

characteristic of Dalmatian orography, and on the slopes of one lies Vrana village and ruined castle.

The road now becomes a mere track, and at times not even that; it leads, right across the drained swamp full of wild asparagus, that wild-looking children and herd-boys offer for sale, up to the edge of the lake, where it joins a decent road once more, leading on to Vrana over a causeway which cuts athwart the head of the lake, under an avenue of poplars. Never have I seen so many wild-duck, mallards and coots (*Anas boschas* and *Fulix niger*, *mazorin* and *foleghe* of the Venetian lagoons), but getting them must be far from easy. The great ruined walls of Vrana now come in sight, and we soon reach them up a gentle incline past babbling water rills (*desilientes aquae*) that flow down in abundance from the rocky limestone ridge on which Vrana stands.

The history of Vrana is interesting. In 1076 Pope Gregory VII., the great Hildebrand, sent a legate into Dalmatia to convey to the Ban, Zvonimir, King of Croatia, the insignia of the Croatian Crown. The Ban, in return, founded at Vrana a church dedicated to S. Gregorio, with lodging for the Papal Legates whenever they might come that way. In 1138 Bela II., King of Hungary, installed