

grant with the perfumes of Arabia Felix, and tuneful with the notes of the bulbul from the gardens of Schiraz; and her walls were glowing with the breathing canvas of Titian and Giorgione.

"Her daughters had their dowers
From spoils of nations, and the exhaustless East
Poured in her lap all gems in sparkling showers.
In purple was she robed, and of her feast
Monarchs partook, and deemed their dignity increased."

In her golden prime Venice had forty thousand sailors, and her fleet carried the banner of St. Mark defiantly over every sea. At length the son of her ancient rival, Genoa, discovered a New World beyond the western wave, and snatched forever from Venice the keys of the commerce of the seas. Cadiz, Bristol, London, Amsterdam, became the new centres of trade; and the discrowned Queen of the Adriatic saw her glories fade away.

As we glide along the iron way, eagerly scanning the horizon, a dark blue line of towers and churches, seeming to float upon the waves, comes gradually into view; and with a leap of the heart we greet "the longed-for, the most fair, the best beloved City of the Sea."

"She looks a sea-Cybele fresh from ocean,
Rising from her tiara of proud towers
At airy distance with majestic motion,
A ruler of the waters and their powers.

I saw from out the wave her structures rise
As at the stroke of the enchanter's wand:
A thousand years their cloudy wings expand
Around me, and a dying glory smiles,
O'er the far times, when many a subject land
Looked to the winged Lion's marble piles

Where Venice sat in state, throned on her hundred isles."

We quickly cross from the mainland, by a bridge over two miles long, to the far-famed Queen of the Adriatic.

It is very odd on reaching Venice, instead of being driven to one's hotel in a noisy fiacre or rumbling omnibus, to be borne over the water streets, as smoothly as in a dream, in a luxurious gondola.* In the strange stillness there was a suggestion of

* An American lady is credited with the remark that she did not see Venice to advantage, because the streets were all flooded when she was there.