

ment, walls of polished stones, roof of shining, golden hue; yet there was not that overpowering vastness which they had confidently anticipated. And therefore the disappointment which the first glimpse had caused continued even after they had seen the interior.

Now, the reason of this may easily be given. It lies in the exquisite symmetry of St. Peter's, and the careful proportion of all its parts. For this reason, at the first glance, it seemed to the boys not much larger than any other church. But this first impression passed away. For, as they moved from the door, as they advanced along the nave, as they went from point to point, its size grew upon them every moment. As they walked forward, the vast interior seemed continually to retreat; and on approaching statues which represented cherubs, and at first had seemed no larger than infants, they found them to be of gigantic dimensions. Everything seemed to increase and to become thus magnified; and so the edifice rose constantly all around them to grander proportions, until at last they stood under the great dome, and looked up into its stupendous vault. There, at last, their highest expectation was realized, and the full idea of St. Peter's came over them — St. Peter's, with all its grandeur, glory, and immensity.

"Thou movest, but increasing with the advance,  
Like climbing some great Alp that still doth rise,