

1 beautifully done. The feathers of the irate eagle are raised one off the other and look as much
2 like real feathers as it is possible to make them of marble. The palace is called the Apostolico al
3 Quirinale, was commenced by Gregory 13th and finished by Paul 5th, was frequently occupied by
4 the popes in summer. Here, the last conclave of the cardinals were held and the name of the
5 newly elected pope proclaimed from the balcony over the front door. Pius 7th died here in
6 1823. The palace was taken possession of by the Italian government in 1870 and is now the
7 residence of the King & Crown-Prince. To remember this and then look at that poor snake is
8 suggestive of the great revolution that is going on here. We passed through a great many very
9 magnificent rooms, richly furnished. The throne room is very elegant. The state dining room is
10 new. Several rooms were thrown into one. A floor was taken out so that the present room
11 occupies the height of 2 stories. It is a noble room finished in keeping with other parts of this
12 magnificent palace. In front on the west is the "Piazza di Monte Cavallo," named from the
13 fountain. The pedestal from which the water issues supports two colossal marble horses with
14 figures of two men holding them by the bits. They are called the "horse tamers." These statues
15 are very ancient and formerly ornamented the Thermae of Constantine. An obelisk also stands
16 on the pedestal which once stood in front of the mausoleum of Augustus. The water from the
17 fountain falls into an ancient granite basin taken from the baths of Diocletian. Next visited the
18 "Forum of Trajan." The grade of the city has been elevated about 10 feet at this point, burying
19 the pedestal of the column. Napoleon in 1812 caused the place to be excavated down to the
20 original grade when the ruins of several magnificent old structures were discovered. The cols.
21 had been thrown down and lay buried for centuries. These are of the blue granite, about 4 feet
22 diameter. The fragments were set up on the plinths and are from 5 to 30 feet long, giving some
23 idea of the form and magnificence of the old temple that once occupied the place, and of which
24 they formed a part. These buildings were designed by Apollodorus, an architect of Damascus.
25 He lost his head by joking with an emperor. It appears that Hadrian, A.D. 117, built a temple
26 from his own design. After it was finished, he asked Apollodorus what he thought of it. He
27 replied that "it was very good for an emperor." The Emperor ordered him to be beheaded on
28 the spot. Next visited Palazzo Colonna. Saw many very fine pictures. The Colonna family have
29 furnished three popes, and in one of the richly furnished apartments is a chair turned with its
30 face to the wall. This chair is kept in this position until some member of the family is elected
31 pope. Then the chair is turned right side out and is used by the pope exclusively. Returned to
32 our hotel for dinner. Mr. & Mrs. Wm P. Wright made us a call. They are spending the winter
33 here. At half past two resumed our carriage and drove to the "Villa Borghese" immediately
34 outside of the city wall. Nothing of note architecturally about the buildings, but there are four
35 large rooms full of antique statuary and mosaics. On the second floor, a gallery of paintings.
36 The park and gardens are very extensive and the drive through the grounds very pleasant &
37 interesting. In one of the meadows are the remains of an amphitheatre, or circus, used
38 occasionally as a private race-course. This appears to be a very fashionable drive, and we
39 passed many stylish turn-outs containing the Elite of the city. The Crown Prince bowed to us in
40 passing, but not being acquainted with him, I neglected to return the salute, which probably
41 damaged me in his estimation, I suppose. Returned by the "Porta del Popolo." Turning to the