

bronze horses, said to be the workmanship of Lycippus. They were given to the emperor Nero by Tiridates, king of Armenia. Nero placed them on the triumphal arch consecrated to him; they were afterwards removed to the Hippodrome of Constantinople, and when that city was taken by the French and Venetians, in the thirteenth century, they were brought to Venice, and placed in their present situation.

The treasury of St. Mark is extremely rich in jewels and relics. Among other articles, it contains eight pillars from Solomon's temple, a piece of the Virgin Mary's veil, some of her hair and milk; the knife used by our Saviour at the last supper, one of the nails of his cross, and a few drops of his blood.

After these, it would be impertinent to enumerate the bones, and other relics of saints and martyrs, of which there is a plentiful show; and still more so, to make out an inventory of the temporal jewels kept here. One singular curiosity, however, deserves mention: it is a picture of the Virgin by St. Luke, which proves that the evangelist was but a miserable dauber, and that the pious Catholics sometimes defame those they mean to honour, by ascribing such silly performances to them.

The ducal palace is an immense building, wholly of marble. Besides the apartments of the doge, it contains halls and chambers for the senate, and all the different councils and tribunals.

The principal stair-case is called the Giant's Stair, from two colossal statues of Mars and Neptune, placed atop. They are of white marble, and sculptured by Sansovinò, on purpose to represent the naval and military powers of this state.

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