

of the Palatine Apollinus which the Emperor built was constructed of solid blocks of that marble.¹

Bruzza notes that in the interesting will of Langres of the later half of the first century the heirs are advised that the altar before the sepulchral building must be 'ex lapide lunensi quam optimo'², and also of such marble the door of the edifice. This proves that those quarries called by Statius 'nivea metalla'³ already exported marble to some distance from Italy.

The quarries of the valuable Carrara marbles are in the range of the Apennines overlooking the beautiful Bay of Spezia, in the neighbourhood of Carrara, Massa, and Serravezza. 'The part of the Apennines which contains these quarries is highly picturesque. The central ridges of pale crystalline limestone and schist with serried outline rise to elevations of 4,000 to 5,000 feet; these are bounded by less elevated eminences, clothed with olive groves, vineyards and forest trees up to their summits. From the base of the hills a richly cultivated alluvial plain, evidently an ancient sea-beach, stretches to the sea, and forms a level course for the Strada Ferrata, by which the blocks of marble are conveyed away to their various destinations, or to ports for shipping.

'The best quarries are opened along both sides of a deep valley, in which the village of Carrara is situated, and along which flows the Torano. In general the marble has a light bluish hue, or is white with bluish veins, such kinds being generally sawn into slabs at the numerous cutting and polishing mills situated along the course of the stream.

¹ Bruzza, *op. cit.*

² Of the best quality of Lunense stone.

³ Quarries of snow.