

THE COLISEUM.

(From "Christmas Holidays in Rome," by the Rev. W. J. Kip)

The bloody shows of the Coliseum were often on a gigantic scale, which we should suppose could hardly have been witnessed without insanity. We will give, in the expressive language of another—one sole instance—that of the Emperor Claudius at the Lacus Fucinus.

It was a solemn thought therefore as we stood in this arena, and remembered the nature of the amusements in which the fierce multitudes of Rome rejoiced, that here for four centuries death had reaped a most abundant harvest.

The latest scene of bloodshed which took place within these walls, was in the fourteenth century, and worthy of a brief notice, as giving some insight into the manners of the times.

It had been resolved to exhibit there a bull-fight, after the Moorish and Spanish fashion, and proclamations had been sent through all Italy, inviting the young nobles to exhibit their skill and valor.

From this scene of bloodshed we have seen the nature of the amusements in which the fierce multitudes of Rome rejoiced, that here for four centuries death had reaped a most abundant harvest.

with the palace on the Palatine, within which it is probable that Commodus was attacked by the conspirators. Gibbon says—"He was returning in his palace through a dark and narrow portal in the amphitheatre."

It is pleasant to visit these old ruins at different times through the day and night, to mark the effect produced by the change of lights and shadows.

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THE WEDDING GARMENT.

Although we may theologically distinguish between regeneration, repentance, faith, and holiness, no man can practically discover them, any more than he can separate the different powers of the human mind, distinctly as we may view them.

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