

1 rooms that would suit us, having a good fire place, a quiet neighborhood, facing south, and
2 nothing in front to obstruct our view of the bay. When they returned, we determined to move.
3 Paid our bill and by 3 o'clock were in our new quarters. We have a good fire, have discharged
4 our guide (as we began to think he was something of a humbug) and shall commence a new
5 deal to morrow.

6 Jan'y 13th. A bright sunny morning, so warm that we do not want a fire. Our new quarters very
7 pleasant. Mrs. Van did not sleep any last night, and I got up with a snapping head ache.
8 Applied the galvanic battery on my temples. Cured the pain in my head in ten minutes.
9 Afternoon took carriage and drove to the Royal Palace di Capodimonte. I suppose that means
10 on top of the mountains as it is situated on a high hill from which we had a fine view of the city
11 and its surroundings. The building is of mammoth dimensions. It encloses three elegant courts.
12 It contains 55 spacious rooms decorated with modern paintings, most of them very beautiful.
13 The custodian of the palace escorted us through all the rooms and explained in French the
14 subject of each picture. There were also some beautiful mosaic tables, statuary, vases, and
15 other exquisite works of art. One of the rooms called the "porcelain cabinet," the entire walls,
16 ceiling, & finish of the room are of China-ware, looking-glasses, and porcelain arabesque-work
17 with figures of men and animals. It is a strange affair, odd & pretty. We were shown through a
18 very extensive armoury containing all sorts of weapons, antique & modern, with coats of mail
19 and armour of the Middle ages. The building stands over an ancient stone quarry, and it was
20 found necessary to go into these subterranean quarries and build extensive substructions to
21 support the building. Resuming our carriage, we had a very extensive drive in the park attached
22 to the palace. The place is very beautiful and enlivened with flocks of peacocks, Guinea hens,
23 and a great variety of pheasants. Also a small park of deer. Passing out of this beautiful place,
24 we took a round about road and arrived at our hotel soon after 5 o'clock, very much pleased
25 with our afternoon excursion. Ordered the carriage to be on hand at 8 o'clock to morrow for a
26 drive to Herculaneum and Pompei, which will take the whole day.

27 Jan'y 14th. Breakfast ½ past seven. Had an early start this morning and an interesting drive of 14
28 miles to Pompei. The road skirts the shore of the bay passing through the towns of Resina,
29 Torre del Greco, and Torre dell An[n]unziata. These towns are densely populated with the
30 poorer class of people and such a gauntlet of apparent poverty and wretchedness I never saw
31 before. In many of the dirty shops were manufactories of "Macaroni," and countless miles of
32 the stringy dough were hung out upon the sides of the road to dry. The threads, or strips, of
33 dough are cut in lengths of about 4 feet. The centre of the strip rests on bamboo rods about 8
34 feet long. The ends of the strips dangling down have the appearance of a deep yellow fringe.
35 The way the dirty children rub against this staple article of Italian diet is a caution to weak
36 stomachs, but we have eaten so much of it already, that perhaps a little more will not make
37 much difference. Torre del Greco has suffered great inconvenience from the eruptions of
38 Vesuvius. It has been 4 times nearly destroyed; namely, in 1631, 1737, 1794, & 1861.
39 Notwithstanding these repeated "notices to quit," they have again and again rebuilt their city
40 and appear to be perfectly oblivious that the dark mountain behind them may, at any moment,