



is of the past—the strange, weird, sombre past. One cannot go through its now untenanted rooms, so dark and dismal, and listen to the echoes of his own footfall as they die away among those vaulted arches, without thinking of the time when these rooms rang with the shouts of soldiers in their coarse revels, and these cells echoed back the groans of the suffering and the dying.

The sea wall runs from the fort southward along the front of the city. It is built of stone from the island opposite, known as Anastasia Island, and is covered with a granite coping four feet in width. It is the favourite promenade of visitors, and on moonlit evenings at this season of the year is thronged. At the southern end of this wall are the U. S. barracks, once, in part at least, a Franciscan monastery.

Our cut shows the eastern side of the old fort, San Marco, with the tower at its north-eastern angle, and its irregular, broad sea wall, from which runs the city sea wall for nearly a mile to the southward.

Having taken a survey of this curious old city, your explorers drove out to one of the commercial gardens. We entered by an avenue of palmetto, interspersed with date palms and bordered with junipers. Here we found our ever-blooming roses, such as *Solfaterre*, *Niphetos*, *Maréchal Niel*, &c., which we are compelled to house so carefully at the approach of winter, growing in the open ground all the year through. They were well filled with flowers, but lacked the luxuriance of foliage and growth we are accustomed to see. But at this we did not wonder; the wonder was that they should grow at all in this pure sand. We found growing here large numbers of *amaryllis*, and concluded that the market for this plant must be remarkably good. Here, too, was the finest avenue of *oleanders* that one can imagine. We did not learn their age, but they rose to the height of ten or twelve feet on either hand. In a few more days the flowers just coming into bloom will be open, and then this avenue of *oleanders* will be a sight to see. Our inspection of the vegetable department was but passing; the plants had