

1 to examine each place thoroughly, and he never attempts to hurry us, but awaits our orders
2 when we are satisfied. We propose, however, to remain here 2 weeks longer.

3 Decr. 22nd. Guide and carriage at 9 ½ o'clock. First visited the old structure known as Janus
4 Quadrifrons, a sort of triumphal arch built of white marble. Has two arched passageways
5 crossing each other at right angles. The four fronts are alike, and from this fact it derives its
6 name "Quadrifrons." It is about 50 feet square and 40 feet high. Erected in the third century, it
7 is differently constructed from many other ancient works in being built of massive blocks of
8 marble in place of veneered brick work. Originally it must have been very ornamental, as it
9 appears to have had 8 Corinthian columns on each front with semicircular niches between the
10 columns which were probably fitted up with statues. The cols. are gone but a few of the
11 capitals remain, and enough of ornament is left to indicate that originally it was a very splendid
12 affair. Near this structure is the "Arcus Argentarius," consisting of two marble piers supporting
13 an entablature, the piers 3 feet by 6 feet and 12 feet high, the space between the piers 9 or 10
14 feet. The entire thing is covered with sculptures and enrichments. It was erected by a society
15 of goldsmiths in honour of "Septimus Severus" and his family, probably in the 3^d century. We
16 next visited the baths of "Caracalla" – next to the colosseum, the most extensive and
17 interesting ruin in Rome. Commenced by Caracalla in 212 and completed by Alexander Severus
18 in 222, it is said that 1600 bathers could be accommodated at the same time. We found a very
19 intelligent custodian with a plan of the building. He could speak a little English and very politely
20 showed us around the entire premises (for a consideration), pointed out the cold baths, the hot
21 baths, and the vapor baths, the dressing rooms, and the great halls for assembly, etc. We
22 wondered how he came to know all about it, but as that was none of our business on this
23 occasion, we believed the most of it. The principal walls and partitions are in remarkably good
24 preservation, and there is enough of the interior finish remaining to show that it was a most
25 extravagantly magnificent affair. The walls are of brick of great thickness and were originally
26 lined with marble throughout. The principal building covers about two acres. In the centre was
27 an immense quadrangular vestibule lighted from the roof. On the right and left are large halls,
28 or assembly rooms. These had a gallery running around on all sides supported on marble
29 columns. The cold bath about 50 by 75 feet with floor and sides of marble. All other floors are
30 of mosaic and are very beautiful. They are in good preservation except that they are much
31 depressed by the immense weight of the parts that have fallen upon them. The building was
32 destroyed by an earthquake in the 6th century. The walls, however, remain. They are from 70
33 to 80 feet high. Many beautiful columns of granite and porphyry have been unearthed from
34 the ruins. I measured one of them and found it 4" 9 [sic] in diameter. Several elegant white
35 marble Corinthian capitals are lying around, some of them very perfect. Many statues and
36 other interesting works of art have been found here and have been removed to the museums.
37 Leaving this intensely interesting ruin, we drove out on the Apian Way to the catacombs of
38 Calixtus [Callixtus] and went down a long flight of stairs to explore these gloomy chambers.
39 Each of us with a lighted taper threaded our way through the labyrinth of galleries to our hearts
40 content. The galleries are not over 3 feet wide and about 7 feet high. On each side are the