

reached on foot) is the *Rochers des Billières*, in the pine-forest behind the Croix des Gardes, which surmounts a hill to the W. of the town (above the Hôtel Bellevue), the lower slopes of which are covered with the precious cassia plant, bearing flowers which sell for from 6 fr. to 20 fr. a kilo.

The pleasantest excursion by carriage from Cannes is that to (9 k.) *Napoule*, on the site of the ancient Epulia, with remains of a xiv. c. castle of the Comtes de Villeneuve (spoilt by a modern villa). Above is the hill of *S. Peyré*, with a ruined castle and chapel. Beyond (11 k. from Cannes), is *Théoule*, a picturesque little harbour, to which steamers (3 fr. with return) ply daily from Cannes.

Another drive on the W. of Cannes is that to (12 k.) *Auribeau*. Its church contains a xv. c. reliquary of S. Honorat, and it is prettily situated above the gorge of the Siagne, but a Provençal distich says—

'Auribeau sur Siagne
Bourdol dans les bois,
Gourdon sur le Loup,
Sont trois mauvais endroits.'

Before reaching Auribeau, pedestrians may follow a path along the bank of the Siagne to the foot of the hill which is crowned by the village. There is a pleasant route to Grasse from Auribeau by the chapel of *Notre Dame de Valcluse*.

Beyond the northern suburb of Cannet, where a machicolated tower is known as *La Tour du Brigand*, an excursion of 14 k. may be made to the hill of *Mougins*, a once fortified village, retaining one of its gateways, and to the Chapel of *Notre Dame de Vie*, approached by an avenue of cypresses. The pleasant villa of *Castellaras* occupies the site of an ancient oppidum, and 2 k. beyond it is the pretty village of *Valbonne*. 4 k. further we may find the sanctuary of *Notre Dame de Villebrun*.

On the E. side of the town, a pleasant walk or drive by the *Promenade de la Californie* and the *Chapelle S. Antoine* (whence there is a beautiful mountain view), or a drive from the road to the Golfe Juan, leads to (8 k.) *Vallauris* (Vallis Aurea), where the

admirable pottery-works of M. Clément Massier are worth visiting. The place has been famous for its pottery even from Roman times. In the xi. c., Vallauris became the property of the monastery of the Lérins, and its abbots built a palace here, to which they retired in the great heat; the chapel remains, now used as an oil-mill. Vallauris may also be reached by omnibus (1 fr.) either from Cannes or from the station of the Golfe-Juan.

But the excursion most worth making (in calm weather) is that to the *Îles des Lérins*, to which steamers run several times daily from Cannes (1 fr. to S. Marguerite, with return: 1 fr. 50 c. to S. Honorat, with return).

It is a passage of 20 min. to the *Île S. Marguerite*, the ancient Lero, which once contained a temple to the demi-god Lero, demolished by S. Honorat. The monks of S. Honorat gave up the island in 1617 to the Duc de Chevreuse, who ceded it in the following year to the Duc de Guise, by whom it was given to Jean de Bellon, one of his followers. Afterwards Richelieu took possession of it in the name of the king, and built a fortress, which was scarcely finished before it was taken by the Spaniards, who were only expelled after a two years' siege. This fortress became (Dec. 20, 1873) the prison of Marshal Bazaine, sentenced for twenty years, though he contrived to escape Aug. 10, 1874. The castle is shown with an order, but contains nothing of interest except the prison occupied by the 'man with the iron mask' under Louis XIV.

'Le mur est d'une solidité extraordinaire, ayant près de douze pieds d'épaisseur; en outre trois fortes grillés de fer garnissent la fenêtre et rendent impossible toute communication avec l'extérieur. Deux portes couvertes de clous et d'énormes barres de fer ne s'ouvriraient que devant le gouverneur du château, et ce n'était que par les appartemens de cet officier que l'on pouvait parvenir à la chambre du prisonnier. Un corridor étroit, muré à chaque extrémité, servait de promenade: au fond on avait accommodé un petit autel où quelquefois un prêtre lui disait la messe. À côté de sa cellule, une autre renfermait son domestique qui, plus heureux que lui, mourût dans l'île après quelques années de détention.'—*Prosper Mérimée*.

Local legend describes S. Marguerite as having been the sister