

SOME SPOTS OF INTEREST IN THE ETERNAL CITY

Beauty and Grandeur of Ancient Rome Easy to Comprehend—Tragedies of Olden Times That Have Been Brought Out There—Messalina's Wild Orgies.

(Special Correspondence.)

The prominence of the dome of St. Peter's in every view of the city within and without the walls is constantly felt by the traveler as well as by the dweller in Rome. It is as a note and symbol of the city.

This majestic construction of Michael Angelo, whose pathetic devotion to his work, which he did without pay, lends a charm to the sight of it, as one looks at it from between the ilexes that overshadow the fountain in front of the French academy or from the platform of the Piazza

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In the Vatican Gardens.

hill. This is one of the earliest resorts of the traveler to Rome. From this height he may look down on the city and behold a prospect only less attractive than that seen from the Janiculum at the solemn hour of sunset, when, as an old writer has it, he may command a view "over the whole surface of the ancient and modern city; its palaces, its domes and its campanili, contrasting with the turquoise confusion with the giant pillars of Trajan and Antonine—the full circumference of its walls—its aqueducts stretching in broken series across the desolate Campagna—the silent course of the Tiber winding its serpent length through the whole compass of the horizon, with the distant hills of Tivoli and Alba on the verge of the landscape that lift itself among the Apennines."

But the Pin of these charms of an other sort than these. Here the band plays in the afternoon and the fashion of the city and its famous persons are to be seen driving in the restricted path allowed in this comparatively small garden.

The shaded paths, the admirable flowers, the statues showing out white against the greenery, the busts of famous men on pedestals and the warm, pleasant air contribute to make this not only one of the chief resorts of Rome, but also a spot that is loved by the world. As it is today, so has it been in the past. The tragedies of the antique time which have been wrought out here with all their blood-dripping detail, add a strange interest to the spot.

It was here, on this "Hill of Gardens" that Messalina, the wife of the Emperor Claudius, gave herself up to the wild orgies which were attributed to her by her infamous contemporaries. It was the summit to which she took possession of the villa that occupied this site, and held her revels there. It was the autumn season, Messalina, while there, celebrated the vintage feast in these gardens. The grape

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Church St. Maria Maggiore.

was in the vine press, the juice of it flowed in great vats; the Bacchanals danced, deliriously arrayed, as they were, in the skins of wild beasts. Messalina, with her locks streaming wildly, a thyrus in her hand and coronas on her feet, was her head to and fro like a mad creature to the music of the dance.

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A TIP-TRAKER'S VIEW.

Sees a Decline in the Great American Habit.

The bitterest of the victims of the "tip nuisance" is found in the land, but the recipients of tips have usually maintained a handsome silence. Says Mr. James J. Simons, a colored waiter, explains his point of view in the Independent.

Waiters' wages have everywhere been reduced with the growth of tips so that the tipper is merely making good the deficiencies of the employer. Hence, the tipper is in a great measure, a great decline in the volume of tips, so that the waiter, underpaid and discontented, with the loss of his position, is constrained to write a letter with the two rolls of a wringer. In a number of representative hotels, where the tipper is a featured cities the tips received by colored waiters vary from nothing at all in Cleveland to a dollar and a half a day in the Metropole. In the hotel here in New Orleans they average seven-fifty cents a day, in Louisville fifteen cents, and in Philadelphia from five to ten cents. The usual range in the South is low.

In the North the tendency is for the best hotels and restaurants to employ white waiters, although colored men are employed by them for the lowest wages. In New York they get from \$18 to \$22 a month in wages and they are only when they are not paid \$15 more in tips. In most restaurants the waiters are composed of white and colored waiters, and the colored waiters are the prevalent type. In fact it is only the colored waiters who are doing the business. The colored waiter is not as well as the white waiter, and the colored waiter is not as well as the white waiter, and the colored waiter is not as well as the white waiter.

SAID TO BE OLDEST CITY IN THE WORLD

Damascus Known to Have Been a Place of Consequence in the Time of Abraham—Fierce Conflicts in Battle and Massacres Within its Walls.

(Special Correspondence.)

Amid varied attractions of the well-known city of Damascus, Syria, there is an older city of oriental life than the city of Damascus, with its tinkling fountains, its wealth of fruit and flowers, its sunny courtyards, where the art of the potter and the skill of nature in developing great beauty, and its gilded and luxurious interiors, where life may well be likened to a measure of Paradise.

The site of this ancient city, believed by many writers to be the oldest in the world, is in the heart of a plateau of volcanic origin. The place of some consequence in the time of Abraham, is 136 miles north-east of Jerusalem, and about forty-five miles east of the Mediterranean. Here, in a very fertile plain 2,354 feet above the sea level, a plain so remarkable for its beauty as to be termed in oriental phrase one of the four terrestrial paradises, this quaint old city was commenced by man at a time as remote as to be lost in the mists of antiquity. For many miles the city is surrounded by fertile fields and gardens which are watered by streams from the adjacent high range of Anti-Lebanus.

In strong contrast to its beautiful setting, the city of Damascus, an oriental city, seems dingy and repulsive when viewed at short range. Many of the streets seem to have been built for the purpose of hot, one-headed donkeys at a time. Think of the upper stories being so projected over the street that the occupant, in a wind-swept shake hands with his neighbors across the way! Such streets appear the tunnels and compare but ill with the broad, clean boulevards of modern cities. Even the homes of the wealthy have a dirty, unrefined appearance on their exteriors, though even within the walls one is astonished at the luxury and lavish ornament everywhere displayed—the whole forming a strange contrast to the neat, orderly appearance of the city as a whole, as judged by our standards.

Like an oasis of the desert the market square of Damascus is a bright spot amid the dinginess of this somber, hued expanse. Its covered streets, with their modern arcades, are lined with shops and displays of goods. Many lands are displayed; heavy robes of richly interwoven with silk and gold, other products of the loom which are light and feathery and have the many-hued colorings of the deerskin; silk carpets, from gaily colored shawls from Hindustan and Cashmere, and precious metals from Arabia and the Gulf of Oman. All add their bright-

ness to the scene in a manner that charms the beholder. Near the principal bazaar stands a Gothic arch raised by the early Christians when building a church as a repository for that sacred relic—the head of St. John the Baptist. Tradition says that the body of St. Paul was buried beneath a wall of the city. Other historic and sacred spots are the house of Naaman, now a hospital for lepers, the mosque of St. Paul's conversion to Christianity, the house of Ananias, and the sanctuary of Abraham, which is three miles north of the city.

In the dim and distant past no city endowed as Damascus with its health-giving air, its magnificent natural surroundings, and its ease of access for purposes of trade, could long remain so remote. The hand of the despot, the tyrant, the despotic and the ruler of a despotic empire, added to the decay of the city. A century after its decline was witnessed, the city was again without and within its ancient walls. Its history is a record of a long and a terrible one. From Anax to Cleopatra it passed as a love city. By Theodosius it was bestowed upon Herod the Great. During the reign of Sabinus, whose

View of Athens. The Acropolis.

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WELL ENOUGH IF ALL OF THEM COULD

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