

### THE GARDENS AT MONTE CARLO.

**M**ANY are the sins that have been committed in the laying out and building of American towns, but the greatest of all, perhaps, has been the neglect or defacement of their water-fronts. Whether the adjacent water is ocean or great river, lake or little stream, we seldom see its shores turned to the best advantage, and often they present a more deplorable aspect than any other part of the town. In New York tumbledown, malodorous, muddy wharfs, flanked by streets which are frequently pools of water, line a shore that ought to be encircled by well-built, well-kept piers, and even the precious little expanse of Battery Park is daily threatened with curtailment; in Boston the back yards of Beacon Street houses lie along the wide estuary where a stately, tree-bordered esplanade should



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have stretched; and the river or brook which intersects a country town is most often edged by rickety sheds or fringed with ragged weeds, and is spanned by bridges as perishable as they are ugly. Of late years public attention has, indeed, been directed to the subject of water-fronts, and much has been done to secure them, in the outskirts of great cities, against the disfigurement that has overtaken them in portions already built. The parks at Chicago have been laid out with a wise sense of the value of the lake-frontage. Boston has claimed for similar purposes certain stretches of the Back Bay Shore, and New York has constructed Riverside Drive and bought the water-front near Pelham. But there is need that more should be done in this direction and that we should learn from older countries the art of beautifying the water-fronts we are beginning at least to reserve. All foreign countries are full of examples of this art, whether it has been employed merely to dignify reaches of shore that must be put to commercial use or to create ornamental promenades and gardens. The quays at Antwerp

are as good in their more prosaic way as the Thames Embankment in London. The Elbe at Dresden is not defaced by the structures that line its banks, though they are not all terraced promenades, but include steamboat-landings, private grounds, hotels and restaurants. At Rouen the chief hotels look out on a river crowded with shipping, yet look on a scene devoid of squalor or architectural meanness. At Lyons the great stream rushes between close-pressed ranks of tall buildings, yet a fine drive runs by it in many places, and everywhere the shore is agreeable to look upon. At Prague there is a truly magnificent series of wide esplanades upon which some of the finest buildings in the city have been placed, and a succession of bridges where the newest wrought-iron span does not seem out of artistic keeping with the famous great stone bridge which, until some of its arches were swept away last summer, had stood intact since medieval times. And so one might pass from land to land and town to town, only to find that everywhere the water-front is valued and everywhere is intelligently treated, with parks or avenues if possible, and if not, at least with respectable buildings and cleanly shores.

The picture we give [above] shows a peculiarly charming treatment of a water-front. As possessing the only public gaming-house still open in Europe, Monaco would in any case attract a multitude of visitors. But its development would never have been so great, and it would never have drawn thousands of tourists who do not come for the sake of gaming, had its situation not been so marvelously beautiful. The town itself, and the promontory of Monte Carlo where the Casino stands, overlook from their rocky heights the vast blue expanse of the Mediterranean, and the gift of nature has been sedulously enhanced by the intelligence of man. The drives along the cliff-edge are admirably planned, and, like the Casino gardens, show what may be achieved when architecture and horticulture are combined by an artistic hand. Monsieur Edouard André, the famous French landscape-gardener, never did a better piece of work than here, and the effect of his planting has been increased by the skill of gardeners who have caused Palms and other exotic plants to grow with extraordinary luxuriance. The treatment is somewhat formal, as befits the neighborhood of stately buildings and the presence of perpetual crowds of visitors. But there is no monotonous regularity in the arrangement either of the terraces and balustrades or of the sub-tropical plants which give such a singular charm to the spot in the eyes of travelers fresh from the wintry north. We can imagine what such a shore would be were this an American watering-place. It would doubtless not be given up to utter neglect and dishevelment, but a wooden paling would probably replace the marble balustrade, board walks the gravel slopes and marble steps, badly chosen trees in inharmonious variety the orderly avenue, and a stretch of Coleus-beds the beautifully grouped shrubbery. Of course, the exact treatment appropriate at Monaco would not be appropriate in a northern American watering-place; but something of the same orderliness, dignity and beauty ought to be secured far more often than it is. And while, in American country places, picturesqueness, rather than symmetrical stateliness, is usually appropriate, there are cases where it would be better to try for the more formal architectural charm which distinguishes the Casino gardens at Monte Carlo.

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