

## 6 WHAT ROME WAS BUILT WITH

Lepidus to have the lintels of his house of Numidian marble, a thing for which he was greatly censured.

At this time (about 88 B. C.) Lucullus introduced the gray or black marble named after him; and a year later Sylla stole the columns of the temple of the Olympian Jupiter at Athens, and brought them to Rome for the buildings in the Capitol.

About 58 B. C. M. Scaurus, who was Aedile at the time, erected the famous theatre to be used only for a few days, which Pliny says was 'the greatest work that has ever been made by the hands of man, even when intended to be of everlasting duration'.<sup>1</sup> This theatre consisted of three stories; the first was of marble supported by 360 columns of marble (four of which were 38 feet in height), between which were placed 3,000 brazen statues. The second story was of glass, a species of luxury, says Pliny, which ever since that time has been quite unheard of; and the third of gilded wood. This theatre accommodated 80,000 people! So great were the masses of marble carried through the streets of Rome for his private house that the contractor for the public sewers compelled Scaurus to give security for the possible damage that might be done in the carriage of the columns to the Palatium. Pliny was almost beside himself with indignation at this performance, and says: 'When so bad an example as this was set, would it not have been advisable to take some precautions for the preservation of the public morals? And yet the laws still preserved their silence, when such enormous masses as these were being carried past the earthenware pediments of the temples of the gods, to the house of a private individual!'<sup>2</sup>

Caesar either pretended or wished to restrain the

<sup>1</sup> Pliny, *op. cit.*, Book xxxvi, chap. 24.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. 2.