

## A Great Art Gallery

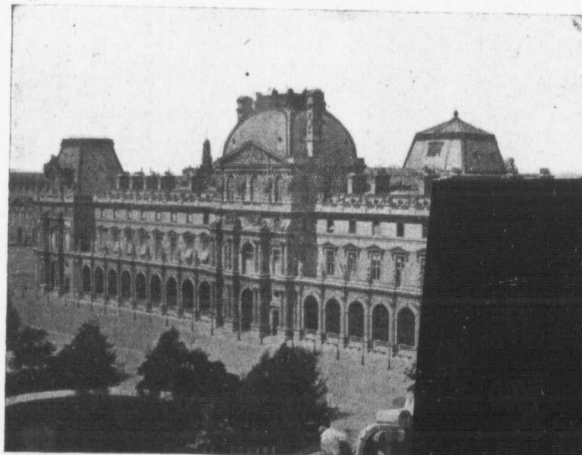
EVERYBODY who goes to Paris, visits the Louvre as a matter of course, for it is one of the chief attractions of the most beautiful city in the world. It is probably the greatest art gallery in existence. Other museums possess single art treasures more valuable than any of the paintings of the Louvre, but in general excellence, joined to vast numbers, this gallery is unrivalled in Europe.

The Louvre is located between the Rue de Rivoli, and the Seine, in the very heart of Paris, and covers no less than 48

Louvre is the "Venus of Milo," a broken marble statue. It was found in 1820 among buried walls on the island of Melos, which lies in the Grecian seas. The arms were gone and no attempt has been made to "restore" them, as their original position has always been a matter of dispute. The figure is nude to the waist, the lower limbs being enveloped in drapery; the left foot is slightly raised; the head turning the least bit to the left.

Of all the statues of Venus, this stands supreme in womanly grace and dignity. The face is intellectual, the brow serene, the figure perfect. It is the "perfect woman, nobly planned." It typifies not only youth and beauty, but womanliness, strength and repose.

Yet we do not know what master's chisel chipped away the marble that imprisoned this figure.



THE LOUVRE, AT PARIS

acres. "Its vast length of walls, its open courts, frequent square towers, and its guarded entrances suggest a walled city rather than a palace."

It is a little difficult to trace its history, but it is probable that Charles V. used the Louvre as a palace of residence, and began the collection of rare and precious works, to which subsequent kings added from time to time.

In July 1793, under the Republic it was thrown open to all citizens as a public art gallery. At this time there were 537 pictures, and 124 works of art including bronzes, busts, marble tables, china and clocks. Two years later were added the pictures brought from Versailles, and all the statues and objects of art belonging to the King. Later the museum was enriched by the masterpieces brought by Napoleon from Holland and Italy. It now contains about three thousand pictures, and it is no small undertaking to view them all even casually. Few tourists do more than take a hasty run through this immense place, stopping, perhaps, occasionally, to study some specially remarkable work of art.

One of the finest paintings in the collection is "The Coronation of the Virgin" by Fra. Angelico, the painter monk whose works are the veritable prayers of his devout spirit. Other great works of a sacred character are "The Holy Family" by Raphael, "Adoration of the Magi" by Luini, "The Nativity" by Il Francia, "John the Baptist" by Leonardo da Vinci, and almost a countless number of Madonnas.

As in most other galleries the finest picture in the Louvre represents a scene in the life of Jesus. "The Marriage Feast at Cana" by Paul Veronese is a magnificent painting which was one of Napoleon's war trophies. When in 1815 most of his artistic spoils were returned to their previous owners, the officers of the Louvre persuaded the Austrians that to move once more this vast canvas would probably ruin it forever, so it was allowed to remain, another picture of less value being offered for it.

What is usually regarded as the greatest treasure of the

### Japanese Civilization

AS illustrating his claim that the Japanese are a more civilized people than the Americans, a gentleman at a recent Boston dinner-table cited Professor Morse's statement that if, in a Japanese city one picks up a stone to throw at a dog the dog does not run, because he has never had a stone thrown at him and does not know what the action means. Manifestly, if such a state of universal gentleness and kindness prevails in Japan that not even a stone is thrown at a dog by a boy, there must be a very high and thorough civilization permeating all classes of the population. This argument may not be accepted as complete by the sociologists, who would doubtless maintain that it requires something else than gentleness and humanity to make civilization. But certainly the fact is to be taken as an excellent item of evidence in making out a case of high civilization for the Japanese. And it is a significant fact that it was reserved for our own European-American civilization to introduce the completest refinement of cruelty to animals.—*Listener, in Boston Transcript.*