

Palace than of a Christian church. The whole front was ornamented with an immense number of columns, formed of every kind of precious marble, polished so as to show the richest and most gorgeous colors. They saw five noble portals opening into the Cathedral, and over each a vaulted recess that blazed with gold, whereon were mosaic pictures wrought in the most brilliant tints. Immediately over the chief portal they saw a deep recess, in which stood four bronze horses, — emblems not of the peaceful services of religion, but rather of the proud achievements of war, and carrying the mind back from the modern republic of Venice to the ancient republic of Rome.

Entering, they found the interior fully corresponding with the promise of the exterior. Everything seemed to blaze with gold and brilliant coloring. The floor, the walls, the vaulted roof, the lofty domes, were all covered with mosaic pictures wrought on gilded background. David and Clive had seen St. Peter's, and therefore were not so deeply impressed by all this splendor as Gracie. She had never yet seen anything half so gorgeous, and was loud in her expressions of admiration.

"How did the Venetians happen," she asked, at length, "to lavish such an enormous amount of treasure on St. Mark?"

"O, why, I'm sure they had every reason to do so," said Vernon. "He was their patron saint. He gave them victory by land and sea. They