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SUNNY ITALY.

Glimpses of Rome, Florence Venice and Milan.

Rev. G. O. Gates in Glorious St. Peter's, and in the Vatican, the Largest Palace in the World.

The Pantheon, the Oldest and Most Perfect Example of Roman Architecture—Drove Over the Applan Way—Saw the Tombs of the Scipios—The Protestant Missions.

(Special correspondence of the Sun.) Dear Editor—My last letter I promised that in my next I would say something of our days in Rome. The railway ride from Naples of more than 150 miles took us through parts of Italy both fertile and beautiful.

The traveler soon gets the impression that railway building in these parts has been expensive and taxing to engineering skill. So many hills to level and mountains of hardest rock to tunnel and precipices to be passed; but these things add to the interest of the tourist, who quickly passing over the prepered way notes what had to be done. It was just as the last gleams of the evening's twilight were fading from western skies that we saw the first outlines of the city of the Caesars, and a few moments later are within the old walls of the city once mistress of the world, and whose history is the most remarkable of any city of ancient or modern times.

Then what interesting days we spent in Rome. How eagerly we improved every hour. There are here so many objects of interest, and with a history specially noteworthy. The days pass all too quickly as we hurry from one part of the city to the other in order to visit what seemed to be the most historic points. One needs only refer to a visit to this place in order to be awakened interest. But the visitor of only a few days here can not be expected in a hastily written article to more than refer to the history of the city, which if fully written would pertain to the history of the whole world, and to briefly make mention of a few of the things that most interested him.

Rome was founded 753 B. C. Her progress was one of slow development until the capital of the world. No city of the past had a more checkered history. In the long ago she suffered from northern invasions, from fires, was despoiled of many beautiful monuments and works of art by Emperor Constantine, who was intent on making Constantinople the grandest city of his empire. The Vandals sacked Rome; she passed under the rule of men of different nationalities; she had as time sped on her principal buildings turned into forts by means of making walls with each other; she passed through dark ages when her own citizens destroyed some of the finest monuments, turning them into lime for new dwelling houses. Today one must respect that ancient Rome that is now twenty works of art when the British Isles were the home of the barbarian. One can never have other than feelings of reverence for a city that during centuries was the centre of the world's civilization, and in which the providence of God became a great factor in the spread and progress of New Testament Christianity. But the ancient Rome is no more.

"The Goth, the Christian, time, war, flood and fire Have dealt upon the seven-hilled city's pride."

The Rome of today stands in part on the ruins of the ancient city. Again and again you are told as you walk her streets that you are now twenty and more feet above the places trodden by the Caesars. This is especially true in those parts near the old forum. Of places there are many that are interesting both within and without the city's walls. The gates and walls, the Catacombs, the tombs of the Scipios and many others, the Coliseum, Pantheon, palaces and prisons. These and other historic points are full of interest, and you say all these I must visit now that I am in Rome. Then, too, there are the churches, and centering in many of them is a history of thrilling interest. It was my privilege to enter many of these religious edifices, read history written on their walls, note the prominence given to facts in the life of the world's Redeemer, and observe in the reverence paid the paintings and sculptures representing New Testament scenes, that ancient Rome, the Christ of Nazareth has over the minds of those worshippers.

It was in one of these at a noon hour on a week day a church I was told belonging to the Jesuit order. I listened to one of the finest speakers I had ever heard. For the time I longed to understand the beautiful Italian language which flowed so smoothly from eloquent lips and held in rapt attention a large audience. More I secretly wished that I, as a speaker, possessed like platform graces of that man, whose every gesture seemed fired with an earnestness carrying with it intense conviction.

Of church edifices we note St. Peter's, built on the site of a church building dating back to the time of Constantine. In the erection and decorations of this great structure such artists as Raphael, Angelo, Bernini and others employed their talents. It is said to have cost \$50,000,000, which amount represents more in the past than today. Columns might be writ-

ten of St. Peter's and then much would be left unsaid. The approach to the building is imposing. Four rows of pillars seventy feet high sweep off to the right and left in a semicircle, within which stands an obelisk of Egyptian granite, one place, and reaching a height of one hundred and thirty feet. On either side of this obelisk are fountains constantly flowing, while the crystal waters fall into large basins of porphyry. Still before you rising on a flight of marble steps is the wonderful edifice, adorned with pillars and statues, the "matchless dome" and several cupolas. You enter the vestibule and find it paved with marble, adorned with a gilt vault, and from one of its five openings you seek entrance to the main building, where "Rich marbles, richer paintings—shrines where flame The lamps of gold, and haughty dome which vies In air with earth's chief structures."

The length of the building within the walls is 667 feet, its width 446 feet, height from pavement to cross 135 feet. The interior diameter of the dome is 133 feet, and the ground covered by the building is 94,000 square feet. The paintings in the roof must be immense. In one of these we noted Paul writing as it seemed to us with pen and holder of ordinary length, but we are informed these are more than seven feet long. You pass up and down the north and south sides and study the different chapels and their contents of paintings, bronzes, marbles and mosaics. Here is Angelo's "Mary with the dead Christ," a work executed when this master of chisel and brush was only twenty-four years of age. There are impressed with dozens of finely sculptured monuments, erected to perpetuate the memories of illustrious dead, and here are frescoes and mosaics, the subjects taken from the Bible and church history.

We visit the Vatican, the largest palace in the world. It is closely joined to St. Peter's. Hours are spent in its museum and picture galleries. Here we find the works of the old masters in both sculpture and painting. The Sixtine chapel is an object of interest. Here the aged pope ministered at a special service the Sunday we were in the city. Admission that day was only by ticket. During the week we visited this chapel and looked upon the far-famed fresco of Angelo. In this painting is told a part of the world's history. The various panels, beginning with the creation, which separates light from darkness, follow on the history through different epochs of creation and through the ages from man's earliest history till after the flood. Then behind the altar is this same master's greatest fresco, "The Last Judgment." It is said he designed this painting when he was sixty years old and completed it after eighty years. In the Vatican library, amid thousands of volumes, we have the privilege of looking on the pages of the famous "Codex Vaticanus," one of the three oldest manuscripts of the Bible. Leaving these precincts we drive to other church buildings around which in every case we found clustering history, myth and legend. I can only mention some of them by name, not giving even their full histories. St. Agostino, Church of the Oppuccino, St. Mary Maggiore, St. John in Lateri, St. Paul's without the walls and Quo Vadis. All these have associated with them much, very much, that is full of interest to all who visit there and of sacredness to the worshippers.

Of other places of interest I would mention the Pantheon, one of the most perfect examples of Roman architecture extant. Its interior is circular, with a diameter of 142 feet, and its height is the same as the diameter. It has no windows, but is lighted by a circular space twenty feet in diameter and ever open to the sky. Within these historic walls Raphael and other notable men were buried, the last in former here being that of the body of King Victor Emanuel in 1878.

The Coliseum and Forum, in both of which our party had the privilege of listening to lectures by Prof. Reynaud, proved to be most interesting places. We drove out along the "Applan Way" and had the tombs of the Scipios pointed out. We wandered as long as we desired in the strange Catacombs, now so longly and deserted, visited the Protestant cemetery, and amid cypresses saw the tombs of the poets Keats and Shelley, rode up to the Janiculum and looked with pleasure on a beautiful monument erected to the memory of Garibaldi, who entered the old Mamertine prison, a dark and dreary place, where "his dark Paul and Peter were imprisoned, and where many a weary life was ended—the happy close of a hampered existence. This is a dangerous index. Here King Justinian of Byzantium was executed B. C. 527. Here the Cataline conspirators were confined. On the walls, dimly lighted by our candles, we note a picture representing Paul preaching to the prisoners and Peter baptizing converts. We knew we were in a historic dungeon, but we were not so certain that it is identical with the place of a Paul's or Peter's imprisonment. We were shown by our guide the place in the granite wall where 'tis said Peter struck his head, and that, instead of fracturing his skull, he made a deep indentation in the rock. Dear old hard-headed soldier of Jesus, but not so hard-headed as this incident would imply.

After nearly a week's stay in Rome, where your interest in the city grows upon you daily as you visit its principal historic places, we are compelled to leave, and do so reluctantly, taking next in order the cities of Florence, Venice, Milan. I must not omit to say that we did not neglect to visit Protestant missions in Rome; for while attending service in St. Peter's we thought of those adorning the Son of God in less grand places of worship. We found Baptists, Methodists, Waldenses and Episcopalians all zealously at work in this city, and here as elsewhere being prospered and blessed in their work. We were especially impressed with the buildings

of the Methodist-Episcopal body, where college work in arts and theology and as well preaching and printing are being carried on.

In the beautiful city of Florence, of which its citizens are so justly proud, we spent most of our hours in the world-famed picture galleries. Of course we went to see the Cathedral, surrounded by here 300 feet high; noted the magnificent bronze door, real works of skill and art; saw the bell-tower, regarded as one of the finest works of its kind in existence; went to the Battistero, beautiful in its interior decorations; visited the monument of Dante and some of the noteworthy religious edifices, and where we saw some of Angelo's greatest works. But Florence is especially noted for its galleries of paintings, and in these, we spent some delightful hours. Besides the pictures, both of these buildings are rich in histories. We saw some of the paintings of Raphael, and which are regarded as his best. Beside these, there were the works of Angelo, Titian, Correggio, Baldachino and others. In fact, we said Florence is truly a beautiful city. Its stores contain more attractive works of art than any city yet visited. Everywhere you see mosaics, tapestries and paintings.

Venice was the unique city of the tour. We leave the train and take a gondola about 10 o'clock p. m., and are rowed to our hotel. We have been in one city, needless so far as boys and girls are concerned, but Venice is streets and no carriages or horses. In their place, canals and boats. To see the canals in evening, with the lights of hundreds of gondolas, and to listen to the serenade songs of the gondoliers here and there, eager for the stranger's coin, and then on to charm other's ears, is what is not to be seen or heard in any other city on the continent.

Venice, commercially, is not what it was 400 years ago. Then, here was focused the trade of Europe. But the capture of Constantinople by the Turks and the discovery of the new route for your visit. Then we must not pass the Palace of the Doges without a visit, for within are splendid paintings and pieces of sculpture. Here is Tintoretto's "Paradise," the largest oil painting in the world. To visit those awful dungeons of which you have read, but the real history of their awfulness will never be fully known. With dim lights we wander from dungeon to dungeon. Could these walls but speak, what should we not hear? We also stand by "the bridge of sighs" and recall in part what has been written of it. Venice is noted, not especially for its glassware and lace, and we find time to visit factories where both are being manufactured. Spain is a good long ride in the gondola from canal to canal completes an enjoyable visit.

Milan is our next stopping place. It is a large and prosperous looking city. It especially pleases a stranger. Its magnificent cathedral is regarded by its citizens as the eighth wonder of the world. It is one of the three largest religious buildings in the world, and will hold forty thousand people. Its external appearance is dazzling to the eye. The stained glass windows in the choir are said to be the largest in the world of their kind. To study these is a delight. The interior of the building, and especially with double aisles and transept. The structure is Gothic and has the "dim religious light" within. One other especially interesting thing we saw in Milan, which I must mention and then close, was the obelisk of Leonardo da Vinci, known as "The Last Supper," copies of which I've seen in different places; but the old original, now becoming marred by years, yet speaks, as the copies do not, of the genius and skill of the great hand.

Yours respectfully, G. O. GATES.

June, 1898.

ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

The Sovereign Great Priory of Canada will meet in Hamilton, Ont., on Wednesday, 26th of September. This date will enable fratres to take advantage of the cheap fares offered to visitors to the industrial exhibition in that city. There will be no outside demonstration this year. Owing to the international character of the Spanish war, the American commander invited is unable to accept the invitation of the Hamilton Knights. However, the fratres of Godfrey are noted for their lavish hospitality, and the representatives to Great Priory will be notably welcomed. It is expected that the attendance this year will be a record breaker.

It is not yet known whether the Scottish body at St. Stephen will unite with the Canadian supreme authority this year or not. It is only a question of a very short time, however, when the only outside knight templar body in Canada shall fall into line, as the terms offered are all that can be desired.

The Encampment of St. John, No. 22, and the Order of Holy Preceptory, No. 11, have respectively appointed a committee to consider the terms of amalgamation, and as the true interests of Masonry in this city lie in this direction, the above mentioned bodies are invited to have their views on the subject arranged so that the new warrant shall bear the numbers of the oldest body, viz. No. 22. There are certainly a very large number of Masonic lodges in the city of St. John, hence all should look with favor upon such a union, especially as it is according to the would hasten the hour when the large vacant hall in the Masonic temple shall be completed for the accommodation of the order of the templars.

Children Cry for CASTORA.

OLD WORLD GOSSIP.

The Tatton-Sykes Forgery Scandal Up Again—The Welsh Coal Strike.

Government Can Do Nothing—Emperor William's Trip to the Holy Land—Prosecuting Dreyfus' Friends.

LONDON, June 25.—The law officers of the crown had a consultation on Thursday for the purpose of considering whether the public prosecutor shall interfere in the Tatton-Sykes scandal. Banks, insurance societies and money lenders hold bills and promissory notes purporting to have been signed by Sir Tatton, aggregating something like \$1,000,000. Tatton declares that all these documents were forged.

This week the second civil action, which is merely the beginning of a series, which the validity of the baronet's signatures is the question at issue occurred. The jury found that the signatures were forged. The only person who had any interest in the forging of Sir Tatton's signature is his wife, who has had the bulk of the money advanced on the forged documents.

So far Sir Tatton has steadfastly refused to have his wife prosecuted, and if he should consent it is difficult to see how a conviction could be obtained, the criminal law not permitting the husband to give evidence against his wife. But the matter has become a grave public scandal, the public protesting that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor, and the story agents have been warning of coal, while the real impression is spreading that it is screening a criminal at the instigation of exalted personages.

Whether a decision will be arrived at it is impossible to say. It is only the fact that the Tatton-Sykes denies the forgery, while admitting such little weaknesses as habitual speculations on the stock exchange, betting and gambling.

WELSH COAL STRIKE. LONDON, June 25.—The coal strike in South Wales paralyses naval and maritime England in a way that would be alarming were a strike to happen in time of war. The usual naval manoeuvres are to be abandoned for want of coal, while the small steamers are losing speed because they cannot get the South Wales article.

Yet such is the state of the law that the government cannot intervene until one or the other party in dispute requests its intervention. Neither party requests, so the dispute must go on, like the engineers' strike, till the back of the trade union is absolutely broken for want of money. The employers, of course, have a bottomless purse.

PERSECUTING DREYFUS' FRIENDS. PARIS, June 25.—President Faure has ratified the judgment of the military council depriving M. Joseph Reinach, formerly a republican member of the chamber of deputies, of his rank of captain in the territorial army because of his publication of articles reflecting upon the army.

M. Reinach was one of the foremost partisans of ex-Captain Dreyfus, and in discussing the merits of the disgraced officer's case translated an article written by an English publicist, Mr. Coneybeare, which appeared in the London National Review, declaring that Count Esterhazy was in receipt of 2,000 francs monthly from Col. Von Schwartzkoppen, who was military attaché to the German embassy in Paris at the time of Dreyfus's alleged treachery. For the translation and re-publication of this article M. Reinach was deprived of his military rank by the council.

TO VISIT THE HOLY LAND. BERLIN, June 25.—The details of the journey of the German Emperor and Empress to Palestine are interesting. They will number ninety persons, and no newspaper men will be officially permitted to accompany them. Their majesties will spend six days in the Holy Land. They will land at Jaffa, where they will be received by a Turkish escort, 100 strong, and will be present 12,000 Turkish troops, all in new uniforms. They will leave Jaffa on October 26 for Jerusalem, pitching their tents for the night beside the ruins of Caesarea. They will arrive in Jerusalem on October 29 and will attend divine services on the morning of the 30th in the Protestant church at Bethlehem, and in the afternoon on the Mount of Olives. The church of the Redeemer at Jerusalem will be consecrated on October 31. The majesties will encamp the same night on the plain of Jericho, and will visit the river Jordan and the Dead Sea on November 1. Then they will spend four days sightseeing at Jerusalem. They will probably return by way of Nazareth, whence they will visit the Sea of Galilee and Mount Tabor. They will go to Jaffa and thence to Beyrout. On November 10 they will visit Damascus and the ruins of the Temple of Baal. They will return homeward via Constantinople, whether they will be escorted by nine Turkish warships.

THE PETROLEUM BATTLE. LONDON, June 25.—Scotland has won a victory over America in the long petroleum battle, the committee of the house of commons refusing to heed the sophistries of the Standard Oil Trust. Yesterday it adopted a resolution to reduce the American duty on kerosene from 10 to 7 1/2 cents. Pressure now is being brought to bear upon the government to pass a bill at this session carrying out this proposal. Forty deaths every year in England alone are attributed to the present state of the law. An interesting problem is how far such a law will affect the grip which the American trust has secured on English trade.

"Poor Walsley leads a dog's life," "The Good" "Yes; his wife sends all her time wasting on him and calling him pet names." "I'm afraid we'll be using the construction of every future American warship where wood is needed."

THE BISLEY RIFLE TEAM.

(Melbourne Leader.) The riflemen who will represent Victoria this year at Bisley rifle matches have been selected by Colonel Templeton, Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly and Captain Marshall, and the eleven will be accompanied by Captain Marshall, as manager and captain of the team. Captain Marshall's experience and success justifies the confidence reposed in him as officer in charge on this important occasion. As the essential object of sending a team this year is to make another struggle for the Kolapore Cup, so brilliantly won in 1897; it was the desire of the committee to get as many of the original eleven as possible for their experience of the shooting conditions at Bisley would be of great value. E. Walker was unable to join, but with this exception the whole of the team of eight who won the Kolapore Cup for the colony last year are included. The eleven selected are: Sergeant Ross, C Battery, Sergeant Hawker, C Battery, Lance-Corporal Todd, Ballarat Militia, Bombardier Carter, Geelong Artillery, T. Kirk, Melbourne Rifle Club, J. Grunt, Melbourne Rifle Club, P. Faragher, Melbourne Rifle Club, W. Sloane, Yarrowonga Rifle Club, Sergeant-Major Whitehead, Bendigo Militia, E. Baker, Melbourne Rifle Club, Corporal Hollingsworth, Permanent Artillery.

Eight of the eleven were in the first Bisley team. The new men, Sergeant-Major Whitehead of permanent staff, Corporal Hollingsworth, permanent Artillery, and L. Baker, take the place also of permanent Artillery men, Corporal Downey and Bombardier Rellly, who cannot get leave of absence, and E. Walker, who has been obliged to decline for business reasons. The new men are first class shots. Mr. Baker, in fact, has twice won the Queen's Prize and has made a world's record of 163 out of the possible 165, at Williamstown.

The Kolapore Cup, eight, who are again chosen to visit Bisley, made the record of 731 when they won the cup last year, with the following scores: The Kolapore eight, who made the record of 751 when they won the cup last year, with the following scores, were: Lance-Corporal Todd 87 Mr. Sloane 87 Bombardier Carter 96 Sergeant Ross 94 Sergeant Hawker 94 Mr. Faragher 94 Mr. Grummett 81 Mr. Walker 80

It is not to be assumed that the same team will be picked for the Kolapore match this year, as the captain will be guided by the shooting of the men in practice, and he has three good emergencies at his disposal; but the fact that seven of the winning eight will once more be on the spot gives this colony a strong chance of another victory.

A very pleasant gathering took place in the large room of the Cafe Denat on Monday night, when Colonel Templeton, chairman of the Victorian Rifle Association council, entertained a large party of members of the defence force to tender a farewell compliment to the Bisley rifle team, which sailed for London on Tuesday. The host occupied the chair, with the military commandant, Major-General Sir Chas. Smith, on one hand, and Captain Marshall, captain of the team, on the other. Amongst the various branches of the force, were Sir Frederick Sargood, the mayor of Melbourne, Colonel Freeman, A. Q. M. G.; Colonel Robertson, Commander Collins, Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, Lieutenant-Colonel Hoad, A. A. G., and officers of different corps. Nearly all the members of the Bisley team were among the guests.

After dinner the toast of the Queen was honored, and the commandant then presented the badges and aggregate prizes won at the last V. R. A. meeting to such of the winners as were present. The Jubilee medals were also presented to Lieutenant Colonel Kelly and other Victorians who had received it. Colonel Templeton then proposed Good Luck to the Bisley Team of 1898. He said the greatest pleasure of his life was experienced when he had command of the team of 1897, which won the Kolapore Cup; and he was gratified to see that this year's team was nearly the same. The success of that team was evidence of the good work done by the Victorian Rifle Association, which had been in very low water at the time its representatives achieved that brilliant victory. (Applause.) He cautioned the team not to rely on last year's victory, and not to lose a single point. (Cheers.)

AS IN A LOOKING-GLASS. A simple mountain scene anecdote from the top of Mount Egmont, Taranaki (New Zealand). A party of climbers ascended the topmost rock of the sleeping giant, planted there upon a nine foot pole, and hauled aloft the Union Jack. A fortnight later another party, prepared to shin up the pole and so claim a six foot higher record than the first, ascended and found that the flag had frozen while blowing in the breeze; there it was embedded in four inches of icicle, the colors standing out as in a looking-glass. Not only this, but the icicle extended right down to the ground. All this in summer time! Doubtless must not snigger, for the party photographed the phenomenon. —Sydney Bulletin.

A Baby Boy Covered With Eczema and Cured by Dr. Chase. Mrs. Jas. Brown of Moleworth, Ont., tells how her boy (eight months old) was cured of torturing eczema. Mothers whose children are suffering can write her regarding the great cure, Dr. Chase's Ointment. Her child was afflicted from birth, and three boxes of Dr. Chase's Ointment cured him.

"Pa, can you see further with a telescope than with the naked eye?" "Of course you can, Johnny." "How can that be, when it brings everything nearer?" —Chicago Tribune.

PORTLAND AND CANADA.

Resolution Adopted by Portland Board of Trade—G. T. R. Semi-Centennial.

At a recent meeting the Portland Board of Trade considered among other things, an invitation of the special committee of the city government on Fourth of July celebration of the semi-centennial of the opening of the Grand Trunk railway between Portland and Canada. The sentiment of the members was heartily in accord with giving the visiting military companies and distinguished visitors from Canada and elsewhere on that occasion a most cordial reception and pleasant entertainment, while guests of the city.

The following was unanimously adopted as the expressed sentiments of the managing directors: "The commercial relations and social intercourse of Portland and Canada are so close, intimate and of such importance to this city that no opportunity for a friendly interchange of courtesies should be neglected to promote and perpetuate a neighborly friendship and the broadest trade relations possible with our Canadian brethren; therefore the management express the belief that the members of this Board of Trade and their fellow citizens generally will heartily join in expressing their appreciation of the timely invitation extended by the city government of Portland to the officers and members of the several military companies of Montreal and other distinguished officials of Canada and of its international transportation lines to participate in a proper celebration of the Fourth of July next, that date being the semi-centennial anniversary of the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad company between this city and Canada.

"Believing that all exhibitions of fraternal feelings tend to help forward the commercial union which will, we trust, be secured at no distant day, we recommend that the board accept the invitation of the committee from this board to cooperate with the city in extending a hearty welcome to our visitors on the occasion of the proposed international celebration."

BRITAIN'S WATCHWORDS.

If our jingoes watch empire and the power to take a high line with foreign powers, let them build ships, not make useless land wars, for they will find that plan is far more successful. Let us hope that this view of the case will finally recommend itself to the government. Whom they have time to recover from the shock given them by the diplomatic methods of Russia, they will see that nothing has really been lost except possibly a little of Russia's honor—though on that point there has been a good deal of exaggeration—that there is no need to excite ourselves about China, and that if we build ships and keep our powder dry we shall still be able to exemplify Bacon's dictum, that the command of the sea is an abridgement of empire. The command of the sea and the friendship of the other half of our race; let these be our watchwords, for thus strengthened we need fear no foe.—The Spectator.

LITERARY NOTES FROM THE CENTURY COMPANY.

Stephen Donald, late of the American legation at Madrid, has written an article for the July Century on Holy Week in Seville. The essay is illustrated with sketches by Joseph Pennell.

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