

a portico in front, and surmounted by a dome. This they learned from "Murray" was the Pantheon. On entering, they found the simple majesty of its interior more impressive than anything they had ever seen. There were no windows, but in the centre of the dome above there was a circular opening, through which the light came down.

They then wandered on farther, and soon found themselves threading a maze of dingy streets, which were lined with gloomy houses. Mean-looking shops appeared, some for the sale of provisions, others for the sale of wine. Throngs of people, chiefly of the lower orders, surrounded them — men, women, and children, with priests, and soldiers, and peasants, and shepherds, and wine-carts, and sheep, and goats, and droves of cattle. The streets were narrow, without sidewalks, and with the gutter in the middle. The crowd was busy, and bustling, and full of vivacity, and they gave to the place an air of animation which the boys had not expected to find at Rome. At last they found themselves approaching a vast circular edifice, built of enormous blocks of stone, and surmounted by modern fortifications, while crowning the whole work was the colossal statue of an angel. It scarcely needed a reference to the guide-book to show them what this was. The statue told them that it could be no other than the Castle of St. Angelo. But all interest in this was lost in another and grander object which soon rose to view.