

22 WHAT ROME WAS BUILT WITH

which the supplies could be obtained, had attracted them less in the first instance than those localities which were more difficult of access; the obstacles of transportation only increasing the value of the material in their eyes.

According to Pliny, Mamurra who dwelt upon the Caelian Hill was the first to cover his walls with marble, and to have all the columns of his house made of nothing but solid marble, and 'that, too, marble of Carystus or of Luna'¹. This is the earliest record we have of the employment of Marmor Lunense in Rome, and Professor Carlo Promis believes that Mamurra's house was built about 48 B. C.²

Later Juvenal describes in verse³ the enormous blocks brought to Rome, and the danger to which the people were exposed when these masses were being carted through the streets.

In 1810 a block of Carrara marble was found in the Canale di Colonnata, on which were inscribed the names of Decius Halerius, Agrippa and Caius Sulpicius Galba, consuls during the reign of the Emperor Tiberius (born 42 B. C., died A. D. 37). Another block of the time of Septimius Severus was found many years previously in the neighbourhood of Carrara; but the most interesting discovery belonging to the Roman period was a bas-relief found at Fantiscritti, which will be described later.

The extravagance with which the Emperor Augustus (of whom Livy says, '*templorum omnium conditor ac restitutor*'⁴) replaced the use of brick by that of marble further increased the demand for material from Luni; and Servius assures us that the Temple

¹ Pliny, *op. cit.*, Book xxxvi, chap. 7.

² Bruzza, *Iscrizioni dei Marmi Grezzi*.

³ See page 7.

⁴ 'The founder and restorer of all the temples.'