

1 little cells where the dead were placed and then shut in by a slab of stone. In many places the  
2 galleries are enlarged, forming chapels. Here several of the ancient popes were laid in beautiful  
3 marble sarcophagi, many of which we were shown in the Christian Museum of St John Lateran.  
4 We saw but two of these coffins in our explorations. The skeletons remain in them covered  
5 with a glass door which opens on hinges to give a more perfect view of the old settlers. There  
6 were two stories of catacombs below those that we were in, and the stone floor gave a hollow  
7 sound to the tread. After walking half a mile, we came to the light of day, our curiosity satisfied  
8 on catacombs. Next visited the church of St. Sebastian near the catacombs on the Apian Way.  
9 This is a very ancient church. Being erected over the catacombs, it was much frequented by  
10 pilgrims as great numbers of the Christian martyrs were buried in these catacombs. The portico  
11 is supported by six columns of granite. The interior is not remarkable in an architectural point  
12 of view, but there are some good monuments and paintings. The monument of St Sebastian,  
13 with a reclining figure of that celebrated saint, is a very beautiful work. One of the chapels is  
14 said to contain a footprint of Christ on stone, but I have so much contempt for such nonsense  
15 that I did not even look at it. We now drove on. Out upon the Appian Way, passed the circus of  
16 Maxentius, constructed in 311, designed for chariot races. The structure is 1600 feet long and  
17 270 feet wide. Sufficient of the old walls remain to indicate that it was a very imposing and  
18 grand institution. Also the ruins of a circular building near the circus, supposed to be those of a  
19 temple of Romulus, the son of Maxentius. Next passed the tomb of Caecilia Metella, a circular  
20 structure on a square base. It is about 60 feet diameter, the square base 15 feet high, and the  
21 circular walls perhaps 30 feet height of marble. The frieze of the cornice is ornamented with  
22 festoons of flowers and skulls of oxen. It was the tomb of the daughter of Metellus Creticus &  
23 wife of the Triumvir Crassus. We continued south some five miles on the Appian Way passing  
24 numerous ancient tombs, one of them pointed out as the tomb of Seneca. These tombs are  
25 simply large piles of masonry, generally of brick work. The marble finish, which originally  
26 enclosed them, has been torn down and much of it burned to make lime. The road, however, is  
27 strewn on each side with fragments of cornices, mouldings, capitals, and broken columns, an  
28 evidence that the structures, now a shapeless mass of rubbish, were at one time a series of  
29 magnificent monuments. From this road we had a splendid view of the Alban and Sabine  
30 mountains and the ruins of the Claudius aqueduct [aqueduct]. The road itself is of great  
31 historical interest. It was constructed by Appius many years before Christ. The "Appii Forum,"  
32 on this Appian Way, is 50 miles from Rome. It was here that the Brethren came out to meet  
33 Paul "whom when Paul saw, he thanked God and took courage." So that it was over these  
34 same stones that our carriage wheels were rattling, that Paul footed it to the slaughter house of  
35 the detested Nero.

36 Decr 23<sup>rd</sup>. Guide and carriage at 9 ½ this morning. Drove to St. Peters and went to the top of  
37 the dome. The base of the lantern is 429 feet above the pavement in front of the church. The  
38 ascent commences with an easy inclined plain which winds around an oval shaped light shaft to  
39 the roof over the aisles. Here we took a promenade over the roof to the balustrades. Each  
40 pedestal in the balustrade is surmounted by a colossal statue of some saint. The roof is paved