

1 quantities of fragments dug up in making excavations of the forum and other places, a great  
2 number of capitals of columns, frieze ornaments, enriched panels and pilasters, many of them  
3 of beautiful design & execution. A full entablature about 10 feet long of the Temple of Saturn  
4 and a similar one of the Temple of Vespasian, they are of extraordinary beauty and well  
5 preserved. The piers and vaultings forming the substructure of this grand old building are of  
6 the most massive character and appear sufficient for the next two thousand years. Looking out  
7 through openings left in the walls, we had a fine view of the forum. The grand old ruins could  
8 not have been left in better position to give greater effect from this point of view. Next visited  
9 the church of S. Stefano Rotondo, erected by Simplicius at the close of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. It is the  
10 largest circular church in existence. The roof is of wood. The altar stands in the central  
11 rotunda. There are two circular ranges of columns, ceiling arched and beautifully finished in  
12 mosaic. The frescoes represent many fearful scenes of martyrdom. There are a few old  
13 paintings, but in this great emporium of paintings, they are comparatively of little account.  
14 Next visited the museum in S. John Lateran. Here we found great numbers of statues and  
15 ancient monuments found in and about the ancient buildings and placed in this museum for  
16 preservation and observations. Also a number of sarcophagi taken from the old catacombs,  
17 many of them beautifully sculptured in bas relief. One of the rooms contained statues, busts,  
18 and figures in relief, all of American Indians. They were of terra-cotta, very well got up. They  
19 are a greater curiosity to the Romans than they are to us. The picture galleries are very  
20 extensive, containing but few pictures, some of them good, but none extraordinary. The  
21 church adjoining this museum we visited on the 17 inst. when Julia was not able to be with us,  
22 so that we sent her off with the guide to see the church & baptistery and Pilates stairs while we  
23 remained at rest in the carriage waiting for her. She saw two pious pilgrims scrabbling up the  
24 sacred stairs on their knees & stopping to make a short prayer on each step. That performance  
25 did not come off on the occasion of our visit although we were assured that hundreds of  
26 thousands had performed the feat. Returned to our home for dinner. Left again at half past  
27 two for a drive in the suburbs. About half a mile outside the walls, met King Victor Emanuel in  
28 his carriage. Received a polite bow from his Majesty, but the carriages passed so quick, and my  
29 hat comes off so slow, that he had not time to see me return the salute. He also had the  
30 advantage of me as he expected before we met that he would have to bow to somebody, and I  
31 didn't, so that he was ready, and I was taken by surprise. But I saw a real live king, and as I have  
32 a very good opinion of him, I am sorry I did not have an opportunity to let him know it. About a  
33 mile further, we came to the church of S. Agnes, said to have been built on the spot where she  
34 suffered martyrdom. We first visited the chapel built by Constantine to contain the tomb of his  
35 daughter Constantius, called S. Contanza. It was re-erected in 1256. The dome is supported by  
36 24 clustered granite cols. In the vaulting of the entrance are mosaics of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The  
37 porphyry sarcophagus of the saint, that formerly stood in one of the niches of this chapel, has  
38 been removed to the Vatican and was pointed out to us by our guide when we were in the  
39 Vatican museum. Next went down a flight of 45 marble steps into the church of S. Agnes.  
40 Constantine founded a church here which was re-erected by Honorius 1<sup>st</sup> in 625, altered in  
41 1490, and restored by the present pope in 1856, so that the interior has a fresh modern air.