

number of half-columns. The whole of the edifice was crowned by an entablature adorned with pilasters and windows. The style of architecture varies at each tier; the first being Doric, the second Ionic, and the third and fourth Corinthian. The arches of the first tier are marked with Roman numbers, as they formed so many entrances, through which, by means of internal staircases, the upper stories were reached. Its form is oval, and its external circumference is 535 metres and 49 in height. It is capable of containing above a hundred thousand spectators. After having served until A. D. 523 for these sanguinary spectacles, from the eleventh century until A. D. 1312, some noble families made use of it as a stronghold and it was then that it suffered the greatest injury. Pius IX. restored the upper tier to its primitive state. The arena had two entrances, and all around apertures enclosed by railings of bronze, from which the gladiators and the wild beasts entered. Above was the Podium, a place intended for the Emperors and their families, for the magistrates, the senators, the pagan priests, and the vestals. The fourteen small chapels, with the passion of Jesus Christ, which are in the interior, are in remembrance of the thousands of Christians who in this place suffered martyrdom, becoming the prey of wild beasts.

ROME is situated on the Tiber, by which it is divided into two unequal parts. It is distant 90 kilometres from the mouth of this river; 370 from Florence; 800 from Vienna; 1300 from Paris; 1600 from London, and has a population of about 250,000 inhabitants. The part of the city built on the left of the Tiber is Rome, properly called. The city is entered by fifteen gates, it possesses 360 churches and forty-six public squares. There are twelve principal fountains, which adorn it, and provide it with water. Although Rome has undergone so many and such varied vicissitudes, she may still call herself one of the most beautiful cities of the universe. To her ancient magnificence, to the obelisks, to the columns, to the statues, to the masterpieces of a remote epoch, disinterred from the ruins of her first grandeur, are united the splendid creations of modern art. Her many and sumptuous churches, her great and majestic palaces, her fountains and her galleries, rich in the most valuable paintings of the great masters, in a word as she was in the past so she still remains—the city in which art most flourishes.