

Palazzo della Cancelleria came from the same source.<sup>1</sup>

According to Nibby a travertine arch was erected in the year A.D. 7 near the Ponte Sublicio on the Tiber, bearing an inscription with the names of Publius Cornelius Lentulus and Titus Quintus Crispinius Valerianus; but in 1480 the arch was destroyed to make stone cannon-balls. This gives one an idea of the early use of the stone, as does also the fact that the Temple of Vesta, at Tivoli, and the Temple (so called) of Sybilla Tiburtin (now the Church of San Giorgio) were also made of the same material.<sup>1</sup>

The travertine of Tivoli is still employed in Rome for various building purposes.

*Lapis Silex, Basaltic Lava, Selce*

This stone, described by Vitruvius as Silex or Lapis Siliceus, is a basaltic lava derived from the extinct volcanoes of Latium, and employed from Late Republican times in Rome as a paving stone; for this purpose it could not be excelled by any other material. All the roads leading out of the capital, in some cases to great distances, were paved with Lapis Silex hewn in polygonal pieces, the measurements of which were evidently exceedingly precise; for the pieces are fitted together with the most wonderful accuracy, telling of stupendous labour and faultless skill.

Livy tells us that the censors Q. Fulvius Flaccus and A. Postumius Albinus ordered that the Roman roads should be paved with Silex.<sup>1</sup> Various remains of the ancient pavements are still to be seen in

<sup>1</sup> Jervis, *op. cit.*