A Lecture by Rev. Alexander Reed, D. D .-Interesting Information Concerning Italy and the Italians,

The Rev. Alexander Reed, D. D., of this city, last evening delivered a lecture in the West Arch Street Presbyterian Church, on the sub-ject "Italy as I saw it." Of the able effort the following is an abstract:-

'On the Mediterranean sea, like a huge bootwhich Napoleon would have been most happy to have put on-lies the peninsula now called Italy. In this country every portion of the soil is a pilgrimage, every peak and plain, every rock and river, is redolent with antiquity. The Italy of to-day, exclusive of several islands, is about as large as New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. It is arranged in three territorial divisions, the Kingdom of Italy, the Republic of San Marino, and Monaca.

"It was on the evening of a perfect summer day that I came from the northward to one of the most beautiful cities of Italy—Naples. Its beautiful bay was a splendid mosaic under the rays of the departing sun. It was a picture never to be forgotten, and the grandest feature was old Vesuvius, toward the south, able, and seemingly willing, to destroy all.

"Soon after arriving, our party started for a visit to this far-famed mountain. We drove southward from Naples, some six miles to Resina, where we exchanged carriages for active, sure-footed ponies, and began the ascent. From this point to the crater it is about 9 miles of travel. At the point of 2000 feet elevation, 2 miles from the crater, is the hermitage, where we rested beneath the last trees we should find on the ascent.

The crater, full of vapor so as to be impenetrable to the eye, was some 500 feet wide, a vast caldron a third of a mile in circumference, and, couching upon its crumbling edge, we peered into its invisible depths. A stone hurled into it went down, down, down, until one skuddered as it ceased to be heard. At several places through the thin crust the fires were visible, and we touched them with our

Pompeli is reached by railway, and is 13 miles from Naples. This city was founded long before the Romans held the country. In the year 79, just 1791 years ago, when Titus ruled in Rome, when the gay people of the city were busy buying and selling, feasting and mourning, and were intensely absorbed in a municipal election, all forgetful of God, then suddenly a vast column of black smoke burst from the mountain five miles away, and, rising to a prodigious height, it gradually spread itself out, hiding the sun and overshadowing the earth for many a league.

"The smoke and thick cloud were broken only

by blue and sulphurous flashes, and it was followed by a rain of ashes and showers of small hot stones, mingled with heavier masses. Then an aqueous vapor condensed into rain mixed with the ashes that filled the air, and poured floods of liquid mud upon the doomed city, crushing in roofs and streaming through streets, filling every nook and crevice until there was no shelter left. Those who had not fled, or who returned for gain, had no escape. Those who had taken refuge in cellars and secret vaults were sealed up forever. Thus, in three days, eighteen hundred years ago, Pompeii and Herculaneum perished from the face of the earth.

"The cities as resurrected look much like a ournt district in any city would look. The impression that you are in a Roman town of old is so vivid that you find yourself almost instinctively wondering where the people are to-day. The houses are open to the sun, just as if occupled. The streets have deep ruts cut in them by the chariot wheels of long ago. We enter a house unchallenged, and inspect the arrangements. The floor of the vestibule is laid in mosaic, with the Latin word, Salve (welcome) or Rowers worked into the design. The houses and shops are generally small, usually of but one story.
"At the distance of 130 miles by railway from

Naples is the Eternal City on the Seven Hills of Rome. One of its great attractions is St. Peter's, on the site of the former temple to Jupiter. St. Peter's is a landscape, other churches are gardens. The temperature in the interior is cool in summer and warm in winter. Its windows are never open. It has an atmosphere of its own and requires no ventilation. Thousands of people in it give it only the appearance of emptiness.

"The Vatican, the capitol of the Roman possessions and the palace of the Popes, is as different from other palaces as St. Peter's is from other churches. It is an accumulation of palaces, built at different periods by different Popes. With its gardens it occupies as much space as the city of Turin. It contains between four and five thousand rooms. It has miles of pictures, statuary, manuscripts, and books. As a museum it is the first in the world. Its library, besides its tens of thousands of volumes, has twenty-five thousand manuscripts.

"The Colosseum of Rome or the Flavian Amphitheatre is one of the greatest sights. Vespasian began it, and the Jewish captives completed it under Titus and his son. When it was inaugurated 5000 wild animals and 10,000 buman captives were slain. It covers six acres of ground. In the same vicinity is the principal entrance to the Catacombs. These vast subterranean excavations served as the places of refuge and worship, and also the burial place of the early Christians.

"The city of Venice is a wondrous marble flower built upon the surface of the sea. Here one has a peculiar sensation in being met at the railroad depot by a carriage in the shape of boat. No city exerts so strong a spell upon the imagination. It is a new kind of living, it upsets all old habits. In external Venice there are but three things to be seen-sea, sky, and architecture: but if you start out to see them, there as elsewhere you will drown. Think of the tide coming in to your front door twice a day. Think of having to call a boat if you only want to put a letter in the Post Office or make a call next door! But there are compensations for all inconveniences. The streets are never dusty. Besides, children never fall out of the windows in Venice and drown, for they can all swim. You are never out of water to wash because of a drought, though drinking water is poor enough.

Time will not allow a description of all the Italian cities, but after all, though the country is everywhere so beautiful, one is glad to cross the mountains and come into Switzerland the republic, and the home of the brave. There we are beyond despotism of Church or State. we are republicans. We breathe freer and rest.
Our description of the country has been more in praise than blame. While we are glad and thankful that we are Americans, it is not thought best to travel, as do some as judges through all the earth, believing that there is nothing good but at home. While there is much to condemn, it is not always best to speak of it. The object of this sketch is not criticism, and therefore not to spy out defects."

VON STEINMETZ.

The Facts about his Removal, at! Last. The correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing from before Metz under date of

October 16, says:-

The leading facts in connection with the appointment and subsequent removal of Von Steinmetz may not be out of place here. I believe that they are not yet accurately un-derstood outside of official circles. I have them, quite recently, from an undoubted source. At the opening of the campaign the King, who did not too highly respect Von Steinmetz's talents, appointed him, by his personal dictum, against the advice of his Council of War, to the command of the first three main bodies into which the army operating against the French Rhine armics was to be divided. His stated reason for so doing was that thereby a signal refutation would be given to two widely-prevailing popular prejudices-first, that in Prassia herself the nobility were to be favored in the dispensation of appointments, in preference to talent when exhibited by persons of vulgar birth; secondly, that in the Southern States of Ger- | o'clock A. M.

many the Royal House of Prussia was dis-posed to arrogate to itself the lion's share of the prerogatives and honors of the conduct of the war. Thus, the Princes of the blood came in command second and third after a man of comparatively humble origin. This went all well until the battles of August at Metz, where General Von Steinmetz, on his own responsibility, without justification, disobeyed the positive orders of the commander-in-chief, in passing the Moselle on the south side of Metz instead of the north side. Had he done the latter, as ordered, the repeated but ineffectual and terribly costly attacks of the 7th and 8th Corps on the enemy's position at Moscau-ste. Hubert, from the Bois de Vaux and the Bois des Ognons, would have been replaced by an easy and presumably successful and far less costly attack by the same body from the heights of the Bois du Saulny. There the Germans would have had the advantage of high ground against lower positions of the French, and would not have had to cross, at such immense loss, such deep and steep ravines, in the face of the enemy's concentrated fire. From Bazaine's first position, when attacked, on the Metz-Verdun road, he could not have so readily turned to answer the attack if the latter had come at once from the north and southwest, as he did against these narrow heads of columns which approached him from the south and southwest only. On his repulse, during the the evening of the 18th of September, his only possible line of retreat would have been down the dangerous defile of Gravelotte by Ars-sur-Moselle, into the valley of the Moselle (the very line on which Von Steinmetz wrongly came up against him), and Bazaine's retreat into Metz, on the morning of the 19th, would have been rendered impossible. He would have been either crushed in yet another battle, or chased down the Moselle towards Nancy, which movement would eventually have subjected him to a like certainty of annihilation. After this event the King personally ex-

pressed his displeasure to General Von Steinmetz, and ordered him to report in future, not to the great headquarters of the army, but to that of Prince Frederick Charles. Upon this the temper of the General, none too sweet ordinarily, grew notably irascible and ungenial, which quality he took such pains to manifest in his personal and official intercourse with the Prince, that at length the relations of the two grew into a public scandal at headquarters, seriously disturbing the serenity of the official atmosphere, and threatening ultimately to vitiate the discipline of the armies concerned. This led to the removal of Von Steinmetz, not at the request of the Prince, but at that of General von Moltke. Since then matters stand as above described, in a curiously pied condition—an "army" composed of two corps, and provided with a general staff of its own, yet without any commander, but the commander of another "army," of which the first men-tioned forms part. That the influence of modern ideas regarding "equal rights" is gradually forcing those who are the natural opponents of such ideas to cede them some recognition is evident, not only from King William's appointment of a man of the people to an important com-mand over higher born officers, but also from the fact that the chief of the staff of Prince Frederick Charles' army-Gen, Stiehle-is a man not even as yet endowed with the ennobling preposition, which has usually followed on the heels at least, if it did not necessarily precede, all high civil or military distinctions. This man, still quite young, rose solely by his talents, and was chosen to his present position by the Prince in preference to men of far longer service and of incomparably "older" families.

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Bonds. 1,123,946
Railroad, Bank and Canal Stocks 55,708
Cash in Bank and Office 247,620
Loans on Collateral Security 52,558
Notes Receivable, mostly Marine Premiums 331,944
Accided Interest 72,357
Premiums in course of transmission 55,195
Unsettled Marine Premiums 100,900
Real Estate, Office of Company, Philadel-Accided Interest.

Premiums in course of transmission.

Unsettled Marine Premiums.

Real Estate, Office of Company, Philadel-

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Dies,
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T. Chariton Henry,
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LOSSES PAID IN 1869. \$14,90542. Losses paid since 1829 over \$5.500,000

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Isaac Lea

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