

1 pavement of mosaic has been discovered. In the centre of the court was a circular temple
2 elevated 3 feet above the floor of the court and surrounded by a peristyle of 16 Corinthian
3 columns of African marble. In a semicircular niche was found the statue of Serapis (now in the
4 museum at Naples). Inscriptions have been found which prove that the building was in use in
5 the year 200. The heathen temples were suppressed by Constantine. This was probably
6 abandoned at that time. Marks on the cols. go to show that the land on which the building
7 stands has been elevated and depressed alternately, that at one time it was 19 feet below its
8 present position, and observations prove that it is now sinking about $\frac{1}{4}$ of inch annually – also
9 that the mosaic pavement 6 feet below the marble pavement was originally several feet above
10 the sea level, whereas now at high tide the water rises nearly 2 feet above the marble floor.
11 The “mole of Pozzoli” is also a very interesting ruin. It was built by Caligula, forming a pier or
12 breakwater for the harbor. We also visited (back of the town) an ancient amphitheatre, very
13 nearly a match for the colosseum. Like it, in the form of an ellipse 480 feet long and 382 feet
14 wide, the arena 336 feet by 138 feet. It is built on 3 rows of arches of stone and brick work.
15 The numerous fluted Corinthian marble columns with full capitals indicate that in an
16 architectural point of view it equaled the colosseum. We now skirted the shore of the gulf
17 passing numerous ruins of ancient villas of great extent and 2 miles west of Pozzuoli passed
18 Monte Nuova. This mountain was formed by a volcanic eruption in September A.D. 1538. It is
19 $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circumference and 440 feet high, completely covering the village of Tripergola and
20 several large villas. The lake of Lucrine lies at the foot of this mountain. On its west side the
21 road passes between the lake and the sea on a narrow strip of land. The road now skirts a cliff
22 of volcanic tufa about 150 feet high. Here we left the carriage and, ascending a flight of steps
23 cut in the face of the rock, we entered an artificial cavern called the baths of Nero. A boy about
24 14 in attendance in the vestibule of the cave commenced to undress and, pulling off his shirt,
25 showed a well developed model for a sculptor (kept his trousers on, however). He lighted a
26 torch and held an egg before it to show us by the transparency that the egg was a raw one and
27 fresh. He seized a small bucket and vanished into a low, narrow tunnel. Our guide informed us
28 that he was going to boil the egg in a hot spring somewhere in the bowels of the mountain. We
29 could see his glimmering torch far off in the tunnel. In a few moments he came running back
30 through another gallery holding in his hand the bucket full of boiling hot water and the egg
31 cooked, but rather soft – his body in a reeking perspiration. Mrs. Van ordered him to put on his
32 clothes immediately as she was sure he would catch his death of cold. These are hot vapor
33 baths said to have been used by Nero who had an extensive villa in the immediate
34 neighborhood. Gave the boy a franc for his egg, but the sweating he got seemed to be a
35 gratuity. We now drove on to Baiae. The whole range of hills inclosing the bay of Baiae are
36 covered with ruins of ancient villas. This was the “Newport” of the ancient Romans. Here
37 Caesar, Crapus, Cato, Lucullus, Pompey Domitian, and many others had magnificent villas and
38 was famous as the most dissolute place in Italy. Here Nero killed his mother and cut up Didos
39 with dancing girls with many foolish and wicked performances. Here are the ruins of three
40 heathen temples – first the Temple of Diana, a circular building 80 or 90 feet diameter with a
41 paneled dome all of solid masonry. Half the building is yet standing looking like a huge tribune