

through those dismal halls! From this place, so near the Vatican, issued the orders for the slaughter of the Jews and the last Mussulmans in Spain. Within this building was decreed the murder of the Waldenses in the Guardia di Lombardy and the sub-alpine valleys. Here Galileo was tortured, the imprisonment of Giunone was ordered, Pasquale was condemned to the flames, as well as Carnesecchi, Palerio, and Giardono Bruno. Here were planned the murder of the Huguenots and the horrors of Flanders. Here the censorship was organized, war was made against the printing-press, a holy act was pronounced treason, and attempts were made to chain the mind. But that Prometheus has broken its bonds, and the world is going on under its influence.

The edifice of the "Holy" Inquisition was in part erected about the middle of the 16th century. It may be divided into three parts, having the form of two rectangular buildings and a trapezium united. It is presumed by some that the edifice rests its walls upon a prison of Nero. In March, 1849, the Government of the Republic ordered accommodation for stables for the national artillery, and appropriated a part of the Inquisition, under the closed gallery of the second court. A space was opened in the walls; when the workmen discovered an aperture. The rubbish was removed, they descended into a small subterranean place, damp, without light or passage out, with no floor, but a black, oleaginous earth resembling that of a cemetery. Here and there scattered about pieces of garments of ancient fashions—the clothes of unfortunate persons thrown down from above, and died of wounds, fear, or hunger. A baiocco (or penny) of Pius IX. was picked up, which probably denotes the epoch when that abode of darkness and despair was walled up. The rich soil had hardly begun to be removed before human bones were uncovered in some very long locks of hair, which doubtless had ornamented the heads of females. It is certain that the "Trap-door" swallowed victims of whom it was important to the "Holy"

office to destroy all traces, because the Foro, or Judgment Hall, is over it in the second story of the first edifice.

The other modern prisons are contiguous to the last court, which has been converted into a garden. Each of those prisons is a very small cell, capable of containing only a single person, being in two stories and all alike. They are accessible from an exceedingly narrow corridor, like the cells of a convent. The walls of this passage are every where covered with pictures, and inscriptions commenting upon them, which intimate the horrid nature of the institution, and hold up to view the severest dogmas of the Roman Catholic religion, not interpreted in a spirit of forgiveness. Yet the most tremendous inscriptions were erased before the flight of the pope. The cells were furnished with beds; and there the greatest disorder and filth every where prevailed. Here and there were worn out cushions, coverlets, chairs, and tables, and old clothes of prisoners who died in the cells many years ago. In a certain very small cell were things which indicated horrible secrets; a piece of a woman's handkerchief of large size, and an old bonnet, of a girl about ten years old. Poor little child! What offence, perhaps unknown to you, could it have been, which threw you into this place, and destroyed the innocent peace of your infantile years; which taught you to weep in the season of smiles, and perhaps deprived you of your dear and early life? In another cell were found four sandals, and several nuns' cords, a little spindle, caskets containing needles, crucifixes, and unfinished stockings, with the knitting-needles still well pointed, and an infant's coach.

And so, in almost every one of the prison-rooms, were to be seen clothes, ornaments, and other relics of their former occupants; and, as every thing was wrapped in deep and mournful mystery, the imaginations of the people recalled ancient tragical stories, and wept over the misfortunes of persons of whose name they were ignorant.