

its enormous size put it out of comparison with any other church. Nothing but the grand mountains of Switzerland made such an impression on me. And yet the church from the outside does not show as well as St. Paul's. It is hidden by its portico, and overshadowed by the Vatican. But once inside, that man must be strangely constituted who does not feel an involuntary inclination to worship. No one takes in the size of St. Peter's on his first entrance; the perfect harmony and symmetry of the building take away from its size. Only when you begin to measure and make comparisons, do you begin to grasp the idea of its vastness.

For instance, as you enter the church you see that the dome is supported by four massive columns. They seem to be in perfect keeping with the place, and your mind takes in no other idea than that of ordinary columns in a church; but when you confine your attention exclusively to those columns, and find that they stand twice as high, and that they are twice as wide as any ordinary house, then you begin to take in the idea of size all round. I remember once reading about an officer sending his regiment to St. Peter's, and who, following afterwards himself, was surprised that none of his soldiers were visible, though all were present, and I thought at the time that the story was an exaggeration. I know now that ten thousand men could be placed in St. Peter's, and a man coming in at the front door would not see one of them.

But to get an idea of the richness and yet chasteness of its ornamentation, you must stand on its marble floors and look on its rich marble walls, relieved by pictures in mosaic, that you can scarcely be persuaded are not oil paintings of the richest description. These are further set off by some of Canova's master-pieces in statuary. So exquisite are these in workmanship, that a pope might be willing to die for the chance of living again for ages in such noble marble form.

I am very sorry that I had no opportunity of witnessing here such a grand service as the Roman Catholic Church can give; but at present the Pope, by some fiction of the imagination, holds himself a prisoner in the Vatican, and, until he chooses to call himself free, there will be no great or grand service in St. Peter's. This was a grievous disappointment to me, for I had looked forward to a grand service on Sunday, and the pettiest