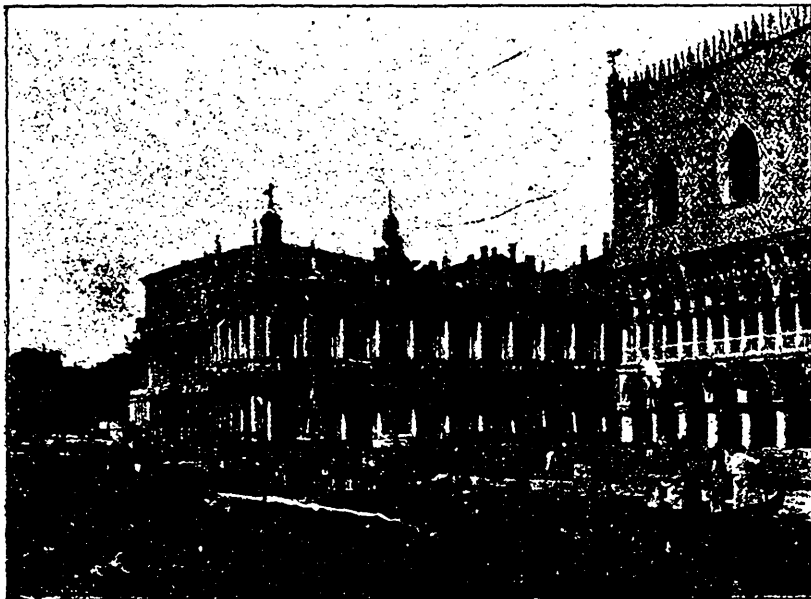


Methodist Magazine and Review.

SEPTEMBER, 1900.

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THE QUEEN OF THE ADRIATIC.\*

BY CHARLES YRIARTE.



THE PIAZZETTA, DOGE'S PALACE.

Venice, the Queen of the Adriatic, is distinguished, not only by the glory of her arts, the strangeness of her position, the romance of her origin, but by the great historical memories of her days of power. These throw an interest over a city which survives its own glories, and even its own life, like the scenery in some great theatre after the play is done and all the actors are withdrawn. A pleasurable melancholy grows upon the travel-

ler who wanders among the churches or glides along on the canals of Venice. Although misfortune has overcast the city with a pall of sadness, it still preserves the indefinable grace of things Italian. Its old magnificence imposes on the mind, while the charm of its present melancholy creeps about the heart. Even on the brightest day, when the unconquerable sun looks down most broadly on the glittering city of St. Mark, silence and melancholy still hold their court on the canals; and the most unsentimental spirit yields to the elegiac influence.

\* Translated from the French by F. J. Sitwell. Abridged from "Venice: Its History, Art, Industries and Modern Life." Philadelphia: Henry T. Coates & Co.