

open air, with white handkerchiefs or veils upon their heads and lighted candles in their hands. Visitors should return to Mentone by the ridge and forest-chapel of *S. Lucia*, one of the most beautiful spots in the district.

6. *Peglia*. This is a long excursion, and Mentone should be left at 7 a.m. The path is available for donkeys the whole way.



PEGLIA.

If Peglione be visited on the same day, the excursion should be deferred till spring. The path is the same as that of the last excursion as far as *S. Agnèse*, beyond this it turns to the l. and continues to wind in the same direction.

'The scenery is wild and arid in the extreme, the desolate hills covered with loose stones, and with scarcely a vestige of vegetation to vary their dead brown, which melts into deep purple in the more distant ranges, while above and beyond snowy Alps rise ghost-like against the sky. 'All is bleakest

solitude till, after about two hours' walk, on turning a corner, a magnificent view rewards us. In the distance is the sea, with the further islands of Hyères and the nearer of Cannes. Beyond the jagged range of Esterel, other capes and promontories, un-seen from below, extend their pale forms across the distance; beneath, the mountains are broken into a hundred deep chasms and purple ravines, while the path to Peglia winds serpent-like at the foot of gigantic precipices. A short distance beyond this, on turning a corner by a ruined chapel, the town of Peglia itself is seen, closed in by rugged rocks, its grim grey church standing like a sentinel before the groups of brown houses sleeping in a purple haze, backed by the sunlit sea.

'The curious church is paved by the solid rock, and many of its pillars are masses of rock cut in their own place into huge square blocks. The gigantic font, formed from a single piece of porphyry, and the primitive granite holy-water basins, are curious. Part of the old palace of the Lascaris is now an *Hôtel de Ville*. One may return to Mentone by a steeper but much shorter path, which descends upon Gorbio.'

7. *The Annunziata*, 3 k. The path turns to the l. from the Sospello road, a little way out of the town. Seven station-chapels rise in rich moulding colour amongst the wormwood and lavender on the tufa rocks. The deserted monastery crowns the top of the hill, haunted, say the natives, by its seven last monks, whose lean faces are seen at night pressed against the grated windows. Like all the other wayside chapels in the district, it is the burial-place of some of the old families.

8. *The Gourg dell' Ora and Castiglione*. The new road to Sospello admits of driving in this direction. The road follows the pleasant valley between the hills of the Annunziata and Castellare. On the l. a mill of three storeys is that where the hated Honorius V. of Monaco ground the bad flour, with which, under pain of enormous fines, he forced his subjects to nourish themselves. The road ascends, from oranges and lemons, to olives, then to pines. Soon after passing (6 k.) the church of *Monti*, a path diverges on the r. to Castellare, passing, at no great distance from the road, the rocky ravine of *Gourg dell' Ora*, where the