

Correspondence.

VENICE, Italy, Dec. 4, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

We left Marseilles by train, Dec. 24th, continuing our route along the shores of the Mediterranean. Some portion of the country is rough and broken into hills and low mountains, generally covered with vineyards and olive orchards. The soil appears light, yet productive. Much labor has been required to bring this district to its present flourishing condition. A plan was adopted widely differing from that in Holland, which is a system of terracing accomplished by removing the stones and rocks off the acclivities, and building them up into walls from three to eight feet in height, laterally so as to form a level, varying in width from six feet and upward, according to the steepness of the hill to be terraced. Soil is gathered upon these levels, in which the vine, the olive, lemon and orange are planted. Mountains from base to summit adorned by these terraces, like rows of seats rising in systematic order one above another, form a pleasant picture, frequently lovely and fascinating.

We arrived at Nice in the evening. It is a beautiful city, romantically located among the hills bordering the sea. It forms a fashionable resort for people of wealth in quest of pleasure, and invalids in search of health. The environs afford many attractions in promenades, extensive views, luxuriant vegetation, gardens, and sloping hills covered with vines, olives, aloes, cypress, palm, together with lemon and orange loaded with golden fruit.

After spending two days pleasantly in Nice we left for Genoa, Italy, where we arrived on Friday the 27th of December. I was not forcibly impressed in favor of Genoa, its streets narrow and crooked, some of them filthy. The dwellings built in blocks flanking these narrow, devious paths, in many instances nearly closed with each other at the top, appearing to form an archway over the streets. We felt to award a tribute of respect, however, to Genoa as the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. One of its squares is ornamented with a fine monumental structure erected to his memory.

Sunday morning we attended Catholic service in the Cathedral St. Lorenzo, the most celebrated church in the city. During worship an officer in uniform waited upon us through the building, pointing out and explaining various objects of interest. He conducted us to a small chapel enclosed by an ornamental paling and showed us the "identical" chain with which John the Baptist was bound while in prison, previous to being beheaded, and also his ashes, enclosed in a silver urn. Any doubts we entertained of the genuineness of these articles we refrained from expressing. No woman is allowed to enter this chapel of St. John, except one day in the year, because one of her sex instigated the death of this saint. My sister, who happened to be the only lady of the party present, bore this interdiction with her characteristic grace and fortitude.

On leaving the cathedral, we noticed, immediately in front of it, a great variety of merchandise spread upon stands, and a lively business going on in the way of buying and selling. Shops and places of amusement are customarily opened on Sundays.

Monday, 30, we left for Turin. Some portions of this route were very attractive—in fact, I do not recollect ever having seen a landscape more lovely and enchanting. We arrived in Turin in the afternoon, and left the following morning for Milan, which we reached in the evening of the 31st of December.

Milan contains two hundred and seventy thousand inhabitants. It is situated on the river Alona, in the centre of the great plain of Lombardy, and is one of the richest and most beautiful cities of Italy; the streets regular, broad and well paved—the dwellings elegantly built, and commodious. The city embraces capacious squares, promenades and gardens, tastefully laid out and ornamented with fountains and statuary. The Arcade is a splendid structure; we visited it in the evening when lit up with its immense number of gas burners. An English company commenced this structure with speculative views, but after having sunk (so we

were informed) nearly one million of dollars, relinquished the project, after which it became government property.

Milan is celebrated for its cathedral, built in honor of "Our blessed Lady." Galeazzo Visconti, Duke of Milan, owing to some cause, which we failed to ascertain, made a solemn vow to build a rich and magnificent temple in honor of the Virgin Mary, and was joined in this undertaking by men of wealth and rank, with the intention of making it the most costly and beautiful ecclesiastical edifice in the world. For this purpose immense sums from time to time were contributed by distinguished individuals—single donations frequently reaching as high as from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars. Kings, Popes, Emperors and Emperesses bestowed their princely gifts—one Italian gentleman contributed thirty-five thousand gold ducats. The founder donated, together with other liberal gifts, marble at the quarry, sufficient to build the entire edifice.

This temple has been nearly five hundred years in course of construction, and will probably require another century for its completion. In gazing with astonishment upon the forest of pinnacles and thousands of marble statues, together with millions of rich ornaments and endless works of carved marble, and the great tower, with its lofty summit crowned with a colossal statue one would fail to notice any deficiency or lack in its completion; yet millions are still required to carry out, in full, the magnificent completion of the great artist who designed this astonishing specimen of Gothic architecture.

Up to the present about one hundred and ten millions of dollars have been expended, independent of the marble donated at the quarry. The walls are eight feet in thickness, built of fine white marble from Mount Gandoglia. The floors are paved with marble—the roof is formed with marble blocks united by cement. The length of the cathedral is four hundred and ninety feet, its breadth two hundred and ninety-eight, and its height to the summit of the tower is four hundred feet. It is built in the form of a Latin cross, divided into five naves, supported by fifty-two pillars, each about seventy-two feet high, and twenty-four feet in circumference. The interior of the building is decorated with fret-work, carvings, statuary and numerous paintings, the productions of the most skillful artists of Europe. The exterior is covered with marble statuary, representing some of the most remarkable events in biblical history—Moses rescued from the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter, Joseph's temptation in the house of Potiphar, the angel driving out Adam and Eve from Eden, Daniel in the den of lions, God appearing to Moses in a burning bush, David holding the head of Goliath, Sampson suffocating the lion, and carrying on his shoulder the gates of Gaza. Fifty-two representations of this character adorn the front of this temple.

Writers differ in their statements of the number of the statues which ornament this building. In a work published by a Mr. Prioli at Milan, the present number is estimated at seven thousand, and additions are constantly being made. The most celebrated artists in Europe have been employed, and are still engaged in embellishing this edifice.

We ascended by a flight of five hundred and twelve steps to the platform of the great cupola, where we enjoyed a magnificent view of the city—the immense plains of Lombardy, chequered with towns and villages, stretching far away till lost beneath the surrounding girdle of snow-capped mountains. From this lovely picture of nature, we turned to gaze on the countless objects of beauty and splendor, the productions of the highest efforts of human genius, which constitute the exterior decorations of this extraordinary temple. Before us stood a forest of towers—one hundred and thirty-six in number, each adorned with twenty-five marble figures and thousands of ornamental objects in white marble, imparting to the scene richness, beauty and grandeur. We descended to the interior of the building—among the numerous objects which attracted our attention was a marble statue, life size, representing St. Bartholomew flayed alive and carrying his skin upon his shoulders. The artist was eight years engaged in this work, which is much admired as a specimen of the extrac-

ordinary skill and anatomical knowledge of the sculptor. In his right hand he holds a figure representing the knife with which his skin was taken off. The veins, arteries, muscles, together with the whole surface of the body and limbs in a flayed condition are delineated by the hand of the sculptor with marvelous exactness.

We attended high mass in this church New Year's morning, the archbishop of Milan presiding, but I must hasten to a close.

On the morning of the 3rd of January we left Milan and arrived here, in Venice, the city of waters, the following evening.

LORENZO SNOW.

DIED.

In the 11th Ward of this City, Jan. 31st, of inflammation of the lungs, HOPKIN B., son of Bernard and Martha McAdams, aged 6 months and 10 days.

In the 13th ward of this city, January 29, of convulsions, ALONDUS DE LA FAYETTE, and January 30, of consumption, WILLIAM ORLANDO, sons of William and Ellen Loader, the former aged eight months, three weeks and one day, and the latter two years and nine days.

At Bloomington, Oneida County, Idaho, January 29, MARY, wife of David Bennett, aged forty-two years and two months.

Born at Bradford, Yorkshire, England.

At Mount Pleasant, Sanpete County, Jan. 29th, EDWARD CLIFF, son of Joseph and Alice Page, aged 11 months and 29 days.

At Eastwood, near Nottingham, Nov. 18, 1872, of slow fever, JOSEPH HERBERT PARKES, aged 18 years.—*Mill. Star.*

At Aberdare, Wales, Dec. 24, 1872, of consumption, DAVID MORGAN, son of Walter and Elizabeth Morgans, aged 18 years and 6 months.

He was baptized in 1856, and ordained an Elder Dec. 18, 1872. He lived a faithful saint, and died in the faith of a glorious resurrection.—*Mill. Star.*

FOREIGN NOTES.

In the new Earl of Galloway the British House of Lords is said to gain "one of the best dressed legislators of the day"—a sort of Bayard tailor.

The London *Times*, commenting on the scenes at the close of the Stokes trial, says no English judge would have tolerated such indecent proceedings as the exchange of personalities on that occasion.

The young lady medical students in Edinburgh have so far carried their point that they are to be admitted to the Royal infirmary under the following conditions: "1. Clinical instruction to be given at a separate hour from that at which male students are admitted. 2. Female students to confine their clinical visits to a stated number of wards, containing not less than eighty beds."

The London *Times* has a half column article on an extraordinary marriage at the parish church of old St. Marylebone. It was that of Miss Kate Fox, one of the Fox sisters, whose spiritual manifestations began at Rochester, New York, many years ago, and who were the founders of modern spiritualism, to Mr. Henry Dietrich Jencken, a barrister-at-law. A number of American friends, spiritualists and literary people, were present at the ceremony. The bride and bridegroom made a wedding trip to Tunbridge Wells, and then returned to their residence, Yorkplace, Portman square, London.

EASTERN NOTES.

Georgia proposes to buy Stone Mountain and build a State Penitentiary, at the same time selling enough granite to New Orleans—two millions worth—to pay the cost. This looks as if Georgia legislators really had an eye to other business besides their own.

An Iowa paper administers "cold comfort" to its brethren in Minnesota by publishing the following:—A country paper in Minnesota wants to know who swindled the Indians out of "such an infernal cold country as Minnesota is, and who deluded the white people into it."

Professor Tyndall declines to favor one of the persistent interviewers of New York with an opinion on the lately mooted question, "Can water be heated red-hot?" The Underwriters' organization has, however, taken hold of the subject of super-heated steam, and will give it a thorough and experimental investigation.

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