



SISTINE CHAPEL, ROME.

else were the pleasure palaces of the proud emperors of the world—the Golden House of Nero, the palaces of Tiberius, Caligula, the Flavii,—monuments of the colossal vice which called down the wrath of Heaven on the guilty piles. All are now mere mounds of splendid desolation, amid whose broken arches I saw fair English girls sketching the crumbling corridors where ruled and revelled the lords of the world.

Cypress and ivy, wind and wallflower grown
 Matted and massed together, hillocks heap'd
 On what were chambers, arch crush'd,
 column strown
 In fragments, choked-up vaults, and frescoes
 steep'd
 In subterranean damps, where the owl
 peep'd,
 Deeming it midnight.

Near by rise the cliff-like walls of the Colosseum, stern monument of Rome's Christless creed. Tier above tier rise the circling seats, whence twice eighty thousand cruel eyes glected upon the dying martyr's pangs, "butchered to make a Roman holiday." Ten thousand Jewish

captives were employed in its construction, and at its inauguration five thousand wild beasts were slain in bloody conflicts with human antagonists. The dens in which the lions were confined, the gates through which the leopards leaped upon their victims, may still be seen; and before us stretches the broad arena where even Rome's proud dames, unsexed and slain in gladiatorial conflict, lay trampled in the sand.

A ruin—yet what ruin! from its mass
 Walls, palaces, half-cities have been rear'd;
 Yet oft the enormous skeleton ye pass,
 And marvel where the spoil could have appear'd.
 Hath it indeed been plundered, or but
 clear'd?

Beneath the walls of the Colosseum rises one of the most interesting monuments of ancient Rome—the Arch of Titus, erected to commemorate the destruction of Jerusalem, A.D. 70. On the crumbling frieze is carved a relief of the triumphal procession bearing the spoils of the Temple, with the table of shew-