

1 so so. We now passed south on the west bank of the Tiber (where the poor folks live) and  
2 crossed the island by two bridges and wound around through the crooked narrow streets to the  
3 forum. Leaving our carriage, we walked down into the excavated place to take a near view of  
4 the interesting ruins. A pit is formed in the floor of the Basilica Julia down to the ancient sewer  
5 called the "Cloaca Maxima," constructed several hundred years before Christ to drain the area  
6 of the forum and adjacent part of the city. It is about 8 feet wide, arched with stone. A large  
7 volume of water was running through it with great rapidity. Leaving this intensely interesting  
8 place, we drove a short distance to the entrance leading up to the Palatine Hill and ruins of the  
9 Palace of the Caesars. This hill is the site of ancient Rome. The entire hill was encircled by a  
10 wall about half way up its sides and had 3 gates only. Two of these gates have been discovered  
11 by recent excavations. Many ancients of celebrity resided here. The emperors took possession  
12 of the entire area and erected their palaces. The ruins of the palaces of Tiberius, Calligula, the  
13 Flavii, and Severus are known as the "ruins of the palaces of the caesars" and are of vast extent.  
14 The marble and mosaic floors still remain in several of the halls and saloons indicating that the  
15 finish of these apartments were in the same degree of costliness and extravagance. Numerous  
16 fragments of interior marble cornices & columns go to prove that the principal rooms were  
17 lined with marble, with marble pilasters, columns, and cornices profusely decorated with  
18 sculptured ornamentation and statuary. In the garden of these old palaces we noticed a dozen  
19 century plants (aloes) that had bloomed recently, the central stems about 6 or 7 inches diam. at  
20 the base and 20 feet high. It appears that the plant withers and dies soon after making this  
21 blooming effort. Home to dinner at 1 o'clock. Discharged our guide for the present as we feel  
22 the necessity of a few days rest. At 8 o'clock took carriage to attend a musical soiree at Mr.  
23 Hookers. (He is our banker.) Here found a large company of Americans and English assembled  
24 in the upper story of the "Palace Bounapart." Found it a very dull affair except that the music  
25 was good. Left at half past ten, glad that our girls have seen the folly of such stupid, yet  
26 fashionable, entertainments.

27 Decr 25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas day and the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our wedding. Wrote a letter to Ira Foote.  
28 Did not leave the house.

29 Decr 26<sup>th</sup>. Drew £ 20 of Macquay, Hooker & Co. Wrote letters to Krauss & Co, Paris, directing  
30 them to forward our letters to Naples until 15<sup>th</sup> Jany. Wrote to Mrs. Cross, Naples, to secure  
31 apartments.

32 Decr 27<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Did not go out to day. Girls went out for a walk after dinner. Mr. Gammon  
33 and his son called on us. They leave for Naples on Wednesday, and we propose to leave on  
34 Tuesday of the next week.

35 Decr 28<sup>th</sup>. Called at hotel to visit Mr. & Mrs. Gammon. Found them out. Then called on Mr. &  
36 Mrs. Wm P Wright at Hotel Constanzi. Found them in and had a pleasant chat for half an hour.  
37 Girls out buying things and looking for photographs of madonnas and Saint Sebastians. Wrote  
38 letter to F.T. Seely. Resting preparatory for our trip to Naples.