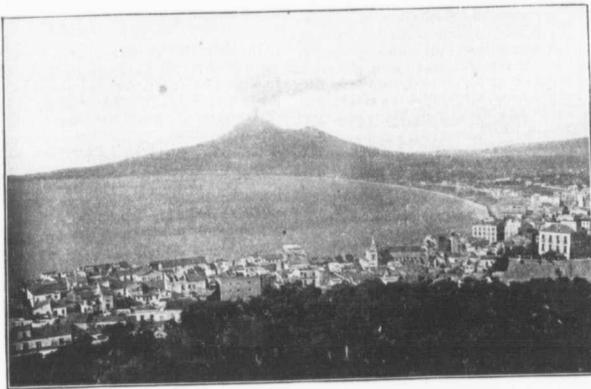


## ITALY AND POMPEII.

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ITALY is the land of sunny days, bright blue skies and beautiful landscapes; a delightful place to spend a holiday, if a visit can be made at the right season of the year. Even in the wrong season there are many compensations for the suffering incident to the severity of the heat. In June and July, the guide books say one ought not to plan a tour of Italy. But at this season all the plains and slopes are clothed in richest verdure. Fruit of endless variety are slowly maturing on countless hill-sides. Italy has its attractions for all classes of visitors. The artist is inspired by the lovely scenery, and the product of the

often discouraged in their efforts at the development of the resources they have. The old families still exist and hold much of the lands. The laboring classes seem to be very poor, ill-paid and badly kept. Government officials abound. Their uniform presents a very tidy and attractive appearance. Everywhere they are characterized by the greatest civility and attentiveness. The government deserves great credit for the assistance it gives to the investigations of scientists. All the rich treasures of art and antiquity obtained and preserved by the government, at enormous expense, are placed at the disposal of the *bona fide* scientist or student. American, German and English schools established there to prosecute the various branches of research have the heartiest moral support from the nation.



BAY OF NAPLES, ITALY, WITH VESUVIUS IN THE DISTANCE.

greatest geniuses of the world. The antiquary finds abundant material for collection and research. The ordinary tourist is reminded at every turn of the vigor of a dead nation and the greatness of life and thought.

It would take too long to even mention all the things one may and ought to see in a visit to Italy. Regarding the people and nation generally, there comes a deep impression of the vivacity and genius of the ordinary Italian. He is everywhere courteous, and prides himself on his gentility. Intellectually, he is the peer of any other European, but does not measure up to the others in industry and perseverance. He is proud of his country and his history. On the 20th of September, 1870, the Italians entered Rome, overturned the civil power of the Pope and established a united Italy under a constitutional monarch, Victor-Immanuel I. The name of this noble king was worthily honored everywhere in Italy. Since that important date this oppressed nation has advanced in education and industries by leaps and bounds. The country generally is poor in resources. Its great heritage is a fertile soil and a climate well adapted for fruit of various kinds. The people are so heavily taxed to maintain all the paraphernalia of a government which can take its place with the other European courts, that they are

The people felt proud to stand as a connecting link between the civilization of a bygone age and the political and mental development of the present.

No one should leave Italy without spending several days in old Pompeii. Little justice can be done to those wonderful ruins in the hurried review of a few hours. Few cities are so full of interest to the general traveller. It would seem as if old Vesuvius wished to preserve an object lesson for future ages, and consequently one day late in the autumn of 79 A.D. buried the throbbing city beneath successive layers of ashes and scoria. There mother earth kept it safely hidden from the thought of men for nearly seventeen centuries. In fact it is only within the last forty years that anything systematic has been done in the way of excavating the ruins. The thanks of the civilized world are due to the Italian Government, and especially to Fiorelli, for the energy they have displayed, not only in unearthing the ruins but in preserving them after they were brought to the light of day.

About one-third of the city has been dug up. This includes the business portion of the city. The excavation of the remaining two-thirds, which was largely residential, would serve no purpose in the interests of science and life. Enough has already been recovered to supply all

the necessary data and point all needful lessons.

The ruins as they stand give a vivid picture of Roman life, especially under the influence of great wealth and foreign elements. The situation of the city on the Bay of Naples, from the mouth of the Sarnus to its walls, was occupied by the commercial adventurer from all shores in the hot pursuit of wealth, while the delightful view of the luxuriant valley, and the refreshing breezes from the gulf sure to catch the sloping sides of the mountain, made it a charming spot in which to spend the declining years of life. Now we see how these varied people lived and worked, how they worshipped their gods and filled the restless hours of their recreation. With a little reflection the visitor can reconstruct their temples, courts, markets, theatres, shops, homes, and sanitary system.

At the far east end of the city, with the large unexcavated portion lying between it and the unearthened ruins, are the splendid remains of the old amphitheatre. Bulwer Lytton tells us that a great crowd were assembled here on that fated day in August to witness the gladiatorial contests, when the threatening mountain hurled its storm of ashes. In reply to this there is evidence to show that, owing to certain local quarrels of a serious nature, the bloody struggles were prohibited by royal edict for ten years before this time. That no bodies were found here when the excavation was made would not indicate that thousands were waiting in breathless expectancy the last scene in that dreadful day's contest.

Out of a population of between thirty and forty thousand, only the small number of two thousand lost their lives. Compared with the tens of thousands who perished at St. Pierre, Martinique, this present year, this is small indeed. But the circumstances attending the overthrow of the two cities easily accounts for the difference. St. Pierre was entirely destroyed by the mass of matter which rolled down over it. Pompeii at first received a shower of ashes 3 feet deep. From this yielding material the people could and did easily escape. Two thousand, however, driven by their lust for their buried treasure, rushed back to secure their valuables and were overtaken and entombed by a shower of hot, burning stones called scoria. Many of these bodies were excellently preserved in the dry ashes. The visitor can see at the present day, in a little museum near the main entrance, a number of these bodies. The excavators, by means of plaster of Paris, so preserved the remains in form that one can see on the faces the very death agonies through which the persons passed, and also the attitude of body they were in when death overtook them.

From the remains of the houses the visitor can easily tell the purpose and age of the structure. The first indication of period in which the building was erected is the material used. The first kind of stone used was the limestone so plentiful in Italy, little or no mortar being employed. The develop-