

REMAINS AND REMINISCENCES OF ANCIENT ROME.

No. 1

THE subject with which I purpose to occupy your time is derived from a visit made by me to Rome a few years ago. It is not, however, my intention to give you a description of this celebrated city, nor a detailed account of all the striking objects with which it abounds, and which claim the notice of its numerous visitors. I shall confine myself, on the present occasion, to one class of those objects only. They are so full of interest in themselves, so closely connected with your early reading or later studies, that I venture to think they may be found not undeserving your attention. I design, then, to bring before you, the remains of ancient Rome, as they still survive in the Modern City: not, indeed, the whole of them, for that would be beyond the compass of a single lecture. But I shall select some of the most prominent of those monuments, relics of by-gone ages, which profusely scattered around, in less or wider ruin, attest to its former grandeur, its ostentatious wealth, and splendid luxury. I shall ask you to walk with me round parts of this wonderful city, and without stopping to gaze on its modern magnificence, its superb churches and palaces: to contemplate some portion of what yet lingers there of its ancient glories. Any remarks on the present or future condition of Rome, would be wholly out of place in this lecture: but some reminiscences of its classical history, will necessarily connect themselves with these remains.

You all know very well how and when Rome was built. Its earliest foundations were laid on Mount Palatine. Other hills lifted up their heads near and around it. These were gradually laid out, built on, and embellished, till in process of time, when it had attained the height of its splendour—

“Imperial Rome,
Proud on seven hills, sat like a scepter'd Queen
And awed the tributary world to peace.”

There were, and are in fact, more hills than the seven: but they were not included at first, within Rome proper: though as it extended its limits, they did at length form part of the city; just as Hampstead and Highgate have been swallowed up in London, though not many years ago distinct hills and villages; and as the Camp Hill may perhaps one day, become an inhabited part of the city of Halifax.

These seven hills—it may be convenient to enumerate them somewhat in the order of their position—were: the Aventine (nearest to the Tiber), the Palatine, the Capitoline, the Cœlian, the Esquiline, the Viminal, and the Quirinal. It was within the circle which may be drawn around the extreme bounds of these hills, that the limits of the more ancient or intramural Rome, are to be traced. A little to the north of the Quirinal, which is the most northern of the seven, rises another called the Pincian, or *Collis hortulorum*, the hill of gardens, as it was called from the number and beauty of those which adorned it. Among the most celebrated were the magnificent gardens of the historian Sallust, and those of the rich and luxurious Lucullus. The Pincian may be still very aptly distinguished by the same appellation; for it is now, as anciently, charmingly covered with gardens. Between these two, the Quirinal and the Pincian on the east, and the Tiber, which sweeps here with a bold deep bend, as it rolls along its ever yellow waters, lay a broad plain or open space of ground without the ancient walls. This was the famous *Campus Martius*, where the *comitia* or assemblies of the people were held, and military exercises took place, and where the Roman youth engaged in their