

72 WHAT ROME WAS BUILT WITH

a reddish ground and grey fragments is frequently seen.

From various inscriptions we learn that Porta Santa was extensively worked during the reign of Trajan; the earliest inscription being of Nero's time. The quarries were imperial property, and the numbers on the rough blocks found in Rome mount up to 1095, showing what quantities that city disposed of.¹ It was employed in the Julian Basilica, in the Temple of Concord, and in the stadium of the Palatine.²

Some authorities believe Porta Santa to be the 'Claudian Stone', but this is a mistaken idea, as the stone named after that Emperor was the grey granite of Egypt, first quarried during his reign.

The door-jambs of the four great basilicas of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. John Lateran and Santa Maria Maggiore are of this marble; hence its name, Porta Santa (Holy Door).

*Marmor Carystium, Marmor Euboicum, Cipollino*³

'It (Euboea) is still better known for the marble of Carystus.'⁴

Cipollino differs from ordinary marble in showing bands (often plicated) of different shades of green, in which, according to Geikie,⁵ the calcite is interleaved with scales and folia of mica and talc, with sometimes other minerals.

The name comes from *cipolla* (the Italian for onion), referring to its laminated structure, resembling that of the onion.

The Marmor Carystium of the ancients is said to

¹ Bruzza, *op. cit.*

² Dennie, *op. cit.*

³ Onion-like.

⁴ Pliny, *op. cit.*, Book iv, chap. 21.

⁵ *Textbook of Geology*, Sir Archibald Geikie.