

This intelligence gave the highest satisfaction to the two boys, who, as has been seen, were always very eager to procure relics of all kinds, from all directions, and had more than once run some considerable risks in the endeavor to gratify their taste. The appearance of a man like this, who had himself exhumed treasures of the past from the dust of Rome, seemed to each of them to be a most fortunate thing, and they at once expressed the utmost eagerness to see what he had.

Upon this the Cicerone took them to a cell in the line of chambers, the front of which was rudely boarded up. Here there was a door, which he proceeded to unlock. Then entering, he motioned to the boys to follow. On doing so they found themselves inside of a chamber, which was precisely like all the others in this place, except that its front was boarded up. Around the walls were some rude shelves, upon which stood vases and busts, some of bronze, and some of discolored marble. There were also boxes and barrels about the chamber, all of which seemed to be well filled. About all these objects there seemed to Clive and David to be the unmistakable air of antiquity — the bronzes were all discolored, the marbles were of a dingy brown, the earthen vases were covered with mould, and they thought that they could perceive on every object the stamp of twenty centuries.

The Cicerone now proceeded to display his stores.