to those of country towns furnishes food for reflection.

The Adams line of omnibusses has been sold out to the horse railway company, which will run them on the old routes till their cars begin to run, when the busses will be utilized in making connections between the cars and intending passengers from districts where the tracks do not go.

Although large catches of fish have been made at the various bays and coves adjacent to Halifax, it appears that the prices obtained for them have been barely remunerative—especially for small fish. One lot of mackerel cost the shipper \$1 per hundred in cash on the spot, which, when sent to Boston, only realized the same money, leaving the speculator to pay the expenses of two transportations, packing in ice, commissions, etc. Not a profitable transaction, certainly.

DRY GOODS.—The wholesale dealers report a fair amount of orders and generally prompt payments. Retailers find business brisk and feel cheerful. The volume of trade in this line is larger than ever before and the prospects for a continuance are excellent.

IRON AND HARDWARE.—A good, steady business is doing in this line, but there is no quotable change in prices. The nail and horse-shoe departments have been quite lively and the demand has fully kept pace with the supply.

BREADSTUFFS.—The markets continue to be dull and depressed on both sides of "the ditch." The crops have nowhere—except in some portions of France—turned out to be below the average, and the greater part of the United States have been abnormally large. The fact is that, just now, the world produces more wheat and corn than its people can consume on a peace footing. Prices must, therefore, rule low.

PROVISIONS.—Following wheat and corn, pork and beef rule low. Manipulators have made desperate efforts to keep pork up, but without practical avail. The tendency is decidedly downwards. The general effect is beneficial to the masses, for when foodstuffs are low hunger as a factor of human existence is eliminated.

TEA AND COFFEE.—The demand has been good for tea and the movement into consumptive channels has been well kept up. Prices are unchanged. Coffee is firm with a good demand. The market is said to be