

1890

## A Pleasant Retreat from the World--Santa Barbara Mission Gardens, California

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The *owc* now grown up around this old missionary station on the southern California seashore is one of the most delightful places in this part of the State. Tourists call it the "American Mentone," but after all, the ground has not so very long been American at all. The first white people who ever came here were Portuguese and Spanish sailors about 1552; that was while Mexico was newly conquered and governed by a Spanish Viceroy. Two hundred years later, Spanish priests, mindful of travellers' tales about the Indian people dwelling in this region, came up from Mexico and established little mission stations along the coast.

In 1786 a few Franciscan brothers came here and built this church (those are the church-towers which you see above the tiled roofs). More of the brothers came to join them later and they lived in these quaint, broad-gabled houses and worked and walked in this sunny old garden. Their chief purpose was, of course, the conversion of the Indians to the Catholic faith, but incidentally they taught their converts a great many practical lessons in agriculture, showing them how to raise valuable crops out of the wonderfully rich soil. Over beyond the church there is a vineyard still tended by this resident monk and his brethren. The church itself has not any great treasures beyond a few ancient missals.

See Helen Hunt Jackson's "Ramona," a story of old times near this Mission.

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A pleasant retreat—Santa Barbara Mission, Cal.

Retraite paisible—Mission de Sainte Barbe, Cal.

Ein angenehmer Zufluchtsort—die Santa Barbara Mission, Californien.

Agradable retiro—Misión de Santa Bárbara, Cal.

En angenäm vistelseort, Santa Barbara Mission, California.

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