

1 is a small octagonal building (circular inside) covered with a dome, the only light admitted by a
2 circular opening in the centre, similar to the Parthenon. The floor on which we stood is modern
3 about 18 feet above the original floor of the building. The front portal has also been elevated
4 to correspond with the present grade. We descended a stone stairs to the crypt, the floor of
5 which is the original floor of the temple. Here is a dry well with marble curb. The old monk
6 who piloted us through the building assured us that this well was used as a depository for the
7 bones of the martyred Christians of ancient times. The portico of the Temple of Remus retains
8 its original position and is consequently half buried by the accumulation of ages. These portals,
9 or doorways, are supposed to have belonged to the original temple erected by the Penates (or
10 Pentricians) 300 years before Christ. These temples are used as vestibules of churches, "SS.
11 Cosma e Damiano" of comparatively modern date. Near these is the "Temple of Faustina,"
12 dedicated by Antoninus in the year 141 to his wife Faustina, but is now called the Temple of
13 Antoninus. The church of S Lorenzo had been erected within its walls, leaving the grand old
14 portico in front consisting of 10 marble Corinthian columns, 6 of them forming the façade and
15 two on each flank with corresponding pilasters at the corners. The entablature very fine and
16 nearly entire. This is a very interesting ruin and is in remarkable good condition considering its
17 extreme age. Next passed through the arch of Titus, erected to commemorate his conquest of
18 Jerusalem. The bas reliefs represent his triumphal procession with the spoils of the city and
19 temple. Gave the colosseum a final and thorough visit. Clambered up the steep stairs to the 4th
20 story. From this elevated point, had a birds eye view of the entire interior of this magnificent
21 ruin. The arena is now being excavated about 18 feet down to the original floor bringing to
22 light the openings in the surrounding walls through which the wild beasts were admitted into
23 the arena. Returned to our hotel to dinner and discharged our guide & carriage until Monday
24 morning.

25 Decr 20th. Sunday. Mrs. Van rested well last night and is all right to day. The weather is warm,
26 but heavy showers are of frequent occurrence which keeps matters & things rather moist – this
27 being the rainy season here – but we have some sunshine and sufficient of sight-seeing-
28 weather to keep us satisfactorily tired of it. The "Free Social Parlors" of Mr. Van Meter are
29 open from 8 to 10 on Sunday evenings. Americans are button-holed at these gatherings and
30 solicited to make subscriptions of money to forward Protestantism in the city. I have a dislike
31 to "such prayer meetings," but will visit Mr. Van Meter before I leave and try to find out what
32 he is doing here. Martha and I walked down to the forum to settle a question of which of us
33 was right in our recollection of a certain matter. Martha beat me in this.

34 Decr 21st. The shortest day of the year, but it has been long enough for our purpose. Guide &
35 carriage at half past nine. Visited the capitol. This edifice was the Tabularium, erected B.C. 78,
36 located at the north end of the Roman forum. Passed through several rooms containing
37 statuary and relics of antique buildings. A long gallery contained a great number of modern
38 busts of antique subjects, celebrated painters, architects, & sculptors. The picture gallery, not
39 very extensive, contains a number of fine paintings principally of Saint Sebastians and
40 madonnas. Then passed down into the basement of the building. Here we found large