

On the outside walls of houses, especially corner houses, where doubtless the Pompeian roughs and wits congregated, there are found some curious scratchings and rude drawings, sometimes done with charcoal, at other times with paint. For example, a spiteful disappointed lover has recorded on the wall-plaster that, in his opinion, his faithless sweetheart Lucilla was made of the body of a wolf. This was rather hard on Lucilla; but let us hope that ere this, their lovers' quarrel has been adjusted in the Shades. Another gives it as his opinion that "if any one can restrain the lover, he may also bind the breezes, and forbid the perennial spring to flow"—a sentimental effusion evidently proceeding from some youth deeply smitten with the tender passion. The name of a reigning beauty is recorded on these rolls of fame where she is described as "*victrix victorum*"—conqueress of the conquerors. Here is another record; "*Methe, the slave of Cuminia, loves Chrestus with all her heart. May the Pompeian Venus be propitious to both, and may they always live happily together.*" It is evident from these and many more in the same strain, that the grand passion entered largely into Pompeian life. It is interesting to find, among these scribbblings on the wall, the first line of Virgil's *Æneid*—"arma virumque cano," etc.—a proof that the Mantuan bard was appreciated in Pompeii, years after his death. In one street a school-boy has rudely scratched on the wall the letters of the Greek alphabet which probably he was then learning. He must have been a very small boy, as his little hand could scarcely reach above three feet; and yet this little Pompeian has left an imperishable work behind him—one that excites more interest and is oftener looked at than the production of many a famous author. Another of these wall-scribes has informed posterity that on a certain day he had a very bad cold—a fact in which we find it difficult to take a deep interest, at this date. In the insides of the houses, too, many scratchings are discovered, which having been executed with a sharp instrument on the hard stucco, are as legible as the day on which they were inscribed, and afford curious indications of the every day life of the inhabitants. The mistress of one mansion, who must have been a careful housewife, has noted down, on the plaster of her chamber, certain additions made to her household stock on the 15th July 79,—five weeks before the eruption—mentioning among the rest two hundred pounds lard, and two hundred and fifty handfuls of garlic. She also