

almost always found him industrious, intelligent, honest, frugal, patriotic, and God-fearing—noble qualities for American citizenship. If he has not risen to the highest which he is capable of reaching, and if he does not exert his influence for the best in all directions, it is not due to the fact that he is not willing to do it, but because he could not rise much higher than the highest marked out for him by the native citizens, or because he could not quite comprehend that this money-making, materialistic Yankee had ideals which he was trying honestly to realize.

If we misjudge the German, he misjudges the American and rates him much lower than he deserves; and this has robbed him of a higher standard for himself and made him exaggerate our National weaknesses, and in imitating them has created a peculiar combination of character which does scant justice to himself or to his American neighbor. When he revisits his Fatherland, these weaknesses manifest themselves most, and then his adopted Fatherland comes in for a good share of the blame for his lack of manners. The following incident illustrates this point. In

the lobby of a fashionable hotel in Berlin a German-American of this type was expectorating tobacco-juice with the exactness and frequency of an adept. To a German who called his attention to this nuisance, he replied, "Everybody does that in America." He needs to know the American and value him as he deserves, and he ought to know that which he does not seem to, that the making of money is to the true American, after all, not the greatest of achievements; that the hypocrisy with which he charges him in his citizen's life is less frequent than he thinks it is, and that the National ideal is slowly but surely gaining ascendancy. He ought also to know that, more than any other foreigner, he has impressed upon us both his strength and his weakness. It is for us to find out what this strength is and to appropriate it more and it is for him to grow conscious of his weakness and eliminate it from his social life, that he may become indeed one of the strongest pillars of this Republic, which already, like the coming Kingdom, is made up of every nation and kindred and tribe and people under heaven.

The Passing of the County Court

By Katharine P. Woods

AN interesting result of the adoption of the new Virginia Constitution will be the passing of the monthly meeting of the County Court. From the time when the first four counties were set aside, in 1634, until now, the affairs of each of Virginia's counties have been administered by the county officials; but the new Constitution groups two or three counties into a single district, under the jurisdiction of one court, with one judge to each district, thus reducing to something like one-third the old list of courts and officials, numbering a good round hundred.

But the very restriction of the area over which each of the former courts held sway made it a center of social and political life to the community in which it was held; and not only to the immediate neighborhood, for its influence spread far beyond the circle of its legal jurisdiction.

On Court Day the debtor sought his

creditor, and the collector looked carefully after his bills; the aspirant for political honors found his readiest audience; and every news item, every jest, and the poorest fragment of gossip found a quick market and a steady rise in value. It was the great monthly event in the life of every man, from the day when, as a small boy, he first made one of the under-foot world upon the green, until he became "one of our most prominent citizens, sir," whose word on whatever topic "carried weight," like John Gilpin. It was by that time a new generation that hung about the groups of men, listened eagerly to the news of the day, drank in and remembered their terms of barter, or turned aside to hearken, awed and agape, to the stentorian and occult cry, "Oyez, oyez, Tom Brown, come into court!" Tom Brown might go, and those immediately interested in his case might follow; the rest of the world stayed outside—kaleidoscopically

shifting and changing; seeking far corners for confidences, friendly or hostile; examining the points of rival horseflesh; selling, bartering, laughing, threatening, and slapping on the back. Here agricultural affairs were best understood, because most thoroughly canvassed—the condition of the crops, the merits of favorite fertilizers, the state of the market, the cost of transportation, and the practical value of the new weather maps and bulletins.

With a curious analogy to the old Indian method of naming the months, though with no traceable connection, some of these court sessions received names that carry with them a vivid touch of local color. Thus, the March court day in a certain eastern county, at which time seed

potatoes are a staple of sale, is known as Sweet-potato Court; others are Hog Court and Horse Court; and greatest of all is the midsummer festival, Watermelon Court.

This is a view of things that are passing away. Two years in some localities, six months in others, will see the end. What will take its place? The people, hopeful as the majority are over the new order of things, are already beginning to ask themselves this question. The District Courts, alternating from county to county, are held too infrequently in any one locality to become in any wise social centers. Can farmers' institutes, or farmers' clubs, which have proved so helpful in other places, be made to flourish in Virginia?

A Scientific Study of Mont Pelée¹

By George Kennan

IN a large octavo volume of 335 pages, illustrated with photographs and maps, Professor Angelo Heilprin, President of the Geological Society of Philadelphia, has given to the public the results of a long and careful study of the Martinique volcano, and a discussion, from a scientific point of view, of the phenomena that it has exhibited since it became active in April, 1902. Although a number of scientists, including Russell, Hill, Jaggar, and Hovey, have written brief reports or magazine articles upon Mont Pelée, Mr. Heilprin is the first professional geologist who has published a book upon the subject; and inasmuch as he has made two separate trips to Martinique, and has had more time for observation, reflection, and study than any of his predecessors in this field, we may fairly look to him for a fuller statement of the facts and a more careful consideration of the problems involved than we have yet had from competent scientific authority.

A glance at the chapter headings of the book shows that its subject matter may be divided into two parts. The first two hundred pages describe the author's visit to Martinique in May, 1902, and give a

detailed account of the geography and topography of Mont Pelée; of the destruction of St. Pierre; and of the volcanic phenomena observed by himself or others between April 25 and June 6. The second part contains a record of personal experience in a later visit to the island; brings the history of the volcano up to last September; and discusses the eruptions, their causes, and their effects, in the light of all the observations hitherto made and all the information thus far obtainable. In the first half of the volume there is little that is new, or that imperatively demands notice. The story of the catastrophe of May 8 is retold, with a few additional details; new translations are given of Vicar-General Parel's letter and the last articles on the volcano that appeared in the St. Pierre newspaper "Les Colonies;" and the author's account of his first two ascents of Mont Pelée, originally published in "McClure's Magazine," is reproduced with some amplification and amendment suggested by later experience; but, with the exception of Chapter X., in which the destruction of St. Pierre is compared with that of Pompeii, the first two hundred pages contain little of importance that is wholly new.

In the second part of the book, however, Professor Heilprin has given us an extremely interesting account of the dis-

¹ *Mont Pelée and the Tragedy of Martinique*. By Angelo Heilprin. Illustrated. The J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia.