

have been the first coloured marble brought to Rome. 'According to Cornelius Nepos, the first person at Rome who covered the whole of the walls of his house with marble was Mamurra, who dwelt upon the Caelian Hill; for Nepos adds, as well, that he was the first to have all the columns of his house made of nothing but solid marble, and that, too, marble of Carystus or of Luna.'¹ Mamurra's house was built about 48 B.C. A block found in 1864 had inscribed on it the name of a consulate, which seemed to read Cecilius Rufus, year 17. If this inscription is correct, the date is the earliest found on Cipollino, or in fact on any marble.²

An inscription dated A.D. 73 gives us the names of two consulates under Domitian, and another under Hadrian, that of Augurinus, A.D. 132. From a third inscription of Hadrian's time we learn that a new quarry had just been opened.²

The numbers on rough blocks found in Rome, beginning with two, go up to 2,400! and Corsi in 1845 enumerated 511 columns!

The Temple of Faustina, of which the portico, with ten columns of cipollino (six of which form the façade), and part of the cella are still standing. It was dedicated by Antoninus, in A.D. 141 to his wife, the elder Faustina. The portico was excavated in 1807 and 1810, and the columns are 47 feet in height.³ Some columns nearly this size were found, within recent years, on Mount Ocha (now Mount St. Elias), the ancient quarry site; and these, all but polished, were ready to take their way to the Eternal City.

This most ancient and unique marble has a white ground, banded and zoned with green of almost

¹ Pliny, *op. cit.*, Book xxxvi, chap. 7.

² Bruzza, *op. cit.*

³ Baedeker, *Central Italy*.