

for which he was reproached by Velleius Paterculus as the first corruptor of republican simplicity.

Mamurra, who dwelt upon the Caelian Hill, was the first person in Rome to cover the whole of his walls with marble, and to erect solid columns of Carystian or Lunian. His passion for collecting seems, however, to have been modified by another characteristic. It is told of him that, 'after having walked long and anxiously in the squares where golden Rome ostentatiously displays her riches, he uncovers the tables square and round; and asks to see some rich ivory ornaments which were displayed on the upper shelves. Then, having four times measured a dinner-couch for six, wrought with tortoise-shell, he sorrowfully regretted that it was not large enough for his citron table. He consulted his nose whether the bronzes had the true Corinthian aroma, and criticized the statues of Polyclitus! Next, complaining that some crystal vases had been spoiled by an admixture of glass, he marked and set aside ten Myrrhine cups. He weighed ancient bowls, and inquired for goblets that had been ennobled by the hand of Mentor. He counted emeralds set in chased gold and examined the largest pearl ear-pendants. He sought on every counter for seal sardonyxes and cheapened some large jaspers. At last, when forced by fatigue to retire at the eleventh hour, he bought two cups for one small coin, and carried them home himself.'<sup>1</sup>

Crassus, whose nickname was the Palatine Venus, was the first to possess pillars of foreign marble, and

with the general introduction of marble into the city. This stone, thought by some authorities to have been the black marble of Taenaron, is unlike any variety used at any time in Rome; and Signor Boni has so far been unable to identify it.

<sup>1</sup> Martial, Book ix, Epigram 59, On Mamurra (Bohn).