

1 Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. Hired carriage to visit Certosa, a monastery some 4 or 5 miles out of town on a very  
2 high hill. The buildings are very old and very extensive. The church makes a very shab[b]y (~~sic~~)  
3 appearance outside but is a perfect gem of a place inside. Several beautiful chapels with a  
4 great many very fine paintings. The cloisters enclose two very ample courts, and the old monks  
5 creeping around in their white flannel robes looked like so many animated ghosts. One of  
6 them, a jolly old fellow, showed us around and finally led us to the laboratory where they make  
7 all kinds of perfumery. Bought a few bottles as souvenirs of the place. Then returned home.  
8 All the drives around Florence are very beautiful. I have used that word so often that I am  
9 getting tired of it, but it is so, nevertheless.

10 Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. Did not go out this morning. After dinner took a long walk. We got so far from home  
11 that it was dusk and cool before we returned, which is not the way tourists should behave in  
12 this climate.

13 Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. Woke up at 2 o'clock this A.M. with a bad sore throat. Mrs. Van gave me some salt  
14 water to use as a gargle. Relieved the soreness, but have been very hoarse all day. Girls went  
15 out with a lady-friend shopping. Mrs. Van and I did not leave the house.

16 Nov 21<sup>st</sup>. Took carriage and drove to Gallileos [Galileo's] Tower, called "Torre del Gallo." From  
17 this tower Gallileo [Galileo] found that the world turned round, and made many other  
18 important astronomical observations. Ascended to the parapet and obtained the best view we  
19 have yet had of Florence and the country surrounding it. The atmosphere was perfectly clear,  
20 and the panorama appeared in all its unrivaled loveliness. Many of the highest of the  
21 Appenines [Apennines] were covered with snow. The beautiful winding road by which we  
22 returned was lined on either side with banks of roses in full bloom. This fact surprises us as we  
23 are nearly in north latitude 44, a good way north of Chicago where we do not dream of  
24 blooming out door roses in November. Gallileos [sic] villa, in which he spent the last dozen  
25 years of his life, is a short distance from the tower. Here he was often visited by his  
26 contemporary Milton. Visited the church of St. Croce, a large, beautiful building containing  
27 many very beautiful monuments. Unfortunately, it was near the hour for closing the church,  
28 and we were compelled to leave before we had completed our examination, and shall give it a  
29 second visit.

30 Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday. Mrs. Van and I went to American Church. Heard a good sermon and  
31 enjoyed the congregational singing. Martha was in the "Last days of Pompei" about the middle  
32 of the book and she didn't think her health would permit her to go to church this morning.  
33 Julia, really under the weather, and she couldn't go.

34 Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Took carriage this morning to make a circuit of the churches, first to finish St Croce.  
35 The three front doors have very elaborately sculptured portals. In the interior, the tomb &  
36 monuments of Michael Angelo. He died in Rome 1564. The monument erected in 1570 is as  
37 perfect as if finished but a day. Three life size figures in fine marble in a sitting posture on the  
38 plinth of the tomb representing paintings, architecture, & sculpture, the whole surmounted by