

*S. Martin* or *il Boschetto* to the palace. The rocky terraces are lined with many kinds of aloes, some of which raise their golden stems crowned by masses of flower, as high as the tops of the cypresses, which are mingled with them. The wild luxuriance of euphorbia, cactus, and prickly pear, not content with covering the heights, overruns the walls and fills every crevice of the precipitous cliffs down to the very edge of the sea. Splendid geraniums and a hundred other flowers fringe the walks, while here and there a palm-tree raises its umbrella of delicate foliage into the blue sky. Joining the promenade is the *Convent of the Visitation*, founded 1663, by Prince Louis and his wife Charlotte de Gramont.

Until the beginning of XIII. c. Monaco was only a desolate rock, at the foot of which, ships, coasting along the shores of Liguria and Provence, were wont to seek a refuge in the *Portus Herculis*.

According to Dionysius of Halicarnassus, and other writers, Hercules built a temple here to his own honour after a victory over the ancient Ligurian inhabitants of the territory ('*Monoeçi similiter arcum et portum ad perennem suam memoriam consecravit*'), which temple was served by a single priest or monk (*monachus*), whence some derive the name of Monaco. Others believe that the name was due to the Phocians, who gave their temple the distinctive title of *μόνος οἶκος*. Long, however, before the city of Monaco existed, the ancient *Portus Herculis* at its foot was known and valued. Here Augustus Caesar embarked for Genoa, on his way to Rome, after having set up his victorious trophies at La Turbia—'*Aggeribus socer Alpinis atque arce Monoeci descendens.*' The neighbourhood of the port became the scene of combats between Otho and Vitellius, and there Fabius Valens, a general of Vitellius, landed the troops intended for the support of Marius Maturius, against a Gallic rebellion. In 286 the emperor Maximin returned by this way from his expedition against the Bogandes, a fact recorded by

Claudius in the words—'*In modo Galliae oppida illustraveras; jam summas arces Monoeci Herculis praeteribas.*'

The scattered Ligurian villages, which occupied these shores, were constantly pillaged and destroyed by the Saracens, who in 814 took possession of the heights of Eza, Turbia, and *S. Agnèse*, whence they descended from their mountain castles to ravage the neighbourhood, the *Portus Monoeci* itself falling



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entirely into their hands, and lying utterly waste during the IV. c., V. c., and VI. c. At length, amongst the Christian champions who appeared to do battle in their behalf was a noble knight of Genoa, called Gibellino Grimaldi, who, after a great victory over the Saracens, was welcomed as a deliverer by the inhabitants, and received the district fringing this beautiful gulf, as the reward of his valour. This was the beginning of the Grimaldi rule, and the first cause of the Genoese power in Monaco. Afterwards, all the land of the Ligurian Riviera, from Monaco to Porto