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## QUEEN VICTORIA AT MENTONE.

*By Zélia de Ladevèze.*

QUEEN VICTORIA spent several weeks in Mentone, France, some twelve or more years ago. The inhabitants still speak of her visit. She stayed at the *Châlet des Rosiers*, the property of an English couple who had already lent one of their summer residences, *Villa Clara* at Bavens, to Her Majesty.

The *Châlet* is pretty, indeed charming, but seems a very modest dwelling for a queen. As it is situated at *Garavan*, or East Bay, as English visitors call that side of Mentone, the old town, as you stand with the sea behind you, lies to the left with its many storied houses climbing up the hill. A more peaceful spot could not be found.

When the Queen arrived at *Garavan*, the train stopped at a temporary station that had been erected for the purpose just outside the garden of the villa. It was beautifully decorated with bunting, palm trees and rare plants.

The Princess Beatrice, who accompanied Her Majesty, was soon a familiar figure in the town. She went almost daily to the market to buy flowers and to the *Librairie Centrale* to select books. The proprietor of the Library, Monsieur Bertrand, to whom I am indebted for most of the photographs that illustrate this article, told me that she was very

simple in her ways; she used to talk to him most affably. She spoke French fluently but with a slight English accent. She would climb on a chair to choose the books herself and would have them taken to the *Châlet* by armfuls.

Prince Leopold, who was staying at the *Hôtel Bellevue*, not far from the Queen's villa, interested himself in pottery, and took lessons in modelling, as he again did (under the direction of Monsieur Clément Massier, of *Golfe Juan* fame), when living at Cannes later on.

The tradespeople, who supplied Her Majesty's household, were naturally very proud of the honour, and you may still see over some of the shops, the inscription, "*Fournisseur Breveté de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre.*"



MENTONE—THE GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION