

gives a pernicious precedent to the hearers, which happily is not general, and brings its own punishment; for those few who find real pleasure in giving pain to others by ill-natured and personal fun are rarely well spoken of, even by those who profess to see no harm in it. A sarcastic person may have many admirers, but no real friends, as, directly personal intercourse with them ceases, and when one's back is turned, then one trembles for one's own character. But this is a spiteful and uncharitable fun, one resorted to by those who, disgusted with and weary of the world, can find consolation only in the endeavor to convert others to their opinion. There is one more abuse of fun which it is necessary only just to touch upon, and which, while the love of pure and holy things exist can never become a habit—I mean the danger that one has to guard against of speaking in fun of sacred and holy things, or in any way bringing them into ridicule. It may be that, to a really witty person, the inclination to this irreverent practice has to be more carefully guarded against than to those whose sense of wit is less keen. If a witty speech or joke is on our lips which would turn into the slightest fun or ridicule things only to be spoken or thought of with reverence, let the witty sentence be wasted, rather than be uttered to fall perhaps on some untutored and wavering mind, and prove a stumbling-block in that mind for years and years after the words were uttered and forgotten. So much for the abuse of this gift. But, on the whole, much more may be said for than against it; for though it may prove a stumbling-block and "occasion of falling" to some few, it is an undeniable blessing to those who, with a constant and ever-ready source of cheerfulness and fun, can make lighter daily trials and difficulties, and even afford help to a less hopeful brother or sister on their earthly journey.—*Harper's Bazaar*.

#### THE COLOSSEUM AT ROME.

Eighty thousand people seated in one building, and 20,000 more standing in the aisles and galleries! One hundred thousand people assembled in Rome's great amphitheatre! Kings, queens, princes, nobles, and common people, with one accord gathered together to see men engage in mortal combat, and bathe their hands in each other's blood.

The Colosseum was the largest theatre ever built, and is now one of the most imposing ruins in the world. It must be seen to be appreciated. It is elliptical in shape, and is 612 feet long and 515 feet wide. It is about one-third of a mile around it. It was entirely built of stone, the outside being encrusted with marble and decorated with statues. It was composed of four stories, each of which was formed by 80 arches, supported by so many marble columns. Each of the arches of the lower story served as an entrance to the building, and in every fourth there was a staircase. The entire height was about 160 feet. Within the building in the centre was the arena, so called, because it was usually covered with fine sand. This was also elliptical in shape, and 250 feet long, and 160 feet wide. It was here that the contests took place. Around the arena were some eighty rows of marble seats, rising one behind and above the other. In the arcades beneath the seats were the dens for the wild animals, and the cells in which the gladiators were kept.

The Colosseum was built by Titus, about eighty years after Christ. Its completion was celebrated by gladiatorial combats continuing 100 days. It is said that during this time 5,000 animals were killed for the amusement of the multitude, and nobody knows how many men. In the arena were given all sorts of games, shows, exhibitions, and contests. Arrangements were even made by which it could be flooded by water. Boats were floated in it, and naval battles were fought there. During the middle ages the Colosseum was used as a fortress.

In the 14th century its destruction began. The stone was carried away to be used in building other houses. At least three magnificent palaces were largely built of material taken from the Colosseum. In the 18th century means were taken to preserve it, and large buttresses were afterward built to prevent the walls from falling. Only about one-third of the structure remains, and yet an architect has estimated that the stone still in the ruins is worth \$2,500,000. If this be true, the material alone used in the construction of this vast amphitheatre must have cost near \$8,000,000. A moderate estimate of its entire cost may be placed at \$20,000,000.

The games, contests and displays in the Colosseum were under the special direction and patronage of the Emperor, and vast sums of money were spent upon them. They have been excelled, perhaps, either in magnificence or cruelty, by no exhibitions in any country or any age. But when we think of the hundreds of human beings who were here compelled to sacrifice their lives in order to divert the minds of a blood-thirsty people, we can but rejoice that the whole is now a mouldering mass of ruins. The Colosseum in its glory may be taken as a symbol of the greatness of Rome. In its ruins, it is emblematic of her departed grandeur, and of the fact that the cruel rites which were celebrated within its walls have given place to the more benign and humane influences of Christianity.

#### Literary Review.

THE FIRST ANNUAL CATALOGUE OF THE SCHOOL OF EXPRESSION, announces the organization in Boston, of a school of a peculiar character. A broad and thorough course in Vocal Training and Elocution, is outlined in the Catalogue. It is the plan to endow the School, and a Committee of Trust is named, composed of leading citizens, to whom donations may be made. S. S. Curry, Ph. D., Snow Professor in Oratory Boston University, is at the head of the undertaking; and by permission of the Trustees has organized the School out of his private classes, although the School has no connection with the University. One hundred and twenty-nine students, from twenty-one States, thirty-six being college graduates, are already in attendance.

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