

## 26 WHAT ROME WAS BUILT WITH

years has supplied material for the works of the greatest architects and sculptors, and which is said by some authorities to have supplied the marble for that marvellous work, the Column of Trajan.<sup>1</sup> Michelangelo made ten journeys to Carrara to select material for his work, and in 1504 obtained from the quarry of Polvaccio the marble for his famous David, now in Florence.

Vasari tells us that after having received Pope Julius II's order for the famous tomb 'Michelangelo then set hand to his work with great spirit, repairing for that purpose with two of his disciples to Carrara, to superintend the excavation of the marbles . . . In those mountains, then, he spent eight months without receiving any additional stipend or supplies of any kind, amusing himself meanwhile by planning all manner of immense figures to be hewn in those rocks in memorial of himself, as did certain of the ancients, invited thereto by the vast masses before him. Having selected all that he required, he loaded them on ships which he despatched to Rome, where they filled the entire half of the Piazza which is towards Santa Caterina, and the whole space between the Church and the corridor leading to the Castello, where Michelangelo had his studio, and where he prepared the statues and all other things needful for the tomb'.<sup>2</sup> This indeed might be called the beginning of the 'Tragedy of the Tomb'; for the Moses at S. Pietro in Vincoli is the only result of that tremendous project and hope of the Sculptor. At the quarry of Polvaccio Michelangelo also selected the material for the figures of Day and Night, Even-

<sup>1</sup> Signor Boni endorses the opinion that the column is of Carrara marble.

<sup>2</sup> Vasari's *Lives of the Painters*, by Blashfield and Hopkins, vol. iv.