

Venier to the right and the Forte di S. Marco to the left, commanding the extremely narrow channel of Maslenica which leads from the outer Gulf of Starigrad to the yet more recondite sea of Novigrad, upon a little inlet of which, and surrounded by its waters, stands the town of Novigrad with its grim and shattered castle walls. Into the sea of Novigrad descends the first of Dalmatia's important rivers, the Zrmanja (Termagna). The ship's boat will take us up the river to Obrovazzo, through a gorge of stupendous cliffs and dominated by the ruined fortress of Pržunac. Obrovazzo is a bright little town with green meadows round it—green is such a precious and refreshing colour where the "green Illyrian hills" of the poet are in truth the barest, greyest, most uncompromising limestone—lying at the foot of the great road that climbs the Velebit to the pass above Mali Halan in Croatia. The gorge of the Zrmanja, like others we shall meet with in Dalmatia, the Cetina, for instance, at Almissa, is a magnificent defile cut by the river in the limestone crags which tower to over three hundred feet above the pure green waters. Their colour is, for the most part, delicate French-grey, but in places they are deeply stained to a rich orange-red by the presence of some mineral in their composition.