

is easy, as the quarries lie near to the sea, and from the sea they are conveyed by the Tiber.<sup>1</sup>

Thus Strabo describes the most extensive and celebrated quarries of the world, which have been worked since the beginning of the Christian era, and at the present day supply Europe and America with thousands of tons of material each year.

It has not been clearly proved that the Carrara marbles were known to or worked by the Etruscans, although various pieces of Etruscan sculpture have been found in white crystalline marble, but, as Jervis remarks, in the absence of fresh fracture it is impossible to judge of the material employed.<sup>2</sup>

The ancient city of Luni, whose walls Namatianus Rutilius said rivalled the white lily in beauty, was about twelve kilometres from the modern Carrara, and a few traces of it still remain.

When Ciriaco Anconitano visited Luni in 1442 the city was already in ruins. He speaks of the enormous dimensions of the blocks of marble employed in the construction of the walls, which measured 8 feet by 4 feet.

During the Middle Ages Luni became a convenient quarry site of cut stone to the neighbouring city of Sarzana, sharing the fate of the Colosseum, and many other of the classical edifices of Rome; so it is not to be wondered at, that only a few traces remain of the once industrious and thriving city of Etruria.

The Romans, after having for many years imported vast quantities of marble from Greece, Africa and Asia Minor, at length turned their attention to sources nearer to the capital, which perhaps from their very nearness, and the comparative ease with

<sup>1</sup> Strabo, Book v, chap. 2 (Bohn).

<sup>2</sup> Jervis, *op. cit.* The following information on Carrara has been drawn almost exclusively from Jervis.