

**29, De Vere
Gardens,
Kensington**

see page 9

**La Rocca, Pippa's
Tower, Asolo**

see page 16

**The Palazzo
Rezzonico,
Venice**

see page 23

**Browning's
coffin lying in
state at the
Palazzo
Rezzonico**

see page 28

**Elizabeth Barrett
Browning's
monument in the
cemetery at
Florence**

see page 23

A move was made in June, 1867, from Warwick Crescent to 29, De Vere Gardens, a well-built commodious residence which Browning furnished with antiquities he had been collecting and storing for that very purpose. He took, indeed, an almost pathetic pleasure in completing the arrangements of this his last home, making a special feature of his library. Here at length he had sufficient accommodation for his books, which had formerly been crowded together, row behind row. The final touches to these arrangements had hardly been added, however, before the poet left England, never to return. His strength was now visibly failing; but on his arrival at Asolo, in the latter part of 1880, he "seemed possessed by a strange buoyancy—an almost feverish joy in life, which blunted all sensations of physical distress." "Autumn is beginning to paint the foliage, but thin it is well," he wrote at this time, "and the sea of fertility all round our height, which a month ago showed pomegranates and figs and chestnuts—walnuts and apples all rioting together in full glory—all this is daily disappearing." He made an endeavour to purchase a house in Asolo, intending to name it Pippa's Tower, and after his death this, in conjunction with other land in the town, became the property of his son. The latter was now settled in the Palazzo Rezzonico at Venice, the beautiful home on the Grand Canal to which he had taken his young American wife. This palace was one of the very few large ones which retained its original ornaments, statues, ceiling decorations, etc., at a time when many of these buildings were stripped to replenish the empty purses of impoverished owners.

Here, in the home of his son, the poet died on December 12th, 1889, and two days later the solemn ceremony of a public funeral was performed at Venice. On the 16th of the month the poet's body was conveyed to England, where it was interred on the 31st in the Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey. A proposal was also made to remove Mrs. Browning's remains, in order that husband and wife might rest side by side. This suggestion, however, owing to the wishes of her son, was never carried out, and Mrs. Browning's grave in the old Protestant Cemetery at Florence was left undisturbed. The sarcophagus in which she was buried was designed by Robert Leighton. It bears upon it the lilies of Florence and the figures of poetry and her sister arts. The monument rests upon a broad base embedded in the green turf. On the very day of Browning's death his volume "Asolando" was given to the world, too late for him to appreciate its reception; but there had been time for a message to reach him describing the eagerness with which its appearance had been anticipated. Memorial tablets in the poet's honour were affixed by the City of Venice to the outer wall of the Palazzo Rezzonico, and by the Society of Arts to his house at 19, Warwick Crescent.

NOTE ON THE PORTRAITS OF BROWNING

In person Browning was somewhat below the middle height, but broad in build, and possessed of great muscular strength. His hair was dark brown, and exceedingly lustrous. In later years it became silvery white, and