

CHAPTER XI.

MARSEILLES TO THE ITALIAN FRONTIER, BY TOULON,
(HYÈRES), CANNES, NICE, MONACO, MONTE-CARLO,
AND MENTONE. IN VAR AND LES ALPES-MARI-
TIMES.

ON this route it will be seen how all the life of Provence is on the seashore: the inland towns are asleep. The hillsides, after leaving Marseilles, seem powdered with bastides.

'Les Provençaux sont fiers de leurs bastides; il n'y a vraiment pas de quoi: prétention et misère, c'est le caractère de toutes ces maisons. La bastide a de plus un agrément remarquable, c'est que, sous un ciel généralement pur et sur un sol désastreusement sec, elle est une éponge salpêtrée qui trouve moyen de ne jamais sécher.'—*George Sand.*

7 k. *La Pomme.* Close to this, at *S. Dominique*, is the bastide of *Casaulx*, which belonged to the family of Clary, of which one daughter married Bernadotte, the other Joseph Bonaparte.

12 k. *S. Menet*, the station for the sulphuric baths of *Camoins*. To the N.E. is seen *Mont Garlaban*, which serves as a thermometer to the district: when its top is lost in mist, it will rain, according to the distich:—

'Garlaban a son capeou
Pren ton sa, saouve ti leou.'

17 k. *Aubagne.* A fountain opposite the Hôtel de Ville commemorates the Abbé Barthélemy, author of the *Voyage du Jeune Anacharsis en Grèce*. The outline of the mountain background is very striking.

8 k. E. is the Cistercian *Abbey of S. Pons*, founded 1205, and ruined xv. c. 5 k. E. is the rich valley of *Gemenos*.

'O riant Gemenos, ô vallon fortuné,
J'ai revu ton coteau de pampres couronné,
Que la figue chérit, que l'olive idolâtre,
Étendre en verts gradins son riche amphithéâtre.'
Délille, 'L'Homme des Champs.'

[Hence there is a branch line to Aix. See ch. x.]

27 k. *Cassis*, the ancient Carsicis Portus. The town is 3 k. S.S.W. of the station, which is on a bare rocky height. As the train descends there is a view of the bay of—

37 k. *La Ciotat.* The town, 4 k. S.W. of the line (at the foot of the *Bec de l'Aigle*), which possesses the workshops of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, was founded 1851. A little N. of the station is *Ceyreste*, the ancient Cezerista. The ramparts of the Roman settlement remain. Outside the village is a covered fountain, supposed to be of Greek origin.

44 k. *S. Cyr.*

4 k. N.E. of the town is the rock-built *Cadière*, with a double line of fortifications surrounding its ruined castle of xi. c. The church is xvi. c.

The line makes a great curve to the S. and passes a tunnel before descending into the bay of *Bandol*.

58 k. *Ollioules-S.-Nazaire.* *Ollioules*, $3\frac{1}{2}$ k. N.E., is situated amid orange-groves at the foot of precipitous rocks. The views to the l. of the line are very striking.