

1 steam engine for unloading blocks of stone from the vessels, and a very large area is now  
2 covered with huge blocks of marble brought from the quarries at Carrara and other places. We  
3 then passed through the Gate of St. Paul in the Aurelian Wall and stopped at the "Pyramid of  
4 Cestius," erected about 30 years B.C. It is 117 feet high and 93 feet on each side at the base. It  
5 is of brick faced with Carrara marble blackened with age. The accumulations of centuries  
6 buried its base to the depth of 10 feet. Alexander 7<sup>th</sup> in 1663 caused it to be excavated, forming  
7 an area around it some 20 feet wide. The bank of earth sustained by a brick wall. The surfaces  
8 of the pyramid are perfectly smooth and are not built in steps or terraces like the pyramids of  
9 Egypt. Passed about a mile and a half south to the church of "St Paul." Theodosius founded the  
10 church in 388 on the site of a church built by Constantine. This church was renewed and  
11 embellished by succeeding popes until it became the finest and most remarkable church in  
12 Rome. Here is the sarcophagi in which St Paul is buried. The old church was burned in 1823,  
13 and the present building was commenced by Leo 12<sup>th</sup>. It is now finished except the front  
14 portico and colonnade which is to connect with a baptistery. By presenting my card to the  
15 person having charge of the work, we were shown through the sheds and shops where the  
16 work is being prepared to complete the building. We were shown a large model of the church,  
17 very ingeniously made of wood, representing the whole thing as it will appear when finished. A  
18 number of beautiful Egyptian granite columns, in one piece 35 feet long and 4 feet diameter,  
19 are ready to be set up. The Corinthian capitals of Carrara marble are all finished and are  
20 marvels of the sculptors art. We then ascended by stairs and inclined planes to the enclosed  
21 scaffolding in front of the pediment where a number of workmen were engaged in spoiling the  
22 front with mosaics. The interior of this building is finished. It is 410 feet long, has nave with  
23 double aisles with proportional transept. There are 80 beautiful granite columns in one piece  
24 each with Corinthian capitals to support the roof. The ceilings are horizontal, beautifully  
25 paneled and enriched with gilded stucco ornamentation, the floor of various colored marbles  
26 with high polish. Next to St Peters, it is the finest church in the city. Adjoining is the monastery  
27 of the Benedictines who have occupied it for 400 years. The cloistered court is very beautiful.  
28 The monastery is now being suppressed. There are several large paintings in the church, very  
29 fine, by celebrated masters. The exterior of the church makes a very poor show architecturally.  
30 The Catholics seem to give all their energy to the interior of their churches and seem to care  
31 little for the outside show which for them seems remarkable. After dinner made our first visit  
32 to the Vatican. Passed up a long, arched passage slightly inclined and then long flights of stairs  
33 and entered the celebrated "Cistine Chapel." The room is large with extraordinary height of  
34 ceiling, this ceiling painted by "Michael Angelo" when 30 years of age and one of the end walls  
35 painted by him 35 years afterwards. The light is poor and the paintings begrimed with age.  
36 Made a very poor show, and I was disappointed as I had large expectations of this place. As far  
37 as the architecture is concerned, it is simply a large, ill-proportioned room. Going farther up  
38 stairs, we entered the picture gallery. Here are numerous paintings of old masters and new  
39 masters and no masters. The "Transfiguration" by Raphael, his last and best work. Communion  
40 of St Jerome by "Domenichino." These two pictures are said to be the first and second best  
41 paintings in the world. There were many others which seemed to me to be their equals. But as