

noted the number of tunics and togas sent on that day to the washerwoman—also certain articles sent to the dyer; and in another corner, she made a record of the birthday of her eldest son. Little did the good woman fancy that these little private entries would be read seventeen hundred years afterwards, and transmitted as precious relics to posterity.

The number and magnitude of the public buildings in Pompeii strike us with astonishment, when we take into account that it was but a fourth rate city of the empire. In addition to the amphitheatre, there were two theatres capable of holding eight thousand persons, numerous gorgeous temples, courts of law and spacious public baths. Herein we distinguish another characteristic of the people. The old Roman citizen found his pleasure, for the most part, abroad. His home was in public, and the splendour of public edifices and the profusion of public amusements compensated the great body of the people for domestic deficiencies. The central point of business and magnificence was the Forum, which, as in all Roman cities, served alike for commercial purposes and for the administration of justice. Here the merchants assembled, as in our Exchanges; here were the courts of law, the great public markets, the places for the money-changers and for civic assemblages. Most of the temples were either in the Forum or its immediate vicinity. Very magnificent must the Pompeian Forum have looked, in the days of its pride and prosperity, with its triumphal arches and their marble statues of eminent men, some of them equestrian; its three sides surrounded by Doric columns twelve feet in height, and two feet three inches in thickness. The stately temple of Jupiter at one extremity, and the Basilica or court of justice at the other: the Pantheon, dedicated to the aristocracy of the Roman mythology, and the Chalcidicum, or washing place for the magisterial and priestly robes, at either side. The steps leading to the entrance of the Basilica are deeply worn, telling of the tread of many busy feet. The little marble pulpit from which the advocate spoke is still visible. The Basilica itself measured two hundred and twenty feet in length and eighty in breadth. In a recess, at its furthest extremity, was placed the judge's tribunal, the space around it being separated by a railing from the other portions of the building, which were devoted to the same purposes as our modern Exchanges. Christian churches were imitated from these Basilicas—the altar