

Obiter Dicta

THE contrast between the winter of England and that of the Riviera, is made very striking to a tourist, by the shortness of the journey from London to the Mediterranean coast. In thirty hours after taking leave of the London fog, the traveller may rejoice in a new world of sunshine and flowers, for he has reached "the land where the citron-trees bloom." Partial nature, lover of extremes, has showered tokens of her favor on the Riviera, and has encircled the glowing landscape with a sky that resembles a blue silk tent. The olive woods and the grape-vines on the hills, with deep green colouring, form the background of the picture. Orange and lemon groves extend, in long, bright, yellow lines, from the olive woods to the red rocks on the beach, that is washed by the blue, tideless Mediterranean. The brilliancy of the landscape is increased by roads of dazzling whiteness, and roofs of vivid red. Outdoor occupations are very attractive, and the tanned faces of the peasants tell the tale of their life among the vineyards and mountains.

Close to the French and Italian frontier is La Mortola, a little Italian village by the sea. In this hamlet, an English merchant from Shanghai has built schools, and has benefited the villagers in so many other ways, that King Humbert has honored the Englishman with knighthood, and he is known as the Chevalier Thomas Hanbury. The knight had been still more highly honored by her Majesty the Queen, who from one of the kiosques of his exquisite gardens, sketched the Bay of Mentone.

Leaving the wonderful natural beauties of La Mortola, the Riviera railway, skirting the sea, passes through Bordighera. In the neighbourhood of this village the finest palms of Italy are found, and those used in Rome on Palm Sunday are sent from Bordighera. At