

image (said still to exist in the neighbourhood), has been solemnly chosen by the town of Nice as its special patroness and protectress, and attracts vast pilgrimages, especially on Trinity Sunday, when numbers of crippled persons are brought hither in the hope of a miracle.

'The original image is said to have been discovered by a young man of Ventimiglia, who went to visit his sister at Turbia. While staying with her, he went out shooting in the neighbourhood. When he reached the hill of Laghetto, not far from an old wall, upon which a figure of the Virgin was painted in a niche, he saw a bird resting amongst the bramble leaves, and shot it dead. But on coming nearer he was horrified to see that the ball had struck the painted Virgin on the breast, whence blood was issuing. Hurrying back to his family, he narrated his adventure, and they decided to build a chapel on the spot in expiation of his unintentional sacrilege.

'In 1652, when nothing remained of this chapel, except its worm-eaten image, Hyacinthe Casanova, a native of Monaco, who believed that his recovery from dangerous illness was due to the intercession of the Virgin, urged the erection of the present chapel, to which the image, which is now shown, was presented by Antonio Fighiera, a lawyer of Nice, in whose family it had long been venerated. From this time the reputed miracles of Laghetto increased to such a degree that, in 1683, even the bishop of Nice refused to believe in them, and caused the church to be shut up; but after a public examination he was induced to re-open it, when the image underwent a solemn coronation. . . . The princes and princesses of Savoy have always been indefatigable in their pilgrimages to Laghetto, especially King Charles Emmanuel II., who, having placed his sick child under the protection of this particular image, presented it, when the child recovered, with a golden baby of the size and weight of his own. This, with all the other treasures of the shrine, was carried off in 1792 by the French, who plundered and destroyed everything except the image itself, which had been smuggled away before their arrival to La Turbia. It remained there till 1802, when it was brought back with a procession in great pomp.'—*A Winter at Mentone.*

In front of the convent are two inscriptions; the first upon the pedestal of the fountain, which may be translated—

'Pilgrim, you find here two streams; one descends from heaven, the other from the top of the mountains. The first is a treasure which the Virgin distributes to the piety of the faithful, the second has been brought here by the people of Nice; drink of both, if you thirst for both. A.D. 1654.'

The other inscription commemorates a grand scene of Italian history, when—in this lonely valley, amid these desolate mountains—Charles Albert, the beloved of his people, for the preservation of his honour and his faith, took leave of his court, his crown, and the world.

'Here, on the morning of the 26th of March, 1849, Charles Albert, after leaving the fatal field of Novara, rested, an unknown exile. Here, having devoutly confessed, and at the table of Jesus refreshed his weary spirit, he renewed the sacrifice of his affections and sorrows. Here, he forgave his injuries, grieved for the common misfortunes, and, abandoning Italy in person, commended its destinies to the patronage of the Virgin Mother.'

The name of Laghetto is derived from the fact that once when the torrent was unusually swollen by the melting of the mountain snows, the fall of a large rock so effectually checked its progress to the sea, that the whole valley became a lake.

From *Mont-Agel* (1,149 mètr.) on the N.E. of Turbia there is a very fine view. Turbia is the nearest point on any high-road from which to reach Peglia (see later), and Peglione (see p. 544).

245 k. *Roquebrune* (Roccabruna), see p. 571. The railway skirts the olive-wood of the Cap S. Martin, and crosses the torrents of Gorbio and Borrigo to—

249 k. *Menton* (Mentone).

English doctors—seldom acquainted with the place—are apt to recommend the Western Bay as more bracing, but it is exposed to mistral and dust, and its shabby suburbs have none of the beauty of the Eastern Bay.