

Bellefonte, Pa., April 22, 1927.

### Our Visit to Italy. AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

By Rev. L. M. Colfelt D. D.

On approaching Florence the beautiful capital of Tuscany, the eye discovers the same walls flanked by picturesque towers which surrounded the city in the 15th century and against which the Pisans and Sienese so frequently spent their efforts in so proudly, those immense domes, the embattled palaces, the gorgeous churches, the handsome streets paved ducal palace called Palazzo Pitti, built not only with a solidity which promises ages of endurance but filled with art treasures which render it one of the most remarkable galleries in Euare furnished in the most costly manner. The suites of apartments contain a number of mosaic tables differing from the other mosaics of Italy in the large pieces of which they are formed. The labor required in these works are hardly credible, the table thirteen years of a set of artists workwith the artistic treasures here displayed. A whole year was consumed in simply classifying the statues, paintings, vases, cameos and the crowd of other curiosities. To enter into a description would be intermin-

Leaving the palace after but a hasty glance we approach the Cathedral of which Michael Angelo thought it impossible for an architect to raise so fine a building as this grand architectural monument. The whole external appearance is that of chequered white and black marble. An isolated tower at no great distance serves as its belfry and Charles V. was so en-chanted with its finished elegance that he said it ought to be put in a glass case to defend it from the wind and atmosphere. The three bronze gates of the baptistry are worked with so them worthy of being placed at the entrance into Paradise. The tombs of the Medices commenced three centuries ago is one of the most curious works in Italy. Jaspers, lapis lazuli, alabaster, and the rarest marbles are combined in such profusion that it resembles not so much a sepulchral monument as a magnificent mosaic.
The church of Santa Crocs contains
the ashes of many illustrious men.
The tomb of Viktorio Alfieri is adorned by Canova, there too are the remains of Galileo, Aretino, Macchiavelli, who is represented as weighing a sword and a roll of papers in a balance. We confess to lingering long over the tomb of Michael Angelo contemplating his bust wrought by himself. It were glory enough for one city to be the mother of so grand a sculptor, painter and architect. No one can mistake a work of this artist wherever seen. No man ever stamped individuality upon the productions of its painters was Fra Angelico, who his genius. The forehead of the painted angels with the same facility statue left of himself, shows the with which Plato described pure wrecks of the tempests which have erossed it in the search by solitary very retina was painted Cherubim paths after the infinite. There is and from whose hands no Christ nor nothing ordinary, nothing mean in the creations of his skill. All the figures he left are bold, athletic, hereulean. No succeeding artist has imitated him with success. His individ-uality is so powerful, his stature so western gallery of the Campo Santo elevated, his center of gravity so far removed, that to follow him causes The c vertigo and exposes the imitator to a terrible fall. One must go into the Sistine Chapel, also into St. Peter's at Rome to see in the violent statuary and the exaggerated painting the utter folly of any artist trying to copy the unique and almost superhuman genius of Michael Angelo, who must remain the wonder of the artistic ages, like Dante, like Shakespeare in lit-erature; alone in his inaccessible sol-

strangely composite in nature—part a church over which the Cross is worlding who invoked saints and angels, recommended fasting and penance and who at the same time summoned Machiavel, advised crime and assassination and restored the likeness of the Caesars. Time, however would fail to tell of the noble names Florence has bequeathed to immortality and the imagination cannot conjure up the glorious men of the Tuscan Republic who ornamented the city with immortal works of genius, presided as magistrates distributing rewards of merit, decreeing peace and war, and ruling the affairs of state.

But we grow weary of the works of man, though presented in such noble proportions in Florence and sigh for the handiwork of the great Builder and Artist from whom man has borrowed all that is imposing and artistic. We place a just estimate upon the tumultuous life of the town when compared with silent freshness when compared with silent freshness of stone and terminated each day with the plain of Florence, its palaces, its an excursion into the country. The high towers, its domes colored by the picturesque environs of Florence advivid light of a sun, cloudless and mit of endless wanderings of this sort lardent in its setting. So near does

but there is one well worth the mak- the city seem to be that we can hear ure to protect our supply and to stop ing. Passing the gate of Santa Croce and the Falls of the Arno, we wander-ed along the banks of the river, through the orchards and the lilacs, ital, an experience which can be recatching glimpses of the waters sparkling against the banks or rolling peacefully amongst the branches of the osiers which bent over the current. Farther on, a hill covered with vines, rose some elegant Casinos which broke the blue line of the rocks of Fiesole crowned with their Tuscan broke the blue line of the rocks of Fiesole crowned with their Tuscan walls while the near fields presented the appearance of varied cultivation.

Which is the visited varied to the world! It is the cultivation that the sounds is the cultivation of the world! the appearance of varied cultivation. On the opposite side of the plain is the deep but elevated pass through which the waters of the Magnano force their way, while beyond the evergreen woods the Appenine Alps vain. All the monuments which rise lift themselves against the sky, their summits capped with snow.

Once a proud city but now a ruin, churches, the handsome streets paved in the ancient style, the flowers which ing justly what it formerly was. hang in festoons, seeming by their Temples, palaces, theatres are all abundance to have given its name to swept away, even the tombs are viothe city—all recall the age when lated. Yet we stand in the midst of Florence voluntarily submitting her- a city that was old when Romulus sell to the rule of the Medici, dealt and Remus with a plow drew the outout to the rest of Italy, science, politeness, taste and magnificence. Entering the city which cradled the arts ved in the inextricable mazes of anat the time of their regeneration, the attention is attracted to the famous style of building of the remotest ages. They seem to prove the prodigious force of the men who constructed them and that there were indeed "Giants in those days." walls are not composed of ordinary ope. The three lofty stories are divided into nine hundred apartments.

Many of them carved and gilt all over rocks, artfullly placed upon one another; in short, the solidity of these erections and the elevated sites which they occupy seem like the work of an elder race of mankind, terrified at the tremendous catastrophe of the deluge! Aqueducts erected probably at the same time, carried to Fiesole used by Count Cavour, minister of the waters of Mt. Reggio, several Victor Immanuel, having consumed miles distant and though broken down in the time of Caesar, as Villani ing together to complete it. The famous Venus of Canova, decorates one of these halls. The palace communicates with the gallery of paintings deservedly celebrated and filled was one of the twelve cities of Etruwith the finest specimens of ancient and modern art. One is bewildered for the serenity of its atmosphere and for its baths, thought to be a cure for many maladies. This city had the glory of resisting and testing the greatest courage of Rome. Livy bears testimony to the formidable character of the inhabitants of Fiesole and the rest of Etruria. All the forces of Rome were employed at various times to subdue them and several dictators were created for the purpose of allaying the fear which the people inspired. When the conspiracy of Cataline was unmasked by Cicero, that seditious citizen, compelled to seek safety in flight, escaped from Rome and with his fellow conspirators took refuge in Fiesole, only city which by its formidable situation and the courage of its inhabitants was capable of resisting the Roman arms. Cataline did not hesitate to hazard an engagement with much art that Michael Angelo thought the Consul Caius Antonius, the rethem worthy of being placed at the sult of which was doubtful though the brave citizens of Fiesole were few in numbers and almost without arms.

sculptured marbles to adorn her palaces. It is very probable that the four columns that support the arched roof of the gallery of the Baptistry of Florence are the remains of some monument in Fierore. besides artists celebrated in scalpture to so great a degree his own unique and paintings. Consecuous among ideas. He was a mystic in whose noble remembrance in the immense

The victory was finally purchased, so

dearly that smiles struggled with tears when the news of the battle arrived there. After a varied his-

tory Fiesole was finally absorbed by Florence and her most distinguished

The city of Fiesole contains most remarkable antiquities, collossal frag-ments of old Etruscian walls, vestiges of aqueducts and vast subterranean chambers. It may say with pride, "Here rose my high towers and impregnable walls, there lay the baths of Cataline, yonder were the temples of Jove the Thundered and Mars, in that place stood the College of Augurs and the palace of the ancient Kings" and even yet the ruins of these indestructible walls inspire Florence was also the scene of Savanarolo's labors, that reformer so the temple of Jupiter there now rises ious ceremonies of the Nazarene are performed and the College of the Augurs is replaced by an Academy where instead of the superstitious art of reading the future, the providence of the all-powerful God is taught. The bathing waters formerly so celebrated still run amidst the most delightful villas and gardens of Tuscany. Fiesole has exchanged the splendor of military prowess for the more durable glory of the arts of peace. Leaving the sights of the ancient and moden buildings, the Archiepiscopal palace and the Academy, the Church and Convent of St. Francis and its vast garden, we follow down the windings of the road of the country yet the heart within us ing fresh life from the vivacious air. is never quite satisfied until we have The complete absence of every vapor quitted the city with its monuments permits one to see in minutest detail

the confused murmur of voices and the noise of the mechanical occupations of the inhabitiants of the Cappeated standing in one of the high-er circles of the Via Nazionals at Naples as it winds up the city heights and looking down upon that hive of 500,000 human beings, you can hear distinctly the eternal buzzing of hu-

OUR PAPER SUPPLY.

Wasteful cutting of soft wood trees, neglect in planting new forests to take the place of the old ones, and forest fires have depleted our supply of raw material for paper. The American people have been very improvident in the way they have looked out for themselves on this head. They should have planted vast forests many years ago to provide continuous paper supplies, but they failed to do so.

The people are now using over 180 pounds of paper per capita annually and new uses for it are being discovright along. Not many pulp mills in the eastern and middle western States have better than a 10 years' supply of pulp wood, according to an article in "the Paper Industry." This writer remarks that of the three million odd tons of news print now consumed by the American press probably three-fifths come Canada and various foreign countries. He seems to think that in a few years Canada may place some form of embargo on the exportation of wood pulp.

At present the annual waste from lumber amounts to at least eight million cords, and of this about two million cords is left in the woods, while a considerable part of the rest is burned.

The American people ought to devise measures for adequate replanting of forests and they should take further steps to prevent waste of this valuable material and to prevent forest fires. Paper is one of the essential elements of civilization and if it should become so high in price that people could not afford to buy many newspapers, magazines and books they would take a long step backward.

Of course one would imagine that when our pulp supply gives out, arrangements could be made with Canada and various countries for use of their resources. But our paper stock is likely to cost us a great deal more than it should because of our own fail-

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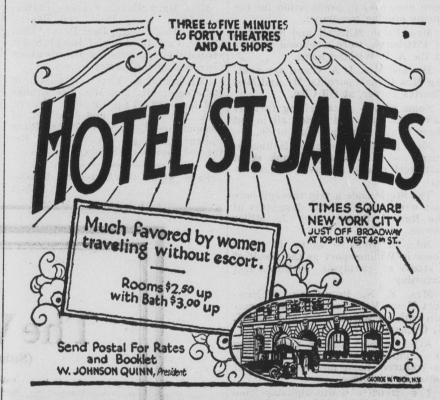
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