

but by which means the whole service was restored to the strong-box, with the exception of one unfortunate soup-tureen, that had been unluckily thrown out a little too far beyond it.

The Farnesina contains Raphael's famous frescoes of 'Cupid and Psyche,' and of the 'Galatea'; the 'Marriage of Alexander and Roxana,' by Sadoma; the splendid frieze of 'Ovid's Metamorphoses,' by Giulio Romano, and the colossal head, a magnificent piece of chalk-drawing, sketched by Michael Angelo in one of the lunettes, whilst waiting for Daniel di Volterra; and other works of beauty and interest. The names of many historical characters and renowned beauties are connected with this place during the most brilliant period of the Papacy, who have sauntered along the grove-like ilex avenue, extending from the casino. The trunks of these venerable trees have attained a great size, and from them, at the height of some ten feet from the ground, stretch horizontal branches, the result of early training, which form an imposing leafy ceiling. From these again spring innumerable tall, slender, perpendicular branches, through which the brilliant sunshine strikes, flickering along the ground in all shapes of fantastic shadows; while in the bright Italian moonlight, the trees produce an indescribable effect of loveliness.

In the course of years, after its possession by Chigi, the villa passed into the hands of the Farnese family, and from theirs into those of the Royal Family of Naples, who appear to have taken but very little