

LAPIS ALBANUS AND LAPUS GABINUS 17

records that Nero, after the fire of Rome, ordered that the buildings should be 'arched with stone from the quarries of Gabii or Alba, that stone being proof against fire'. Both these stones were derived from the same extinct volcanoes of Latium.

A few ruins in peperino are still to be seen at Gabii; and in Rome it was employed in that marvel of sanitary engineering, the Cloaca Maxima.

At Albano Laziale, near the Lago d'Albano, was quarried the well-known Lapis Albanus. According to tradition the Emperor Augustus lived in a house, the portico of which was supported by columns of this stone.

Such was the stone employed in the tomb of the famous Scipios, along the Appian Way, and for the first Capitoline temple, as also for the Servian wall and Temple of Vesta.

Peperino was, and is still, quarried at Marino, the ancient Castrimaenium.¹

Lapis Tiburtinus, Travertine, Travertino

'The Tiburtine stones, and those of similar nature, resist great weights as well as the action of the weather, but are easily injured by fire.'²

The ancient Tibur was founded, according to a legend, many centuries before Rome, by the Siculi. Later, they were expelled by the Greek Tiburtus; wherefore the name Tibur was given to the town (now called Tivoli, a corruption of the Latin) which has produced for so many centuries the celebrated Lapis Tiburtinus or travertine, deposited by running streams and springs.

This calcareous deposit 'is laid open in sections

¹ Jervis, *op. cit.*

² *Vitruvius*, Book ii (trans. Joseph Gwilt).