

1 Jany. 26<sup>th</sup>. Took carriage this morning for a visit to the castle of St. Elmo and the ch of S. Martino  
2 situated on a bluff of tufa rock at least 1000 feet above the sea. The road ascends by an easy inclined  
3 plane in long zig-zags and intricate twistings up and around the bold cliff to the base of the castle which  
4 is a formidable structure apparently as old as the hill on which it stands. Strangers are not admitted  
5 inside its frowning walls. So we did the next best thing by thoroughly exploring the church of S. Martino  
6 which adjoins the castle walls. This was the Certosa or Carthusian Convent (now suppressed). The  
7 interior of the church is said to be the most splendidly decorated church in Europe, and it does seem  
8 impossible to construct a building having a greater profusion of works of artistic beauty. "The floor,  
9 piers, walls, etc., are all encased in coloured marbles forming a real Florentine mosaic on a large scale."  
10 The marble screen of the choir is the most beautiful piece of inlaid marble work that we have yet seen.  
11 The chapels opening from the nave are all in the same style of costly and profuse decoration. A door  
12 from the choir leads into the sacristy, a very beautiful room finished in same extravagant style as the  
13 church. We then passed out and into the cloisters. Here is a large court surrounded by an arched  
14 colonnade, the roof supported by 64 white marble columns, the floor of polished marbles of different  
15 colours. These walks were used as promenades by the monks for meditation and reflections. Shut in  
16 from the world, they could here study up all manner of mischief without fear or molestation. We next  
17 visited several rooms used as a museum. A huge state carriage covered with gold leaf in use in the time  
18 of Charles 3<sup>rd</sup> is here exhibited. Also a state barge, 50 feet long, built 100 years since – a queer affair  
19 profusely ornamented with carvings, covered with gold. Pictures, works of glass, & porcelain go to make  
20 up the balance of the show. We were not long in passing through this part of the arrangement to a  
21 belvedere fitted with balconies. From this point we had the city of Naples spread before us like a map,  
22 every street and piazza, church, and palace clearly defined in isometrical perspective. Leaving this  
23 interesting place, we drove to the office of the agency of the steamers for Marseilles and found that we  
24 can leave between 11 and 12 next Saturday on the steamer from Alexandria for Marseilles and  
25 determined, Providence permitting, to try the experiment.

26 Jany. 27<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast this morning at 7 o'clk. On board train at 8 for Castellammare where we arrived at  
27 9. Hired landau with 3 horses for a drive to Sorrento. This is one of the finest drives in this beautiful  
28 region. The scenery is not as picturesque as the drive from Vietri to Amalfi, but it is nevertheless very  
29 interesting. Distance about 10 miles. The road is a wide one, smooth as a floor and protected at  
30 dangerous places along the precipices by a parapet wall. It winds in and out of the valleys and around  
31 the bold headlands. We passed through the town of Vico, a picturesque place on the mountain side of a  
32 deep ravine. Passing up the ravine half a mile, the road crosses on a very lofty viaduct of five arches of  
33 dressed lime stone. This viaduct makes a very pretty item in the picture of the valley. Passing through  
34 the towns of Meta, Carotto, and Pozzopiano, we reach Sorrento. The sides of the mountains along the  
35 road are terraced and covered with olive trees which are extensively cultivated for the oil they produce.  
36 The plane of Sorrento is a vast orange garden. Large trees laden with the luscious fruit are very  
37 abundant. Some of these orange trees are nearly 12 inches diameter and 25 feet high. The town of  
38 Sorrento is surrounded on 3 sides by deep natural ravines, and the walls of the city, erected in the  
39 Middle ages, stand close upon the edges of these ravines. They have an exceedingly venerable look and  
40 were considered as impregnable before the discovery of gun powder and siege guns. We put up at the  
41 Hotel Tasso, said to be the house in which that celebrated character was born and where he lived for  
42 many years. We found nothing of startling interest in the old cathedral which we visited, except perhaps  
43 a couple of antique columns belonging to an old heathen temple that once occupied the site of the  
44 cathedral. We looked into the museum containing some old sarcophagi, and one thing or other, and