

II.

THE SEVEN HILLS.

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CHAPTER I.

*Rome.—Abroad to see the City.—The Monuments of the Past.—Busy Life in the crowded Streets.—The Castle and the Bridge.—The yellow Tiber.—The vast and wondrous Dome.—First Impressions.—Ascent to the upper Regions.—A strange Encounter.—David comes to Grief.—The lost Companions.—The Village in the Air.—Jack and the Bean-stalk.*



FIRST visit to Rome is an event in the life of every one ; and great was the enthusiasm which the Eternal City produced in the minds of the four boys whose wonderful history is here set forth. In their revered relative and guardian, Uncle Moses, there was, however, less excitement ; for age had tempered the ardor of his feelings, and the journey from Naples had been a fatiguing one. It will not, therefore, seem surprising that on the following morning, when the boys were eager to go forth, Uncle Moses chose to remain in his lodgings, and seek the rest which he needed.