

1 I make no pretension as a connoisseur in the art, I suppose my opinion would not be considered  
2 very good authority, but I have my own notion nevertheless. The gallery is opened at 2 and  
3 closes at 3 ½ o'clock, so that to see the entire of it, several visits are necessary. Resuming our  
4 carriage, drove north on the west side of the Tiber some 2 miles and crossed the Ponte Mole.  
5 This old bridge has a great deal of history connected with it. Here Constantine fought &  
6 defeated Maxentius. The superstructure of the bridge is comparatively modern, but the piers  
7 and abutments antedate the era of Constantine. The drive, excepting at this point, was  
8 without interest. Received papers from Chicago containing account of Mamie Boones wedding.  
9 Very interesting affair.

10 Decr 15<sup>th</sup>. Started at 9 ½ A.M. for the capitol on Capitoline Hill, the hall & several rooms fitted  
11 up with antique statuary in great abundance. Many of the celebrated statues of the world are  
12 found here. The terraces and approaches to the capitol are very grand and imposing. Colossal  
13 statues of Castor & Pollux, each standing by the side of a colossal horse, all of the finest white  
14 marble. The statues are about 50 feet apart and have a fine effect in approaching the palace.  
15 Next visited the church of "S. Maria in Araceli." Occupies the site of a temple of Juno and is  
16 mentioned as early as 935. The ceiling similar to that in St. Pauls. Saw several fine monuments  
17 and many interesting frescoes and paintings. Were next shown the "il Santo Bambino," a very  
18 homely doll wrapped up in white satin and profusely ornamented with diamonds, rubies, and  
19 other precious stones. This little image is kept in close confinement in an iron safe set in the  
20 wall of a beautiful little chapel. When persons of distinction are very ill, this little image is  
21 carried to them with great ceremony and is supposed to have miraculous power to cure  
22 disease. The old monk who showed us the precious nonsense very devoutly kissed the feet of  
23 the image and, after covering it up very carefully with the gold embroidered satin coverings,  
24 returned it to its safe place. I am glad I saw this thing as I could hardly believe without seeing it  
25 that such infernally stupid folly could exist in this age of the world. We next went to the  
26 "Tarpeian Rock," from which in old times persons condemned to death were hurled to  
27 destruction. It was formerly 130 feet to the ground below, but the accumulations of ages has  
28 raised the surface at the base of the rock 50 feet, leaving the precipice now but 80 feet. From  
29 this point we drove across the Ponte Sisto to the "Villa Farnesina," erected in 1506. The  
30 architecture pleasing. There are many very fine frescoes. The ceiling was designed by Raphael  
31 and decorated by his pupils. The gardens around the villa are very good. Returned to our hotel  
32 and concluded not to go out in the afternoon as all hands need rest. Our guide is well posted  
33 and is a perfect wind-bag of history.

34 Decr. 16<sup>th</sup>—. Guide & carriage to "Piazza Navona." Next to St. Peters, the largest piazza in  
35 Rome. Here was the Circus or Stadium of Domitian. In the centre of the square is a  
36 magnificent fountain erected by Innocent 10<sup>th</sup>. On a large mass of rocks stands a tall granite  
37 obelisk, formerly in the Circus of Maxentius, erected in honour of Domitian. At the four corners  
38 of the rock are reclining statues of marble representing the gods of the four largest rivers – the  
39 Nile, Ganges, Danube, and Rio de la Plata. A very copious flow of water issues from the rocks  
40 immediately under each figure. The rocks are arranged so as to form two large caves, or