

railway, a number of flint weapons and bones of wild animals have been discovered.

At the angle of the road, beyond the Pont S. Louis, is the villa of Dr. Bennet, with a delightful garden, kindly and frequently thrown open to the public. At the end of the next promontory, on the r., is the entrance to the villa of *La Murtola* (Mr. Hanbury), formerly called Palazzo Orenga, from the noble Genoese family by whom it was built. Its gardens, to which visitors are admitted by order,¹ are more beautiful than anything out of the *Arabian Nights*, exquisite alike in situation, in their glorious sea and mountain views, and in the unrivalled collection of plants which makes La Murtola the most important private garden in Europe.

On the opposite side of the road is the village of *San Mauro*, or *Murtola*, with a gaily-painted church tower, which forms an attractive foreground to the sea view with its rocky promontories.

Amongst the many excursions round Mentone, we may mention, beginning from the W. :

1. The *Cape S. Martin*, $4\frac{1}{2}$ k. Leaving Mentone by the Nice road, and crossing the torrents Carrei and Borrigo, on the r. are the chapel of *La Madone*, and the gardens which once belonged to the Prince of Monaco, and which contain magnificent umbrella pines. Just beyond was *Carnoles*, a villa of the Grimaldi princes. A number of fragments of Roman masonry have been found near this and built into a modern arch. Crossing the Ponte del Unione, we turn to the l. and reach, near the sea, a path which was part of the old Cornice highway. A circular space in the wood marks the site of 'the Aristocrats' Tree' where the old royalist society of Mentone used to meet, hewn down by the republicans. The cape itself is a reef of jagged black rocks,

¹ On days certified in the Mentone hotels.

overgrown with samphire, and washed from either side of the bay by grand waves, which break upon their sharp edges, in mountains of foam, with a roar like that of cannon.

'The Cape S. Martin is the centre of the old principality, and the whole of the tiny kingdom of the Grimaldi may be seen from it, guarded in front by the sea and behind by the mountains. But the view extends on either side, far beyond the limits of the State: on the l., Mentone is seen through the tall pines, its houses rising terrace-like to the fine tower of its church; beyond this is Ventimiglia with its frontier castle on a projecting rock, while the same mountain chain ends in the houses and church of Bordighera, white against the deep blue sky. On the r. is Turbia, with its Trophæa Augusti, throned high above the mountains, and, beyond a succession of little sandy coves and corubacled promontories, Monte Carlo, and the rock-built town of Monaco, with its fine palace and hanging gardens nestling at the foot of the great purple rock of the Tête du Chien. Behind, above the cape itself, covered with pines or with olives, some of which are declared to date from Roman times, rise the peaks of Mont Garillon and Mont Baudon, and the castle of S. Agnèse.'—*'A Winter at Mentone.'*

The greater part of the promontory is now enclosed. In the centre of its beautiful woods is the ruined *Convent of S. Martin*, which gave it a name. When the Saracens were attacking the Ligurian coast, the abbess of this convent made the people of Roccabruna promise to come to the rescue of her nuns at first sound of the convent bell. But on the next night, she could not resist ringing the bell, and did so on three occasions, to test their fidelity. The people of Roccabruna obeyed the summons, and returned very much insulted, and ill-compensated by the blessing of the abbess for the loss of their night's rest. On the fourth time the bell rang, no one took any notice. At dawn the convent was a smoking ruin, and the nuns all carried off by the Saracens.

2. *Roccabruna*, 5 k. Two ways lead hither. It is best to follow the Nice road to the little town, the third city of the old principality, originally a stronghold of the Lascaris, by whom it was sold to Charles Grimaldi in 1353. The old town, with its