religious impression produced by the great Gothic churches of the North. Even Santa Maria Maggiore, with its commanding position, or St. John Lateran, "Mother and Head of all the churches," might easily be mistaken for great town halls or other public buildings. Their evolution from such secular buildings is indicated in their form and arrangement. The Gothic churches, deriving their inspiration from other sources, convey a different impression.

The attention of the great host of tourists, which annually crowds the city, is of course chiefly directed to the five great patriarchal basilicas, so-named in honor of the five patriarchs of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem—St. John Lateran, St. Peter in the Vatican, Santa Maria Maggiore, St. Lawrence without the Walls, and St. Paul without the Walls. Any one of these would repay the study of a lifetime, but the last is in a way of especial interest to English speaking people, in that, before the Reformation, the Sovereigns of England were the protectors of this basilica, as those of France were of St. John Lateran, and those of Spain of Santa Maria Maggiore. The emblem of the Garter may still be seen among its decorations. It stands lonely and apart, "without the walls," suggesting, as Cardinal Newman has somewhere said, the position of its great titular among the apostles in the eyes of the Roman church, and now deserted and abandoned through the apostasy of its former protector.

All of these are of transcendent interest, as well as many of the smaller churches, such as S. M. in Ara-Coeli with its miracle-working Bambino, and SS. Cosma e Damiano with its wonderful mosaics, dedicated to the memory of two Arab physicians, the Esculapii of Christianity, who were martyred under Diocletian, and both of whom have parishes dedicated to them in the district immediately north of Montreal; also S. Francesca Romana, with its beautiful bell tower and its picture by St. Luke, S. Sabina with its orange-tree and redolent of memories of St. Domi-

nic and St. Francis, S. Agnese with its catacombs, S. Gregorio, from which St. Augustine came to bring christianity to our Anglo-Saxon forefathers in Britain, and a hundred more.

Those, however, who are now especially interested in the beginnings of christianity, wend their way rather to certain other churches, usually small and some of them quite insignificant in appearance, but which are connected with the very beginnings of the Christian faith. The level of the present city of Rome is, as well known, much higher than that of ancient Rome. From the streets of modern Rome, we now look down into the ancient forum, where Cæsar walked and Cicero delivered his orations, and which has only been laid bare by recent excavations. Each time that the city was destroyed by fire, by invasion or by flood in the course of its long history, the ruined buildings were levelled off, and the new city was built literally upon the old, the lower stories of the old houses being frequently used as foundations for the newer buildings. In this way, century after century, immense quantities of building material was brought into the city. Brick and cement from the neighboring Compagna, enormous quantities of rare marbles from Numidia or Egypt, and of precious porphyries from Greece or the shores of the Red Sea; so much so that certain of the ancient writers complain that the streets of the metropolis were always obstructed by great cars loaded with blocks and columns. The level of the city thus gradually rose, its foundations being literally in the, often priceless, rubbish of the past, the difference in the level of the ancient and modern cities varying from nine feet on the summit of the hills to a maximum of thirty-six feet in the hollows by which the hills were separated. All the early buildings are thus laid bare only by excavation, or their remains are to be seen deep down in the basements of more recent structures.

The early Christian edifices in Rome always took their name from their founder or from the owner of the property on which they were esta-