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1871 July-November

Your tour among the cities of Italy must have often found you very tired of sight seeing, - a true born Yankee, sight from Boston, with all the mental machinery working always to order, would be the one for that round of visiting works of Art! - Your visit to Venice & remark on the inadequacy of even photographs to impress one with the stupendous "Stones of Venice" - recalled to me so a day last Winter, snowing & bitter cold, when you came in & found Mrs. Copis Graphoscope & pictures standing, & when some one said the pictures made us long to see the places, you were strongly of opinion that that was the best way of travelling - escaping fatigue & filth &c. - I doubt if you would think so now? For the very stones, quarried into cathedrals by man's hand as they are, will have cried out of the past ages to you, - & wakened echoes of prayer & praise & worship & instructive preaching in God's own temple - His servants heart, echoes far truer than those uttered in the cathedrals, by the voices of priests. - The account of your visit to Florence, Pisa & Padua, had a peculiar interest as I happened to be engaged just then in reading a "Life of Galileo" compiled from M.S.S. of his eldest daughter & his own correspondence. Your going to Egypt -