

Alexander, saying, 'Marry my brother ; he is true as crystal, and I wish it,' and, as 'Marie Feodorowna' she became Empress of Russia.

Of the excursions round Nice—

1. *Villefranche* (Villafranca), with a station on the railway, is reached most pleasantly by the road which, passing the port, skirts the promontory of *Montboron*, by the sea. The old fishing



VILLAFRANCA.

town, with its martello tower, its brown roofs, interspersed by domes of churches and convents, and here and there a palm-tree, waving above the crumbling houses, has a very eastern aspect. In the narrow streets, heaps of oranges, dates, figs, and plums, are piled up for sale on either side of the broad sunny pavement. Below is the quay, where the deep blue sea washes up among yellow rocks under the gaily-painted houses, while a number of boats ply to and fro to carry visitors to the large men-of-war which frequently lie at anchor in the harbour.

To the E. of Villafranca, by the new road to Monaco, or by sea (4 k.), or rail from Nice, is the peninsula of *Beaulieu*, with a number of pleasantly situated houses in a very warm situation sheltered by the rocks of the *Petite-Affrique*. A pleasant road along the sea leads to *S. Jean*, whence it is a short distance further to the *Presqu'île S. Hospice*, on whose eastern point is a ruined fort, built by Victor Amadeus I., and destroyed in 1706 by Marshal Berwick. Near this is the ruined castle of *S. Hospice*, an anchorite of the VI. c., who prophesied the victories of the Lombards ('*Venient in Galliam Longobardi et vastabunt civitates septem.*')

2. *Cimies* (Hotel: *Grand*. Omnibus, 50 c. from 34 Boulevard du Pont Neuf), reached either by turning r. from Carabacel at the end of the Rue Gioffredo, or turning l. near the end of the old town from the road along the Paillon. The former route traverses the small remains of the *Roman Amphitheatre*, called by the natives 'Il tino delle fade,' or the fairies' bath. A short distance beyond this is a Franciscan *Convent*, in front of which some noble cork-trees overshadow a crucifix bearing the six-winged seraphin which appeared to *S. Francis of Assisi*. In the church are pictures by Ludovico Bréa. The grounds of the *Villa Garin* contain some small Roman remains. A subterranean passage is said to extend under the Paillon from hence to the little chapel of *S. Roch* on *Mont Vinaigrier*. In this passage the natives say that the devil sits at a table, with a golden horn upon it, whilst a golden goat and a golden kid stand by his side ; for one half-hour in the day the devil sleeps, and if, during that half-hour, anyone had the courage to go down, they might carry off the golden goat and the golden kid in safety, and would be enriched for life.

Near the foot of the *Cimies* hill, on the *Paillon* side, a little *Chapel* on a rock marks the spot where *S. Pons*, bishop of *Cimies*, is said to have been beheaded in 261. The buildings of the *Abbey of S. Pons*, founded 775, are modern.

3. N. of *Nice*. Close to *S. Étienne*, beyond the railway station, on the l. is the picturesque villa of *Péol*, which belonged to the great *Lascaris* family, of whom *Paul Lascaris de Castellane*, *Bailli de Manosque*, was *Grand Master* of the *Order of Malta* from 1636-57, and of which family the *Order* numbered thirteen members.