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VOL 10, NO. 15.

WINNIPEG MANITOBA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1894.

You're 'way **Behind**

The times, my friend, with that winter overcoat. It was all right at "twenty below," but don't you think it's rather a back number than 6 a back number these fine spring days. Even the bears are changing their coats. How's that? "Hard times! Can't afford a new one, you say.
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ST. PETER'S BASILICA

IN ROME-GRANDEST OF CHRISTIAN TEMPLES.

Tomb of the Aposties-Immensity of Dome-Rich Marbles-Richer Mosaics-176 Years in Building-Historical Connections.



Peter's Basilica in Rome is indeed a hazardous task, for the human mind is incapable of comprehending the grandeur of that greatest of Christian temples. So vast, so wondrous, so harmonizing are all the adjuncts of this lordly edifice, that one's feels bewildered even in the contemplation of the most beautiful monument, which is forever the master-mountent, which is forever the master-mountent the loly apostles.

The interior decorations of the cupt and ornamented with eight Corinthian pillars; the cupola is very handsome, and ornamented with eight Corinthian pillars; the cupola is very handsome. Such beauty and such grandeur will force the pilgrim to ask, "Wherefore the ability and overwhelming edifice" are shirings, shrines with its immensity.

The interior decorations of the fourth the force the pilgrim to ask, "Wherefore the has but to read the pages of "her church's history to learn, for on this very spot one of the greatest triumphs very spot one of the greatest triumphs.

The interior decorations of the cupolar and ornamented with eight Corinthian pillars; the cupola To essay a descriptive narrative of St. dome of St. Peter's. Words fail to picture Peter's Basilica in Rome is indeed a tax and a lit. All description falls short of it. It is hazardous task, for the human mind is too colossal in its glittering mosaic work that dragable of comprehending the grand-to be portrayed in narrative. A Pantheon piazza is found one of the richest visit it, "breaking to piece-meal the great whole, and making them separate objects of contemplation;" but to form any adequate idea of its immensity, it is necessary to betake oneself far from the madding crowd, to some distant spot, where the eye, no longer discerning puny structures, will be free to embrace

The writer, recalls with thrilling remembrance, the glory with which St. Peter's cupola burst in upon his view,

within its vision the gigantic whole.

With wondrous eyes the visitor ap-Peter's. It is impossible to desire any into bold relief. Of oval shape, circumterenced by a superb portico, with four rows of massive Corinthian columns surmounted with statues larger than life, it forms a fitting entrance to the precincts of the church. In the centre of this space is placed one of the largest upwards in silver streams to a distance of some eighty feet, which, when re-turning in cascade form, produce a marvellous effect, exhibiting all the various tints of the rainbow. A gradual ascent it, at a most fabulous expenditure. is commenced about seventy-five feet. There is probably no Christian ed from the vestibule of the church. Here the massiveness begins; the mind seems already lost in the maze of architectural symmetry, and rebels against crediting the surroundings with their just proportions. The Basilica is enter-

"Its grandeur overwhelms thee not,
"And why? It is not lessened, but thy mind
"Expanded by the genius of the spot, 'Has grown colossal."

Six hundred and thirteen feet from mammoth premium offers, is the latest effort the spot on which the visitor is now of Stafford's Magazine, a New York monthly startling is the chair of St. Peter, some 225 feet of aisles and a nave are at either side of him, while raising his eyes he is to be carried to the still more wondrous altitude of 434 feet, when immediately under the dome. This, then, is the immensity of St. Peter's -613 feet long, 150 feet high in the nave and aisles, 434 feet under the dome, and 450 feet wide at the transept. The awestricken visitor seems paralysed by the effect, and remaining motionless for some minutes, vainly endeavors to take in the immensity before him. Unconsciously he moves,

Like climbing some great Alp, which still doth move.
Deceived by its gigantic elegance," be beholds

'Vastness which grows, but grows to har-monize."

Betaking himself to the Baldachino, which surmounts the high altar, and neath which are buried the Apostles Saints Peter and Paul, a flood of light breaks in upon his soul, and looking aloft he views.

"The dome, the vast and vondrous dome
To which Diana's marvel was a cell.
Christ's mighty shrine above His martyr's

tian temples. It were useless to make a tour of the church, for the mind is unable to drink in at one draught such a beauteous grandeur. Twenty-nine altar pieces, each costing more than \$20,000; 135 statues, and twenty monuments, some of which cost \$30,000; 100 immense pillars, and a pavement in variegated

in this grotto, and Pope Anacletus erected an oratory, where for three centuries the faithful ass embled to pray. Constantine resolved to change the oratory into a more noble temple. This work of the great emperor remained for eleven centuries. In 1450 Pope Nicholas V. here he beholds the scene of the temple. The reconstruction of the present here were things of this world to confound proaches the grand piazza leading to St. great emperor remained for eleven Peter's. It is impossible to desire any centuries. In 1450 Pope Nicholas V. thing more majestic and imposing, and began the reconstruction of the present more calculated to throw the basilica editice. At his death it was not raised more than five feet above the pavement. Paul II. continued the work after several modifications. Paul III. committed the completion to Michael Angelo, who altered the design to the form of a Greek cross. The cupola was finished under Sixtus V., by James Della Porta, Under of Egyptian obelisks, at either side of which two lountains shoot their waters cross, according to the original designs cross, according to the original designs of Bramante. Pius VI. perfected the work, and on November 18,1626, Pope Urban VIII. consecrated the Basilica.

Thus 176 years were spent in completing There is probably no Christian edifice in existence to-day, not even excepting St. Paul's of London, which is noted for so many historical happenings as is St. Peter's. Four times did Charlemagne worship there; there the son of Pepin received the Imperial crown from Leo IIL; Alfred, King of England, was crowned in it by Leo IV; Charles the Bald by John VIII. Otho I. by John XII., and St. Henry by Benedict VIII.

A large number of popes are interred

within the church's walls, and the sculptured monuments over many of the tombs would alone render St. Peter's a gem in an artistic point of view. It is indeed difficult to realize the immense dazed with the glittering panels of the proportions of the building. The wonder-gilded roof, extended 150 feet high in air, gilded roof, extended 150 feet high in air, full harmony which pervades everything makes the vastness incomprehensible, and only by surveying part by part can one at all arrive at any just idea of the whole. For instance, the dome is erected upon four large columns; where these merge into its encircling limits are placed four medallion mosaics, representing the four evangelists. On being viewed from the pavement below, these medallions appear not more than eighteen or twenty inches in diameter, yet the pen which St. Luke holds in his hand measures in actual length seven feet! One of the best and perhaps the only correct method of forming an estimate of the building is to take notice of some devout penitent kneeling in the church. Standing at the doorway and viewed from the high altar, a man seems but a speck on the floor. There are no pews or benches in St Peter.s. Any one of the side chapels can contain a thousand or more people, and the church itself would not seem crowded if 75,000 spectators assembled within its walls. It would be a pleasing task to conduct the reader to It is impossible for the human mind to conceive the mighty grandeur of the and to treat him to a panoramic view of

the city of the Caesars. But for the present it were better that he remain within, for already his mind is opening to the grandeur before bim and

"Growing with its growth he thus "dilates" His spirits to the size of that he contemplates. "LEA FAIL," in the Nor'-Wester.

ST. AGNES.

Virgin and Martyr-Scenes of Her Suffering-Visit to The Shrine Where Her Body is Laid-Blessing of the

Lambs. Written for the N. W. REVIEW.

There is perhaps not one among the host of martyred saints whose blood fructifies the soil of the Catholic church, who appeals more strikingly to the heart of the faithful than does the Holy Virgin Agnes. The refinement of her nature, the radiant beauty of her person, together with the inhuman butchery which she underwent for the love of Him who hung on the bitter cross for three long hours, all tend to endear St. Agnes to the Catholic instinct, and to render the narrative of her life a source of deep reverential pathos.

It may not be out of place to take the reader back in spirit to the scene of St. Agnes' martyrdom, and to conduct him to the shrine, wherein are laid in peace the relics of this holy virgin. Needless to add, such scenes are found in the

Eternal City.

The Piazsa Navona in Rome was formerly the circus of Alexander Severus; it is one of the largest in that city, being the public market place. Gregory very spot one of the greatest triumphs of Christianity was effected, yes, one of the greatest for a holy virgin, yet in the infancy of years scorned the offerings of a Roman Prefect, withstood tortures and persecutions almost beyond belief—why? because she had already promised herself in marriage.

had already promised herself in marriage to a more noble spouse-she was the affianced bride of a heavenly bridegroom! Ladies and Gentlemen, be alive to your when far out njon the bleak and destrict own interests. There he recently been discovered and covered and covered and white might shattered fragments of friezes, columns and who may be the undered control of a near the plains were in former ages the glories of ancient Rome, whose fields are plains were in former ages the glories shattered fragments of friezes, columns and who the sone bleached on the shattered fragments of friezes, columns by the undered will be eard ear have a thrifty growth in six weeks. Jetter shattered fragments of friezes, columns by the control of the plains were in former ages the glories of ancient Rome, whose fields are strewn with pieces of white marble, the shattered fragments of friezes, columns and tombs, like "bones bleached on the shattered fragments of friezes, columns by the control of the plain and the true." "Childe Harold" "But thou of temples old or alturs new shattered fragments of friezes, columns and tombs, like "bones bleached on the battle neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down in reverging the neld, "kneeling down in reverging the neld," kneeling down i Sempronius seeks Agnes in marriage: She repulses him and thereby arouses weak things of this world to confound

the strong."

Filled with devotion and love towards the youthful martyr, the pilgrim rests not till he venerates in person the ashes of the saint in her church on the Via Nomentana, and with hurried steps he hastens from the Porta Pia, never stopping till he has reached the entrance to the sacred spot. This church is also dedicated to St. Agnes and was erected by Constantine the Great, on the very spot where was found the body of the saint. It is considerably underground, and a descent of forty-five steps leads to the crypt. Up to the middle of the present century the antique surthe present century the antique surroundings and frescoes were untouched, but now they have been replaced by modern artistic skill, and to-day St. Agnes, on the Via Nomentana ranks with the choicest of Rome's Temples. The original frescoes of the church are at present in the museum of the Vatican Palace. It might be added that the new decorations were made in commemoration of an almost miraculous escape of Pio Nono in 1855. The Holy Pontiff with several prelates and students were assembled in a convent adjoining the church; suddenly the floor gave way, and all were precipitated below, though not one was hurt or injured.

The body of the Saint rests peacefully neath the high altar. In connection with this narrative it may be noted that the palliums of all Catholic Archbishops are made out of the wool of two lambs, which are blessed every year on the feast of St. Agnes. The ceremony is an interesting one. After the High Mass, the lambs, ornamented with ribbons, are brought from the sacristy upon two silver dishes, and placed on the High Altar. They are incensed and sprinkled with holy water. Then a canon of St. John Lateran carries them safely to the charge of the nuns of St. Pudenziana. The palliums of archbishops are woven out of the wool of the lambs, and on the eve of the festival of Sts. Peter and Paul, are placed upon a table before the confessional of the apostles, in St. Peter's. They are blessed usually by the Pope himself after vespers, and are placed during the night on the tombs of the apostles. They are then sent to all archbishops and metropolitans who need them. To witness such scenes is indeed a great boon, for they bring one in close contact with the doings of the church's saints, and they fill the mind with loveable thoughts of the early ages of our faith. "LEA FAIL."

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