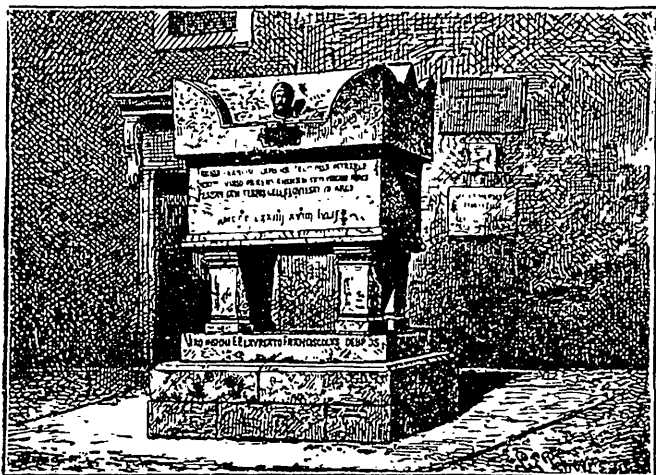


decayed and poverty-stricken place, with extensive fortifications, and a population of 60,000. Its chief sights are its vast amphitheatre, which could hold 100,000 persons; the tomb of Scaligers, the house of the Capulets, and tomb of Shakespeare's Juliet. Before we reach Verona, we have a good survey of the Lago de Garda, on whose banks was fought the fierce battle of Solferino, 1859.

The country through which the railroad passes bears the characteristic features of the plains of Lombardy. Flourishing cornfields dotted with mulberry-trees alternate with verdant pastures and rice-fields; everywhere the canals furnish a plenti-



“PETRARCH'S TOMB.

ful supply of water for irrigation and the farm-houses are hidden among the luxurious foliage of the trees which surround them.

Within an hour's ride of Venice is the ancient city of Padua, one next to Rome in wealth. Rising above the rich foliage are seen the graceful domes and towers of the Church of St. Anthony, begun six hundred years ago, and larger than even the Church of St. Mark at Venice. Near Padua is the ancient town of Arquà, the home of Francesco Petrarch, the favourite of the Muses and the bard of the Scipios and of Laura. His tomb stands in the court-yard in front of the church, and his bones rest in the sarcophagus of red Veronese marble—complete but for the right arm, stolen one night by one of the poet's over-zealous admirers, who broke away a corner of the stone so that it would admit a boy to secure for him the precious hand of the immortal bard.