

produce them. Such are our resources when the quarries fail us, and luxury ceases not to busy itself, in order that as much as possible may be lost whenever a conflagration happens.' ¹

The quantity, beauty, and endless variety of magnificent marble still remaining in Rome causes us to wonder of what that city must have boasted before undergoing two thousand years of plunder, havoc and change. At the present day 9,000 whole columns of marble have been enumerated by Lanciani, 390 of which he himself has brought to light. He estimates the number of columns landed at Ostia in ancient times to be 450,000 at least, and says there is no fear of exaggeration in this estimate, considering the amount of destruction, of breaking up, and of burning into lime that has been accomplished in Rome since the fall of the Empire; and columns represented but a small item in the marble trade of that city!

Columns have been found measuring six feet in diameter and fifty-five feet in height, for example: some discovered in May, 1887, among the ruins of Trajan's Temple; and blocks weighing sometimes twenty-seven tons,² like the one belonging to the Temple of the Sun, now lying in the Colonna Gardens on the Quirinal.³ These facts give one an idea of what the marble trade of ancient Rome must have been.

The early taste for marble in Rome for decorative purposes survived throughout many centuries, and churches in Italy from the earliest times were lavishly endowed with 'ancient marbles', for the most part

¹ Pliny, *op. cit.*, Book xxxv, chap. 1.

² Signor Boni tells me that the blocks of Carrara marble in the pedestal of Trajan's column weigh eighty tons each.

³ Lanciani, *op. cit.*