

the general law; but she did not succumb, like the greater number of other States, because of the imperfection of her constitution, or from any lack of harmony in her laws with the movement of men's spirits. The day on which the French Republic, represented by a man destined later to show the compass of his genius and ambi-

where. True, intrigue, jealousy, immorality held their sway in this Republic. The Senate was perhaps tyrannical, the State Inquisitors and the Council of Ten may sometimes encroach upon the rights of citizens. At certain times they may even have established a reign of terror. But the profound motive which guided statesmen, the

one fixed idea of each and all, was the greatness of Venice and her splendour above other States. Two hundred thousand inhabitants scattered about the lagoons, which they had transformed into a city the most beautiful in Europe, from the unexampled conditions of its site, grew so powerful as to seem like a nation of many million citizens, and to fill the world with their renown.

To taste in all their fullness his first impressions of Venice, the traveller should arrive there by sea, at mid-day, when the sun is high. By degrees, as the ship which carries him enters the channels, he will see the unparalleled city merging from the lap of the lagoon, with its proud campaniles, its golden spires, its gray or silvery domes and cupolas. Advancing along the narrow channels, many posts and piles dot here and there with black that sheet of



"OVER THE GARDEN WALL."

tion, declared that the Venetian Republic had ceased to exist, the causes which rendered the accomplishment of this crime possible were not due to any inherent decay in her institutions, but to a thousand circumstances independent of Venice herself, her customs, or her laws.

True, the rein was given to human passions at Venice as else-

steel, and give substance to the dream, making solid and tangible the foreground of the illusive distance. Just now, all that enchanted world and fairy architecture floated in the air; little by little all has become distinct; those points of dark green turn into gardens; that mass of deep red is the line of ship-building yards, with their leprous-looking houses and