





## CHAPTER VIII.

Arrival at Egypt—Alexandria—Meeting with H. M. Stanley—Cairo and the Pyramids—  
Journey up the Nile—Gizeh—Thebes—Memphis—Start for the Holy Land.



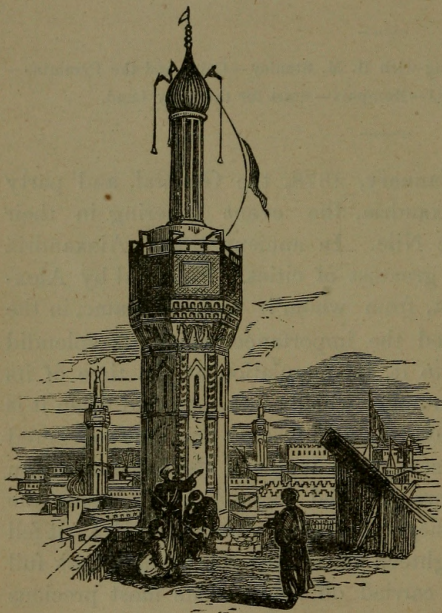
ON the fifth of January, 1878, the General and party arrived at Alexandria, the event ushering in their journey up the Nile. In ancient times Alexandria was one of the greatest of cities. Founded by Alexander the Great, from whom it took its name, in the year 332 B. C., it soon assumed the importance which its splendid position as a port secured to it, its population at the time of its greatest affluence reaching a number which can be guessed when it is known that no less than 300,000 free men were at one time registered as living within its gates. A seat of commerce, it also became known as a centre of learning, and here gathered together in discussion the learned men of all lands. Besieged by Julius Cæsar in 48 B. C., it fell before that conqueror, and eighteen years later the Romans took full possession of the town and carried off many of its most precious works of art. Ravaged by successive enemies, the city declined in strength and importance, until the growing power of Constantinople overshadowed it and made its decay a matter of certainty. To-day the ancient city is only interesting in its associations. It is but a mass of ruins, out of which the modern city, possessing a population of 80,000, has been largely built. Here the party remained three days. During the early hours of the first day, the prominent officials of the district, including the Governor, Mr. Salvago, the American Vice-Consul, and some few American residents, boarded the vessel



and paid their respects to the General. The call of the Governor, which was made on behalf of the Khedive, who, by his proxy, offered the American visitor quarters in the palace of Kassr-el-Noussa at Cairo and a steamer to convey him up the Nile, was returned the same afternoon, when the General, accompanied by Commander Robeson, Chief Engineer Trilley, Lieutenant Handy, and Jesse Grant, were received by a guard of honor at the palace, where cigarettes,

coffee and a rather solemn chat constituted the formalities of the occasion.

In the evening the Vice-Consul, Mr. Salvago, gave a dinner and ball in honor of the distinguished visitors, which proved a magnificent entertainment. One of the most pleasing features of the evening was the presence of Mr. Henry M. Stanley, the famous African explorer. The meeting between him and the Ex-President was cordial in the extreme. With his usual knack at getting at the pith of any subject, the General plied the explorer with question after question in relation



MINARETS AT ALEXANDRIA.

to that portion of the "Dark Continent" which he had just traversed, and made himself thoroughly acquainted with the practical results which were to follow the successful journey. When the round of toasts brought up the name of Stanley, in a graceful speech acknowledging the wonderful success of his plucky march across an unknown portion of South Africa, the traveler responded modestly as to his own merits, but glowingly when he described the pride and pleasure which it gave him, after years spent away from his fellow-countrymen,

to meet them again, and to find himself seated by the side of so illustrious a citizen as the Ex-President. On Sunday, a stroll amongst the disjointed and puzzling streets and by-ways of Alexandria, a luncheon with a few private friends, and a quiet enjoyment of the placidity of an Egyptian Sabbath evening, constituted the events of the day; and on Monday the party gathered up their effects, bade a temporary good-bye to their friends of the Vandalia, and, boarding a special train, which the Khedive had provided to carry them to Cairo, after a four hours' run through scenery which reminded some of the party of the Western prairies, arrived at their destination, where they were met by two old acquaintances—General Stone, with whom the Ex-President had attended West Point, but who now occupied the position of Chief of Staff to the Khedive; and General Loring, who fought on the unsuccessful side of the late civil war. The Khedive's representative was presented by General Stone, and, under the guidance of the former, the party were driven to the palace which the Khedive had set apart for their occupation.

The Khedive was called upon on the following day. The party accompanying the General was quite an imposing one, consisting of Commander H. B. Robeson, of the Vandalia, Chief Engineer Joseph Trillee, Surgeon George H. Cooke, Lieutenant Strong, Lieutenant Miller, Paymaster Loomis, Engineers Baird and Freeman, Ensign Hoskinson, Midshipmen Walling and Hotchkiss, Jesse R. Grant, and Consul-General Farman—quite a large party of Americans considering the distance between Cairo and the nearest point in the United States. The formal presentations over, the Khedive, who expressed himself as delighted at meeting so many representatives of the American Navy, showed the visitors some of the pictorial and architectural beauties of his palace, after which they withdrew and returned to the palace of Kassr-el-Noussa, which they had barely reached when the Khedive, accompanied by his Secretary on Foreign Affairs, reappeared, to return the call with the celerity which is characteristic of Egyptian etiquette.

It had been the intention of the Khedive to give a grand dinner and reception in honor of the General, but the death of King Victor Emmanuel of Italy necessitating the Court's going into mourning,



postponed the event until the trip up the Nile had been accomplished. A reception and dance, given by Judge Batcheller, the American member of the International Tribunal, proved a very pleasant affair. Then came a grand dinner at the new hotel, given by Consul-General Farman, at which were present General Grant, Mrs. Grant, Jesse R. Grant, Judge and Mrs. Barringer, Judge and Mrs. Batcheller, Mr. and Mrs. Comanos, General, Mrs. and Miss Stone, General Loring, Colonel Dye, Colonel Graves, Rev. Dr. Lansing, Judge and Mrs.



FELLAHS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE, EGYPT.

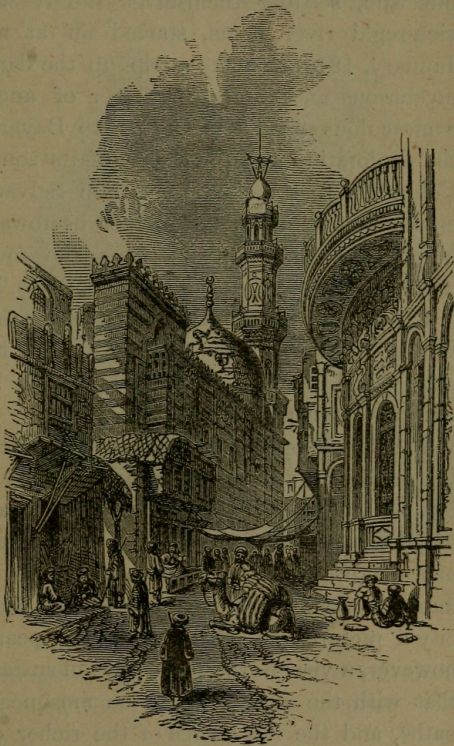
Hagens, and others. After the Khedive and the President of the United States had been toasted, Consul-General Farman proposed the health of the Ex-President in a speech in which he reviewed General Grant's successes as a soldier, in gratitude for which the nation had made him its chief magistrate. He concluded by saying that in this display of confidence the people had not been deceived, that President Grant "administered the government so wisely that

he was re-elected by an increased majority. He declined a third nomination, and comes to Europe, and now to Egypt for rest and recreation." In his response, the General stated that the trip he had made thus far had proved very delightful, and that while already he had seen much in Egypt that pleased him highly, he felt sure that as he proceeded further he would find still more to interest him in the land.

A number of excursions were made by the party in and about Cairo. Its beautiful mosques; its public fountains, many of them

exquisite specimens of arabesque ornamentation ; the public baths ; the citadel, from whose summit a delightful view of the Nile and of the pyramids of Gizeh was obtained ; the walls of the city, pierced in many places by gates of great beauty ; the poorer residence portion of the city, where the inhabitants live in sun-baked mud-huts of only a story in height ; all these were visited in turn, and with pleasure and profit to the tourists, to whom each of the trips made proved a revelation in itself.

The Khedive had kindly placed at the disposal of the party for their run up the Nile one of his fleet of river steamboats — a long, narrow craft, built a good deal on the principle of a Mississippi steamboat, the object being to get the greatest possible carrying capacity with the least possible draft of water. In the matter of navigation, the Nile possesses many features in common with the "Father of Waters." Like the Mississippi, its bottom is of sand and mud, whose constant shiftings make the guiding of a boat along the channel precarious work ; and no matter how great the knowledge and experience of the pilot, an occasional running aground is an unavoidable occurrence, which, however, the traveler soon learns to bear philosophically. Upon this boat there embarked, on the 16th of January, the party, consisting of General Grant, Mrs. Grant and



MOSQUE OF SULTAN BERKOOK, AND FOUNTAIN OF ISMAIL PASHA.



their son ; Sami Bey, an officer of the Khedive's household, assigned to accompany them ; M. Emile Brugsch, a Director of the Egyptian Museum, and an expert in the matter of Egyptian history and the ruins, with their hieroglyphic inscriptions, which abound in the country ; Consul-General Farman ; and Chief-Surgeon Cooke, Lieutenant Hadden and Ensign Wilner, of the Vandalia. These were the people who, settling themselves snugly within one of the Egyptian vice-regal river boats, started off at mid-day one Wednesday in January, 1878, to make a trip up the dark-rolling waters of the most mysterious and interesting river of ancient or modern days—the “miraculous flood,” according to Bayard Taylor, who, speaking of the exploration made in search of its source, in 1860, wrote : “Since Columbus first looked upon San Salvador, the earth has but one emotion of triumph left in her bestowal, and that she reserves for him who shall first drink from the fountains of the White Nile, under the snow-fields of Kilimandjaro.”

It was with no ambition of enjoying this triumph that the General started forth upon his journey up the Nile, but rather to see those places and people which had already been made famous by the writings of earlier travelers.

The first stopping place of importance was Siout, the capital of Upper Egypt, and an important military station. Standing near the left bank of the Nile, under a ridge of sand cliffs, it has a population of 25,000, who are mainly supported by the caravan trade and the manufacture and export of pipe bowls. Beautiful mosques, whose minarets stood out clearly against the back-ground of hills, gave the city a picturesque and well-built appearance, an impression which, however, a visit to the place did not sustain, close inspection showing that with the exception of the mosques, and some few bazaars and baths, and the residences of the richer citizens, the buildings were mere hovels, devoid of architectural design. Here the party were welcomed by Vice-Consul Wasef El Hayat, and his son, who acted as interpreter for his father who was unable to speak any language but the Arabic. The Vice-Consul, through his English-speaking son, extended an invitation to the General and party to visit his house during the evening. When the residence was reached, it became

apparent that preparations had been made to give the General a warm reception. The street was illumined with vari-colored lanterns, and swarthy Arabian servants waved a welcome with hundreds of ruddy, flamed torches, whose glare lit up the scene brilliantly. Above the gate of the Vice-Consular residence was a pretty transparency with the cheerful sentiment, "Welcome, General Grant." Beneath this illuminated expression of good feeling, the Vice-Consul himself stood ready to receive his guests, which he accomplished in true oriental style. The dinner was a glorious one, and at its conclusion the usual speeches were made. Unable to speak English, Wasef El Hayat deputed to his son the duty of proposing General Grant's health, which the young man did in a manly and clever speech, in which the Ex-President's general virtues and the particular events in which they had been made most apparent were neatly alluded to. So excellent a speech made by a young Egyptian, whose only educational advantages had been obtained at the mission schools at Beyrout, took the party quite by surprise. The following is an extract from it:



FELLAH DRESSED IN THE HABA, AND FEMALE WEARING FACE-VEIL, EGYPT.

"Let all the world," said the youthful orator, "look to America and follow her example—that nation which has taken as the basis of her laws and the object of her undertakings to maintain freedom and equality among her own people, and secure them for others, avoiding all ambitious schemes which would draw her into bloody and disastrous wars, and trying by all means to maintain peace internally and



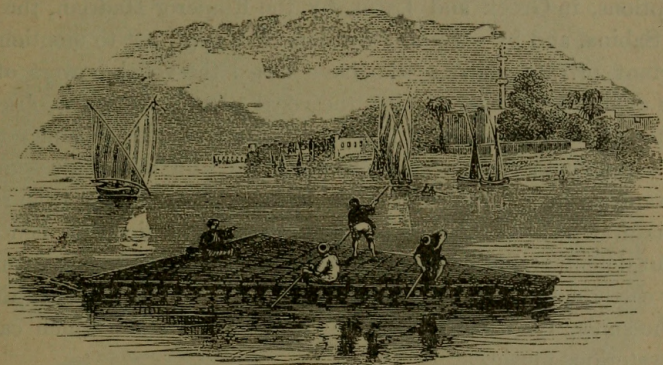
externally. The only two great wars upon which she has engaged were entered upon for pure and just purposes, the first for releasing herself from the English yoke and erecting her independence, and the other for stopping slavery and strengthening the Union of the States ; and well we know that it was mainly, under God, due to the talent, courage and wisdom of his excellency General Grant that the latter of the two enterprises was brought to a successful issue."

The town of Gizeh, which lies about sixty miles northwest of Thebes, having a population of about 7,000, and next to Siout in importance in Upper Egypt, was reached on the 21st of January, and the party prepared for a donkey-ride to Abydos, to inspect its famous ruins, particularly those of the temple of Memnon, the large temple of Osiris, and the results of the later researches which have been made by the Khedive's direction. Abydos is one of the oldest of Egyptian cities, having been the birthplace of Menes, the first of the Pharaohs, whose era, according to Bunsen, an acknowledged authority on Egyptian antiquities, was 3,643 years before Christ. Here, directed by Brugsch, they inspected the remains of perhaps the earliest civilization of the world. Here they beheld stones which, incomprehensible as was to them the meaning of the hieroglyphics which they bore, were still eloquent with the suggestion of ages whose antiquity made the most ancient of histories seem modern.

At Keneh, the capital of one of the Nile provinces, situated about thirty-five miles distant from the ruins of Thebes, to which the travelers were gradually drawing near, the party disembarked and enjoyed a day in a live and progressive Egyptian town. An important agricultural centre, and possessing extensive manufactories and a number of busy bazaars, the place presented attractions diametrically opposite in their nature to those afforded by Abydos. Here the inland Egyptian was studied under the most favorable circumstances. Now the tourists would stop to investigate the domestic economy of a Copt residence; again their attention would be arrested by the grace and rapidity with which a native potter fashioned jars from the clay which is found in the neighborhood.

These, however, seemed but minor attractions, outweighed in importance by the common anticipation of the party—that of seeing the

ruins of the famous city of Thebes—the city which, according to Homer's song, had no less than one hundred gates and twenty thousand war-chariots, and which, according to modern computation, based upon the extent of its ruins, must have been equal in size to ancient Rome or modern Paris. Thinking and talking of Luxor, of Memnon, and the wonderful stories which have been handed down concerning them for thousands of years, they longed for the day to come when they might themselves behold these wonders. As the town of Luxor was neared, extraordinary evidences of life, in the shape of a couple of soldiers, who fired a salute with muskets, decorations with palm leaves and lanterns, and a general air of public excitement, showed



POTTERY FLOAT ON THE NILE.

that the arrival of the General had been anticipated and prepared for. In a few minutes the Vice-Consul boarded the steamer and welcomed the party, inviting them to his dwelling. Here, after an exchange of courtesies, their host led the party to the roof of his house, from which was had a capital view of the surrounding country. The village itself, whose houses jostle the ruins of the magnificent temple, is in itself insignificant, and a very brief walk along its streets exhausted its attractions. The first of the antiquities to come under their inspection, was a magnificent obelisk of red granite, covered with a profusion of hieroglyphics, whose fellow has been removed to the Place de la Concorde at Paris. Behind this were seen the two sitting



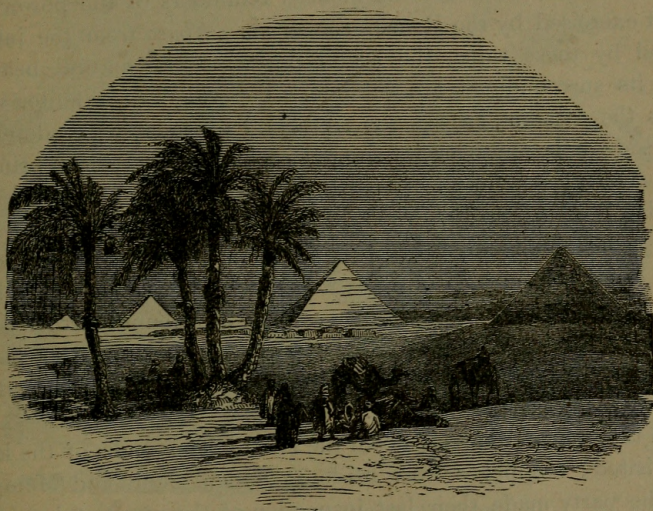
statues of Rameses, one of the kings of the Augustan age of Egypt, when its sway was widest and its most superb monuments were erected. Beyond these came two courts and a series of apartments, connected and surrounded by porticos.

On the following morning a journey was made to Memnon, which is on the opposite side of the river. A boat trip and a donkey-ride brought the tourists up to the famous statue, which had for so long a time been among the uppermost of their thoughts. This famous statue, commonly known as the Vocal Memnon, is the northernmost of two colossal sitting figures. Each of these statues is forty-seven feet in height, and rests upon a pedestal twelve feet in height. From inscriptions, in Greek and Latin, by the Emperor Hadrian, the Empress Sabina, and by several Governors of Egypt, not to mention less important private persons who have heard the vocal powers of the statue at sunrise, it appears that the vocal phenomenon was observed after the Roman conquest in Egypt. There was considerable controversy as to whether the sounds, which were said to have resembled the twanging of a harp-string or the striking of brass, were the result of a natural phenomenon or of an imposture practiced for centuries without detection, but inasmuch as after the statue had been damaged by an earthquake, the music ceased, it is reasonable to believe that it was the sun's rays acting upon the dew-covered stone which caused the mysterious music.

On the following day a visit was made to Karnak, where further wonders of antiquity were beheld. Here they stood among the mighty pillars which enclosed the halls, courts and esplanades reared by the kings of the eighteenth and succeeding Egyptian dynasties. The ruins of the great palace-temple of Karnak, whose building, according to the best modern authority, was begun not less than three thousand years before Christ, are the grandest which they here viewed. At one point they stood amid the grand columns of the great hall, twelve in number, sixty-six feet in height, and twelve feet in diameter, beside which giants the one hundred and twenty-two immense columns which help to enclose the hall, sank into comparative insignificance. At another point they examined the remaining one of the two obelisks of Thothemes I; also the obelisk in the second

court, which is the loftiest known, with the exception of that of St. John Lateran at Rome ; also the famous sculptures which compose the Karnak tablet, one of the most important records of Egyptian chronology.

The next stop was made at Assouan, a small town situated on the right bank of the river, which is remarkable both for the importance of its commerce, the beauty of its situation, and the interest attaching to the ruins which lie near to the south end of the town. The



THE PYRAMIDS.

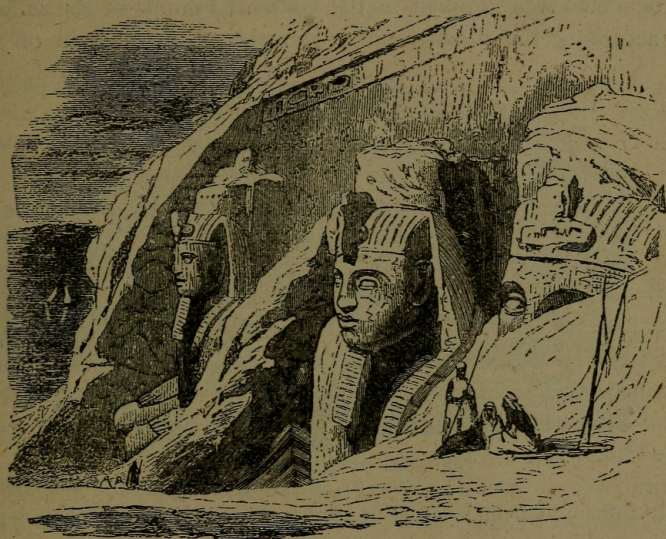
town is 730 miles south of the Mediterranean, and is very picturesquely situated, the Nile here widening so that it presents the appearance of a small lake, while the presence of a few trees here and there in the city makes it very attractive to the eye which has been resting on arid plains of sand and stone. The ruins to the south of the town are those of a Saracen city, which, during the Middle Ages, was so populous that one visitation of the plague was said to have carried off twenty thousand of its inhabitants. Assouan was to be the turning-point of the Nile trip, but, before the run back to Alexandria, a



trip was made to the beautiful island of Philae, where lies the boundary between Egypt and Nubia, and immediately below which the Nile, here a grand stream of 3,000 feet in width, takes that leap which is known to geographers as the first cataract of the Nile. This island, which lies between the southern extremity of the island of Biggeh and the east bank of the river, is about a quarter of a mile in length and about five hundred feet in breadth, and is covered with ruins. Most of them are the remains of temples erected by the Ptolemies, but some few of them are the modern reminders of the power over Egypt exercised by the Roman Emperors. Apart from the interest created by these ruins, the island possesses rare natural beauties, while its surroundings are sublime. The ridge of granite, which causes the cataract, crosses the river and extends to the desert on either side of it, and over its rugged rocks there are three principal falls. The steepest of these is about thirty feet wide and the descent is twelve feet in one hundred. The entire descent in the cataract, which in reality should rather bear the name of rapid, is eighty feet in five miles, and up this current, when the water is sufficiently high, the Egyptian watermen drag boats which are bound further south. This office they performed for the party of tourists, who, having climbed the steep banks of Philae, roamed about its ruins and admired its many natural beauties.

And then began the sail down the river. The tombs of the kings were visited; stoppages were made at Krueh, Siout and Memphis. Here the party made their last inspection of the wonderful ruins of this interesting land. The site of the ancient capital of Egypt is about ten miles south of Cairo. In its days of glory it was a grand city seventeen miles in circuit, and noted for the beauty of the view from its walls, whence could be seen, as far as the eye could reach, lovely green meadows, covered with lotus flowers and intersected with canals. Here were situated the famous tomb of the sacred bull Apis; the Temple of Isis, which, begun at an early date in Egypt's history, was completed about 564 years before the birth of Christ; the Temple of Serapis, in the western quarter of the city; the Temple of Phra; and, largest and most superb of all, the Temple of Phtah. The city retained its supremacy as the capital of Egypt

until the foundation of Alexandria, from which date it declined in importance, and finally so utterly passed into decay that its very site was a matter of doubtful conjecture until the researches of M. Mariette, which resulted in the unearthing of the most important Egyptian monuments, including the ruins of all the temples named, of palaces, of statues, of bas-reliefs, and thousands of inscriptions which have been of incalculable value to the historian and antiquary.

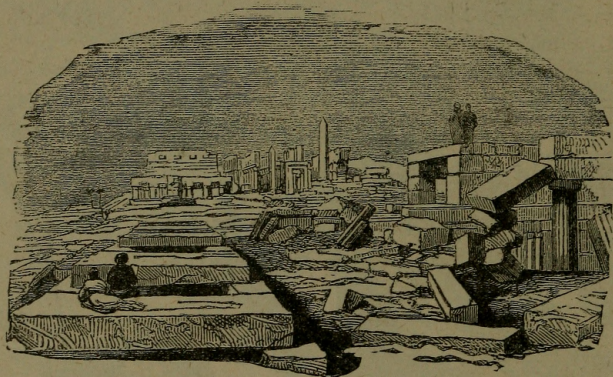


FACADE OF THE GREAT TEMPLE, IPSAMBOOL.

There was only one drawback to the pleasure which the party derived from their Egyptian trip. It is well known that the annual rising of the waters of the Nile, which flood the adjacent country, is depended upon by the farmers for the irrigation of the soil. The river begins to rise in the latter part of June, reaches its greatest height toward the end of September when it is usually about twenty-four feet above low water level at Cairo and thirty-six feet at Thebes, and begins receding in October. When the river rises above thirty feet, or not as high as eighteen feet, the result is disastrous to agricultural interests; the overflow causes extensive damage, while an



insufficient inundation is followed by a failure of the harvest. During the season previous to the General's visit there had been what is commonly known in Egypt as a "bad Nile;" the waters had not risen to a beneficent level and the land was suffering in consequence. Instead of green fields meeting their gaze as they passed through the farm lands, the surface of the ground was in many places parched and cracked for acres in extent. The only offset to this unfortunate state of affairs was supplied in the contented minds of the sufferers, who, accepting the disaster as an expression of the will of God,



THE RUINS OF KARNAK, THEBES.

piously refrained from complaint, and rested in the hope that a good Nile the coming season might make up for the losses of the past.

Having exhausted the antiquarian resources of Memphis, the party returned to their steamer, and once more began their northward journey. Cairo soon came in sight, where old friends were again greeted, and a fresh supply of news from America was received. Here the representatives of the Khedive again called upon and welcomed the party as heartily as when they had made their first appearance. After enjoying the hospitality of the Viceroy for a few days, a fresh start was made, and, after a sojourn at Port Said, the *Vandalia*, which had left Alexandria in order to meet the party, was reached, and the same evening a start was made for the Holy Land.



## CHAPTER IX.

The Holy Land — Jaffa — The House of Simon the Tanner — Jerusalem — The Via Dolorosa — Church of the Holy Sepulchre — The Mohammedan Temple — Bethlehem — Nazareth — Damascus — Beyrout — Departure for Turkey.



THE departure from Port Said was made on the 9th of February, and Jaffa, the first point of the Holy Land touched at, was reached on the following day, after a passage which, beginning with portent of a storm, ended with beautiful calm weather. Situated on a bluff, the city of Jaffa is a striking feature of the landscape, as the shores of Southern Palestine are neared. There is no harbor, not even a break-water, at Jaffa, and the landing among the rocks of the beach was a rather trying affair, accomplished, however, safely by the crew of stalwart blue-jackets who manned the Vandalia's cutter. Then up a dirty stairway climbed the travelers, to be surrounded by a crowd of oriental vagabonds, through whom a passageway was effected with some difficulty, even with the assistance of United States Consul Hardegg, who had met the party and undertaken their conduct to his home. The principal object encountered in their walk was dirt, the dingy and narrow streets being full of it. Some preparations in the way of welcome were evident as the party progressed on its way. Flags and emblems fluttered in the air; wreaths were to be seen here and there, and one or two mottoes extending friendly greetings to the General, who had hardly anticipated such demonstrations. A walk through the town, accompanied by the Consul, was repaid by an inspection of the house of Simon the Tanner, which, however, lacked



the ancient appearance and, being too far removed from the sea, the appropriate site for the genuine residence as described in the Scriptures. Upon the house-top the tourists stood—the same house-top, according to Jaffa's tradition, upon which Peter slept, and where in sleeping he saw the vision which is narrated in the Acts of the Apostles. Here the party prepared for the journey to Jerusalem. The first stopping place was Ramleh, about three hours distant from Jaffa, where the



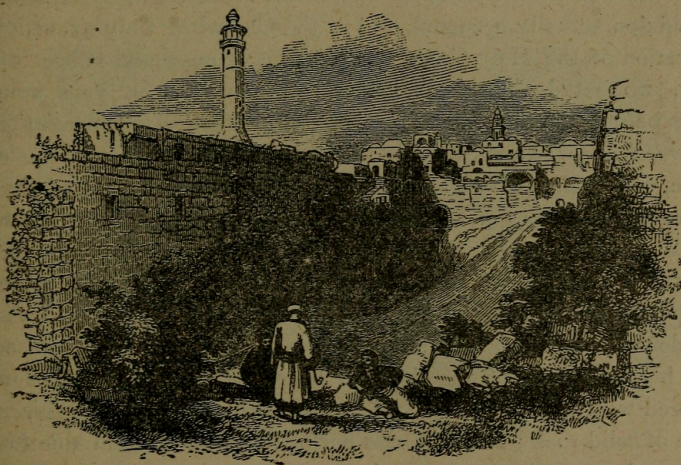
THE VIA DOLOROSA, JERUSALEM.

party slept—a village built, as is the prevailing custom of Syria, of stone, and whitewashed, its domes and minarets giving it a very oriental aspect. The road to Jerusalem was taken early next morning. As the journey's end drew near, the party discussed the delights of a quiet arrival at the Holy City, and of a rest undisturbed by outside influences of a distracting nature, but these calculations were all upset at Kolemijah, where the party were met by a vast company of people organized with

a view of giving General Grant a grand reception. Banners waved in the air above them; brilliant uniforms, flashing swords and neighing steeds showed that a cavalry escort was within the possibilities of the occasion; and after United States Consul Wilson and the Pascha's Lieutenant had presented themselves, delegations from the various peoples living within Jerusalem's walls made their appearance and paid their respects to the Ex-President. The dream of a peaceful entry and occupation of the sacred place had

vanished, and, with music in advance, with cavalry and an immense public escort following, the General was conducted to his destination.

The party stayed three days at Jerusalem, during which time they inspected many of the objects of sacred interest in the place. The *Via Dolorosa*—the pathway along which Christ bore the cross in his agony—with its many places of interest, was thoroughly traveled over. Here they were shown the spot where under the weight of the cross Christ sank for the first time to the ground ; the house against which



THE POOL OF BETHESDA, JERUSALEM.

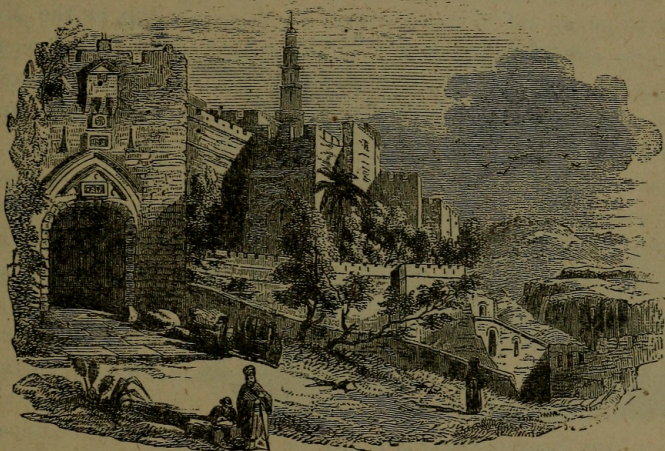
He leaned a breathing space ; the house by which for a second time He fell beneath the burden of the cross. Near at hand is pointed out the house of Dives ; further on is shown the spot where Simon of Cyrene relieved the Saviour of the cross ; a step more and the place is indicated where He pronounced the parable of the unjust steward. And so they walked, and saw, as they walked, the places at which happened the events of those old, old stories which they had learned so many years ago, and which now came back to them with something of the old force they possessed when first heard in the hours of child-



hood. Calvary was visited. Here the sacred ground upon which occurred the crucifixion, interment and resurrection of Christ, is enclosed within the walls of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a noble structure, built by Constantine or his mother Helena. Entering by the main entrance on the south side of the church, the tourists viewed on their right hand a chamber containing the tombs of Godfrey and Baldwin, the gallant Crusaders, between which they passed to the Chapel of Adam, a small chamber abutting against the native rock, in which is a huge fissure, said to have been caused by the earthquake at the time of the crucifixion. Upon this rock, too, it is claimed, the crucifixion actually occurred, and in the Chapel of Calvary, or, of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, the pilgrims were shown a hole in the rock, two feet deep and six inches square, which eighteen hundred years before was the socket in which the cross of Christ was fixed. Between Calvary and the tomb was shown a large, smooth slab of stone, called the stone of unction, which was designated as the spot where the anointing of the body of Christ took place previous to its burial. The tomb itself is in the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, a beautiful structure of many-tinted marbles. Passing through the Chapel of the Angel, the pilgrims entered by a low passage a small sepulchral chamber, about six feet square, with an arched roof seven feet high, one-half of the chamber being occupied by a stone couch covered with a marble slab. The floor, sides and roof of this room were of solid rock; the roof was perforated with a round hole for the escape of the smoke from the lamps which hung over the marble slab. There are many who question not only the possibility of this being the veritable tomb of Christ, but even the claim that the site of the church is identical with that of Calvary, but the American pilgrims accepted the legends as true, and appreciated the sight with becoming feelings of reverence and awe.

Though devoid of such associations as make the visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre an event of a certain amount of solemnity, an examination of the Harem Esh-Sherif, the "noble sanctuary," one of the most sacred temples of the Mohammedan world, and the grandest building of the city, was full of interest. The temple is of quadrangular form, measures 1,489 feet in length by 954 in breadth, and

contains two mosques—the older of them having been originally a Christian church, built by Justinian in the middle of the sixth century. This mosque, which is called El Aksa, is 272 feet in length and 184 feet in width. Kubbet-es-Sukhrah is the name of the other mosque, which is octagonal in shape, each side of which measures sixty-seven feet in length. This one, whose name, translated into English, is “Dome of the Rock,” stands upon the summit of Mount Moriah. Its walls, built of various colored marbles, rise to a height of forty-six



THE BETHLEHEM GATE AND CASTLE OF DAVID, JERUSALEM.

feet from the ground, when a circular wall rises another twenty-five feet, and upon the summit of this is built the beautiful dome, terminating in a tall gilt crescent, whose top is thus about one hundred and ten feet above the pavement. The outside of the building, which is one of the finest specimens extant of Saracenic architecture, is covered with inscriptions in a sort of porcelain, which give the building a very rich appearance.

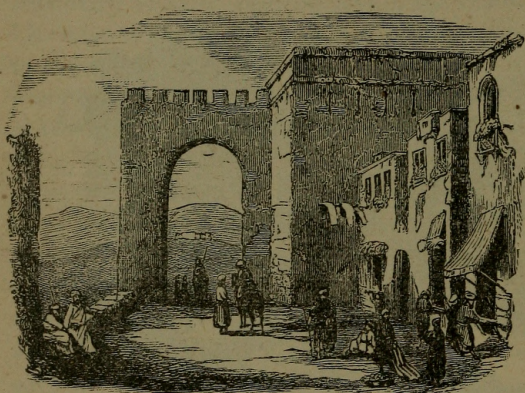
Here the chief object of interest seen was the rock over which the dome is built, and from which the mosque takes its name. Accord-



ing to tradition, Mohammed called it one of the rocks of Paradise. Standing in the centre of the building, a large mass of limestone, of the quality common in Jerusalem, it presented nothing in its outside appearance to warrant the wonderful reverence paid to it by the faithful Mohammedans. There was no suggestion of sacred presence; only the tradition which linked it with Mohammed's name secured it that reverence, the intensity of which was so amply testified to by the surroundings.

Such were a few of the sights which gained the attention of the American pilgrims during their stay at Jerusalem. A climb to the

top of the Mount of Olives was the most memorable excursion made by the party during their brief sojourn in the "beautiful city." From this elevated point the most striking view of Jerusalem and its surroundings was obtained, every edifice of any importance



THE PRINCIPAL STREET IN BETHLEHEM.

being clearly distinguishable, while to the eastward, twenty miles distant, yet plainly visible, lay the Dead Sea, and behind it the dark mountains of Moab.

Bethlehem, the birth-place of our Lord, and Nazareth, the scene of his childhood, were visited in turn, and, finally, the party in their wanderings came to Damascus. As they approached this ancient city, the party were struck by its remarkable beauty, which seemed to increase as they drew nearer to it. The country they were passing through was full of delight to the eye. Fertile fields and gardens, watered by bright streams and sparkling rivulets, which cleft their musical way through the greenest of verdure, opened out before them as they

advanced, and in front of these rose the city, a mass of minarets, domes and solid towers, clearly cut against the blue sky in the background. Standing in the midst of a plain of great size and fertility, the city fulfills its natural destiny in being a place of considerable commercial importance. Thoroughly oriental in its appearance, it is yet regular and cleanly for an Eastern city ; its streets are long and narrow, and fairly well paved ; its bazaars are numerous and well supplied ; its public buildings are remarkably fine ; the only drawback in the place is supplied by the fact that the residences are externally anything but strikingly attractive. The inhabitant of Damascus is careless of the appearance of the external part of his home ; upon the inside, however, he lavishes money in the securing of the elegances and comforts of life. The feature of the city which surprised the tourists was the number and beauty of its mosques, one of which, that of Abd el Malek, a magnificent structure, six hundred and fifty feet in length by one hundred and fifty in breadth, was visited, as were also several others of smaller dimensions, but of equal beauty.

The next place at which the pilgrims halted was Beyrout, a Syrian seaport, and the scene of the victory of St. George of Cappadocia over the dragon. Only a brief sojourn was made here, and when the party re-embarked, they did so with the intention of making Constantinople their destination.










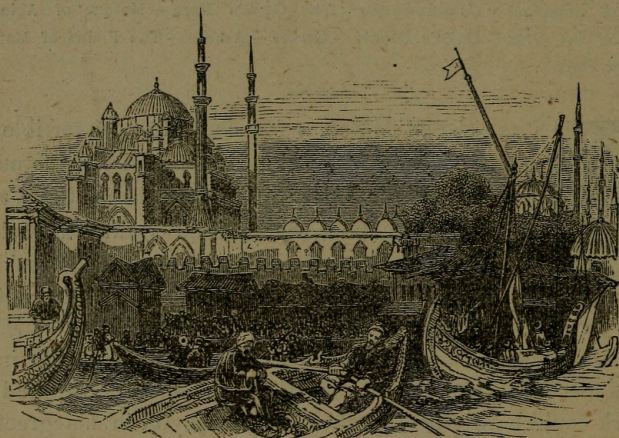
## CHAPTER X.

Arrival at Stamboul — Constantinople — The Golden Horn — Mosque of Agia Sofia —  
Declining the Grand Duke's Dinner — Greece — Athens — The Plains of Marathon —  
Start for Italy.

N the 3rd of March, a few days after the terrible struggle between Turkey and Russia had been brought to an end by the treaty of San Stephano, the Vandalia arrived at Stamboul, where Gen. Grant was welcomed by the U. S. Consul and other Americans resident in Constantinople. The times were not propitious. With the victorious Muscovite still at his gates, though by virtue of a very satisfactory ending of his side of the controversy, much more amicably inclined towards the "sick man" than when Plevna was still a disputed point, the Turk could hardly be expected to be as joyful in his greeting of America's distinguished representative as if the war had ended more advantageously from a Constantinople point of view. The fact, however, that circumstances over which the Sublime Porte had no longer any control to speak of, hindered him from growing enthusiastic at a moment's notice, was rather pleasant to the General, for the succession of warlike pageants with which he had been greeted elsewhere had somewhat palled upon him. Still there was abundant honor done him at Constantinople. One of the earliest to make the presence of the General memorable, was Sir Austen Henry Layard, the British Ambassador at Constantinople—famous as the archæologist who unraveled many of the mysteries of the Assyrian ruins—who gave in the General's honor a soiree, at which were present all the leading native and foreign officials in the place.



There was plenty of sight-seeing to do in Constantinople, and to accomplish it well the party set about earnestly soon after their arrival. Situated upon the triangular peninsula lying between the Sea of Marmora and that arm of it known as the Golden Horn, the city, with its forest of minarets and masses of beautiful buildings, and surrounded by lovely hills, was a sight to gaze upon of which they never tired, and a closer inspection of its greater architectural beauties was even more satisfactory. Mosque after mosque was visited, but none with so much delight as that of Agia Sofia, formerly the Church of



MOSQUE OF SULTAN VALIDE, CONSTANTINOPLE.

St. Sophia, originally founded by Constantine in the beginning of the fourth century, but transformed into a mosque by Mohammed the Second in 1453, and renovated by the architect Fossati thirty-two years ago. At first sight the tourists were struck by the noble dimensions of the building, which measures 269 feet in length by 143 feet in width, with a diameter of 115 feet at the base of the dome, whose summit is 180 feet above the pavement. In the interior they feasted their eyes upon the larger columns, richly inlaid with mosaics and gilt, which support ceiling and arches, and the smaller but more exquisite pillars of green jasper which bear the weight of the gallery. Beautiful in itself, the mosque was especially interesting and produc-

tive of thought as being a monument to the bravery and warlike prowess of the Turks of old, who in 1453 captured the city from its last Byzantine ruler, and bequeathed it as a legacy to the race who now hold it by so frail a tenure that it seems only a question of time when the cross shall stand over it, as it did more than four hundred years ago. The mosque of Sultan Ahmed, remarkable alike for its elegance and the fact that it is the only one in the city which has six minarets, also excited the admiration of the tourists.

Outside of the larger public buildings, however, there was little in Constantinople to woo the visitors to a prolonged stay. The narrow, crooked and dirty streets, enclosed on either side by houses sadly out of repair in most instances, were anything but tempting, and when the party sought to cultivate an acquaintance with everyday life in Turkey, they did so in the comfortable cafes or in one of the many bazaars with which the city is plentifully supplied, where Mohammedan human nature was revealed *au naturel*, and where the admiration of the ladies of their native land was intensified by the apparition, every now and then, of a clumsily and heavily-clad woman, a veiled and impenetrable mystery that might be either sixteen or sixty, and while the doubt on this score existed, failed to excite other emotion than pity.

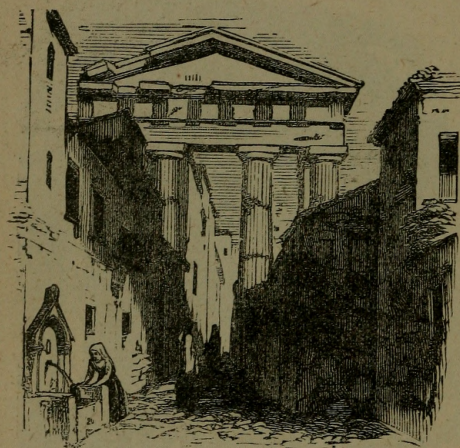
During the stay of the party in Constantinople a rather trying *contre-temps* occurred, which for a time caused some little discomfort. The



THE GREAT BAZAAR, CONSTANTINOPLE.



Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia was in Constantinople at the time of General Grant's visit, and sent him a friendly invitation to visit San Stephano. The invitation was accepted and the day named; and as it was reported among the Russian officers at San Stephano that the Ex-President of the United States would visit headquarters on a certain day, there was considerable interest to see the American General, and everybody anticipated the proposed visit with pleasure. Two days before the day appointed for the dinner with the Grand Duke, the General dined with the Turkish Ministers and Generals in Stamboul,



THE GATE OF AUGUSTUS, ATHENS.

and on the day following, the bright idea occurred to somebody that perhaps it would not be just the proper thing to first receive the hospitality of the Turks and then visit the Russians, even if peace had been signed, and after a good deal of talk on the subject, doubts began to rise in the mind of the General himself. In the climax, Mr. Maynard, the American Minister to Turkey, was consulted, as

one who would be supposed to be an authority on matters of diplomatic etiquette, and he declared plainly that it would be indelicate for General Grant to visit the Russians after hobnobbing with the Turks. It then became necessary to convey to the Russian headquarters the regrets of Gen. Grant that he could not, for fear of offending the Turks, keep the engagement. The Grand Duke was sorry when he heard this determination, and frankly admitted that he had anticipated great pleasure in meeting General Grant, and stated that he had made arrangements for a grand review of the troops in the Ex-President's honor. This was the only disagreeable affair to mar the pleasure of the Ex-President's tour, and if any are to be blamed in the

matter it is those who advised the cavalier treatment of the Grand Duke's kindly-intentioned invitation.

Take it altogether, the time which the tourists had at Constantino-ple was a good one, and they could have enjoyed a few more days under the shadow of the Sublime Porte, but time was pressing on, and, after a short sail through the Dardanelles and the Archipelago, the Vandalia landed at the Piraeus on the 8th of March, from which the party were conveyed by rail to Athens, where the General was received by the United States Minister to Greece, General John Meredith Read, and a large and enthusiastic crowd of American citizens. The same events which caused Constantinople to be an uncomfortable place in some respects at the time of the Ex-President's visit, had plunged Greece into a vortex of political excitement. The war between Turkey and Russia, by which she had hoped to secure aggrandizement, had ended with disappointment, but this fact was not in any way allowed to interfere with the comfort of the Ex-President. Invitations showered upon the party; a grand reception by the King and Queen of Greece, at which all the notable people of the land were present, led off the festivities, which followed so fast that it was with difficulty the party were able to find time to devote to visiting the beauties of nature and art in which this ancient city abounds.



COUNTRY PEOPLE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
OF ATHENS.

The Parthenon was visited in the evening. This noble monument of the age of Pericles, the grandest in Athens and, perhaps, in the world, though giving but a reflection of the beauty of the temple in its prime, made a wonderful impression upon the party, as, illuminated



for their benefit with Bengal fires, they gazed upon the exquisite proportions of its Pentelic marble pillars and wondrous walls which even the hand of the vandal has not been able to deprive of all their beauty.

The modern Greek, however, is not fain to look for glory to the monuments of the past. He proposes to answer Byron's question—

“ You have the Pyrrhic dance as yet,  
Where is the Pyrrhic phalanx gone? ”—

by proving that the nobler and manlier deeds which gave Greece glory in the days when the Parthenon was still a thing of unsullied beauty, are still within the scope of the rejuvenated nation; and the Greeks are evidencing this spirit by the liveliness with which they are competing for the trade of the Levant. Knowing that commercial prosperity must be the basis of a new era of power for the nation, the Greeks were found by the tourists to be amazingly active and pushing in the way of business—so much so that they foresaw that the trade of the Eastern Mediterranean, now largely controlled by them, must before long be almost a monopoly in their hands.

A trip, which proved especially delightful to the Ex-President, was that made one beautiful morning to the plains of Marathon. Many of the scenes of the great battles in which Greece had won glory were visited by the party, but on this day circumstances seemed to conspire for the creation of a memorable occasion. The party were in high spirits in starting, and the journey to the modern Marathon under the clear blue sky of Greece increased the general cheerfulness. At Marathon, if there was much of beauty to see and talk about, there was more of historical interest to think about; and walking about on the fateful plains one could not but summon to mind a picture of the struggle which occurred there more than twenty-three hundred years ago. Peopled by the imagination, the grassy fields became the arena of the historic struggle once more. Here, waiting with a grand patience the proper moment to attack, stand Miltiades' handful of ten thousand Athenians. There stand the Persian host—an army of 110,000,

splendidly equipped, and, after their rapid succession of victories in the Cyclades and at Etruria, chafing at the delay which is caused by their commanders awaiting the attack of the enemy. The Greeks are reliant in the strength which comes to the army which fights for the home behind it; the Persians move with the "swing of conquest," and long for the fray to begin. Suddenly the Athenian battle-cry is heard, and Miltiades' gallant army advances to the attack. It is ten to one against them up to the moment that the clash of arms is heard, and then it is anybody's day. The Persian lines reel before the impetuous attack of the phalanx; the Athenian wings beat back the intruding foe; the battle is won! No; not yet. The Persian army, rallying, by sheer force of numbers breaks the Athenian centre and pursues them. The day is lost, and an open road to Athens lies before the Persians. But no; the gallant Miltiades, who is



A CAFE OF THE BOSPHORUS.

one of the kind who fights it out on a given line if it takes all summer, calls his wings from the pursuit of the enemy, and, reforming his little army, dashes again to the attack, and to victory!

Such was the fight which gave to the field of Marathon and to Miltiades a fame that will endure as long as the human heart has power to quicken at the recital of a story of victory earned against cruel odds by the defenders of their country. Such was the fight which, probably, the conqueror of Lee saw mentally in detail as he



stood on the verdurous plains of that Attic village, and conned over the historical associations which they called to mind.

Delighted with Greece and the Greeks, the party would fain have lingered longer in the land of Homer, but the plan laid out ordered otherwise, and bidding Athens farewell, they sailed for the Eternal City.





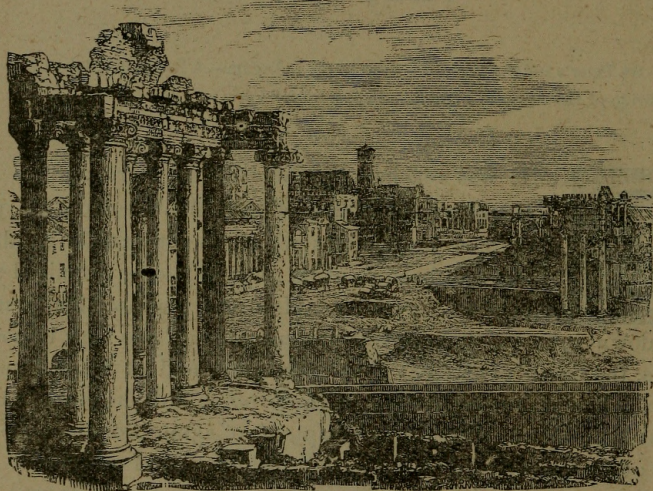
## CHAPTER XI.

Rome — St. Peter's and the Vatican — Visit to the Coliseum — A Delightful Stay at Florence —  
The Bride of the Adriatic — Milan — Departure for Paris

**R**OME was reached on the 20th of March, 1878. The General seemed bound of late, in his search for quiet, to happen upon times which, if not exactly troublous either had been so at no remote date, or promised to be so before very long. Here the populace had just settled down into a calm after the occurrence of two very important events, the death of King Victor Emmanuel and of Pope Pius the Ninth. The successor of each of these potentates, however, had assumed his position without any symptoms of opposition, and the new order of things introduced by neither had enough of novelty in it to provoke more than interested comment. King Humbert was most gracious in his attentions to the Ex-President. His representative was amongst the earliest to call upon the General, and amongst the first communications which the handsome young aide-de-camp made was an expression of the King's desire that every possible means of seeing the city should be afforded to the party. A special mark of royal distinction was conferred on the 15th of April when the King gave a State dinner to the Ex-President, which was attended by all the Italian Ministers. The invitation of the King to visit all that was worthy of notice in the city was a sweeping one, but the tourists did their best to accomplish a thorough inspection of the most noted places and points of interest in the city.



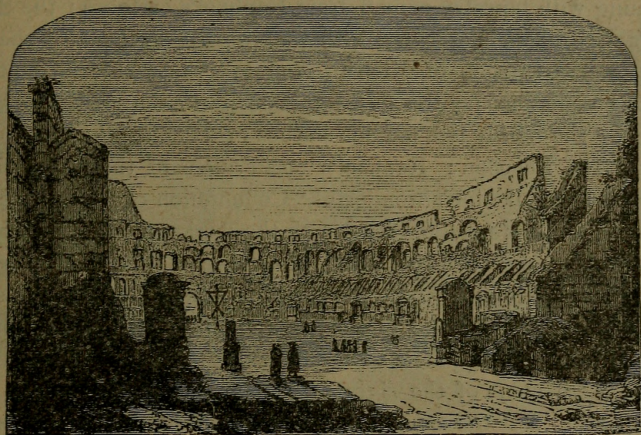
Of modern Rome of course the sight of sights was the Church of St. Peter's, the grandest of all modern church edifices. Frequently though the subject may have been described by previous travelers, the historian of the Ex-President's wanderings can not fail to give a very brief and condensed synopsis of the beauties of this marvel of modern architecture, in the survey of which Mr. Grant spent hour after hour in silent but appreciative contemplation.



THE FORUM AT ROME.

The foundation of this church, which, according to Gibbon, is "the most glorious structure that has ever been applied to the use of religion," was laid by Pope Nicholas V, in 1450, on the site of an ancient basilica, and its construction, which lasted through the reigns of twenty popes and engaged the services of twelve architects, among whom Raphael and Michael Angelo were the most famous, was completed in the reign of Pope Urban VIII, by whom it was dedicated in 1626. The dimensions of the church are as follows: Length of the interior, 602 feet; length of transept from wall to wall, 445 feet; height of nave, 150 feet; of side aisles, 47 feet; width of nave, 77-89 feet; of side aisles, 21 feet; circumference of pillars which

support the dome, 232 feet; diameter of cupola, 193 feet; height of the dome from the pavement to the top of the cross, 430 feet. The work of the external portion of the building is magnificent in material and dimensions, and the general effect is grand, though it is claimed that the addition, by the Architect Maderno, of a too prominent front, partially obscures the vast and towering dome, which, according to the original plan of Bramante and Michael Angelo, was to have been the principal feature of the church, and, if their plans had been carried out, would have been visible from the square in front of the church.



THE COLISEUM AT ROME.

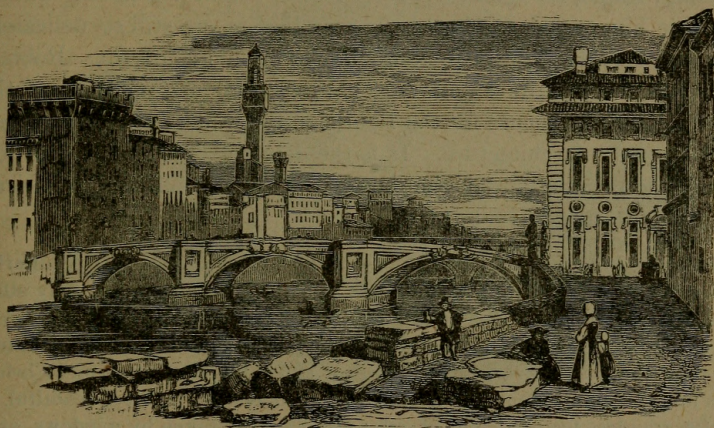
The Vatican was also visited. Here, on the 30th of March, Pope Leo XIII received the Ex-President, his wife and son. On arriving at the famous Papal Palace, they were met by Cardinal Chatard, the Rector of the American College, who conducted them to the Pope's apartments, where they were met by Cardinal McCloskey, who presented them to His Holiness. The General was much struck with the sweetness and simplicity of character displayed by the venerable Pontiff, who entered into conversation with the Ex-President, in which, while questions of very serious import were not touched upon, he showed himself tolerably conversant with public affairs in America.



The visit was a very pleasant one, and after its conclusion the General and Mrs. Grant combined in expressions of pleasure on the result of their visit to His Holiness. On another occasion, the General made a tour of inspection through the Palace of the Vatican—that immense edifice 1,300 feet long and 1,000 feet broad, within whose walls the Catholic Church throughout the world is ruled by the Pope and his Cardinals. Almost unrivaled for the magnificence and splendor of its art treasures and architectural beauties, the visitors stood amazed within its walls as beauty after beauty and richness after richness was exposed to their view. Here were seen the wonderful tapestry chambers, hung with tapestry copied from Raphael's cartoons; the Sistine and Pauline chapels, glowing with the life given them by the long since powerless pencil of Michael Angelo; the wonderful statue of Apollo, claimed to be the finest specimen of the sculptor's art in existence; the hardly less famous statues of Perseus, the "Two Boxers," and the Laocöon; Raphael's masterpiece of the "Transfiguration," and Domenichino's wonderful "Communion of St. Jerome," not to mention a picture gallery filled with the works of the great masters. And when the eye tired of these, the tourists walked through the famous Vatican library, where the finest specimens of ancient sculpture and a wonderful collection of rare manuscripts, each of them a history in itself, carried their thoughts back to the ages long gone by.

These were some of the sights which modern Rome had in store for the party. But the ancient city—the city founded by those twin boys whose chubby forms they had seen reproduced in the bronze statue of the beneficent she-wolf who suckled unfortunate Rhea Sylvia's offspring—had claims upon their attention. If St. Peter's was a monument of the pontifical power, there was the Coliseum to remind them of the glory of Imperial Rome, and to this wonderful ruin the party devoted the better part of a day. Briefly described, the Coliseum is an elliptical structure of four stories, adorned with columns, 620 feet in length and 513 feet in width, with a circumference of 1,770 feet, the extent of ground covered being about six acres. Stripped of all exterior and interior ornamentation, with the greater part of the outer wall removed, the ruin is still imposing from its great size, and interesting from the associations which cluster

round its crumbling walls. Here in those glorious days which preceded the decline and fall of ancient Rome occurred those gladiatorial combats which were the delight of the people, and which they classed with their very bread as one of the necessities of life. The arena of the Coliseum, the largest of the amphitheatres built by the Roman rulers for the delectation of their citizens in various parts of the Empire, measured 281 feet by 176 feet, so that abundance of room was left for the audience, which, on the occasion of a specially attractive slaughter of Christians or other unfortunate foes, would number from 80,000 to 100,000 people.



THE PONTE SANTA TRINITA, ETC., FLORENCE.

The Pantheon, too, the co-operative church in which the polytheistic Romans sought to do honor to all the gods at once, and which was consecrated by Pope Boniface IV as a Christian church in 608, under the name of Sancta Maria ad Martyres, was a subject of much attention. This most famous structure which, after the lapse of nineteen centuries, (it was completed in the year 26 B. C.), is the best preserved of the monuments of ancient Rome, is a rotunda, 143 feet in diameter, and is topped by the grandest of existing domes, the summit of which looms 143 feet in air. Once decorated with costly ornaments, it now has but the simple grandeur of its proportions with

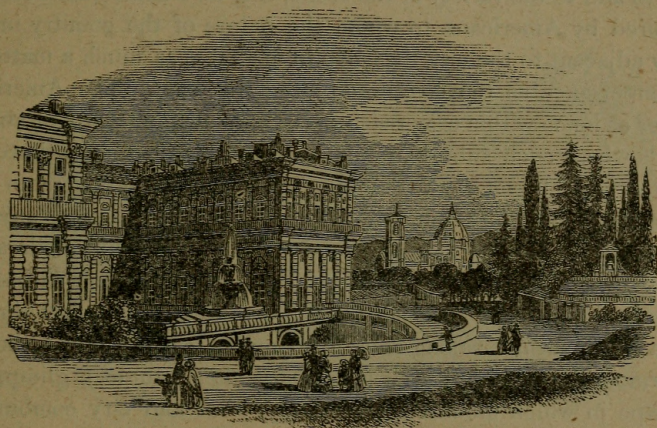


which to delight the eye of the visitor. Originally the walls were faced with marble; the dome was a resplendent surface of gilded bronze; the interior was a glittering mass of silver ornamentation. These things of beauty, however, were needed elsewhere as time went by. Constant II, in 655, removed to Alexandria the bronze plate which covered the roof; the bronze beams of the portico went later to form the baldachino of St. Peter's high altar; and so on, until to-day only its massive walls and the bare form of the building remain. A remarkable evidence of the splendid work in metal turned out by the ancient Romans, is provided in the massive bronze doors of the building, which, though nearly forty feet in height and having swung on their hinges for nearly two thousand years, are still so delicately balanced that the lightest pressure moves them to and fro. Robbed as it has been of its exterior decorations the magnificence of the dome remains, to secure for the Pantheon the veneration of admirers of the grand in architecture. It is the dome of domes, and the following description from the pen of an accomplished American traveler is worthy of its beauty:

The dome is more impressive than that of St. Peter's, and one peculiarity adds a charm to that impression such as I have never found in any other building. The dome is open at its centre, the aperture being twenty-seven feet in diameter. It was never closed, even by glass, and the storms of nearly two thousand years have beaten through it and fallen to the pavement below. This might seem a defect, but it constitutes, in reality, its most beautiful, if not its grandest feature. The circular walls are unbroken by windows, and, when the massive bronze doors are closed, this aperture in the dome is the only source of light, and communicates directly with the heavens above. One can look up and see the clouds floating by, or gaze into the blue ether, while the lower world is shut out by walls which no earthly sound can penetrate. The poetry and sublimity of this conception for a temple may be imagined. It excludes all things terrestrial, opens heaven alone to the worshiper, and that, too, without any intervening medium.

The persistency which the General showed in his search for what the city had of the beautiful and rare in art to exhibit, made a very favorable impression upon the art-loving among the city's population, and the result was a deluge of invitations from the owners of private museums and art collections to visit and inspect their treasures. It

was impossible to take advantage of all these kindly attentions, but many of them were availed of, and the result was a continuation of those pleasures which had first been tasted under the roof of the Vatican. Mindful, too, of the fact, that modern art has also its claims, and that far away from home there were Americans aiming to perfect themselves in the arts in which a Benjamin West and a Hiram Powers had earned immortal fame, the Ex-President and Mrs. Grant made a tour among the studios of the American artists, where they were gratified with abundant evidences of progress in art made by the ambitious



THE PITTİ PALACE, FLORENCE.

students, while in the ateliers of such American artists as had already won distinction, they beheld paintings which, they were free to confess, were more pleasing than many of the master-pieces previously beheld. These visits were a source of great pleasure to the artists, especially to the more youthful among them, to whom the presence of their distinguished countryman was an event in the somewhat dull routine of their lives that would long be remembered.

Much more they saw of Rome, and though they knew that not a tenth part of what the wonderful city held in store had been seen, yet when the time for departure drew near they yielded regretfully to the necessities of the occasion, and taking a last look at the grandeur of



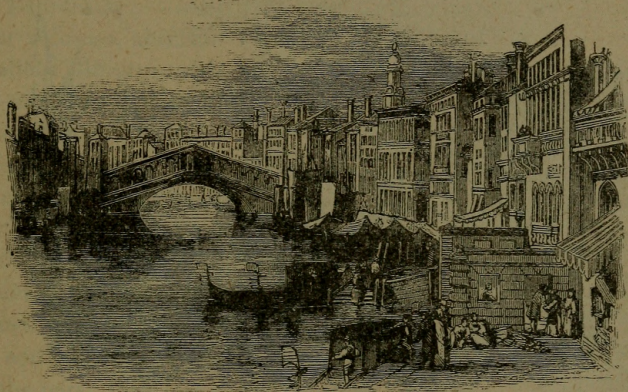
St. Peter's, bidding farewell to the turgid flood of the Tiber sweeping through the historic channel at their feet, they departed from the Eternal City, and on the 20th of April, just a month after their arrival in Rome, they reached Florence, by virtue of its surroundings the fairest city in Italy, and, for many good reasons, certainly the one most loved and lived in by Americans.

Seated in the lap of one of the most beautiful valleys of the Apennines, whose surface is an ever-changing panorama of wood, vineyard and verdurous plain, with here and there a villa or a monastery to add to the variety of the scene, it is no wonder that Florence is admired by Americans, to whom the nature of the country immediately adjacent to the city they live in is almost as much a matter of vital importance as the condition of the city itself. The American, whether at home within easy reach of his familiar boulevard, or abroad in lands where such suburban luxuries are unknown, must have his buggy drive. If it has to be taken under such unfavorable circumstances that it is a buggy drive and nothing more, it is enjoyed as such, and gratitude is felt therefor; but when the exhilarating journey behind a spanking team involves also a constant succession of beautiful scenery, a dash here through a belt of ancestral timber, there a lively scamper along side of a rippling stream, and further on the surmounting of a hill from whose summit is caught a glimpse of landscape in which mountain and valley, river and city combine in the formation of a picture which delights the eye—under such circumstances as these the American is—as he ought to be—supremely happy. This is the kind of happiness which helps the Americans of Florence to their good opinion of that city which has resulted in its containing, perhaps, as many sojourners from the United States as all the rest of Italy put together. The suburbs of the city abound in beautiful drives, among the favorites of which are the trip to San Miniata, which is reached by a road full of picturesque surprises; and to Pisa, whose leaning tower is a perennial attraction, without which that city would hardly provide further incentive to visitors than the delights of the journey by which it is reached.

It is not only in its environs, however, that the charm of Florence

lies. A lively, pushing city of nearly 150,000 inhabitants, it contains in the more newly built portions, handsome and stately residences which enclose wide and finely paved roads. Home comforts are thus provided, and when to these is added the fact that living is perhaps cheaper there than in any other city in Italy, it will easily be understood that foreign residents form an important factor in the total population of the town.

The General's reception was most enthusiastic, his countrymen flocking in crowds to meet him wherever he made an appearance.

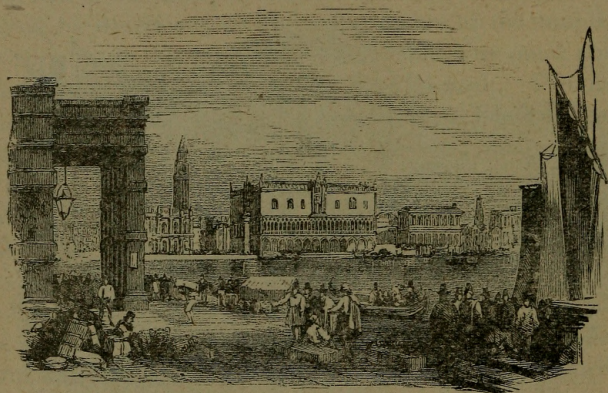


THE PONTE-DE-RIALTO, VENICE.

These attentions occupied some little time during the earlier part of the stay in Florence, and then the party settled down to the agreeable and instructive work of sight-seeing. The days passed away rapidly as the party visited and revisited the various art centres of Florence, or devoted themselves to an examination of its beautiful buildings. First among the latter was the Duomo, the superb cathedral whose great dome, erected by Brunelleschi in the 15th century, is the largest in the world, its circumference being greater than that of the dome of St. Peter's, and its comparative height greater, though its base is not placed at as great an elevation. The proportions of the building are grand, the length being 454 feet; the greatest



breadth 334 feet, and its height from the pavement to the summit of the cross, 389 feet. A beautiful effect has been produced in the exterior of the building by its being covered with red, white and black marble, artistically disposed in panels and variegated figures. In the interior of the building the tourists gazed with delight upon the statues and pictures, most of them by the great masters, which abound in profusion. But a step or two distant from the cathedral the *Campanile* or belfry, a square tower in the Italian gothic style, 276 feet high, and of such elegant design and workmanship that



THE GRAND CANAL AND DODGE'S PALACE, VENICE.

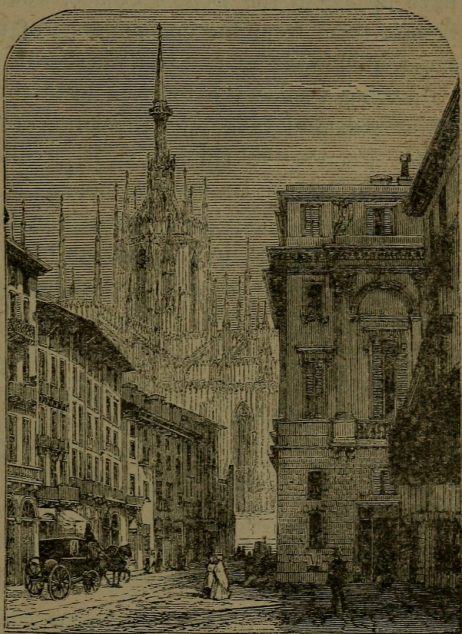
Charles V used to say it deserved to be kept in a glass case, occupied their attention, while the baptistry opposite the principal front of the Duomo, whose bronze portals, adorned with bas reliefs by Andrea and Ghiberti Pisano, were declared by Michael Angelo worthy of being the gates of Paradise, excited their admiration. The Church of Santa Croce, a magnificent structure 460 feet long and 134 feet wide, which contains the tombs of Michael Angelo, Macchiavelli, Galileo, Leonardo Aretino, Alfieri the poet, and many other illustrious men, found favor in turn with numbers of other ecclesiastical edifices, all of them replete with interest on account of their architectural grandeur, their historical associations, and the artistic value of their contents.

Of secular buildings that which occupied most of the tourists' time was the Palazzo Vecchio. Here was found the Medician gallery, containing a number of master-pieces of painting and sculpture, among the latter being the Venus de Medici, that wonderful marble which vies with the, perhaps, more perfect Venus de Milo for the honor of being the most beautiful statue in the world. The

Palazzo Pitti, with its library of 70,000 volumes; the Magliabecchian library, with 150,000 volumes; the Laurentian, with 120,000 volumes, and the Marucellian library, with 50,000 volumes; and several literary institutions, were visited in turn. Thus exhausting the artistic and literary resources of the city, with an occasional excursion to the suburbs, the time passed rapidly away, and on the 22d of April the party took leave of Florence, their minds stored with pleasant remembrances—alike of its beauty, its richness in architectural and art

treasures, and the delightfully agreeable attentions of its people.

After Florence, Venice. From the inland city where the only water in the landscape was provided by the somewhat insignificant stream of Arno, to the city whose amphibious proclivities have earned for her the poetic title of "the City of the Sea." Venice is one of those places which never disappoints the traveler; and when the General had glided in his gondola along the placid canals, past the palaces, and under the Rialto and the Bridge of Sighs, he



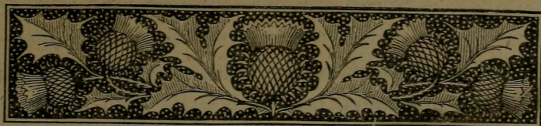
THE CATHEDRAL, MILAN.



acknowledged that all that he had heard of the powers of enchantment of the "Queen of the Adriatic" in truth fell short of the exquisite reality. Only to sit still and watch the constant current of life as it floated about the liquid streets, was a sufficiency of pleasure. Sight-seeing, however, was essential. To have been in Venice and not to have stood in the grand square of San Marco, or to have inspected the Doge's Palace, would never do; so the tourists betook them from the enchantment of the canals and paid visits to these notable places, and to a number of beautiful churches.

Leaving Venice, the tourists made their next stoppage at Milan, whose cathedral was another revelation of architectural witchery. Next to St. Peter's, the Duomo, as it is called, of Milan, is the largest church in Italy. Its beauty, too, has a character peculiarly its own. Containing fifty-two piers, about one hundred pinnacles, and more than 5,000 statues, in the matters of fret-work, carving and statuary it surpasses all other churches in the world. As Eustace said of it, "its double aisles, its clustered pillars, its lofty arches, the lustre of its walls, its numberless niches, all filled with marble figures, give it an appearance novel even in Italy, and singularly majestic." Other churches, more beautiful buildings, a further supply of wonderful paintings by wonderful men, demanded the attention of the tourists, who of course paid a visit to the La Scala Opera House, that Mecca of all of America's melodious maidens. These pleasures, varied by receiving and returning the constant attentions of the American residents, made the stay at Milan a very pleasant one.

The next objective point was Paris, which was reached on the 7th of May, at which date the Paris Exposition was in full swing. Here was entered upon a succession of festivities. On the 11th of May, General Grant visited the Exposition, where he was treated by the Directorate with the consideration due his distinction; and, to summarize a portion of his trip round the world which has nothing special to make it interesting, after a series of pleasant social enjoyments, the party departed from the gay capital and went their way in the direction of that flat, but, as it turned out, deeply interesting, part of Europe which is generalized under the expressive term of the Netherlands.



## CHAPTER XII.

Life at the Hague — The Low Countries — Amsterdam — Berlin's Budget — A Famous Interview — Hamburg — Copenhagen — Off for Sweden and Norway.

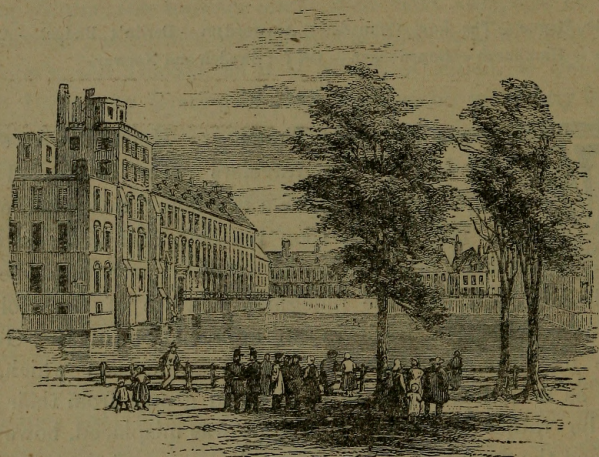


THE transition from France to Holland was speedily effected, and the travelers were astounded at the change of scene which a few hours' travel had effected. The Hague was soon reached, and immediately the genial Dutch began to extend courtesies to the party. It had been hoped that the phlegmatic nature of the Hollanders would have evidenced itself in an appreciation of the General's presence unmarked by those displays of enthusiasm which, while pleasing as an indication of good-will, had grown from their monotony to be rather tiresome. This hope was misplaced, however; at the railroad the reception of the General was one of the grandest yet accorded to him. Then came a military review, the Dutch evidently not having read the General's speeches in England, in which he often reiterated that he was a man of peace. This was followed by luncheon with Prince Frederick, the uncle of the King, at the country seat of the royal family—the Huist Bosch—a lovely villa situated in a magnificent park in the suburbs of the Hague. These ceremonies over, the party began a systematic study of the interesting features of the low lands—that wonderful country which, lying in many places below the level of the sea, is preserved from destruction only by its system of dikes and drainage. The most marked peculiarities of the "Hollow Land" were hardly met with at the Hague, which is a handsomely built and fashionable city, with beautiful, wide



streets, along which faultless turn-outs throng all day long during fine weather. In the museums, however, were seen specimens of that school of painting with which are associated as its creators the names of Rubens, Van Dyck and Wouvermans.

Departing from the capital, the next place the tourists touched at was Rotterdam, on whose numerous canals a vast amount of business was being done. Here they were reminded of Venice by the size and number of the water-ways which intersect the city, and the busy life which is constantly flitting across their surface. But of all

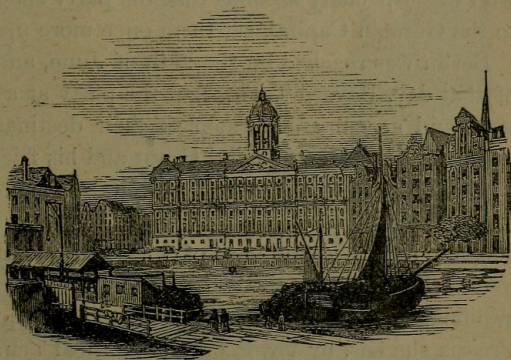


THE ROYAL PALACE AT THE HAGUE.

places in Holland that which pleased them in the highest degree was Amsterdam, the Commercial Metropolis, on the bosom of whose waters floated hundreds of magnificent sea-going vessels. Here the every-day life of the thrifty, calm-loving Dutch, was seen at its best. Making an early morning start the tourists sallied forth to view the people and their doings. The canals being but little used for internal traffic, heavy drays and carriages are moving noisily along the streets. Just in from the country with ample store of meats and vegetables, the hucksters are already beginning to drive a lively business with the thrifty housewives who walk to and fro, tall and handsome women of the Teutonic style of beauty. On the canals,

boats are constantly coming and going, while here and there a full-rigged ship moves majestically up to its destination opposite the handsome warehouse which is to receive its cargo. It is an intensely busy scene, and as the tourists gaze upon it they come to the conclusion that they have been laboring under two delusions—first, that the Dutch are a phlegmatic people, and, second, that the appellation “the Venice of the North” applies to the city of Amsterdam. There was altogether too much life, too much bustle, too much noise, for this name to be anything but a misnomer, and acknowledging that there are points of resemblance between the two cities, they agree that the similarity is by no means strong enough to warrant the title.

Sight-seeing here was pretty much what it had been in the other Dutch cities. Handsome streets, whose gable-roofed houses delighted the eye; flat, but beautifully laid out squares tempted the pedestrians to a welcome rest every now and then; museums with



THE DAM-RAK, AND THE DAM-RAK PALACE, AMSTERDAM.

full store of Van der Hoops and Foders, Rubens and Rembrandt, attracted their attention; while the exquisite cleanliness which pervaded every locality was a constant reminder of the fondness for the broom and scrubbing brush for which the Hollander is proverbial.

A visit to Haarlem involved a railroad ride, which more closely reproduced the sensations experienced in a trip across the Western prairies, than can any other country in Europe. For miles the road ran in a straight line across a plain as level as a billiard table. Having left behind them the masts, and domes, and steeples, and gables, and wind-mills of Amsterdam, they rushed along the level plain, crossed the river Ij, on whose bank the gigantic arms of monstrous wind-mills made perpetual play; gazing the while upon a scene

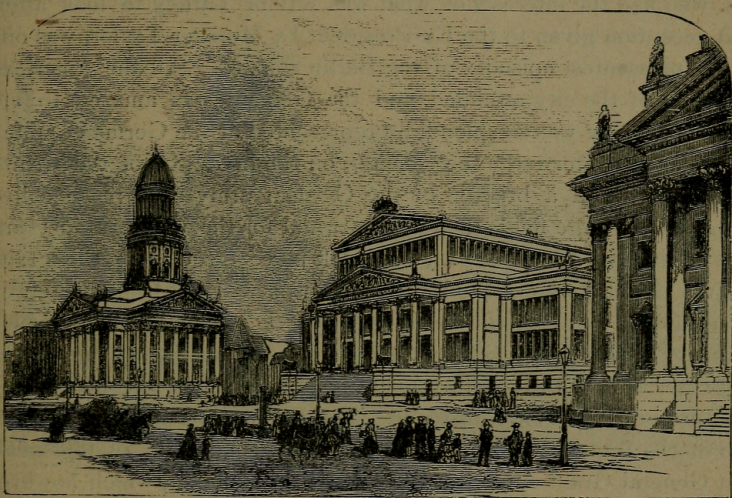


where the monotony of the flat surface is relieved here and there by pretty village steeples, cottages, hay-ricks, and other evidences of agricultural enterprise, while everywhere loomed up the inevitable wind-mill, from the private motor, with its vane to turn it towards the wind, and valued at about \$150, to the giant fellows used in deep draining, some of which cost a hundred times this sum.

The principal social event which marked the visit to Amsterdam, was a grand banquet given in honor of General Grant, by the leading merchants of the place, at which the usual speech-making was indulged in. Altogether, a fortnight was passed in Holland, when the pressing demands of the late Bayard Taylor, then Minister at Berlin, who was especially anxious that the party should not delay their visit to the German Capital, set them once more upon the road.

Berlin was reached on the 26th of June, and in the early morning of that day, Bayard Taylor met the party at a point sixty miles distant, and accompanied them to their destination. Before touching upon the life which General Grant and his friends entered upon here, a brief allusion to the German Capital—the conceded political centre of present Europe—will be in place. From a population of less than 200,000 in the early part of this century, Berlin has grown until to-day she needs but little increase in numbers to rank her with the millionaire cities of the world. From the capital of the Kingdom of Prussia she has, by virtue of the political acumen of Bismarck, and the military prowess of Von Molke, become the capital of the German Empire. Outside of the New World but few such examples of progress are to be seen. Situated on the river Spree, in the middle of a large sandy plain, it is a splendidly built city, possessing, besides its industrial and commercial advantages, scientific, literary and artistic institutions, which, apart from all other considerations, would make it one of the most important places in Europe. To see these the party set diligently to work shortly after their arrival. Among the first places to receive attention were the old and new museums, the former famous for its collection of pictures and antique vases; the latter, opposite the Emperor's Palace, containing, among many gems of art and antiquity, a magnificent gallery of paintings and statuary, the celebrated frescoes of Kaulbach, and a collection of Egyptian relics.

hardly excelled in any other museum in the world. The Arsenal, too, in which were seen arranged in artistic order, weapons for an army of 250,000 men ; and records of former battle fields, in the shape of the tattered banners and other trophies captured from the enemy, on a hundred battle-fields, was visited by the General, who acknowledged that as a depot of warlike material it surpassed anything he had ever beheld or hoped to behold. The Imperial Palace, with its 600 rooms ; the palaces of the Princes ; the Opera House : the churches, few in



THE ROYAL THEATRE AND THE NEW CHURCH, BERLIN.

number but beautiful in architecture ; the University, with its library of over half a million of volumes ; these were among the institutions which the tourists examined with pleasure.

But it was not all sight-seeing in Berlin. There were altogether too many European celebrities at the capital just then for a representative man like the Ex-President to be permitted to enjoy his visit without much of his time being devoted to the reception and rendering of diplomatic courtesies. The great European Congress was in session at Berlin just then, and its members were almost all known to the General. Of these the greatest, next of course to Bismarck,

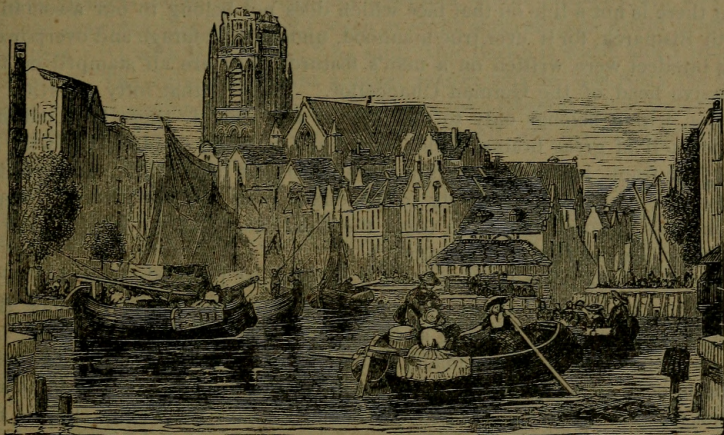


who presided over the deliberations of the body, was Prince Gortschakoff, the soul of Russian diplomacy, who, being sick with the gout, was called upon by the General, and expressed himself highly delighted with the compliment paid to Russia in the act—a compliment, by the by, which helped to smooth over the *contretemps* of San Stephano. Courtesies were also exchanged with Lords Beaconsfield and Salisbury, the English members of the Congress; M. Waddington, who represented France; Count Corti of Italy; and Mehemet Ali, who had the interests of what was left of Turkey to look after.

A reception given to the Ex-President by Minister Taylor, was one of the pleasantest episodes of the Berlin sojourn. All the American residents of the city attended, and the General was amazed to find that his country was so splendidly represented at the German Capital. A day or two afterwards the General, on the invitation of the Crown Prince, reviewed a brigade of the German army at a place called Templehof, a large field splendidly adapted for the purpose, just outside of the city limits. This event took place through a pitiless rain, but the General who stormed Fort Donelson was not to be beaten by an untoward freak of the elements, and the sham battle in which infantry, cavalry and artillery took part, went on with as much dash and vigor as though the sun was out in full force and the field was a repetition of Gravelotte, instead of a quiet meadow within a mile or two of the Imperial Palace. It was at the conclusion of this affair that General Grant enunciated the heterodox opinion, which however has since then been the subject of much study among military men, that the bayonet and the saber, especially the former, were of very questionable value in modern warfare. He insisted that if the extra weight of either were utilized by the substitution of additional food or ammunition, and the butt-end of the musket were used as a close-quarters weapon, the army would be strengthened. An inspection of the military hospital, and a mess-room lunch, closed the military display, and in the evening the General dined with Prince Bismarck. There were present on this occasion, besides the General and Mrs. Grant, the Prince and Princess Bismarck, the Countess Graf von Bismarck, the Prince's two sons, Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Taylor, H. Sidney Everett, the Secretary of Legation; Mr. Von Schlozer, the

German Minister at Washington, and a number of members of the cabinet and representatives of Berlin official circles.

No visit was made to the Emperor. That kindly old gentleman had, a few weeks before, been shot by an assassin, and was only recovering from his wounds when the Ex-President was in Berlin. During an audience which General Grant had with the Crown Prince, the latter conveyed the regret from the Emperor that the doctors forbade him to receive the illustrious American.



CHURCH OF ST. LAURENS, ROTTERDAM.

The one event of all others which transpired at Berlin, and which has been kept to close the account of the Berlin visit, was the first interview that the Ex-President had with the famous Chancellor, and this is so full of interest that the following report of it, published in the New York *Herald*, will be read from beginning to end with pleasure :

The General saunters in a kind of nonchalant way into the court-yard. The sentinels eye him for just an instant, perhaps curiously, and then quickly present arms. Somehow or other these grim soldiers recognize at once, as the salute is returned, that it comes from a man who is himself a soldier. The General throws away a half-smoked cigar, then brings up his hand to his hat acknowledging the military courtesy, and advances in the most quiet