

1 The place has many charms, I readily admit,
2 But of architectural beauty, not a whit.
3 Nature did the work and with a lavish hand,
4 Gave the fine locality and climate mild & bland.
5 Drives that can't be rivaled, the suburbs all around,
6 And charming parks & gardens everywhere are found.
7 The roads as near perfection as such things can be,
8 Landscapes enchanting, far as the eye can see.
9
10 Nov. 30th. Packed up ready to leave to morrow if Julias health will permit, as she is laid up to
11 day with a very painful ailment which we hope will soon give way to the remedies employed.
12 Dec'r 1st. Drew 20 £ of Macguez [?] Hooker & Co. Glanced over the American papers.
13 Contempt for Grant, as a Statesman, confirmed. In the afternoon visited with Mrs. Van and
14 Martha the National Museum. The building a massive structure of rustic stone with tall
15 campanile tower. Erected in 1250. Was at first a palace. Afterwards used as a prison. The
16 court is a good specimen of cloister architecture, having arcades on three sides. In this court
17 for many centuries, prisoners condemned to death were executed. There are many fine
18 statues, bronzes, tapestries, etc., in the museum, but nothing of startling interest. Julia
19 continues unable to travel, and we have postponed our leave taking of Florence indefinitely.
20 Dec'r 2nd. Bought History of Rome to pass away the time in reading over the events that have
21 transpired in and around the Eternal City, where we expect to be in a few days. Mr. & Mrs.
22 Gammon of Chicago arrived to day and are stopping in the same house with us. Julia not yet
23 able to bear the fatigue of the journey to Rome.
24 Dec'r 3rd. Julia under the influence of medicine to day. The doctor thinks she will be all right in
25 a day or two. Wrote letter to Jesse. Walked about town. Do not feel impatient at the delay
26 caused by Julias illness as I find the rest we are taking is better for our health than scrambling
27 all over creation to see something new, or rather, to see something old. Read the Chicago
28 Times account of the unpleasantness between "Bishop Everts" and some recalcitrant members
29 of his flock. "None are so blind as those who will not see," but it takes several years for some
30 people to get their eyes open. I took the measure of that Rev. gentleman 10 years ago.
31 Dec'r 4th. Rainy day. Julia convalescing. Remained at home reading aloud the ancient history
32 of Rome. Rather dry subject, but interesting to us under the circumstances. For many years I
33 have been unable to read aloud for any considerable length of time but now can read two
34 hours without inconvenience or feeling of exhaustion.
35 Dec'r 5th. Still raining. Did not leave the house. Julia much better. Discharged the doctor with
36 thanks. Mrs. Van engaged in giving greater circumscribing dimensions to my waistcoat. My
37 increasing corporosity is a source of fun for the girls. I look upon it with complacency as it
38 denotes a return of strength & vigor.