

1 also a number of sketches for statues and paintings – his own work. It is getting cool here. Had
2 myself measured this afternoon for a heavy overcoat with large cape. Made a drawing for the
3 tailor to show what I wanted. Didn't care about the fashion. Wrote letter to Capt. John. Sent
4 index of the first vol. of this Journal.

5 Nov 25th. Walked down to the banker. Looked over American papers. Glad to know that the
6 third term president had his tail feathers pulled out at the late election. Received letter from
7 Dr. Holmes of Hudson informing us of the death of his excellent wife. They crossed the ocean
8 with us on the Iroa. Wrote I.G.W.

9 Nov 26th. Thanksgiving services at the American Chapel. Mrs. Van & Martha attended, Julia not
10 able to go out. The tailor promised to have my overcoat ready to try on at 11 o'clock, so that I
11 remained at home to meet him. Came promptly. Wrote a good letter to my New friend
12 Holmes, in his great affliction. Just finished a terrific dinner 7 o'clock P.M. Shall feel thankful if I
13 am all right in the morning. Mrs. Van reports that the church was well attended, closed by
14 singing "America" my country 'tis of thee, sweet Land, etc.

15 Nov 27th. Made final visit to the cathedral. Its size is immense, with a mighty dome. There is
16 no architectural beauty outside, or in. The dome is a great octagonal bulge of red tile with
17 angle ribs of marble, the entire building veneered with black and white marbles in flat panels.
18 The campanile and Baptistry is in the same style. They are of no interest whatever except
19 Historically. The Bronze doors of the baptistry excepted. They are very beautiful. Visited the
20 Palace Vecchio [Vecchio]. The exterior is as ugly as any savage could desire. There is not a
21 palace in this city that has any pretensions to architectural style or beauty. The fronts are of
22 coarsest rustic or rock faced work without any relief whatever. They are simply abominable.
23 Passed through the gallery from Ufizi [Uffizi] to the Pit[t]i gallery. Saw many engravings and a
24 great number of pieces of tapestry, most of them very elegant. Next visited the National
25 Museum. Saw Gallileos [sic] tribune and the very instruments used by the old philosopher &
26 the first telescope ever invented, made and used by him. The Tribune is a beautiful little chapel
27 lighted by a dome.

28 Nov 28th. Purchased photographs of buildings and things of interest. Purchased a trunk "as big
29 as a ouse" to pack new dresses in. Getting ready to leave.

30 29th Sunday. Remained at home to day.

31 And this is Florence. I have found it true,
32 That "distance lends enchantment to the view."
33 Tourists and books had led me to conjecture,
34 That this old city excelled in Architecture.
35 Works of art, tis true, are found in great profusion,
36 But works of architecture, simply a delusion.
37 Palaces, like Forts, with parapets projected,
38 Dwelling houses plain, but that might be expected.