

1 spread the besom of destruction over them. Between the towns of Greco and Annunziata and
2 about half way to the volcano is the extensive monastery of "Camaldoli," perched on a high
3 volcanic hill. I think it is a good place for the priests to study the elements of purgatory.
4 Arrived at Pompei about 11 o'clock and left our carriage at the N.W. entrance of the "street of
5 the tombs." A guide in blue uniform with a short sword at his side stepped up to us and, lifting
6 his hat very politely, offered to escort us through the city. A boy offered his services to carry
7 our lunch basket. Next paid 8 francs for tickets of admission, and, having accepted the services
8 of the guide, and boy, we proceeded to explore this intensely interesting place. The street of
9 the tombs is a broad road outside of the city walls. It is paved with blocks of lava and lined on
10 either side with tombs, some of marble, some of rough stone, and some of brick work of great
11 variety of form and finish. Some of the marble cenotaphs and tombs were of beautiful design
12 and elaborately sculptured. Near the entrance is the house of "Diomedes." We passed into all
13 the rooms and through the courts and down into the vaulted cellar where 18 skeletons were
14 found. A skeleton was found in the garden of this villa, supposed to have been the owner.
15 Near him lay another having a key in one hand and a purse in the other containing 100 gold &
16 silver coins of the date of Nero, Vespasian, and Titus. We soon passed through the
17 Herculaneum gate in the city wall and commenced our explorations of the city proper. The
18 houses are very similar one to another in their general plan, but some are vastly larger than
19 others. Many are fitted up with bath rooms, library, etc. Not common to the majority of the
20 houses, the walls in many places are frescoed, and it is difficult to believe that those smooth
21 walls and fresh looking colours were the subjects of the trowel and paint brush 1800 years ago.
22 The Arabesque drawings and paintings are beautiful in design and finish. Birds and animals are
23 painted in great profusion and many nude figures of men, women, and babies are correctly
24 drawn and very artistically painted. Brick columns covered with stucco, some fluted and many
25 of them plain, are found in every house of any pretensions. There are no windows opening on
26 the streets. A narrow passage generally leads from the front door into a small court. Around
27 this court are small chambers supposed to have been used for bed rooms. Then a shallow
28 suit[e] of rooms divides the front court from another of larger dimensions, having generally a
29 peristyle of columns surrounding a fountain and garden. The court was open to the sky in the
30 centre but roofed over from the columns to the walls of the building. The dining room and
31 parlors and rooms for guests opened to this court under the covered gallery. No interior doors
32 appear to have been used, and the openings into the several rooms were probably closed with
33 curtains as all the light and air admitted to the rooms must pass through the door opening.
34 (And this is the case with nearly all the shops in Naples and Rome to day. Blacksmiths and
35 other artisans have no light in their work-shops except what is admitted by the door.) After
36 walking around for an hour, we sat down in the house of the Apollo and made an attack on our
37 lunch basket. We found it well stocked with provisions – bread, meat, boiled eggs, cheese, etc.,
38 with plates, knives, forks, and tumblers. The tumblers were superfluous as we had neither
39 water or other liquid on this occasion. We shared our lunch with our soldier guide which put
40 him into a very amiable mood. He talked French, and Martha rather had the advantage of me,
41 as he could say what he pleased to her, and she could tell me more or less as she thought fit.