

Vaudois,\* or Protestant communities of Piedmont: on its left bank are two of their churches, St. Germain's and Pomaret, which is at the entrance of the Valley of St. Martin, opposite Pérouse.

The first appearance of the Fort of Fenestrelles is very striking: its white lines and parapets skirt the ridge of the mountain, and descend into the valley in an almost unbroken series of defences, commanding and impregnable. The fort,† as the traveller approaches it, is very fine, though much of its extent is concealed, on the Italian side, by the rocks that overhang a road which has been cut out of the side of the mountain, and which leads, by a defile immediately beneath the fort, to the village of Fenestrelles.

The fort, from the French side of the defile, has an appearance of prodigious strength. At present it is employed as a state prison, where Carbonari, who have struggled for liberty, and priests who have been guilty of great crimes, are confined together; the former for security, the latter for protection against public vengeance.‡ Above Fenestrelles the valley again expands; the road ascends rapidly, and winds along the brink of a precipice nearly two miles: deep pits, which are never filled up, and large stones, allowed to remain in the road unless removed by the peasants when their chars cannot otherwise pass, render this part of the route, which was nearly completed by Napoleon, and was once in excellent condition, almost impassable.

Soon after leaving Traverse, the road winds up to the Col de Sestrière: the plain of the Col is about two miles long,

\* They will be particularly noticed in the Pass of the Col de Croix.

† First Plate.

‡ The horrible outrage and murder committed by Mingrat, the curé of St. Quentin's, in Dauphiny, is still fresh in the memory of all who have heard the tale: he fled from justice into Savoy, and was placed by the Sardinian government, for *protection*, in the Fort of Fenestrelles. He was condemned to death in France, but escaped into the States of Sardinia, where the clergy never suffer publicly for their crimes.