

JOURNAL OF JOHN MILLS VAN OSDEL  
(Chicago's first Architect)  
AND HIS FAMILY  
FROM CHICAGO TO EUROPE AND BACK, 1874-1875  
Volume 2

Transcribed by Phillip J. Livoni, CSR.

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Transcription Notes:

This journal was written in longhand by John Mills Van Osdel. He was a skilled wordsmith with a remarkable vocabulary. As was common for Victorian writers, he used commas excessively, and he seldom used periods. He often used a ":" or a "÷" in lieu of a period, but most often he used another comma. As was also common for Victorian writers, he capitalized most nouns. He omits the apostrophe to denote possession, such as "John's journal."

To aid in the readability of these Journals, the transcription in this WORD document utilizes periods, commas, and capitalization in accordance with modern punctuation standards because the original punctuation makes the journals difficult to understand without numerous re-readings.

These Journals reflect the constant changing of the English language. The 19<sup>th</sup>-century spellings of words were left as Mr. Van Osdel wrote them. For example, the following words were two separate words in 1874-75: to day, to morrow, every body, side walk, etc.

All underlining of words reflects Mr. Van Osdel's original underlining.

Any letters or words in brackets, "[ ]," are clarifications made by the transcriber. The bracketed page numbers inserted into the original index are the accurate page numbers for this WORD document.

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Volume Second

Journal of Trip to Europe & return by J.M. Van Osdel & Family

1874. Venice.

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Continued from first volume. Visited the church of St. Rocco. Found numerous pictures by Tintoretto. The church is adjoined by the School of St Rocco. This is a large building with a very fine architectural front. In the Council hall of the brotherhood are some very large and interesting paintings.

Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Purchased photographs. Took a gondola and passed round the entire city, returning by the Grand Canal to our hotel. Besides these regular trips of sight seeing, we made in the interim many short excursions on foot to the Rialto bridge and across the same. In and around the church of St. Mark, this singular building, the most noted structure in Venice, is of Byzantine or Oriental style of architecture, has 5 large domes, was designed by some Oriental architect and looks like a Turkish Mosque. It has about 500 cols. of marble placed every where. The general appearance of the building is not pleasing, violating, as it does, every known rule of correct architecture, symmetry, and arrangement. There are 4 large Bronze horses over the principal portal which Napoleon carried off to France and were afterwards returned. The church is very old, was erected about A.D. 1000. One very amusing sight in Venice is the large flock of pigeons [sic] that frequent the grand public square. They are all of one colour, dark blue, and are so tame that they will alight on your fingers and pick up crumbs or grains of wheat held in your hand. Sometimes in crossing the square you are obliged to kick them out of your way. The palaces on each side of the Grand Canal are numerous. Some of them make a very imposing appearance, but the majority of them are failures architecturally. There is very little business done except to entertain strangers. This, once the most flourishing commercial city in the world, is now dead "and stinketh." The haughty Doges and wealthy merchants have gone forever, but the monuments of their pride and prosperity remain gloomy and deserted. It is saddening to pass around this city and reflect upon its former power and its present poverty.

Fair Venice,  
Thou sittest like a Swan,  
Upon the broad Lagoon.  
Thou had'st an early dawn,  
And a most brilliant noon.  
But, thy meridian passed,  
Three centuries ago.  
The evening came at last,  
And now thou'rt weak & Low.

Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Left Venice at 2:35 P.M. Arrived at Bologna 6:10. Found pleasant rooms at Hotel Brun.

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday. Took carriage, drove to Campo Santo, an old monastery now converted into a place of burial. Found four large courts surrounded by arcades. In these arcades are numerous

1 monuments. There is an arched passage from this place leading 1 ½ miles up a very high hill on  
2 which is the church of St Luke. Having nothing else to do, we walked up through this arcade, or  
3 passage, to the church. The arcade is a brick work, on one side a solid wall, the other side open  
4 in 635 arches about 10 feet span each, the ceiling arched, the whole covered with tile roofing,  
5 floor paved on an incline, and occasionally there are long flights of stairs w[h]ere the grade  
6 would be too steep for an inclined plane. The church is octagonal with dome roof. Projecting  
7 chapels & portals give relief to the simple octagon. From the south portal, which is the  
8 terminus of the long arcade, we enter the church which is very beautifully finished and  
9 elaborately decorated. Views from the terraces of extraordinary beauty and extent.  
10 Descending the hill, took our carriage and drove up another hill to a royal villa. Walked around  
11 the beautiful grounds but did not go inside the building. The exterior made a very poor show  
12 for a palace.

13 Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. (I am reminded that in passing up the arcade yesterday, the girls counted the number  
14 of beggars that sat in the arches and asked alms of us as we passed them. 54 in all, including 4  
15 or 5 old monks dressed in dirty red flannel. I did not give a Sou to any of them, and if all  
16 travelers had the courage to deny them, it would soon break up this Italian nuisance.) We hired  
17 a carriage as we intended to finish up this place to day. First visited three churches, one of  
18 them St Stephens, comprising seven different churches. The site was once occupied by a  
19 temple of Isis. This church was founded in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The churches are one below the  
20 other, the majority forming the crypt of the first. There are many relics and curiosities here  
21 (see guide book). The other churches visited were St Petronio and St. Domenico. St Petronio,  
22 the largest of the 130 churches in Bologna, is a plain Gothic building of brick with stone  
23 trimmings. The original design was not carried out, being cut short and finished at the transept.  
24 The interior is adorned with many sculptures and paintings and several magnificent chapels &  
25 altars. St Domenico, a circular structure of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, architecture not surprising, interior  
26 beautifully decorated, has many old monuments, sarcophagi, and some fine paintings and  
27 sculptures. Next visited the University, founded in 1119. The coats of arms of 6000 students  
28 are painted on the walls and ceilings. Went through the different lecture rooms, one of which  
29 is the room where Galvani used to lecture. He was the inventor of the Galvanic battery and of  
30 Galvanism. In the museum saw many curious remains of antiquity. Passed through the library  
31 containing 100000 volumes into a room containing Etruscan relics found in an old grave yard in  
32 the neighborhood. Here were skeletons in glass cases lying in the same position they were  
33 found. The bed of clay in which they lay was carefully taken up with the remains. It has been  
34 ascertained that they were buried 2500 years ago. Some of the skeletons have bracelets on  
35 their arms and rings on their fingers. Also a great number of urns of bronze and earthen ware  
36 containing ashes and partly consumed bones. This was interesting. Very! We then visited the  
37 Academy of fine arts established in an old Jesuit College. Found many fine statues &  
38 sculptures. The picture gallery very extensive, the pictures principally by Italian painters. Next  
39 visited the two Leaning Towers. One built in 1109 is 272 feet high, is about 3 ½ feet out of  
40 plumb. The other built in 1110 is only 138 feet high, but is 8 ½ feet out of the perpendicular in

one direction and 3 feet in another. These two towers are near each other and lean in opposite directions so that ranging one with the other makes their divergence from the perpendicular appear greater than it really is. They are both built of brick, and it would puzzle any one to tell what they were built for.

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Left at 7 A.M. for Florence where we arrived at noon. Leaving our trunks at the depot, took carriage to find a suitable boarding house. Drove to Mad. Chapmans, a great place of resort for Americans. As she is an American lady, found suitable rooms and located. Martha and I went back with the carriage and got our trunks on board. Then drove to our bankers and found a letter from My Pet Dora and one from sister Nancy Lathrop. Unfortunately, I have discovered that the young strangers that interfered with my pleasure at Venice were stopping in the same House with us here. The girls immediately went off with this young man and his sisters and spent the afternoon riding with them. Mrs. Van and I did the best we could under the circumstances.

Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. Girls off with the strangers for a ride. Mrs. Van and I walked to the cathedral and went inside of it for a general survey, intending at some other time to give it a more thorough examination. Afternoon did not go out.

Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. The young man and one of his sisters left for Rome, the other sister, an invalid, remains here until their return. Of course, she will not be lonesome with two intimate young ladies to keep her company. Visited the Pitti Gallery in the Pitti palace. The gallery consists of several large rooms crowded with fine pictures. We remained here a long time admiring those celebrated works of art, and many not so celebrated. Then walked through the park and gardens in rear of the palace, known as the Boboli Gardens. Very beautiful with numerous pieces of statuary, a fine grotto, etc. Walked back to our home.

Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. Took carriage. Visited English cemetery. Saw Mrs. Browning & Theodore Parkers tombs and many other fine monuments of strangers who came here in search of health and found a resting place. Then drove around town and out upon the promenade of the Cascine, or "Park of Florence." This is a very fine park about 2 miles in length and of moderate width. The carriage road out through the centre and back on the bank of the river Arno, is a splendid road kept in perfect order. We saw a large number of artilleryists at drill on a plain at the side of the park. It was an interesting sight to see them galloping around with six horses to each gun, the men mounting and dismounting and bringing their pieces into various positions. At times one would think the whole party were in a mixed confusion, but immediately they would all be in line, ready to blaze away if there was a necessity for it.

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Drew 50 £ of Maguay [?] Hooker & Co. Took carriage to visit church of St. Miniato situated on an eminence about 1 mile out of town. The church erected in 1013 on the site of an earlier church is in the Florentine style of architecture without transept. The front is veneered with black and white & verde antique marbles which was done in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The tower was restored in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The interior is plain with nave and aisles, the open

1 roof supported on plain round cols. of white marble. The choir is raised 7 or 8 feet above the  
2 main floor with marble steps at each side. [Inserted at the top of page 11 of this second  
3 volume: "(received 950 £ circular notes Duncan Sherman & Co.)] The floor of the choir rests on  
4 groined arches supported by 28 small marble columns, a flight of marble steps from principal  
5 floor down to the crypt. The screen of the choir is of fine white marble beautifully sculptured  
6 and inlaid with darker marbles. The walls are all lined with marble. Five windows in the semi-  
7 circular apse are of semi-transparent marble and have a very good effect. St Miniatos tomb  
8 under the high altar, not very remarkable. The mosaic pavement is very beautiful, laid down in  
9 1207. So says a tablet in the floor. The view of the city and its northern suburbs is very fine  
10 from the piazza in front of the church. The hill around the church was fortified by Michael  
11 Angelo. Some of the walls and ramparts still remain enclosing a cemetery in which we found  
12 many beautiful monuments. In one of the public squares which we passed in returning, we saw  
13 a very fine statue of David copied from one of Michael Angelos works.

14 Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Went to the American church. Heard a refreshing sermon.

15 Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. Took carriage to visit Fiesole, an ancient Etruscan Town on a very high hill 3 miles north  
16 of Florence. This town dates its founding several centuries before Christ. It was conquered by  
17 the Florentines in 1010. Visited an old cathedral and monastery remarkable for nothing but  
18 their antiquity. Saw some remains of old Roman walls, etc. Very pleasant drive. (Mrs. Van &  
19 the girls visited the Anatomical Museum on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup>.)

20 Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. Visited the Uffizi Gallery to see the pictures and statues, also cabinet of engraved  
21 gems. The most extensive gallery we have ever visited. Were delighted and remained until  
22 exhausted nature drove us home. Propose a second visit to this extraordinary place.  
23 Afternoon ladies out shopping. I took a promenade. Stopped at the bank and looked over  
24 American papers.

25 Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Van and the girls buy silk for new dresses. I remained at home writing up my  
26 journal & resting generally.

27 Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Van & girls visited an artist studio to look at some paintings. I went to bank.  
28 Drew 50 £ Macquay [?] Hooker & Co. and indulged in a rest for the balance of the day.

29 Nov 13<sup>th</sup>. Received 3 letters. Clara, James & Hattie. Had a good time over them. Raining hard  
30 to day and did not leave the house.

31 Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. Snowed a little this morning and rained the rest of the day. Did not go out.

32 Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Fine morning. Julia is not well to day & remained at home. The rest of us at  
33 church, American chapel.

34 Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. Ladies busy with dress makers. Took short walk and laid up for the day.

35 Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Took walk about town (not a very long one). Attended to dress makers.

1 Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. Hired carriage to visit Certosa, a monastery some 4 or 5 miles out of town on a very  
2 high hill. The buildings are very old and very extensive. The church makes a very shab[b]y (~~sie~~)  
3 appearance outside but is a perfect gem of a place inside. Several beautiful chapels with a  
4 great many very fine paintings. The cloisters enclose two very ample courts, and the old monks  
5 creeping around in their white flannel robes looked like so many animated ghosts. One of  
6 them, a jolly old fellow, showed us around and finally led us to the laboratory where they make  
7 all kinds of perfumery. Bought a few bottles as souvenirs of the place. Then returned home.  
8 All the drives around Florence are very beautiful. I have used that word so often that I am  
9 getting tired of it, but it is so, nevertheless.

10 Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. Did not go out this morning. After dinner took a long walk. We got so far from home  
11 that it was dusk and cool before we returned, which is not the way tourists should behave in  
12 this climate.

13 Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. Woke up at 2 o'clock this A.M. with a bad sore throat. Mrs. Van gave me some salt  
14 water to use as a gargle. Relieved the soreness, but have been very hoarse all day. Girls went  
15 out with a lady-friend shopping. Mrs. Van and I did not leave the house.

16 Nov 21<sup>st</sup>. Took carriage and drove to Gallileos [Galileo's] Tower, called "Torre del Gallo." From  
17 this tower Gallileo [Galileo] found that the world turned round, and made many other  
18 important astronomical observations. Ascended to the parapet and obtained the best view we  
19 have yet had of Florence and the country surrounding it. The atmosphere was perfectly clear,  
20 and the panorama appeared in all its unrivaled loveliness. Many of the highest of the  
21 Appenines [Apennines] were covered with snow. The beautiful winding road by which we  
22 returned was lined on either side with banks of roses in full bloom. This fact surprises us as we  
23 are nearly in north latitude 44, a good way north of Chicago where we do not dream of  
24 blooming out door roses in November. Gallileos [sic] villa, in which he spent the last dozen  
25 years of his life, is a short distance from the tower. Here he was often visited by his  
26 contemporary Milton. Visited the church of St. Croce, a large, beautiful building containing  
27 many very beautiful monuments. Unfortunately, it was near the hour for closing the church,  
28 and we were compelled to leave before we had completed our examination, and shall give it a  
29 second visit.

30 Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday. Mrs. Van and I went to American Church. Heard a good sermon and  
31 enjoyed the congregational singing. Martha was in the "Last days of Pompei" about the middle  
32 of the book and she didn't think her health would permit her to go to church this morning.  
33 Julia, really under the weather, and she couldn't go.

34 Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Took carriage this morning to make a circuit of the churches, first to finish St Croce.  
35 The three front doors have very elaborately sculptured portals. In the interior, the tomb &  
36 monuments of Michael Angelo. He died in Rome 1564. The monument erected in 1570 is as  
37 perfect as if finished but a day. Three life size figures in fine marble in a sitting posture on the  
38 plinth of the tomb representing paintings, architecture, & sculpture, the whole surmounted by

1 a bust of the Great Artist. On the opposite side of the church is the tomb and monument of  
2 Gallileo [sic], marble statues, and figures with tablets commemorative of his great discoveries in  
3 astronomy, the whole surmounted by his bust. There are very many other fine monuments.  
4 An honorary monument to Dante, new and particularly fine, has a beautiful statue of the grand  
5 old poet. Next visited St. Anunziata. This building makes a very poor show outside but is very  
6 beautiful within, the ceiling over the nave is level, cut into numerous medallions and richly  
7 ornamented panels in bold relief, all the moldings & ornaments richly gilt, the panels frescoed  
8 in bright colours, the clerestory supported by fluted Corinthian pilasters, capitals covered with  
9 gold leaf, the aisles formed in chapels – all of them profusely decorated with marble of  
10 different colours. The choir is placed in a large rotunda surmounted by a lofty dome with good  
11 frescoes. Next visited S. Maria Novella [Novella] commenced in 1278. Has a beautiful front of  
12 marble, interior with nave and aisles, the ceiling vaulted with pointed arches. Very peculiar.  
13 There are many fine frescoes and paintings, a large court enclosed at one side of the church by  
14 a series of pointed arches forming an arcade, finished in black & white marble. The arches are  
15 closed, forming deep niches and appear as if intended to receive statues, but they are not  
16 there, and the work, though very beautiful, looks meaningless. Then went to the church of St  
17 Marco – flat ceiling paneled with gilt moldings, dome over choir, many fine pictures,  
18 architecture common. Large monastery adjoining the church, now used as a museum. Paid 4  
19 francs to get in and found I was sold. There was nothing to be seen but some old frescoes, and  
20 they were so defaced that we could not tell what they were intended to represent without  
21 reference to our Guide Book. Then went to the church of St Lorenzo. The front resembles a  
22 brick pile where the brick have been very carelessly piled. The intention was to face the wall  
23 with marble, but it has not been done, and a more unsightly thing cannot be imagined. The  
24 interior is finished in Corinthian style of architecture and is very good. There are many fine  
25 paintings, tombs & sculptures. Near this church is the “Chapel of the Princes,” a large  
26 octagonal building covered by a dome. Constructed in 1604, designed by John de Medici, the  
27 interior is beautifully decorated with the finest marbles and mosaics. Here are the tombs of six  
28 princes. This building cost four and a half millions of dollars. We passed from the chapel into  
29 the New Sacristy of the church of S Lorenzo, designed and built by Michael Angelo, a classic  
30 building of small dimensions. There is nothing extraordinary in the design. In this room are the  
31 celebrated master pieces of Michael Angelo on the monuments of two of the Medicies. On  
32 that of Giuliano de Medici is the figure of the duke in sitting posture and the reclining statues  
33 representing “Day and Night.” Opposite is the statue of Lorenzo il Magnifico. Beneath is his  
34 tomb with statues representing “Evening and Dawn.” Several other works of this celebrated  
35 architect, painter, and sculptor are contained in this room. The ceiling of the “Chapel of the  
36 Princes” is beautifully fresco painted representing the “Creation,” Fall, death of Abel, the  
37 Sacrifice of Noah, birth of Christ, death & resurrection of Christ, and the last Judgement.

38 Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. Visited Michael Angelos house called the “Buonarroti Gallery,” as the great artists  
39 name was M.A. Buonarroti. Here we saw a great number of interesting relics & works of this  
40 celebrated man – his own handwriting, a drawing for the front of S. Lorenzo (the brick pile),



1 also a number of sketches for statues and paintings – his own work. It is getting cool here. Had  
2 myself measured this afternoon for a heavy overcoat with large cape. Made a drawing for the  
3 tailor to show what I wanted. Didn't care about the fashion. Wrote letter to Capt. John. Sent  
4 index of the first vol. of this Journal.

5 Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. Walked down to the banker. Looked over American papers. Glad to know that the  
6 third term president had his tail feathers pulled out at the late election. Received letter from  
7 Dr. Holmes of Hudson informing us of the death of his excellent wife. They crossed the ocean  
8 with us on the Iroa. Wrote I.G.W.

9 Nov 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanksgiving services at the American Chapel. Mrs. Van & Martha attended, Julia not  
10 able to go out. The tailor promised to have my overcoat ready to try on at 11 o'clock, so that I  
11 remained at home to meet him. Came promptly. Wrote a good letter to my New friend  
12 Holmes, in his great affliction. Just finished a terrific dinner 7 o'clock P.M. Shall feel thankful if I  
13 am all right in the morning. Mrs. Van reports that the church was well attended, closed by  
14 singing "America" my country 'tis of thee, sweet Land, etc.

15 Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. Made final visit to the cathedral. Its size is immense, with a mighty dome. There is  
16 no architectural beauty outside, or in. The dome is a great octagonal bulge of red tile with  
17 angle ribs of marble, the entire building veneered with black and white marbles in flat panels.  
18 The campanile and Baptistry is in the same style. They are of no interest whatever except  
19 Historically. The Bronze doors of the baptistry excepted. They are very beautiful. Visited the  
20 Palace Vecchio [Vecchio]. The exterior is as ugly as any savage could desire. There is not a  
21 palace in this city that has any pretensions to architectural style or beauty. The fronts are of  
22 coarsest rustic or rock faced work without any relief whatever. They are simply abominable.  
23 Passed through the gallery from Ufizi [Uffizi] to the Pit[t]i gallery. Saw many engravings and a  
24 great number of pieces of tapestry, most of them very elegant. Next visited the National  
25 Museum. Saw Gallileos [sic] tribune and the very instruments used by the old philosopher &  
26 the first telescope ever invented, made and used by him. The Tribune is a beautiful little chapel  
27 lighted by a dome.

28 Nov 28<sup>th</sup>. Purchased photographs of buildings and things of interest. Purchased a trunk "as big  
29 as a ouse" to pack new dresses in. Getting ready to leave.

30 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Remained at home to day.

31 And this is Florence. I have found it true,  
32 That "distance lends enchantment to the view."  
33 Tourists and books had led me to conjecture,  
34 That this old city excelled in Architecture.  
35 Works of art, tis true, are found in great profusion,  
36 But works of architecture, simply a delusion.  
37 Palaces, like Forts, with parapets projected,  
38 Dwelling houses plain, but that might be expected.

1 The place has many charms, I readily admit,  
2 But of architectural beauty, not a whit.  
3 Nature did the work and with a lavish hand,  
4 Gave the fine locality and climate mild & bland.  
5 Drives that can't be rivaled, the suburbs all around,  
6 And charming parks & gardens everywhere are found.  
7 The roads as near perfection as such things can be,  
8 Landscapes enchanting, far as the eye can see.  
9  
10 Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Packed up ready to leave to morrow if Julias health will permit, as she is laid up to  
11 day with a very painful ailment which we hope will soon give way to the remedies employed.  
12  
13 Dec'r 1<sup>st</sup>. Drew 20 £ of Macguez [?] Hooker & Co. Glanced over the American papers.  
14 Contempt for Grant, as a Statesman, confirmed. In the afternoon visited with Mrs. Van and  
15 Martha the National Museum. The building a massive structure of rustic stone with tall  
16 campanile tower. Erected in 1250. Was at first a palace. Afterwards used as a prison. The  
17 court is a good specimen of cloister architecture, having arcades on three sides. In this court  
18 for many centuries, prisoners condemned to death were executed. There are many fine  
19 statues, bronzes, tapestries, etc., in the museum, but nothing of startling interest. Julia  
continues unable to travel, and we have postponed our leave taking of Florence indefinitely.  
20  
21 Dec'r 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bought History of Rome to pass away the time in reading over the events that have  
22 transpired in and around the Eternal City, where we expect to be in a few days. Mr. & Mrs.  
23 Gammon of Chicago arrived to day and are stopping in the same house with us. Julia not yet  
able to bear the fatigue of the journey to Rome.  
24  
25 Dec'r 3<sup>rd</sup>. Julia under the influence of medicine to day. The doctor thinks she will be all right in  
26 a day or two. Wrote letter to Jesse. Walked about town. Do not feel impatient at the delay  
27 caused by Julias illness as I find the rest we are taking is better for our health than scrambling  
28 all over creation to see something new, or rather, to see something old. Read the Chicago  
29 Times account of the unpleasantness between "Bishop Everts" and some recalcitrant members  
30 of his flock. "None are so blind as those who will not see," but it takes several years for some  
people to get their eyes open. I took the measure of that Rev. gentleman 10 years ago.  
31  
32 Dec'r 4<sup>th</sup>. Rainy day. Julia convalescing. Remained at home reading aloud the ancient history  
33 of Rome. Rather dry subject, but interesting to us under the circumstances. For many years I  
34 have been unable to read aloud for any considerable length of time but now can read two  
hours without inconvenience or feeling of exhaustion.  
35  
36 Dec'r 5<sup>th</sup>. Still raining. Did not leave the house. Julia much better. Discharged the doctor with  
37 thanks. Mrs. Van engaged in giving greater circumscribing dimensions to my waistcoat. My  
38 increasing corporosity is a source of fun for the girls. I look upon it with complacency as it  
denotes a return of strength & vigor.

1 Dec'r 6<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Heard a good sermon at the "American Church," "Except a man be born  
2 again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The minister, a traveler from Cincinnati, gave us a  
3 good lecture reminding us that we were the living Epistles and to walk before the people of this  
4 benighted land in such manner as to let the light fall upon them. Verily, Verily! It is good to be  
5 reminded of our duty and obligations occasionally. Julia so far recovered that we have  
6 determined to leave for Rome to morrow.

7 Dec'r 7<sup>th</sup>. Left Florence 8:20 A.M. Arr. at Rome 7 P.M. Left heavy baggage at depot until we  
8 find rooms to suit us. Stopped temporarily at Hotel Londres. Ride from Florence to Rome very  
9 interesting. Passing Lake Trasimeno, we ran over the battle field where Hannibal defeated the  
10 Romans under Flaminius and killed 15000 of his troops. The battle took place 217 B.C. Passed  
11 the old cities of Arezzo, Cortona, Perugia, Foligno, Spoletto, Terni, and Narni. Near the last  
12 named city, passed under the bridge of Augustus built 220 years B.C. One arch remains, is 64  
13 feet high. Two arches have fallen. The abutment & pier remain. It is a grand old ruin.  
14 Numerous old castles perched on the summits of the hills. The quaint old cities and the  
15 grandeur of the scenery made this one of the delightful days of the many we have already  
16 enjoyed.

17 Dec'r 8<sup>th</sup>. After breakfast, took carriage to find suitable boarding house. Visited the "Hotel du  
18 Globe." Found two comfortable rooms on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, blazing in sun light. Terms agreeable, we  
19 engaged the rooms. Went to the depot and had baggage sent to our new quarters. Paid bill at  
20 the Londres and moved to the "Globe." After dinner took carriage for a general survey. Drove  
21 through the city to the Forum & Colosseum, then out upon the Apian-Way. Saw that we have  
22 full four weeks work before us to give this most wonderful old city a thorough examination.  
23 There appears to be many very fine specimens of city architecture in the new part of Old Rome  
24 and hope I may learn something here that will be worth remembering.

25 Dec'r 9<sup>th</sup>. Rained this morning. Spent the time in examining map of the city, reading history,  
26 and guide books as we shall save time if we are thoroughly posted in regard to localities and  
27 things of interest. Afternoon took carriage for St. Peters. The grandeur of the interior far  
28 surpassed any description I ever heard or read of it, simply because it is impossible to convey to  
29 the mind even an approximation of its beauties of proportion or elegance of decoration. No  
30 tongue or pen can illustrate the marvelous harmony and magnificence of all its parts. It must  
31 be seen before one can have any proper appreciation of it. We were overwhelmed with  
32 delightful admiration. All other classic churches I have yet seen are insignificant compared with  
33 this. Shall visit this building several times before I part with it forever! Passed the mausoleum  
34 of Adrian. Crossed the bridge of St Angelo. On the parapets of this bridge are a dozen colossal  
35 statues supposed to represent angels. They are beautifully sculptured of fine white marble.  
36 Next visited the Pantheon. Did not leave the carriage as we intend to make a special visit to  
37 this renowned old structure. Passed on and across the Ponte Sisto and up Monte Janiculus by  
38 an easy carriage road. On the summit is the Church of S Pietro in Montorio. Had a splendid  
39 birds eye view of the city from this elevated point. The monastery attached to this church

1 encloses the spot where Peter was crucified. The copious fountain of Paul 5<sup>th</sup>, near the church,  
2 is beautifully arranged and is of great interest as it is the outlet of an aqueduct constructed by  
3 Trajan, the water conveyed from a lake 35 miles distant. The water furnishes power for several  
4 mills and then supplies the west part of the city. Passed several magnificent fountains and  
5 monuments on our return to the hotel. Shall employ a guide to morrow and commence our  
6 explorations as we consider what we have done as merely preliminary and introductory.

7 Dec'r 10<sup>th</sup>. Dull rainy day. Concluded it would be imprudent to go out sight seeing. Went to  
8 English book store to inquire about valet de place. Found one who knows all about it – ruins,  
9 forums, churches & catacombs – speaks Italian, French, German & English. We hired him at 10  
10 francs per day, including the languages, and now we have a fair start. We will see about this.

11 Dec'r 11<sup>th</sup>. Guide & carriage ready at ½ past 9 am. Visited church of the Capuchins. In the vault  
12 under the ch. saw the bones of 6000 monks, some of the skeletons dressed in black gown &  
13 hood. The earth forming the floor of these vaults was brought from Palestine. They bury the  
14 monks in this sacred soil and let them remain 10 years. Then their bones are taken up and  
15 piled like cordwood around the sides of the vault or arranged in fantastic forms to ornament  
16 the walls and arched ceiling. Passed the Trevi fountain, large flow of water, very artistically  
17 arranged in cascades and jets falling over large boulders and precipices. Next passed the  
18 Temple of Neptune built before Christ, the colonnade of 11 large Corinthian cols. supporting  
19 entablature, the architrave only being antique. The spaces between the columns are walled up,  
20 forming the front of the Customs House. Next visited the Pantheon. The interior is well  
21 preserved. It is lighted by an opening 12 feet diameter in the centre of the dome and is now  
22 used as a church, having six beautiful chapels and a high altar opposite the entrance. The  
23 interior is lined with marble of various colours, except the dome which appears to be rough  
24 plastered. Then visited the church S. Maria Sopra Minerva (built on the ruins of the Temple of  
25 Minerva founded by Pompey) erected 600 years ago. The style of architecture simplified  
26 Gothic. The interior very grand and beautifully decorated. A portion of the columns are  
27 formed of marbles taken from the old Temple. The interior has been recently restored and has  
28 a fresh, modern look. There are many very fine paintings, monuments & sculptures arranged in  
29 the several chapels. Next visited the Jesuit Church – Gesu, richly decorated but is overloaded  
30 with ornament and fresco paintings. The tomb of the Saint Ignazio is a wonderful  
31 conglomeration of every conceivable thing that would be likely to add to is showy grandeur.  
32 We next visited the Doria Palace, the most magnificent of the modern buildings. The galleries  
33 of paintings are very extensive, containing several very celebrated paintings, and many others  
34 of great value. Then drove round the column of Marcus Aurelius [Aurelius], erected in the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
35 century, copied from Trajans Column. Then visited the Palace Borghese, containing over 800  
36 paintings arranged in 12 rooms. Here are many of the best paintings in Rome. Afternoon drove  
37 west over the Hill Janiculus [Janiculum]. The weather being fine, we had a magnificent view  
38 (aided by our field glass) of the entire city and surrounding country – the Alban Mountains in  
39 the east covered with snow, the gardens in the valley at our feet looking as green as in  
40 midsummer, while immediately around us are roses in full bloom. Passed through Porta St

1 Pancrazio to the "Villa Doria Pamfili" [Pamphili]. The grounds around this villa are very  
2 extensive and of great natural beauty, enhanced by the utmost efforts of the landscape  
3 gardeners art. Marble terraces, lakes, & fountains abound. On Fridays the public are admitted  
4 if in 2 horse carriages. That being our condition, we drove up to the door of the mansion (a  
5 very creditable building) and went up a winding stairs and out upon the terraced roof. The field  
6 glass paid well on this occasion. After driving through the winding ways of the park, we  
7 returned to our hotel pretty well satisfied with our days work. Ordered carriage & guide for to  
8 morrow. Wrote letter to Clara & received one from her before my letter was mailed.

9 Decr. 12<sup>th</sup>. Carriage & guide at 9 A.M. Visited the ruins of the Diocletian Baths and Circus. The  
10 Thermae, or entrance to the baths was converted by Michael Angelo into a church. The original  
11 buildings constructed by Maximian and Diocletian in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the church called "S. Maria  
12 degli Angeli." There are many excellent paintings and monuments. The finish of the interior is  
13 in the Corinthian order, cols. & pilasters not fluted, entablature full and rich, cols. of granite,  
14 pilasters & cornice marble. 4 large frescoes, very beautiful, were taken from the walls of St.  
15 Peter church and set up here at a great cost. The fountain near this place, called the Termini,  
16 set up in 1586, is very imposing. The flow of water is copious. The façade represents the front  
17 of a temple. In the center is a colossal statue of Moses, and on the right/left fine sculptures in  
18 relief. Then drove by the "four Fountains," being at the crossing of two streets, one on each  
19 corner. Visited S. Maria della Vittoria, the interior richly decorated with sculptures and gilding.  
20 The pilasters are of jasper. There are many good frescoes by Domenichino & others. Next  
21 visited "Palace Rospigliosi," built 1603 on the ruins of the Thermae of Constantine. On the  
22 ceiling of the principal room is a beautiful fresco of "Aurora strewn flowers before the chariot  
23 of the God of the sun." Also a few pictures by Rubens & others. Gardens with groves of orange  
24 trees all loaded with fruit, roses in bloom, and grass looking as fresh as in midsummer. Then  
25 drove to the Quirinal Palace, the Residence of the King. Were admitted to all the public  
26 apartments. We drove into the court between lines of soldiers who were on guard at the  
27 entrance to keep out improper persons, but our guide knew all about it, and we were allowed  
28 to pass without question. Leaving our carriage in the court, we ascended broad flights of  
29 marble stairs and were ushered into the grand reception hall, a very spacious room called the  
30 "Hall of the Swiss Guard." Here a very polite gentleman requested the honour of my name in  
31 his register. After gratifying him in this respect, we looked around, the ceiling very high,  
32 arranged in panels and medallions with profuse ornamentation of gilt-stucco and frescoes in  
33 brilliant colours. The lower part of the walls were hung with many fine paintings, mostly  
34 landscapes, the upper parts frescoed. In the centre of this room on a pedestal of porphyry was  
35 a large and beautifully sculptured Spread Eagle of the finest white marble. The bird is  
36 represented in angry mood, his crest erect; and his back humped. In his right talon he grasps a  
37 twisting serpent. His grip is firm just back of the snakes head and forces the reptile to gape as if  
38 in its last agony. I asked the guide what this symbolized. He said the eagle represented the  
39 present government of Italy, and the snake in its grasp, the Ecclesiastical power. Verily, I was  
40 pleased and astonished. This looks like "bearding the Lion in his den." The work is most

1 beautifully done. The feathers of the irate eagle are raised one off the other and look as much  
2 like real feathers as it is possible to make them of marble. The palace is called the Apostolico al  
3 Quirinale, was commenced by Gregory 13<sup>th</sup> and finished by Paul 5<sup>th</sup>, was frequently occupied by  
4 the popes in summer. Here, the last conclave of the cardinals were held and the name of the  
5 newly elected pope proclaimed from the balcony over the front door. Pius 7<sup>th</sup> died here in  
6 1823. The palace was taken possession of by the Italian government in 1870 and is now the  
7 residence of the King & Crown-Prince. To remember this and then look at that poor snake is  
8 suggestive of the great revolution that is going on here. We passed through a great many very  
9 magnificent rooms, richly furnished. The throne room is very elegant. The state dining room is  
10 new. Several rooms were thrown into one. A floor was taken out so that the present room  
11 occupies the height of 2 stories. It is a noble room finished in keeping with other parts of this  
12 magnificent palace. In front on the west is the "Piazza di Monte Cavallo," named from the  
13 fountain. The pedestal from which the water issues supports two colossal marble horses with  
14 figures of two men holding them by the bits. They are called the "horse tamers." These statues  
15 are very ancient and formerly ornamented the Thermae of Constantine. An obelisk also stands  
16 on the pedestal which once stood in front of the mausoleum of Augustus. The water from the  
17 fountain falls into an ancient granite basin taken from the baths of Diocletian. Next visited the  
18 "Forum of Trajan." The grade of the city has been elevated about 10 feet at this point, burying  
19 the pedestal of the column. Napoleon in 1812 caused the place to be excavated down to the  
20 original grade when the ruins of several magnificent old structures were discovered. The cols.  
21 had been thrown down and lay buried for centuries. These are of the blue granite, about 4 feet  
22 diameter. The fragments were set up on the plinths and are from 5 to 30 feet long, giving some  
23 idea of the form and magnificence of the old temple that once occupied the place, and of which  
24 they formed a part. These buildings were designed by Apollodorus, an architect of Damascus.  
25 He lost his head by joking with an emperor. It appears that Hadrian, A.D. 117, built a temple  
26 from his own design. After it was finished, he asked Apollodorus what he thought of it. He  
27 replied that "it was very good for an emperor." The Emperor ordered him to be beheaded on  
28 the spot. Next visited Palazzo Colonna. Saw many very fine pictures. The Colonna family have  
29 furnished three popes, and in one of the richly furnished apartments is a chair turned with its  
30 face to the wall. This chair is kept in this position until some member of the family is elected  
31 pope. Then the chair is turned right side out and is used by the pope exclusively. Returned to  
32 our hotel for dinner. Mr. & Mrs. Wm P. Wright made us a call. They are spending the winter  
33 here. At half past two resumed our carriage and drove to the "Villa Borghese" immediately  
34 outside of the city wall. Nothing of note architecturally about the buildings, but there are four  
35 large rooms full of antique statuary and mosaics. On the second floor, a gallery of paintings.  
36 The park and gardens are very extensive and the drive through the grounds very pleasant &  
37 interesting. In one of the meadows are the remains of an amphitheatre, or circus, used  
38 occasionally as a private race-course. This appears to be a very fashionable drive, and we  
39 passed many stylish turn-outs containing the Elite of the city. The Crown Prince bowed to us in  
40 passing, but not being acquainted with him, I neglected to return the salute, which probably  
41 damaged me in his estimation, I suppose. Returned by the "Porta del Popolo." Turning to the

1 left, ascended the "Pincian Hill." The road ascends in long zig-zags and is as perfect as a road  
2 can be made. It is lined with statues and antique fragments. From the terrace at the summit  
3 we had a grand view of the city. This hill is beautifully arranged in park and gardens and is a  
4 favorite resort for the people. A band plays here two hours on Sunday & Thursday afternoons.  
5 Here were the celebrated gardens of Lucullus and Messalina. The wife of Claudius is said to  
6 have celebrated her orgies here. Returning to our hotel, we passed an obelisk which Hadrian  
7 erected in Egypt to the memory of Antinous, subsequently brought to Rome and erected here  
8 in 1822.

9 Decr 13<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Went to St Peters at half past 10 to hear "High Mass." Heard some good  
10 music and saw some high performance. Could not understand a word of the mummary, so did  
11 the next best thing: walked around examining the monuments and other works of art. In the  
12 afternoon took carriage and drove 2 hours in the suburbs, the air chilly and threatening rain.  
13 We returned in good season to our hotel. Do not feel very pleasant about that ride and shall  
14 not repeat it on the Sabbath, although it is difficult to keep the run of the days of the week  
15 without an almanac as we saw men at work laying pipes in the streets, carpenters and masons  
16 at work, the street and drives as full as upon any other day of the week. The stores, however, I  
17 noticed were generally closed.

18 Decr 14<sup>th</sup>. Guide & carriage at half past 9 A.M. Drove into the "Jews Quarter" and visited their  
19 synagogue. Nothing noticeable on the exterior. After scrambling up a dilapidated stone stairs,  
20 we entered a large room with no pretensions to architectural beauty, but fitted up with a  
21 number of non-descript altars, or pulpits, and a gallery with a close screen for the female part  
22 of the congregation, the walls emblazoned with symbols pertaining to their worship, etc. On  
23 the floor below, found two other rooms where the poorer classes of Jews could come in. Our  
24 curiosity satisfied, we resumed our carriage & drove to the Temple of Octavia (sister of  
25 Augustus). This is a first class ruin built 14 years B.C. Two colonnades remain with their  
26 pediments. Next passed the Theatre of Marcellus of the same date as last mentioned ruin, the  
27 first story Doric, the second Ionic. A part of the cornice of first story is yet perfect, and two or  
28 three of the Ionic capitals are good as new, notwithstanding they were cut nearly 2000 years  
29 ago. These grand old ruins are inexpressibly interesting. Next came to the House of Rienzi (the  
30 last of the Tribunes), the house built 900 years since of brick, ornamented with sculptured  
31 fragments of buildings that were in ruins at the time this was erected. It is a small, quaint old  
32 pile of rubbish. Near this is the "Temple of Fortune," a small building with 4 Ionic columns at  
33 each end and 7 on one side. It is in good preservation for a structure as old as the hills. Next  
34 visited the Temple of Vesta, built in the 2nd century. The building is a small circular structure  
35 surrounded by a Corinthian colonnade of 20 columns, much dilapidated. The cornice has  
36 entirely disappeared, and the whole thing is covered by a shabby conical tile roof, flat and ugly.  
37 Some of the capitals are nearly perfect and very fine. From this point passed along the foot of  
38 the Aventine hill on the left bank of the "Tiber." Here is the harbor of the city. A number of  
39 small schooners and two little steamboats were moored against the walls of the river bank.  
40 Made a very poor show as far as commerce is concerned. There is a large derrick arranged with

1 steam engine for unloading blocks of stone from the vessels, and a very large area is now  
2 covered with huge blocks of marble brought from the quarries at Carrara and other places. We  
3 then passed through the Gate of St. Paul in the Aurelian Wall and stopped at the "Pyramid of  
4 Cestius," erected about 30 years B.C. It is 117 feet high and 93 feet on each side at the base. It  
5 is of brick faced with Carrara marble blackened with age. The accumulations of centuries  
6 buried its base to the depth of 10 feet. Alexander 7<sup>th</sup> in 1663 caused it to be excavated, forming  
7 an area around it some 20 feet wide. The bank of earth sustained by a brick wall. The surfaces  
8 of the pyramid are perfectly smooth and are not built in steps or terraces like the pyramids of  
9 Egypt. Passed about a mile and a half south to the church of "St Paul." Theodosius founded the  
10 church in 388 on the site of a church built by Constantine. This church was renewed and  
11 embellished by succeeding popes until it became the finest and most remarkable church in  
12 Rome. Here is the sarcophagi in which St Paul is buried. The old church was burned in 1823,  
13 and the present building was commenced by Leo 12<sup>th</sup>. It is now finished except the front  
14 portico and colonnade which is to connect with a baptistery. By presenting my card to the  
15 person having charge of the work, we were shown through the sheds and shops where the  
16 work is being prepared to complete the building. We were shown a large model of the church,  
17 very ingeniously made of wood, representing the whole thing as it will appear when finished. A  
18 number of beautiful Egyptian granite columns, in one piece 35 feet long and 4 feet diameter,  
19 are ready to be set up. The Corinthian capitals of Carrara marble are all finished and are  
20 marvels of the sculptors art. We then ascended by stairs and inclined planes to the enclosed  
21 scaffolding in front of the pediment where a number of workmen were engaged in spoiling the  
22 front with mosaics. The interior of this building is finished. It is 410 feet long, has nave with  
23 double aisles with proportional transept. There are 80 beautiful granite columns in one piece  
24 each with Corinthian capitals to support the roof. The ceilings are horizontal, beautifully  
25 paneled and enriched with gilded stucco ornamentation, the floor of various colored marbles  
26 with high polish. Next to St Peters, it is the finest church in the city. Adjoining is the monastery  
27 of the Benedictines who have occupied it for 400 years. The cloistered court is very beautiful.  
28 The monastery is now being suppressed. There are several large paintings in the church, very  
29 fine, by celebrated masters. The exterior of the church makes a very poor show architecturally.  
30 The Catholics seem to give all their energy to the interior of their churches and seem to care  
31 little for the outside show which for them seems remarkable. After dinner made our first visit  
32 to the Vatican. Passed up a long, arched passage slightly inclined and then long flights of stairs  
33 and entered the celebrated "Cistine Chapel." The room is large with extraordinary height of  
34 ceiling, this ceiling painted by "Michael Angelo" when 30 years of age and one of the end walls  
35 painted by him 35 years afterwards. The light is poor and the paintings begrimed with age.  
36 Made a very poor show, and I was disappointed as I had large expectations of this place. As far  
37 as the architecture is concerned, it is simply a large, ill-proportioned room. Going farther up  
38 stairs, we entered the picture gallery. Here are numerous paintings of old masters and new  
39 masters and no masters. The "Transfiguration" by Raphael, his last and best work. Communion  
40 of St Jerome by "Domenichino." These two pictures are said to be the first and second best  
41 paintings in the world. There were many others which seemed to me to be their equals. But as



1 I make no pretension as a connoisseur in the art, I suppose my opinion would not be considered  
2 very good authority, but I have my own notion nevertheless. The gallery is opened at 2 and  
3 closes at 3 ½ o'clock, so that to see the entire of it, several visits are necessary. Resuming our  
4 carriage, drove north on the west side of the Tiber some 2 miles and crossed the Ponte Mole.  
5 This old bridge has a great deal of history connected with it. Here Constantine fought &  
6 defeated Maxentius. The superstructure of the bridge is comparatively modern, but the piers  
7 and abutments antedate the era of Constantine. The drive, excepting at this point, was  
8 without interest. Received papers from Chicago containing account of Mamie Boones wedding.  
9 Very interesting affair.

10 Decr 15<sup>th</sup>. Started at 9 ½ A.M. for the capitol on Capitoline Hill, the hall & several rooms fitted  
11 up with antique statuary in great abundance. Many of the celebrated statues of the world are  
12 found here. The terraces and approaches to the capitol are very grand and imposing. Colossal  
13 statues of Castor & Pollux, each standing by the side of a colossal horse, all of the finest white  
14 marble. The statues are about 50 feet apart and have a fine effect in approaching the palace.  
15 Next visited the church of "S. Maria in Araceli." Occupies the site of a temple of Juno and is  
16 mentioned as early as 935. The ceiling similar to that in St. Pauls. Saw several fine monuments  
17 and many interesting frescoes and paintings. Were next shown the "il Santo Bambino," a very  
18 homely doll wrapped up in white satin and profusely ornamented with diamonds, rubies, and  
19 other precious stones. This little image is kept in close confinement in an iron safe set in the  
20 wall of a beautiful little chapel. When persons of distinction are very ill, this little image is  
21 carried to them with great ceremony and is supposed to have miraculous power to cure  
22 disease. The old monk who showed us the precious nonsense very devoutly kissed the feet of  
23 the image and, after covering it up very carefully with the gold embroidered satin coverings,  
24 returned it to its safe place. I am glad I saw this thing as I could hardly believe without seeing it  
25 that such infernally stupid folly could exist in this age of the world. We next went to the  
26 "Tarpeian Rock," from which in old times persons condemned to death were hurled to  
27 destruction. It was formerly 130 feet to the ground below, but the accumulations of ages has  
28 raised the surface at the base of the rock 50 feet, leaving the precipice now but 80 feet. From  
29 this point we drove across the Ponte Sisto to the "Villa Farnesina," erected in 1506. The  
30 architecture pleasing. There are many very fine frescoes. The ceiling was designed by Raphael  
31 and decorated by his pupils. The gardens around the villa are very good. Returned to our hotel  
32 and concluded not to go out in the afternoon as all hands need rest. Our guide is well posted  
33 and is a perfect wind-bag of history.

34 Decr. 16<sup>th</sup>—. Guide & carriage to "Piazza Navona." Next to St. Peters, the largest piazza in  
35 Rome. Here was the Circus or Stadium of Domitian. In the centre of the square is a  
36 magnificent fountain erected by Innocent 10<sup>th</sup>. On a large mass of rocks stands a tall granite  
37 obelisk, formerly in the Circus of Maxentius, erected in honour of Domitian. At the four corners  
38 of the rock are reclining statues of marble representing the gods of the four largest rivers – the  
39 Nile, Ganges, Danube, and Rio de la Plata. A very copious flow of water issues from the rocks  
40 immediately under each figure. The rocks are arranged so as to form two large caves, or

caverns. A marble lion in one of these caves has his head down to the level of the pool as if he were taking a drink. In the other cavern a horse is represented with his head down same as the lion. The church of "St Agnes" fronts this fountain. The exterior of the church is elegant, the interior in the form of the Greek cross, the centre surmounted by a large dome—the entire arrangement very beautiful and elaborately decorated with marble. Several good monuments and some fine paintings. St Agnes suffered martyrdom on this spot. Next visited the church S. Maria della Pace. The church consists of a nave only, terminated by a dome. The ceiling is horizontal with deep panels enriched with gilt moldings and ornaments. There are several fine paintings by Raphael and other celebrated masters. Next visited the "Palazzo della Cancelleria," an immense structure and a fair specimen of Roman architecture. It has a fine court surrounded by arcades. In 1848 Count Rossi was assassinated on the first landing of the principal stairs. This is the only palace in Rome which the present government allow Ecclesiastics to occupy. Next visited the Palace Farnese, a very elegant building occupied by the French Minister, the court surrounded by a two story arcade, the first story Doric, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ionic, the 3<sup>rd</sup> story Corinthian pilasters over the columns of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stories. In this court is an ancient sarcophagi said to have contained the remains of Metellas- wife found in the mausoleum of Metella on the Appian Way. The bas reliefs on the tomb were perfect & very beautiful. The materials for the construction of this palace were taken from the colloseum [colosseum] and Theatre of Marcellus. Then drove to the "Palazzo Spada alla Regola" built in 1540. 1<sup>st</sup> story contains fine specimens of antique statuary and relics dug up in Rome and its vicinity. In the second story a gallery of first class paintings, not very numerous. As I am getting tired of saints & madonnas, the fewer I find, the better I like it. Next visited the church of "S. Maria in Maggiore." This building both exterior and interior is one of the best in Rome. There is a curious legend in regard to the founding of this church. It was erected by Pope Liberious in 360 in consequence of a dream that it snowed in August. The next day, Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, he found this spot covered with snow and immediately made a drawing of the plan of the building on the bed of snow and directed his architect to carry out his plan. This old church was altered by Sixtus 3<sup>rd</sup> in 432, enlarged by Nicholas 4<sup>th</sup> in 1292, and restored by Gregory 13<sup>th</sup> in 1576. The interior dimensions are 360 feet in length and 150 feet in width. There are several beautiful chapels lighted from domes. In one of these Pius 9<sup>th</sup> has arranged an elegant receptacle for himself when his turn comes to take a place among his predecessors. There are many monuments, paintings, and other matters of interest in this magnificent building. Next visited the "Palace Barberini." Statuary in the front garden by Thorwalsden [Thorwaldsen]. The building is large and moderately interesting architecturally. The galleries have many statues, paintings and other works of art. In the afternoon visited the Vatican museum. The galleries are very beautiful and almost endless: statues & busts of every man, woman & child of any account since the days of the deluge, to say nothing of the lions, dogs & wild boars. Spent two hours here and returned to our hotel pretty much worn out.

Decr 17<sup>th</sup>. Julia not feeling very well. Thought it prudent to stay at home to day. Mrs. Van has slept but little the last two nights. Did not feel very much like visiting to day. Nevertheless, -at

1 half past nine, Mrs. Van, Martha and I, with our guide & carriage, drove to the church of "S.  
2 Pietro in Vincoli," founded by Eudoxia in 442. Built as a receptacle for the chains of St. Peter,  
3 they were found in the Mamertine prison and presented to Eudoxia by Pope Leo the 1<sup>st</sup>. The  
4 church is much modernized but many of the older parts remain. The nave and aisles are  
5 separated by 20 antique Doric columns. The church contains several interesting monuments,  
6 one of them designed by Michael Angelo in memory of Pope Julius 2<sup>nd</sup>. The monument  
7 contains three large niches. In the central niche is the statue of Moses, of colossal size, in  
8 sitting posture. This celebrated statue is considered as the masterpiece of Angelo. He was so  
9 enamored with this work, that on its completion he struck the statue a whack! on the knee with  
10 his mallet and said "Why don't you speak?" A slight crack in the knee is pointed out to prove  
11 the truth of this silly story. It is true enough that the statue is life-like and might have imposed  
12 upon Michael, although he had known it ever since it was a rough block of marble. The  
13 venerated chains are kept in a golden casket in a double doored iron safe in a small fire proof  
14 room and are exhibited only on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, and then only to the devoutly pious (so says  
15 our guide book), but it happened that a very devout French gentleman with his wife and two  
16 daughters had by some means obtained special permission to see the sacred relics, and our  
17 wide awake guide being acquainted with the sacristan obtained permission for us to slip in with  
18 the devout party – and in we went. The sacristan unlocked the iron doors and drew out the  
19 gaudy casket on a sort of folding rail way. The casket was wrapped in folds of crimson cloth  
20 embroidered with gold. After removing the wrapping, a sliding door in the casket was opened  
21 and a fold of the cloth arranged on the threshold of the door to keep the chain from coming in  
22 contact with any thing that might injure its sanctity. Then a priest came in dressed like a circus  
23 clown. He commenced mumbling over some Latin, the pious party kneeling. In a few minutes  
24 the priest put his hand into the casket and drew out a very natural looking ore chain having  
25 prongs at one end, much like a pair of large calipers. One of the ladies then stepped up on a  
26 platform in front of the priest, and he applied the calipers so that a point touched each temple.  
27 Looked as if he was taking the dimension of her head. She devoutly kissed the joint of the  
28 instrument which by the movement had been brought close to her lips. She then handed the  
29 priest a string of beads which he rubbed against the chain and then held the bunch of beads in  
30 his hand within the casket. He then returned the beads to the lady, and she stepped down  
31 from the platform. The other ladies went through the same performance, beads and all. The  
32 old gentleman – ditto – less the beads, which I suppose he did not happen to have with him. I  
33 was so full of fun that I was obliged to leave before the party broke up, but was gratified that  
34 we had seen these sacred chains and the everlasting nonsense connected with them. I suppose  
35 that a hundred years ago, the writer of a page like this, if found in this city, would have a hot  
36 time of it – around a stake. Next visited the "Baths of Titus, or Neros house," the baths having  
37 been built on top of Neros house, the walls of which are used as a foundation for the baths.  
38 The ruins are of great extent. Maecenas once had a villa on this spot which Nero used as a part  
39 of his "Golden Palace." We were shown some mosaic floors which formed a part of the  
40 Maecenas villa. Titus in the year 80 erected his sumptuous baths, called "Thurmae." They  
41 were enlarged by Domiticus & Trajan. The earlier structure of Nero is readily distinguished

1 from that of Titus. Most of the chambers of Nero were filled up by Titus. They were  
2 reexcavated in the early part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. We were escorted through the gloomy vaults  
3 and chambers by the custodian who carried a quantity of wax tapers which he placed in a sort  
4 of candlestick, and fixing it on the end [of] a long bamboo pole, elevated the light to the ceilings  
5 (30 or 35 feet high) to show us the remains of frescoes still bright and beautiful though painted  
6 1850 years since. Saw the spot where the famous Laocoon group of statues was found and the  
7 pedestal on which it originally stood. A great many other matters of interest were pointed out  
8 by our guide who seems to be as familiar with the premises as any old chum of Nero or Titus  
9 could have been. We believed most that he told us for there were the remains to prove it.  
10 Next visited the Church of "S. Clemente." Here we found 3 churches, one on top of the other,  
11 the upper one having its floor on a level with the present surface of the ground. The middle  
12 church was mentioned by Jerome in 392. Hadrian 1<sup>st</sup> decorated it with paintings still partially  
13 preserved. The upper church built in 1108, the lower church said to have been a pagan temple  
14 constructed many years before Christ. We descended into this pagan temple, each carrying a  
15 lighted wax taper. Found 4 feet of water with rafts of plank and timber to walk around upon.  
16 The arch of the door way leading from the corridor into the temple proper was not over 3 ½  
17 feet above the raft. The guide stooped low and passed into the room. He found some of the  
18 planks of the raft loose or sank under his weight and he thought it would not do for the ladies  
19 to try it. I stooped low and entered the room. Mrs. Van, determined to know all about it,  
20 gathered up her dress, gave me her hand and passed into the damp and dimly lighted room.  
21 Martha bent and sprung through the opening without difficulty. In the centre of the room is a  
22 marble nondescript statue supposed to be an idol. The water being perfectly clear, we could  
23 see the base of the pedestal by the light from our tapers. The water was about 4 ½ feet deep at  
24 this point. The ceiling of this room was covered with mosaics, portions of which still remain  
25 where they were placed over 2000 years since. After remaining a few minutes in this damp  
26 place, we passed under the arch and up the stone stairs to the floor of the middle church. This  
27 was undoubtedly the grade of this part of Rome at the time it was built, the present grade  
28 being 20 feet above. There are many things of interest in the upper church, but I have not  
29 space or patience to enumerate them. Drove next to the church of S. Giovanni in Laterano (S  
30 John in Lateran) built by Constantine. It was overthrown by an earthquake in 896, reerected by  
31 Sergius 3<sup>rd</sup> 910, and dedicated to John the Baptist, burned down in 1308 but restored by  
32 Clement 5<sup>th</sup>, altered by Martin 5<sup>th</sup> in 1430, modernized by Pius 4<sup>th</sup> 1560, and a new front by  
33 Galilei 1734. This front is decidedly the best church front in Rome. The portico is 174 feet front  
34 and 33 feet deep, the church 408 feet in length. It has nave and double aisles. Massive pillars  
35 support the roof and clerestory in place of columns. Niches are formed in these piers in which  
36 are placed colossal statues of the Apostles, finely executed of fine white marble. The ceiling  
37 over the nave is horizontal, very beautifully paneled and richly ornamented. There are several  
38 elegant chapels. In the south transept is a magnificent altar, the canopy supported by four  
39 Corinthian columns of bronze. The metal for these columns was a part of Cleopatras barge.  
40 The cols. are fluted and about 25 feet long. In one end of the portico is a statue of Constantine  
41 in marble, found in the thermae of that emperor. It is of colossal size and does not show its

1 extreme age. Passed down into a chapel in the crypt where several of the popes lie buried.  
2 Here we found a beautiful statue of Mary with the dead Christ, a very excellent work of art.  
3 Then visited the cloisters. In the centre of the court is a marble well curb with curious figures in  
4 bas-relief said to be the very curb over which the woman of Samaria was drawing water when  
5 the Savior had a talk with her. It won't do to say you don't believe it, for there is the curb. The  
6 baptistery, located near the church, is a small octagonal building of great antiquity. Here  
7 Constantine was baptized. The bronze doors are said to have belonged to the *thermae* of  
8 Caracalla. The roof is supported by 8 columns of porphyry – ancient; above them are 8 marble  
9 columns – modern. In the centre is a font being an ancient bathing tub of green basalt. There  
10 are several frescoes and mosaics of the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The front entrance is between two  
11 columns of porphyry, supporting marble cornice, richly sculptured. The columns and cornice as  
12 old as the oldest parts of this very interesting structure. Next visited the Villa Massimo to see  
13 the celebrated "Scala Santa" (sacred stairs). This is a flight of 28 marble steps from the Palace  
14 of Pilate at Jerusalem. They were brought to Rome by the Empress Helena in 326. These steps  
15 were ascended by Christ to Pilates Judgement Hall. No person is allowed to ascend these stairs  
16 except upon their knees. And so many pilgrims have performed this feat that the steps have  
17 been worn nearly 2 inches deep. They are about 10 feet in length. At the head of the stairs is a  
18 small chapel containing a picture of the Saviour supposed to have been painted by St. Luke.  
19 Also two groups in marble: Judas kissing Christ and Christ before Pontius Pilate. Returned to  
20 our hotel and did not go out this afternoon. Mrs. Van feeling very much fatigued, we instructed  
21 our guide to hold up for a day or two that we may have a rest and give Julia time to recover  
22 sufficiently to accompany us in our explorations, as we regretted very much that she was  
23 unable to be with us to day.

24 Decr 18<sup>th</sup>. Received an invitation to a party at Mr. & Mrs. Hookers (our banker) for Christmas  
25 Eve. The girls have persuaded me to accept the invitation, although I would rather visit the  
26 catacombs. Received a letter from J. Sollitt and wrote an answer to it. Julia & Martha walked  
27 out for a short time to make some purchases. With this exception, remained at home  
28 recuperating.

29 Decr 19<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Van awake until 4 o'clock. Her sleepless nights give us some uneasiness. She  
30 eats well and feels well, but spends her nights thinking about the wonderful things and places  
31 we have already seen, and particularly "Michael Angelo's" Moses for which she has great  
32 admiration. At half past nine with carriage & guide visited the "Forum Julium." It was begun by  
33 Caesar and finished by Augustus and is known as the "Forum of Augustus." In the forum are  
34 the remains of a temple erected by Nerva about A.D. 96. 3 columns and a pilaster remain of  
35 the colonnade, with the frieze of the cornice, and a portion of the ceiling of the portico. The  
36 style of architecture, full Corinthian. All the parts remaining are of white marble. They are  
37 much dilapidated, grey and venerable. In the immediate neighborhood are the remains of the  
38 Temple of Minerva, built many years before Christ. Paul 5<sup>th</sup> tore down this temple and used the  
39 material for the front of his fountain on the "Ianiculus Hill." Two Corinthian columns yet remain  
40 with the capitals and entablature complete. The present grade of the street has buried the

1 columns to about half their height. Above the entablature is an attic with a statue in full relief  
2 of Minerva. The entablature is very much enriched, and the ruin is intensely interesting. Next  
3 visited the "Academy of St Luke." Here we found a number of casts of the figures on the Trajan  
4 column. Also in the picture gallery a number of fine pictures by Rubens, van-Dyck, Raphael,  
5 Titian, Paul Veronese, & others. Next visited the Mamertine Prison located near the Roman  
6 Forum. First passed into a church which is built on top of the prison, the floor of the church  
7 elevated 4 or 5 steps above the present grade. We descended a flight of stone stairs some 20  
8 feet to the Jailors room. A hole 2 feet diameter in the floor opened into a lower dungeon.  
9 Originally this was the only entrance way into the room below, and through this hole St. Paul  
10 was let down by ropes to the lower dungeon where he was confined 22 months. A good flight  
11 of stairs have been constructed in modern times for visitors to pass down into this lower  
12 chamber. Here we were with dim tapers in the very room in which the Romans say Peter and  
13 Paul were both confined, and here is where the venerated Chains of St Peter were found. We  
14 were also shown a shallow well in the floor of the dungeon, nearly full of clear water. This is a  
15 miraculous spring which sprung up opportunely for baptizing the jailor and his household.  
16 Unfortunately, we have been instructed that a similar event happened to the jailor and his  
17 household at Philippi, in Macedonia, and some have been so incredulous as to doubt that Peter  
18 ever was in Rome. All this would spoil a very interesting tradition in regard to this prison. Paul  
19 may have been imprisoned in this very dungeon. I believe a man kept in this dungeon 22  
20 months would find it no very great additional hardship to be beheaded. Perhaps this was Neros  
21 method of reconciling his victims to that disagreeable operation. Leaving this dismal place, we  
22 critically examined the numerous interesting ruins in and around the great Roman forum.  
23 Excavations have been made here over a large area to the depth of 20 or 25 feet to the level of  
24 the ancient city. In making these excavations, a vast quantity of interesting matters were  
25 brought to light. The marble floor and bases of the columns of the "Basilica Julia." This must  
26 have been a very extensive building. It was commenced by Caesar and completed by Augustus.  
27 A few marble steps lead from this floor down to the pavement of the "Sacred Way," a street  
28 paved with blocks of lava. Over this way the triumphal processions of the victorious armies of  
29 the Romans passed into the forum to receive the honours and plaudits of the people. The most  
30 imposing ruin is the colonnade of the "Temple of Saturn," erected 490 B.C. 8 granite Ionic  
31 columns are standing with a large portion of the entablature. The basement on which the  
32 columns rest is 16 feet high; then three beautiful columns of the Temple of Vespasian; the  
33 grand old triumphal arch of Septimius Severus; the foundations of the Temple of Concord, built  
34 many years before Christ. The isolated "Column of Phocas," erected in 608, is a lofty fluted  
35 Corinthian column with capital in good preservation. This column was taken by the exarch  
36 Smaragdus from some ancient edifice and set up here in honour of the Tyrant Phocas. South of  
37 the Basilica Julia are the ruins of the Temple of Castor and Pollux, erected about 496 B.C.  
38 These are three Corinthian columns of Parian Marble in good condition. The foundations and  
39 steps leading up to this temple have been uncovered by the recent excavations. The  
40 foundation walls of the Temple of Venus, directly in front of the last mentioned temple. We  
41 next examined the Temples of Romulus and Remus. Went inside of the Temple of Romulus. It

1 is a small octagonal building (circular inside) covered with a dome, the only light admitted by a  
2 circular opening in the centre, similar to the Parthenon. The floor on which we stood is modern  
3 about 18 feet above the original floor of the building. The front portal has also been elevated  
4 to correspond with the present grade. We descended a stone stairs to the crypt, the floor of  
5 which is the original floor of the temple. Here is a dry well with marble curb. The old monk  
6 who piloted us through the building assured us that this well was used as a depository for the  
7 bones of the martyred Christians of ancient times. The portico of the Temple of Remus retains  
8 its original position and is consequently half buried by the accumulation of ages. These portals,  
9 or doorways, are supposed to have belonged to the original temple erected by the Penates (or  
10 Pentricians) 300 years before Christ. These temples are used as vestibules of churches, "SS.  
11 Cosma e Damiano" of comparatively modern date. Near these is the "Temple of Faustina,"  
12 dedicated by Antoninus in the year 141 to his wife Faustina, but is now called the Temple of  
13 Antoninus. The church of S Lorenzo had been erected within its walls, leaving the grand old  
14 portico in front consisting of 10 marble Corinthian columns, 6 of them forming the façade and  
15 two on each flank with corresponding pilasters at the corners. The entablature very fine and  
16 nearly entire. This is a very interesting ruin and is in remarkable good condition considering its  
17 extreme age. Next passed through the arch of Titus, erected to commemorate his conquest of  
18 Jerusalem. The bas reliefs represent his triumphal procession with the spoils of the city and  
19 temple. Gave the colosseum a final and thorough visit. Clambered up the steep stairs to the 4<sup>th</sup>  
20 story. From this elevated point, had a birds eye view of the entire interior of this magnificent  
21 ruin. The arena is now being excavated about 18 feet down to the original floor bringing to  
22 light the openings in the surrounding walls through which the wild beasts were admitted into  
23 the arena. Returned to our hotel to dinner and discharged our guide & carriage until Monday  
24 morning.

25 Decr 20<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Mrs. Van rested well last night and is all right to day. The weather is warm,  
26 but heavy showers are of frequent occurrence which keeps matters & things rather moist – this  
27 being the rainy season here – but we have some sunshine and sufficient of sight-seeing-  
28 weather to keep us satisfactorily tired of it. The "Free Social Parlors" of Mr. Van Meter are  
29 open from 8 to 10 on Sunday evenings. Americans are button-holed at these gatherings and  
30 solicited to make subscriptions of money to forward Protestantism in the city. I have a dislike  
31 to "such prayer meetings," but will visit Mr. Van Meter before I leave and try to find out what  
32 he is doing here. Martha and I walked down to the forum to settle a question of which of us  
33 was right in our recollection of a certain matter. Martha beat me in this.

34 Decr 21<sup>st</sup>. The shortest day of the year, but it has been long enough for our purpose. Guide &  
35 carriage at half past nine. Visited the capitol. This edifice was the Tabularium, erected B.C. 78,  
36 located at the north end of the Roman forum. Passed through several rooms containing  
37 statuary and relics of antique buildings. A long gallery contained a great number of modern  
38 busts of antique subjects, celebrated painters, architects, & sculptors. The picture gallery, not  
39 very extensive, contains a number of fine paintings principally of Saint Sebastians and  
40 madonnas. Then passed down into the basement of the building. Here we found large

quantities of fragments dug up in making excavations of the forum and other places, a great number of capitals of columns, frieze ornaments, enriched panels and pilasters, many of them of beautiful design & execution. A full entablature about 10 feet long of the Temple of Saturn and a similar one of the Temple of Vespasian, they are of extraordinary beauty and well preserved. The piers and vaultings forming the substructure of this grand old building are of the most massive character and appear sufficient for the next two thousand years. Looking out through openings left in the walls, we had a fine view of the forum. The grand old ruins could not have been left in better position to give greater effect from this point of view. Next visited the church of S. Stefano Rotondo, erected by Simplicius at the close of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. It is the largest circular church in existence. The roof is of wood. The altar stands in the central rotunda. There are two circular ranges of columns, ceiling arched and beautifully finished in mosaic. The frescoes represent many fearful scenes of martyrdom. There are a few old paintings, but in this great emporium of paintings, they are comparatively of little account. Next visited the museum in S. John Lateran. Here we found great numbers of statues and ancient monuments found in and about the ancient buildings and placed in this museum for preservation and observations. Also a number of sarcophagi taken from the old catacombs, many of them beautifully sculptured in bas relief. One of the rooms contained statues, busts, and figures in relief, all of American Indians. They were of terra-cotta, very well got up. They are a greater curiosity to the Romans than they are to us. The picture galleries are very extensive, containing but few pictures, some of them good, but none extraordinary. The church adjoining this museum we visited on the 17 inst. when Julia was not able to be with us, so that we sent her off with the guide to see the church & baptistery and Pilates stairs while we remained at rest in the carriage waiting for her. She saw two pious pilgrims scrabbling up the sacred stairs on their knees & stopping to make a short prayer on each step. That performance did not come off on the occasion of our visit although we were assured that hundreds of thousands had performed the feat. Returned to our home for dinner. Left again at half past two for a drive in the suburbs. About half a mile outside the walls, met King Victor Emanuel in his carriage. Received a polite bow from his Majesty, but the carriages passed so quick, and my hat comes off so slow, that he had not time to see me return the salute. He also had the advantage of me as he expected before we met that he would have to bow to somebody, and I didn't, so that he was ready, and I was taken by surprise. But I saw a real live king, and as I have a very good opinion of him, I am sorry I did not have an opportunity to let him know it. About a mile further, we came to the church of S. Agnes, said to have been built on the spot where she suffered martyrdom. We first visited the chapel built by Constantine to contain the tomb of his daughter Constantius, called S. Contanza. It was re-erected in 1256. The dome is supported by 24 clustered granite cols. In the vaulting of the entrance are mosaics of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The porphyry sarcophagus of the saint, that formerly stood in one of the niches of this chapel, has been removed to the Vatican and was pointed out to us by our guide when we were in the Vatican museum. Next went down a flight of 45 marble steps into the church of S. Agnes. Constantine founded a church here which was re-erected by Honorius 1<sup>st</sup> in 625, altered in 1490, and restored by the present pope in 1856, so that the interior has a fresh modern air.



1 The church has nave and aisles, roof supported on marble columns. There are galleries in the  
2 clerestory with smaller marble columns. A tabernacle of 1614 is supported by 4 porphyry  
3 columns. Under the tabernacle is an antique statue of St Agnes in alabaster. The church is very  
4 beautifully finished in mosaics & frescoes. Adjoining the church is a room about 30 feet square  
5 in which about 20 years since the present pope and a company of friends were taking some  
6 refreshment when the floor gave way, and they all went down into the wine cellar. There was  
7 nobody hurt, and a large fresco painting has been made on one of the walls illustrating the  
8 mishap. St. Peter and the Virgin Mary are there directing how the thing should be done so that  
9 no one should be injured. There are several wine casks represented in one corner of the  
10 picture as having been in the cellar, but it does not show how much wine was on top of the  
11 floor. We then returned to the city wall, and turning to the left, skirted the wall a long distance.  
12 This wall, built by Marcus Aurelius A.D. 165, is in very good order for a wall 1700 years old. We  
13 again left the wall for the suburban church of S. Lorenzo (St Lawrence). On this spot  
14 Constantine founded a church, it being the burial place of St Lawrence and St. Cyriaca. This  
15 church soon fell to decay, and Pelagius 2<sup>nd</sup> again found the remains of St. Lawrence and erected  
16 a church in 578. The building underwent many alterations, and finally the present pope put it  
17 in complete order. In the piazza in front of the church is a tall granite column with a statue of  
18 St. Lawrence in bronze. The church is in two parts. The front has nave and aisles. This is the  
19 more modern part. The clerestory rests on 22 antique marble and granite columns of different  
20 diameters with Ionic caps. The roof is of open frame work of very simple construction. The  
21 pavement is very fine with some rich old mosaics. There are two very beautiful old marble  
22 pulpits in the nave with wreathed marble candelabras inlaid with mosaics. The rear, or second  
23 part of the church, has its floor sunk 7 steps below the first mentioned floor. Here the aisles  
24 are divided from the nave by 12 very beautiful fluted Corinthian marble columns. There are  
25 galleries in place of the clerestory with smaller marble columns to support the roof. This part  
26 of the church is in two stories in the nave, having a marble floor half way up the first mentioned  
27 Corinthian columns with marble steps leading down to the floor of the front part of the  
28 building. There are many interesting monuments and frescoes with several beautiful little  
29 chapels. In one of these is a stairway leading down to the catacombs. Adjoining this church is a  
30 new and very extensive cemetery which we explored, finding many very fine monuments. A  
31 very extensive arcade encloses a square. This arcade has a wall on one side and open arches on  
32 the other. Ceiling arched. Niches are formed in the walls which contain the monuments of the  
33 richer class while the poor are buried in the open court. On the east side of this cemetery a  
34 rocky bluff has been excavated so as to show several galleries cut in the rock. These are ancient  
35 catacombs with numerous little niches cut in the sides where the dead were placed. This  
36 cemetery is very creditable to the city and will compare favorably with any I have yet visited.  
37 We now returned to our hotel. The weather acts like April in Chicago, showers and bright,  
38 warm sunshine alternately. We have a landau carriage. In the sunshine we drop the covering,  
39 and, in case of rain, it can be quickly elevated, forming a closed carriage. We shall finish up  
40 Rome in a few days more at the rapid rate in which our guide shows us around. We take time

1 to examine each place thoroughly, and he never attempts to hurry us, but awaits our orders  
2 when we are satisfied. We propose, however, to remain here 2 weeks longer.

3 Decr. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Guide and carriage at 9 ½ o'clock. First visited the old structure known as Janus  
4 Quadrifrons, a sort of triumphal arch built of white marble. Has two arched passageways  
5 crossing each other at right angles. The four fronts are alike, and from this fact it derives its  
6 name "Quadrifrons." It is about 50 feet square and 40 feet high. Erected in the third century, it  
7 is differently constructed from many other ancient works in being built of massive blocks of  
8 marble in place of veneered brick work. Originally it must have been very ornamental, as it  
9 appears to have had 8 Corinthian columns on each front with semicircular niches between the  
10 columns which were probably fitted up with statues. The cols. are gone but a few of the  
11 capitals remain, and enough of ornament is left to indicate that originally it was a very splendid  
12 affair. Near this structure is the "Arcus Argentarius," consisting of two marble piers supporting  
13 an entablature, the piers 3 feet by 6 feet and 12 feet high, the space between the piers 9 or 10  
14 feet. The entire thing is covered with sculptures and enrichments. It was erected by a society  
15 of goldsmiths in honour of "Septimus Severus" and his family, probably in the 3<sup>d</sup> century. We  
16 next visited the baths of "Caracalla" – next to the colosseum, the most extensive and  
17 interesting ruin in Rome. Commenced by Caracalla in 212 and completed by Alexander Severus  
18 in 222, it is said that 1600 bathers could be accommodated at the same time. We found a very  
19 intelligent custodian with a plan of the building. He could speak a little English and very politely  
20 showed us around the entire premises (for a consideration), pointed out the cold baths, the hot  
21 baths, and the vapor baths, the dressing rooms, and the great halls for assembly, etc. We  
22 wondered how he came to know all about it, but as that was none of our business on this  
23 occasion, we believed the most of it. The principal walls and partitions are in remarkably good  
24 preservation, and there is enough of the interior finish remaining to show that it was a most  
25 extravagantly magnificent affair. The walls are of brick of great thickness and were originally  
26 lined with marble throughout. The principal building covers about two acres. In the centre was  
27 an immense quadrangular vestibule lighted from the roof. On the right and left are large halls,  
28 or assembly rooms. These had a gallery running around on all sides supported on marble  
29 columns. The cold bath about 50 by 75 feet with floor and sides of marble. All other floors are  
30 of mosaic and are very beautiful. They are in good preservation except that they are much  
31 depressed by the immense weight of the parts that have fallen upon them. The building was  
32 destroyed by an earthquake in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The walls, however, remain. They are from 70  
33 to 80 feet high. Many beautiful columns of granite and porphyry have been unearthed from  
34 the ruins. I measured one of them and found it 4" 9 [sic] in diameter. Several elegant white  
35 marble Corinthian capitals are lying around, some of them very perfect. Many statues and  
36 other interesting works of art have been found here and have been removed to the museums.  
37 Leaving this intensely interesting ruin, we drove out on the Apian Way to the catacombs of  
38 Calixtus [Callixtus] and went down a long flight of stairs to explore these gloomy chambers.  
39 Each of us with a lighted taper threaded our way through the labyrinth of galleries to our hearts  
40 content. The galleries are not over 3 feet wide and about 7 feet high. On each side are the

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

1 with bricks set on edge, the joints fitted so closely as to be hardly perceptible. Some portions  
2 of the roof are covered with stone flagging. The roof over the nave is covered with tile. We  
3 then went up a flight of stone steps on the outside of the base of the dome to a door some 15  
4 feet above the roof and then up two long flights of steep stairs. At the first door we passed  
5 through the inner dome to a gallery on the interior's principal cornice. The view of the interior  
6 of the church from this gallery baffles description. Ascending a spiral stairs, we reached the  
7 spring of the arch of the dome. Here passed through to a second gallery. This point is fearfully  
8 high above the floor of the church. Full grown men on the pavement looked like little boys.  
9 We now commenced to climb between the outer and inner domes. This is accomplished by  
10 means of zig-zag wooden stairs of very easy ascent, and soon we were at the base of the  
11 lantern, around which is a spacious circular balcony. Mrs. Van and the girls determined to go  
12 up to the top of the lantern, and the girls went up into the ball. The guide went up with them,  
13 as I preferred to remain on the balcony at the base of the lantern. The day was beautifully clear  
14 and the atmosphere transparent. I had my field glass, and such a rapturous view as I had in  
15 every direction can only be obtained from the Dome of St Peters: the mountains to the north  
16 and east covered with snow; the extensive gardens of the Vatican at my feet, as green and  
17 fresh as if it were summer instead of winter; and Rome in all its grandeur spread before me in  
18 isometrical perspective. The immensity of the church is shown from this point to a great  
19 advantage. I felt almost like worshipping the architectural genius that conceived this mighty  
20 building and so wonderfully carried out his conception. After spending a long time in this airy  
21 situation, we descended to terra-firma and, having obtained a permit, we were admitted into  
22 the popes manufactory of mosaics, occupying an extensive suite of rooms on the first floor of  
23 the Vatican. Several men were engaged in making portraits of the popes, from St Peter to Pius  
24 the 9<sup>th</sup>. They are of colossal size and are intended to ornament the frieze of the cornice of the  
25 church of St Paul. The work is done from painted models. The mosaic is formed of small pieces  
26 of colored cement, almost as hard as glass. These cements are kept in 20000 different boxes,  
27 there being that many different colours and shades of colour. The process is a very slow one.  
28 For instance, we saw a flower piece, not over 9 square feet of surface, which was not half  
29 finished, although a man had been at work upon it 4 years. In one of the rooms are a number  
30 of mosaic pictures finished and set up in frames. They are equal to the finest paintings of the  
31 best masters, and it seems almost beyond belief that they could be made of small pieces of  
32 different colored stones fitted and cemented together. These pictures are of immense value,  
33 on account of the great length of time required to produce them. They are not for sale but are  
34 made presents of, by the pope to the kings and other notables of the world. Leaving this  
35 interesting place, we drove to the "Mausoleum of Hadrian" or "Castle of St Angelo," as it is now  
36 called. This is a huge tomb erected by Hadrian for himself and family. It was completed in A.D.  
37 140. The structure is circular, about 200 feet diameter, the base of huge blocks of stone, laid in  
38 courses, with coarse rock-face. This base is about 25 feet high, the superstructure about 50  
39 feet from the base to the parapet. Originally covered with marble, with numerous statues on  
40 pedestals above the circular cornice. The Romans in the middle ages used it as a strong hold or  
41 castle, and when besieged by the barbarians, threw the statues down upon the heads of the

1 besiegers. Every vestige of the marble facing has disappeared, and it now appears a rough  
2 mass of brick work. We passed into the interior by the old gateway and ascended a long,  
3 inclined plane to the central tomb-chamber, the last resting place of Hadrian & his family. The  
4 empty niches in which the urns were placed are still visible. A sarcophagus of porphyry was  
5 found here, the cover of which is used as a font in St. Peters. "Gregory-the-Great," while  
6 leading a procession to the castle to pray for a cessation of the plague then raging, here beheld  
7 the Archangel Michael sheathing his sword, in commemoration of which Pope Boniface 4<sup>th</sup>  
8 erected a chapel on the summit of the mausoleum. On this chapel is a bronze statue of colossal  
9 dimensions representing the Archangel sheathing his sword. We were conducted through two  
10 large saloons containing old frescoes. These were used as council chambers and criminal court  
11 rooms. In one of them we were shown the instruments of torture used to extort evidence or  
12 confession from unwilling subjects. We now passed down into the dungeons where Beatrice  
13 Cenci and others were incarcerated. They are more gloomy and forbidding, if possible, than  
14 those in the Marmetime [Mamertine] prison. We then passed out and across the bridge of St.  
15 Angelo which spans the river directly in front of the castle, this bridge originally built by Hadrian  
16 to reach his mausoleum direct from the city. After dinner, visited the studios of Rogers and  
17 Miss Hosmer. Saw many fine pieces of sculpture and models for monuments and statues. Then  
18 drove to the Vatican for the purpose of examining the "Library" and "Etruscan Museum." In  
19 the antae chamber are a number of papyrus scrolls framed with glass to protect them. They are  
20 covered with all sorts of pot-hooks and hangers, all Greek to me. Next entered the reading  
21 room. Here are many portraits of cardinals, most of them representing gentlemen that appear  
22 from their rotund faces to have been well provided with good things, etc. We now passed into  
23 the Great Hall 240 feet long, 52 feet wide, and 31 feet high, the ceiling vaulted with groined  
24 arches, supported on 6 central piers. The room is gaudily painted in very bad taste. The books  
25 and manuscripts are shut up in cases along the walls. Between the central piers are placed a  
26 number of valuable articles that have been presented to the pope. Among them is the font of  
27 Sevres porcelain in which Napoleon 3<sup>rd</sup> had his son baptized. Also a number of beautiful vases  
28 presented by dukes and kings. Also a large cross of malachite presented by Prince Demidoff.  
29 Also two candelabra presented by Napoleon 1<sup>st</sup> to Pius 7<sup>th</sup>. We passed from this hall into  
30 extensive corridors containing cases of books and manuscripts and a number of glass cases in  
31 which were coins, relics, and other Gimcrackery too numerous to mention. Finally, a fine  
32 stained glass window representing the present pope seated and gorgeously appareled. We  
33 then retraced our steps through the hall and passed to the Etruscan Museum. Here were  
34 exhibited innumerable vases, statues, paintings, golden ornaments, and domestic utensils in  
35 bronze. These antiquities have recently been dug up in old Etruscan cities and are supposed to  
36 be 2500 to 3000 years old. It requires 12 large rooms to contain them. They must be very  
37 interesting to archeologists and antiquarians, but I did not appreciate my privileges to any very  
38 great extent.

39 Decr 24<sup>th</sup>. Drove to the Palace Corsini, a very large and good looking structure about 300 years  
40 old. It contains a picture gallery. Many of the pictures are excellent, but the majority are only

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.

Decr 29<sup>th</sup>. Received a letter from Capt. John dated Decr 2<sup>nd</sup>. Walked to the mausoleum of Augustus. Found nothing remarkable about it except its antiquity. It is nearly surrounded with buildings attached to its walls, but enough was visible to satisfy my curiosity. Mrs. Van gave me a surprise by presenting me with a very beautiful silver tobacco box, thereby endorsing my use of the filthy weed. A perspective view of the Forum Romanum is beautifully engraved on the lid of the box. Now that she has given me up as hopelessly attached to the iniquity, I propose to quit the use of it as soon as circumstances will permit.

Decr 30<sup>th</sup>. Dull, rainy day. Mr. and Mrs. Gammon called. Mrs. Van and the girls very anxious to pay their respects to the Holy Father. Mr. Gammon ditto. But the Head of the Church is not easily interviewed (as the reporters would say) and Mr. Gammon and I undertook the preliminaries for an audience. Went to a college to find a Doct. Chatard who has the privilege of introducing such persons as he may think proper to the immediate presence of His "Infallible Holiness." We were unable to find the Doct. and left word at the college that we would call on him to morrow at 11 o'clock. I would like well enough to see the pope, but I don't like the idea of his being trotted out like a giraffe in a zoological garden to be gazed at by permission or for a consideration, but the ladies are determined, and it must be done. Received a letter from Mrs. Cross, proprietress of the Hotel Suez at Naples, offering us suitable rooms for our stay in that city. Mailed a letter to the lady and accepted the situation. She will send her husband to meet us at the station and take charge of us and our baggage.

Decr 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Gammon and I called at the American College. Had an interview with the Doct. Gave us to understand after half an hours conversation that he would try to arrange our presentation to this August Person, but we could not be admitted before next Tuesday. Ladies to dress in black with a black veil, gentlemen in evening dress. I am prepared with proper costume but Gammon has no dress coat, but one of the waiters at his hotel is about his size, and he proposes to borrow his swallow tail coat for the occasion. We were also told that etiquette would require us to kneel on the approach of his Holiness. I propose to try it, but do not like it, and enter my protest against the seeming humiliation, but I am "in Rome, and must do as Romans do." This is the argument used to satisfy me that it is merely a form. Every body does it – still I don't like it.

Jany 1<sup>st</sup>, 1875. New Years day. Walked out to purchase photographs. Found that this day is a universal holiday. All the stores are closed. We propose to try the photograph business to morrow. We are having a little more rest just now than there is any necessity for, but we cannot leave before next Wednesday if we wait for an audience with the pope which cannot be had before Tuesday. Mrs. Van and the girls are willing to wait his convenience. But if the matter was left to my notion, we would leave on Tuesday morning.

Jany 2<sup>nd</sup>. Spent the forenoon selecting pictures of places and things of interest. At 2 o'clock took carriage and drove some 3 miles out of the city to the church of the three Fountains (an old abbey). There are three churches within a few rods of each other, the largest an ancient basilica founded by Honorius 1<sup>st</sup> in 630, restored in 1221 by Honorius 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is nothing

1 peculiar about this building except the windows of the clerestory are filled with semi-  
2 transparent marble. The second church is circular with a dome. Its present form dates from  
3 the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the crypt we were shown a small dungeon where St. Paul was confined for  
4 a few hours immediately preceding his execution. Next visited the church of the three  
5 Fountains erected on the spot where St. Paul was beheaded. It is believed that when his head  
6 touched the ground, it made three jumps, or bounds, and at each of the three spots where the  
7 head touched the ground, there sprang up a fountain. These three fountains are beautifully  
8 fitted up with marble. The old monk who acted as our guide dipped up a glass of water at each  
9 of the springs, and we all reverently took a sip of it. The monk was an American nationalized  
10 and had formerly lived in Kentucky. He showed us the stone on which St Paul was beheaded. It  
11 is now in the form of a hitching post about 30 inches high and 10 inches diameter of white  
12 marble. It is a little difficult to believe all that passes for truth here. We believe in the  
13 extraordinary manner of Pauls conversion. Why not? in the miracles attending his violent  
14 death, stone chopping block and all. The hills in the neighborhood of these churches furnish  
15 the remarkable earth, or ashes, known as pozzulana [pozzolana]. It is of a reddish or maroon  
16 colour and, when mixed with quick lime, forms the hardest and most tenacious cement known.  
17 Pozzulana is some sort of volcanic matter, and it is to this cement that the ruins of ancient  
18 Rome are indebted for their wonderful preservation. We passed a small chapel half a mile  
19 outside the city wall erected to commemorate the spot where Saints Peter and Paul took a final  
20 leave of each other. This is another say so, but there is the old chapel to prove it.

21 Jany. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sunday. A beautiful clear day, the air as warm as in May at Chicago. We started out  
22 at half past ten for a walk. Went to the church of S Peter in Vincoli to give Julia an opportunity  
23 of seeing Michael Angelos celebrated statue of Moses as on our former visit to this church she  
24 was not able to be with us. From the church, walked to the coliseum and took what we now  
25 consider a last look at this grand old ruin. We walked along the entire length of the Roman  
26 forum, then passed along side of the forum of Trajan and the Trevi fountain and arrived home  
27 at 1 o'clock. Did not go out in the afternoon.

28 Jany 4<sup>th</sup>. Bought some photographs. Walked about the city. Expected a card of invitation this  
29 evening to call on the pope to morrow. Called on Mr. Gammon. Found that he had not  
30 received any invitation. Also learned that parties sometimes were kept in suspense for a week  
31 after making their application. I am not disappointed much. As we leave to morrow for Naples,  
32 we shall waive the honour we intended for the Old Gentleman. I am glad that I have not, even  
33 as a matter of etiquette, bowed my knee to any mortal. It went against my conscience to  
34 consent to make the visit, and I know that I should always have regretted it. Called at Mr. Van  
35 Meters rooms. Did not see him. Registered my name, looked over some American  
36 newspapers. His efforts here brings to my mind the hint about "casting pearls before swine."  
37 My impression is that leading Catholics look to America as the hereafter grand seat of their  
38 power, and when Chicago elects a Catholic to represent her in congress, I think they have  
39 reason to be encouraged. It strikes me that Mr. Van Meter had better fight the fire in front  
40 rather than waste his efforts on the half extinguished embers here.



1 We've rambled through Romes ancient halls,  
2 Seen her old palaces and walls,  
3 Explored in earth her catacombs,  
4 And climbed her hills & lofty domes.  
5 Her great colosseum have explored,  
6 And works that antae-date our Lord.  
7 Old ruins everywhere abound  
8 On this most interesting ground.  
9 A she wolf nurse'd a pair of twins.  
10 From these the tale of Rome begins  
11 And such a tale of fire and sword  
12 No other parts of earth record.  
13 They conquered all the world they knew,  
14 By civil wars each other slew.  
15 The remnants of her power and pride  
16 Are visible on every side.  
17 Roman virtue named heroic  
18 Culminating in the stoic.  
19 Her pagan temples yet remain  
20 And lofty columns long have lain  
21 Beneath the surface of the ground  
22 And ages past ere they were found.  
23 The great republic waned at last.  
24 Her senators grew fat and fast.  
25 And "credit mobiliers" they had  
26 Or other swindlers full as bad.  
27 Corruption then, as it will now,  
28 The best of governments o'erthrow.  
29 Then Julius Caesar took the rein  
30 And would be king, but soon was slain.  
31 Then came a line of emperors  
32 Who filled the world with blood & tears.  
33 The empire fell by savage bands,  
34 The vandals of the northern lands.  
35 The early Christians suffered here  
36 By edicts savage and severe.  
37 Bloody Nero and Tiberius  
38 Made faith in Christ a little serious.  
39 The church grew strong, but lost its meekness  
40 And drew the sword in Peters weakness.  
41 Out Neroed Neros savage ways

1 With fire and sword, the cross to raise.  
 2 Built great churches, towers & domes  
 3 And left the people without homes.  
 4 Here we see a grand cathedral,  
 5 By its side the meanest hovel.  
 6 In this age of light we wonder  
 7 How the people were kept under,  
 8 How these mighty works were paid for,  
 9 What on earth were such works made for.  
 10 The principal use appears to be  
 11 Showing them for a very small fee.  
 12 We gape around, admire their art,  
 13 Look at their paintings, admit they're smart.  
 14 "The old beats the new." That isn't fair.  
 15 The new isn't given a chance to compare.  
 16 We have the skill, but who has the dimes  
 17 To build such great works as they built in old times.  
 18  
 19 It will be noticed that my muse ran mad on that last line, so that we shall leave Rome in the  
 20 morning.  
 21 Jany 5<sup>th</sup>. Left Rome at 9:50 A.M., and, after a delightful ride of 7 ½ hours through a  
 22 picturesquely beautiful country, arrived safely at Naples where we found our preengaged  
 23 quarters very comfortable.  
 24 Jany. 6<sup>th</sup>. A rainy, disagreeable day. Went with Martha to our banker W.I. Turner. Drew 50 £.  
 25 Received three letters, one from James, one from Hattie, and one from Boston for Julia. Mrs.  
 26 Van has a violent cold in her head. Makes her feel very uncomfortable. We like our new home,  
 27 but there are no fire places. We have a brazier filled with coals in our room, but it is a sort of  
 28 coal that does not throw off any noxious gas, so that we shall probably get along very well.  
 29 Jany 7<sup>th</sup>. A bright and welcome sunny morning. The windows of both our rooms front south.  
 30 The beautiful bay of Naples appears at best advantage, glittering in the golden sunlight. The  
 31 mountainous island of Capri in the horizon directly in our front. On the extreme left, the great  
 32 Vesuvius, its summit hidden by a light cloud of smoke. Still on the left, the bold promontory of  
 33 Sorrento extending far out into the sea. On our right is the jutting headland of Posillipo. These  
 34 two promontories form the side walls of this magnificent bay. At 10 o'clock took carriage for a  
 35 preliminary drive. Started west skirting the bay on a splendid road, gradually ascending. The  
 36 view of the city and bay from several points on this road can hardly be excelled. We passed  
 37 over the promontory, and the road gradually descends to a plain. We now skirted the Gulf of  
 38 Pozzuoli, some two miles to a town of that name. Here are the ruins of an ancient  
 39 amphitheatre, villa, etc., but having no guide with us and as our driver could speak neither

1 English or French, we determined to visit this place under more favorable circumstances. On  
2 our return to Naples, we passed through the ancient grotto of Posillipo. It is simply a tunnel  
3 about ½ a mile long, wide enough for two carriages to pass. It is well paved, in some parts 30 or  
4 40 feet high. It is excavated in volcanic tufa, a cream colored rock not much harder than chalk.  
5 This grotto was cut through this promontory many years before Christ. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century it  
6 was enlarged and the floor cut down to a lower level. It was paved in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is a  
7 great thoroughfare, and a line of vehicles is constantly moving in each direction through it. The  
8 tomb of Virgil is near the Naples end of the grotto, but we did not stop to visit it on this  
9 occasion. Returned to our hotel at 2 P.M. After dinner girls out for a walk. Mrs. Van and I  
10 concluded to remain in for the balance of this day. The sunshine has lasted through the day,  
11 parasols required for comfort. The street in front of our hotel is the fashionable drive, and the  
12 turn outs would do, even in Central Park, New York.

13 Jany. 8<sup>th</sup>. Another bright, sunlit day. The weather warm as the month of May. Wrote letter to  
14 Capt. John. Engaged a guide at 42 francs per week. Propose to make our first excursion with  
15 him to morrow. Don't like the arrangement of rooms without fire places. Mrs. Van and I have  
16 taken cold, and if we don't get rid of it soon, shall change our rooms for others with fire places  
17 or leave the city.

18 Jany 9<sup>th</sup>. Carriage & guide at 8 ½ o'clock. Drove west through the grotto of Posillipo. West of  
19 the grotto one mile turned north to the lake d'Agnano – or rather to where the lake used to be  
20 as its waters have within a few years been drained to the sea by an artificial tunnel nearly a  
21 mile in length. The lake was nearly 3 miles in circumference and 40 feet deep, is surrounded by  
22 an amphitheatre of mountains. The bed of the lake is now a fertile plain, highly cultivated in  
23 gardens divided by gravel walks radiating from the centre in every direction. It was at one time  
24 the crater of a huge volcano. Here we visited the "Grotto del Cane." This is a cave excavated in  
25 the bank of the lake and fitted with a rude door which an old woman opened (consideration  
26 one franc) and showed us the mysteries of the interior. It emits from crevices in the sides and  
27 floor volumes of vapour mixed with carbonic acid gas. This gas rests upon the floor and flows  
28 out of the cavern over the threshold of the door. The girls went into the cave, and the guide,  
29 stooping down, put his hand near the floor and, scooping it up quickly towards their noses,  
30 brought up a portion of the noxious gas. They were satisfied with one or two whiffs of it. The  
31 custodian offered to place a dog in the cave to show us that he would die in two or three  
32 minutes, but we did not care to witness the cruelty and were satisfied with some experiments  
33 of lighted torches which, if let down near the floor, would go out as suddenly as if they were  
34 plunged into water. A pistol cannot be fired if held near the floor. In ancient times prisoners  
35 condemned to death were shut up in this cavern where the fatal gas soon did the business for  
36 them. The grotto takes its name from the experiments of killing the dogs. Cane is Italian for  
37 dog. There are vapor baths and other interesting places, but we did not stop to examine them.  
38 We now returned to the principal road and drove west 2 miles to Bagnoli on the shore of the  
39 Gulf of Pozzuoli. There are a few plain houses at Bagnoli. The place is celebrated for its mineral  
40 baths. Passing along the shore between Bagnoli and Pozzuoli, there is abundant evidence that

1 the cliff has at some time been elevated or upheaved some 32 feet above its original position.  
2 The road cuts through the Monte Olibano. This mountain is formed of lava from the ancient  
3 eruptions of the "Solfatara." The eruption of 1198 formed the Olibano. This stream of lava, ¼  
4 of a mile wide and 70 feet high, buried the town of Aliba. The lava is extensively quarried for  
5 building purposes. A prison is built at the quarries and the convicts are employed in working  
6 there. At Pozzuoli we left our carriage to examine the cathedral of St. Proculus. It stands on  
7 the site of a Roman temple erected by Calpurnius and dedicated to Augustus. The ancient  
8 temple was constructed of white marble in Corinthian style of architecture. Six of the columns  
9 with a part of the cornice remain, indicating that the ancient temple was an imposing and  
10 magnificent building. Standing upon a rocky promontory 100 feet above the sea near the base  
11 of this rock is a small chapel covering the spot where St. Paul landed on his way to Rome. We  
12 now started to examine the old crater of Solfatara. Left the carriage at the edge of the town  
13 and footed it about a mile up a very steep road paved with blocks of lava. Our guide assured us  
14 that it was the very pavement over which Paul footed it on his way to room [Rome] 1800 years  
15 ago. Turning a lane to the right, we passed a gate (fee 2 francs) and descended to the level  
16 plain known as the Crater of Solfatara. It is a circular basin about a ¼ of a mile diameter. When  
17 near the centre, the custodian lifted a large boulder above his head, and, bringing it down with  
18 a heavy thump on the ground, we were convinced by the tremor of the earth and the hollow  
19 sound, that we were on a thin crust or sort of pot lid covering a hole or cavern of unknown  
20 depth or other particulars. The fellow repeated the thump, but we told him that he might  
21 desist for I wasn't sure that he wouldn't cave the whole thing in. We then walked across the  
22 crater to a point where a volume of red hot steam was issuing from a small cave. The pressure  
23 was so great that the steam made a noise in escaping like the blowing off of a steam boiler  
24 under 20 pounds pressure. The rocks at the mouth of this cave are incrustated with brimstone  
25 and crystals of prussic acid. The fellow gathered a few pieces for us, at the same time  
26 remarking that they were a deadly poison. We took them, paid him a small fee for his trouble,  
27 but I failed to appreciate the specimens and dropped them soon after. Walked back to our  
28 carriage. Passed between the ruins of a Temple of Diana, square outside and circular internally.  
29 On the opposite side of the road, the temple of Neptune. The parts remaining of both these  
30 temples are without form or comeliness, being simply huge walls and piers of brick work,  
31 indicating, however, that the buildings of which they formed a part were of great extent and  
32 solidity, but time, savage conquerors & earthquakes were too many for them. Passing down a  
33 zig-zag road west of the town of Pozzuoli, we came to the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter  
34 Serapis. Called the "Serapeon," this remarkable ruin lay buried for ages. In 1750 the tops of 3  
35 columns were discovered projecting above the soil amidst the bushes & brush which had so  
36 long concealed them. Charles 3<sup>d</sup> gave orders to excavate around them. The result was a  
37 discovery of an edifice rich in marble decorations and filled with such quantities of broken  
38 sculpture that it was supposed to have been the depository for the fragments of all the heathen  
39 temples in the city when they were suppressed. The 3 columns now standing are of marble 40  
40 feet high. There were formerly 6 of them. These formed a part of the portico in front of the  
41 temple. The court was paved with marble. Beneath it at a depth of 6 feet, a more ancient

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

1 or semi-circular niche. A little further west is the Temple of Mercury. Here is a large circular  
2 room with the dome nearly perfect. It is about 100 feet diameter and is a whispering gallery  
3 similar to the St Pauls in London. There are several large antae rooms connected with this  
4 rotunda, all having arched ceilings of masonry.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile further we come to the temple of  
5 Venus, an octagonal building (circular inside) about 70 feet diameter. It also had a brick dome,  
6 most of which has fallen. The ruins are imposing, but there is nothing about them of very great  
7 interest except their antiquity. Passing the "lake Morto," or dead lake, we left the carriage and  
8 walked  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile to examine an old Roman reservoir called Piscina Mirabilis. This reservoir is  
9 excavated in the tufa rock of which the hill is composed. It is 220 feet long, 83 feet wide and 40  
10 feet high. The arched roof of massive masonry is supported by 48 large brick piers (4 rows, 12  
11 in each row). A flight of 40 stone steps lead from the surface of the ground down into the  
12 reservoir. We descended and explored this mighty cistern, almost as perfect as it was 1800  
13 years ago when it was used to supply the Roman fleet with water which was brought to it by  
14 the Julian aqueduct 50 miles in length. Portions of this aqueduct is visible near the reservoir.  
15 We then walked  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile passing through the dirty little town of Baoli to the promontory of  
16 Miscenum. From this point we had a magnificent view of the bays, island, and headlands of this  
17 extraordinarily beautiful region. Here we found extensive ruins of the Villa of Tiberius who died  
18 within its walls. He was killed by Macro, a captain in his service. The villa was afterwards the  
19 property and residence of Nero. Walking back to our carriage, we left for our return to the city  
20 12 miles distant. Home at 5 o'clock, a good deal fatigued with our very extensive days work.

21 Jany 10<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. A beautiful, warm, and sunny day. Attended the Presbyterian church,  
22 congregation about 120. Good old fashioned singing and a plain, practical sermon. There were  
23 none but Scotch, English & Americans present. It is a comfortable thing for travelers, but don't  
24 bother the Italians to any great extent. After noon did not go out.

25 Jany 11<sup>th</sup>. 8 months to day since we left home on this extensive excursion. Left at 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  this  
26 morning with guide, carriage, and three horses to do up Mount Vesuvius, and it pretty nearly  
27 did us up, as we are all very much fatigued this evening. Our first halt was at the guides bureau  
28 Resina some 3 miles east of Naples, but the entire distance is occupied with a good class of  
29 buildings on both sides of the road so that we could not tell exactly where Naples ended or  
30 where Resina began. At the bureau we engaged 4 saddle horses with mountain guide and  
31 attendants to overtake us at the observatory. We then pursued our way in the carriage to the  
32 observatory. The road passes for some distance between high walls, inclosing vineyards and  
33 gardens, and then by long zig-zags up and across the beds and streams of lava, perhaps 3 miles  
34 to the ridge on which stands the observatory. Most of this lava was ejected in 1872, and we  
35 noticed in several places that smoke and vapors were still issuing from the fissures in the lava.  
36 The appearance of these lava streams or beds is very interesting and defies description.  
37 Instead of a smooth stream of melted matter, they are a tumbled up mass of conglomeration  
38 with the roughest conceivable surface of rocks and scorial forced up in hills and sunk in ravines.  
39 The more liquid parts having oozed out of the fissures resemble black liquid glass bent and  
40 twisted into every known, and unknown, form and variety. It would seem as if the entire

1 bowels of the earth had gushed out upon its surface. On arriving at the observatory (which is  
2 situated on a high ridge of earth between two enormous streams of (1872) lava), we left our  
3 carriage and mounted on horses. Rode along the crest of the ridge for half a mile and then by a  
4 rugged trail across the lava stream to the foot of the cone. Here we dismounted. Our regular  
5 guide was to remain whilst a guide authorized by the government took charge of us to show us  
6 the way up the cone to the crater. The fun of the thing commenced very soon afterward. A  
7 number of men are stationed here with sedan chairs to carry up persons that are not able to  
8 walk. We did not consider that our party came under this head, and we determined to foot it.  
9 The cone is a pile of loose ashes, the surface forming an angle of about 40 degrees on an  
10 average, but in some places it was 45, at others a little less than 40. The distance from the base  
11 of this cone to the edge of the crater is about half a mile and takes an active climber one hour  
12 to ascend to the summit. We started. Two heavy English ladies stopping at the hotel with us  
13 were attached to our party. A dozen or more of the noisy herd of practiced climbers started off  
14 with us, each offering his services to assist us. We had been provided each with a stout staff, or  
15 alpenstock, to aid us in the struggle. The men had straps over their shoulders with a soft loop  
16 at the end for tourists to take hold of to aid them in the ascent. We at first refused any  
17 assistance, but a few rods satisfied first one, and then another of the party, to lay hold of the  
18 strap. And although we had positively refused to have any thing to do with the chairs, I was  
19 somewhat vexed to notice that the men were following us persistently with three of the empty  
20 chairs. Very soon, one of our English friends declared that she could go no further, and a few  
21 minutes persuasion induced her to try one of the chairs. In a very short time, the other English  
22 lady concluded to try the second chair. Mrs. Van's face was becoming very red, and she  
23 insisted upon it, that the strap she held on to went up a great deal faster than she wished to  
24 follow, and when about one third of the way up, concluded to occupy the third chair. The girls  
25 held out bravely, but I found that my strap went up a great deal faster than suited my  
26 convenience – my heart beat 160, or there about, to the minute – and I was obliged to halt and  
27 sit down at times, and I noticed that the spaces between the times grew shorter and shorter.  
28 Two of the men offered to carry me on their shoulders. I finally consented. One placed his  
29 right arm on the shoulders of the other, and he at the same time placed his left arm on the  
30 shoulders of the first. Then they stooped down and I backed up between their heads and sat  
31 upon their interlocked arms. They straighted up, elevating me to a very dizzy height (as I  
32 thought) with nothing to hold on to, except the head of each party. They each had a staff in  
33 their disengaged hand, and there was nothing to prevent my tipping backward or forward, and I  
34 wobbled front and rear like a rooster on a clothes line. When about half way up, Martha  
35 squatted and declared she would go back. Julia was of the same mind. We finally persuaded  
36 them to try my style. They were soon elevated and found how difficult it is to sit on a wiggling  
37 pair of shoulders without any thing to aid one in keeping the centre of gravity, which  
38 continually shifted fore and aft and sideways. It was a marvel to me that I could be carried up a  
39 path that I could not walk. What was my surprise, after resting my carriers, for one of them to  
40 propose to carry me alone. He thrust his head between my legs and straightened up with the  
41 greatest ease. I wrapped my legs around his body, bringing the top of each foot against the

1 small of his back. I sat very safely. He commenced singing and dancing with 170 lbs on his  
2 shoulders on this fearful inclined plain. I was considerably alarmed, fearing he would tip over,  
3 but he did not. Riding first one and then the other, I found myself safely at the apex of the  
4 mountain. A dense vapor filled the crater and, rising in huge billows, rolled over the edge and  
5 passed off in a fleecy, white cloud. The girls were expecting to see a grand display of fire works.  
6 But finding only a vast cauldron with a white fog in it, they were a little inclined at first to feel  
7 somewhat disappointed. The guides led us around on the narrow rim to give us a better view  
8 of the interior. When a change in the wind brought the hot sulphur[e]ous cloud directly upon  
9 us, there was a very sudden reverse movement of the entire party, and in our hurry to get out  
10 of that, it was a little fortunate that a guide had hold of each one of us and kept any one from  
11 stepping off on the wrong side. The inside walls of the crater was inclined on an angle of about  
12 45 degrees. We could at times see them to a depth of 50 or 60 feet. They were covered with a  
13 crust of brimstone. The guide rolled in some small boulders which we could hear thumping  
14 their way down long after they had passed out of sight in the smoke. The guides then poked  
15 our walking sticks into a fissure, and in a few moments they were in a blaze. They were then  
16 handed back to us in their charred condition, proving that where there is so much smoke, there  
17 must be some fire. During our ascent, we had quite a shower of rain and some of us felt a little  
18 damp and cool in this altitude (4300 feet above the sea) at this season of the year – and I  
19 suppose it is the same height at other seasons, but you can't always be sure about it in this  
20 country, where the land is heaving and settling. Now we were to descend by a different path.  
21 It was simply a straight, smooth pile of ashes, Mrs. Van and the two English ladies in their  
22 chairs. I had a guide each side of me. The girls preferred to try it alone. The descent was very  
23 easy and very rapid. We had halted to take a rest when about half way down when Julia, losing  
24 her balance, came plunging headlong into the crowd, blacking her face and nose with the  
25 ashes, but sustaining no injury. I did not blame them for romping a little. It was rare fun to go  
26 down from 6 to 10 feet at a stride and sink to your knees in the ashes at every step. The  
27 descent is made inside of 10 minutes and can be done in a great deal less time if you ain't  
28 careful. After paying out the francs pretty freely to the party that assisted us, and particularly  
29 to the fellows that had me on their shoulders, we all mounted our horses and returned safely  
30 to our carriage at the observatory, passing on our way a large cross. We were informed that  
31 the cross marked the spot where a party of several persons lost their lives in 1872 during the  
32 great eruption, their curiosity having upset their prudence. The names of this unfortunate  
33 party are engraved on a marble slab and fixed in the wall of the observatory and is a very  
34 suggestive hint to all subsequent sight-seers to be cautious. We found our carriage very  
35 comfortable after our fatiguing excursion and arrived safely at our hotel about 5 o'clock. We  
36 informed our guide that he need not call for us before 2 o'clock to morrow as we were  
37 apprehensive that some one of the party would feel stiff in the morning.

38 Jan'y 12<sup>th</sup>. Retired early last night and all of us feel well this morning. Mrs. Van determined on  
39 changing our boarding house, started off with the girls to call on some acquaintances made on  
40 our trip from Rome. They found them nicely situated and a party about to vacate a couple of



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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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,

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.

1 The forum, the great theatre, and the little theatre, the temples of Neptune, Mercury & Venus  
2 must have been very elegant and magnificent in their day. The streets, many of them are  
3 narrow, and the ruts of the chariot wheels are worn deeply into the lava pavements. Workmen  
4 were engaged in making still farther excavations. We went into some of the rooms recently  
5 brought to light. It is astonishing how fresh and new these old works appear when the ashes  
6 and sand are just removed from them. We next visited the amphitheatre, a structure similar to  
7 the colosseum, but less in size and of less extravagance of finish – yet it is a wonderful affair.  
8 Verily, those old settlers were fond of fun. We were shown into a room near the Sea Gate of  
9 the old city which has been fitted up as a museum. Here were many interesting things found in  
10 making the excavations. Skeletons of horses, dogs, and fowls. Also several casts of plaster of  
11 Paris in glass cases. It appears that the thin mud which with the ashes overwhelmed the city  
12 had enveloped the bodies of the victims and, having become hard, the bodies went to dust, but  
13 left a matrix of their exact form in the surrounding matter. The engineer having charge of the  
14 excavations conceived the project of pouring liquid plaster of Paris into these cavities and  
15 afterwards in removing the mould, he had a perfect form of the individual that had been so  
16 unfortunate as to prepare the thing for him. These casts are of great interest. The skull is  
17 embedded in the plaster so as to retain it in its proper position. The bones of some of the  
18 hands are visible and the exact position in which the person died is shown with great precision.  
19 A mother and daughter had fallen so close together that the plaster cast united them. It was a  
20 sight that we shall not forget very soon. In another small room a skeleton remains on the  
21 ground undisturbed. The dirt having been carefully removed from it. The room is said to have  
22 been a bed room. We now resumed our carriage, having spent over 3 hours in our wanderings  
23 in Pompei. On our way home, we stopped at Herculaneum. Here the inevitable eight franc  
24 performance had to be repeated. A guide lead us down a flight of marble stairs some 20 feet.  
25 Then, handing each of us a lighted candle, we followed him down a wet and slippery zig-zag  
26 stairs 45 feet deeper into the ground, being 65 feet below the street. Here we were shown the  
27 well, the digging of which led to the discovery of the site of this old city. We passed along wet  
28 and narrow galleries to the ruins of the theatre. The guide spoke French, and we were much  
29 edified as he was perfectly familiar with the whole arrangement. Here was the orchestra  
30 where the musicians blowed their trumpets 2500 years since; there the stone seats on which  
31 the tickled audience sat to see the performance and listen to the music. After satisfying  
32 ourselves that it was just as all theatres should be, we retraced our steps to day light and were  
33 taken a short distance down a street toward the sea and, passing by an iron gate, went down  
34 into the open excavation. Here a portion of this ancient city has been brought to light. It has a  
35 strong resemblance to the ruins of Pompei except that the architecture is more decidedly  
36 Grecian and the frescoes in many places having the Grecian fret in place of the Arabesque  
37 borders of Pompei. Spending an hour here, we were glad to resume our carriage and arrived  
38 home at 6 o'clock very much fatigued with our days work.

1    Jany 15<sup>th</sup>. Another beautiful day. We determined to make this a day of rest. Wrote letter to  
2    James & Clara. Took a short walk with Mr. Van Wyck and consulted about future movements  
3    generally.

4    Jany 16<sup>th</sup>. Visited the celebrated museum this morning. The building is large and encloses two  
5    spacious courts. It is 2 stories high and is admirably arranged for its purpose. The statuary and  
6    other sculptures found in Pompei and Herculaneum, with a countless multitude from Rome and  
7    other parts of Italy, are set up in order, and a guide shows you around and calls each bust or  
8    statue by name -- weather correctly or not, it makes no difference as the observer could hardly  
9    tell Junius Brutus from Caligula, but I have no doubt of his introducing them correctly as he  
10   seemed to be very familiar with them. The rooms of the bronzes are very interesting. Here is  
11   every thing from a tea spoon to a cooking range found in the ruins of Pompei & Herculaneum.  
12   Next visited the cabinet of gems and gold & silver articles, coins, etc. -- one gold lamp weighing  
13   3 pounds, many gold rings, some of them very beautiful. Also chains & bracelets found in  
14   Diomedes villa. The gallery of paintings contains many very good pictures and a great many  
15   artists engaged in copying them. The rooms containing the frescoes and mosaics removed  
16   from the walls and floors of the houses at Pompei & Herculaneum gave us the greatest  
17   pleasure. The mosaics are of extraordinary beauty. We consider this visit as for a general view  
18   of the museum, as we shall be better prepared on making a second visit to examine the  
19   numerous interesting objects with a better understanding of their merits, etc. After spending  
20   three hours wandering round from room to room, we returned to our hotel and propose a rest  
21   until Monday.

22   Jany 17<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. The first stormy day we have had at Naples. Strong wind from S.W. with  
23   heavy showers and occasional sunshine. Thermometer about 60. Wrote letter to L.C.P. Freer.  
24   Did not go out.

25   Jany 18<sup>th</sup>. Bright sun, weather sufficiently warm to sit without fire. Mrs. Van & Martha out for  
26   a walk, Julia and I a little out of sorts. Remained at home this morning. Afternoon walked to  
27   the bank, looked over Chicago Tribune. Noticed the failure of Gage & Rice of the Pacific, and  
28   the installation of J.B. Drake as mine host. I would prefer to have had Drake in the Tremont.

29   Jany. 19<sup>th</sup>. Took steamboat at 9 o'clock for Sorrento and Island of Capri. The day has been fine,  
30   but the storm of last Sunday left a dead swell, and our little steamer running lengthwise of the  
31   smooth, heaving billows had a very irritating and deleterious influence on the gastronomic and  
32   digestive organs of the feminine three fourths of our party. Those having patent leather  
33   stomachs were proof against any uncomfortable sensations arising from the tipping and  
34   tossing, rolling, and plunging of the vessel. We stopped a few minutes at Sorrento. The  
35   passengers were embarked and disembarked in small boats. Sorrento is a high old town being  
36   situated on a perpendicular, rocky bluff about 200 feet high. The bluff forms a perfect wall  
37   against the sea, without any beach excepting one small spot which is occupied as a ship yard  
38   and has one large vessel on the stocks nearly ready for launching. This ancient city is the  
39   "Surrentum" of the Romans, and it is claimed to have been founded by Shem, the son of Noah.

1 We did not stop at this place, and we were soon on our way toward the mountainous Island of  
2 Capri. The walls of the mountains stand plumb from the sea, and the precipices are fearfully  
3 high. This place was the favorite home of the Emperor Tiberius, and it is said that he built 12  
4 palaces on the island and had a habit of pushing those who had incurred his displeasure from  
5 the highest precipice into the sea. The st.-boat passed the landing place half a mile and  
6 stopped opposite the rat hole which is pointed out as the entrance to the celebrated "blue  
7 grotto." A number of small boats came alongside for the purpose of conveying any of the  
8 passengers who desired to try the little hole to see the interiors of the grotto. Had the water  
9 been still, it would have been an easy matter, but the waves were dashing against the rocky  
10 wall and at times nearly reaching the arch of the entrance which is only 3 feet above still water.  
11 There was one advantage in the billowy motion of the water: if it rose above the ordinary level  
12 at one movement, it fell below it in the next movement. Mrs. Van, Martha, and I, after some  
13 little figuring, were safely in the little boat which was bobbing up and down at the side of the  
14 steamer. We pushed off and were soon amongst the spray of the breakers against the rocks.  
15 We were to sit flat in the bottom of the boat and hold our head below the gunwale. The rise  
16 and fall of the water in the cave caused the air to rush in and out of the little entrance with  
17 great violence. When our little egg shell neared the hole, a few large waves nearly shut it up.  
18 Mrs. Van & Martha became frightened and begged the boatman to turn back. He did not  
19 understand a word they said, and watching his opportunity when some smaller waves  
20 approached him, thrust the boat at a bound through the opening and clapping his hand gave an  
21 Italian whoop of exultation, and we found ourselves safely inside of the wonderful grotto. The  
22 water was a deep sky blue, and everything else had a blue tinge. We felt a little blue when we  
23 thought of passing out of that contracted hole which looked smaller than ever. However, after  
24 sailing around a few minutes, another boat entered having Mr. and Mrs. Van Wyck and Julia on  
25 board and another lady friend of Van Wycks. Two or three other boats followed them – made  
26 quite a party, all having safely entered. Our boat neared the opening ready to leave, and the  
27 skillful boatman, watching his opportunity, quickly pushed the boat out upon the open sea. We  
28 were soon safely on the deck of our steamer and watching the hole with a good deal of anxiety  
29 to welcome the emergence of our fellow passengers. No accident happened, and now that I  
30 am safely out, I will confess that it was a reckless, daredevil of an undertaking, but we saw the  
31 grotto. Returning to the landing, our craft came to anchor, and, leaving in small boats for the  
32 shore, we rambled about the island for two hours – but it would require two days to visit all the  
33 places of interest on the island. We walked a couple of miles, stopped at an orange farm and  
34 plucked the fruit from the trees, then, returning on board, were wafted safely home at 6  
35 o'clock, just in time for dinner.

36