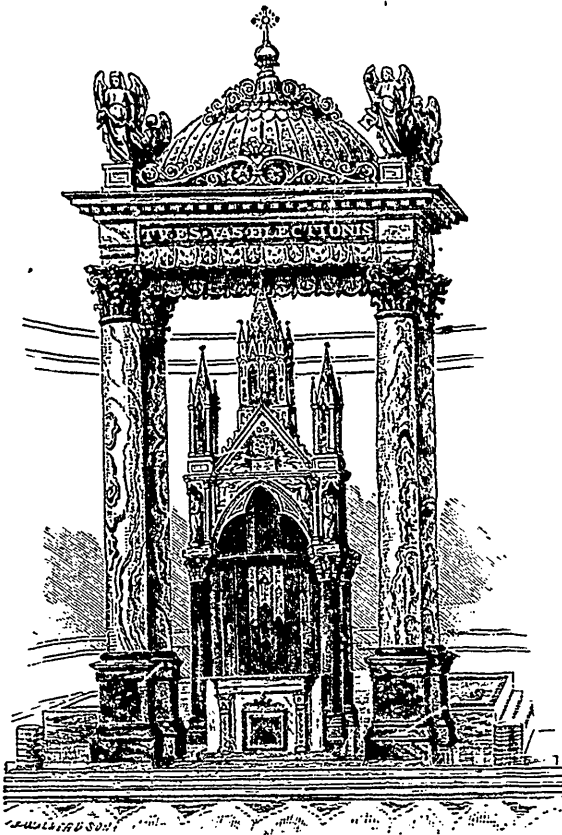


Brieflet No. 12.

ROME.



TOMB OF ST. PAUL.

NOT very far from the Lateran stands another fine old church—*Santa Maria Maggiore, ad Nives*. There are at least fifty churches in Rome dedicated to the Virgin. This is the largest, and by far the finest. The words “ad nives” refer to the legend of a miraculous fall of snow, said to have fallen on the 5th of August, about A.D. 522, which covered the exact spot of ground on which the church stands, and that only! The nave of this church is lined with two rows of marble pillars—thirty-six on each side—from Hadrian’s villa. The altar is lavishly ornamented with porphyry, and the walls and ceilings with rich gilding and mosaics—the whole presenting an appearance of remarkable beauty. Over the altar

are emblazoned the words,—*Regina Angelorum*, “Queen of Angels.” Beneath it, are the “relics”—the *santa culla*, or cradle in

which the infant Saviour was carried into Egypt, the remains of St. Matthew, the brains of Thomas à Becket! &c. Adjoining the altar is a splendid chamber constructed by Pius IX for his last resting-place, and here he was buried. A gorgeous tomb also, is that of Sixtus V, one of the most distinguished of the Bishops of Rome, as preacher and statesman, who was nevertheless cordially hated by the people. *Santa Croce in Gerusalemme*, has no architectural attractions, though it draws crowds to venerate the “Title of the True Cross”—a piece of two-inch plank, reputed to be that on which the inscription in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew was written. (Luke 23: 38). The annual feast of the “Invention of the True Cross” is celebrated on the 3rd of May with great solemnity, when the figment is carried in procession attended by a white-robed choir who chant a litany in strains like this,—“O Cross! more glorious than the stars, world-famous, holiest of things, which alone wast worthy to sustain the weight of the world: dear wood, dear nails, dear burden-bearing; save those present assembled in thy praise to

day. Alleluia!”

San Paulo-fuori-le-mura. This famous Basilica stands in solitary grandeur in the open Campagna, three miles beyond the city walls. We have already walked in imagination with St. Paul as he entered Rome, we have seen the house in which he lived for two years, the dungeon in which he was confined, and the hall in which he was tried and condemned; we are now to look at the place where he was beheaded, and his reputed tomb. Adjoining the basilica there is a small church which marks the spot where, by a stroke of the executioner’s sword, the great Apostle gained the crown of martyrdom. You cannot but enter it with solemnity, for there is reason to believe that here Paul died. A bas-relief on the wall, represents the swordsman completing