

magnificent *Thermae*. They were adorned too both within and without with marble pillars, and paintings and statues. Several of the latter have been found in the ruins, and among them the celebrated *Farnese Bull*, and *Heracles*, which attest to the beauty and grace with which these Baths were adorned. I should perhaps have mentioned when speaking of those of *Titus*, that the admirable *Laocoon* was discovered there, and to which we learn from *Pliny* it belonged. The Baths of *Diocletian*, if less magnificent were perhaps of greater extent, as their ruins also shew—they were almost a hundred years later than those of *Caracalla* and were built where the *Quirinal* and *Viminal* hills approach each other. But I shall not weary you with any description of them. I may however notice that very near the last mentioned Baths was the ancient *Porta Collina*—through which the Gauls under *Brennus* entered, and held the city till driven out by *Camillus*. More celebrated still it perhaps is from being the spot at which *Hannibal* appeared when he made that raid with his *Numidian* horse, which created such a consternation, and from which he threw a spear into the city—the only enemy, says *Pliny*, who had ever done so. It however speedily recovered from its terror. While the formidable enemy was yet before their walls, the very ground on which he encamped was publicly sold at the *Forum*, and without any diminution in its value, from that circumstance. Such was the indomitable spirit of the old Romans. Well might the alarmed *Carthaginian* retreat from before it. This was perhaps the turning point of his and his country's fortunes. Baffled and disappointed, he soon after took his leave of Italy. The tide of war was rolled back upon *Africa*, and *Carthage* itself, the last remaining trench perhaps of the guilty *Capnapite* was in a short time swept away by the arms of the all-conquering Romans. At a still later period the *Colline* gate was the scene of conflict between the partisans of *Vitellius* and *Vespasian* which the people flocked in crowds to witness, just as if it had been a theatrical exhibition—applauding the winning side as the battle inclined to one or the other, and shouting for those who escaped, to be dragged back to the slaughter. We may think that civil war with all its horrid and unfeeling atrocities could not go beyond this—and yet it is but a small part of the frightful scene which the historian (*Tacitus*) describes on this occasion. Just outside of this gate was the *Campus Sceleratus* where the *Vestal Virgins* who had broken their vows were buried alive—and which took its name from this, as *Livy* informs us, who has mentioned more than one instance of this cruel punishment. There was also at *Rome* the *Vicus Sceleratus*—the wicked or accursed way—but that was at the foot of the *Esquiline*. It was the scene of the murder of *Servius Tullius*, within sight of his own palace, which was on that hill—and obtained an unhappy notoriety and its evil name, from the* subsequent conduct of *Tullia*, his infamous and unnatural daughter. Our dramatist in portraying *Lady Macbeth*, has thrown in one little touch of natural affection, to soften down and relieve the character of this bold, bad woman, in that terrible scene, where she incites her husband to the murder of their royal guest.

“Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done it.”

But *Tullia* had no such weak womanly feelings to overcome—

“No compunctious visitings of nature
Shook her fell purpose.”

With the same guilty ambition to share a throne, but more fierce and more cruel in

* Ipse sub *Esquiliis*, ubi erat sua regia cæsus
Considet in dura sanguinolentus humo
Certa fides facti: dictus sceleratus ab illa
Vicus, et æterna res ea pressa nota.