

foliage and rich-hued blossoms of the South, while pretty villages salute us from various points of vantage on the neighbouring heights, and a merry peal of bells from more than one church-tower sounds like a pæan of rejoicing over such a marvellously beautiful situation and prospect.

The situation of Locarno is exceedingly picturesque and the climate mild. As though seeking shelter from the north wind, it nestles close to the mountain which rises precipitously above it, and basks in the sunshine of a south-easterly aspect. This portion of the shore, indeed, may be compared to a fruit-tree planted



CAFE, LOCARNO.

against the sunny side of a house, where its produce will reach perfection; for though cold winds whistle over the roof, and frosts nip the plants growing behind the house, in front the sun shines, and his light and warmth make all things flourish.

The brief winter—almost free from snow—during which Locarno and its environs form a green oasis in the snowy landscape of the mountains, is followed by an early spring. In March the apricot, peach and almond-trees blossom, and a few weeks later, in April, the camellias adorning every garden unfold their magnificent wax-like red and white flowers. The orange and lemon trees, which are protected during the winter by only a light roof, are uncovered, the oleanders and pomegranates expand