A TRIP = = = = = = = TO ROME

"Observer's" Notes for the Ken' News.

Monday evening of last week our esteemed friend Capt. C. A. Leary finished his series of lectures on the subject: "the banks of the Tiber and those who dwell there." Capt. Leary had been entertained on several occasions, during the past 12 or 18 months by the C. E. socials at Edesville hall, hence his expressed desire to show an appreciation by inviting the society and friends to his description of the natural and geological territory on which Rome was built. A large number of photographs of the various public bnildings, many of which show some of the comparatively recent excavations. Since his return about two years ago, the captain has had the pictures transferred to glass by one of the finest artists in Baltimore. While our friend was busy making his preparations for the trip to the East, that he might again feast his eyes upon the historic relics, as well as modern improvements, the writer jocularly asked to go along, and have the privilege of shining his boots. Little did we think that our eyes would see so much, or our ears hear so much of this centre of attraction but we heard the lectures and saw the views as presented on canvas. An acquaintance with the private character of Capt. Leary lets one into his gifted productions with a degree of gratifying intimacy. His reference in the first lecture to the natural and geological situation on which Rome was built; the golden house of Nero, its artificial lake etc.; the progress of civilization and the preservation of the old walls of the colossal amphitheatre which was capable of holding 87,000 people, was an artless effort and noticeably punctured with a moral; with amiable views of human life and human nature blending so happily with enforced humor, and an occasional pleasing melancholy. There was not standing room in the hall on this occasion.

If we can properly recall the basis of the second discourse, it was the Roman forum from its earliest times and all the patriarchal churches including the great world-renowned St. Peters. For two hours the vast audience remained quiet listeners to this the most intellectual and interesting production of its character this community has been treated to in our day.

Among the multiplicity of interests as related by the lecturer in this particular, he told us there were 87 churches in Rome named after "St. Mary." The visit to the great Cathedral on the occasion of the Pope's presence was highly interesting. During the delivery of this portion of the series, the speaker waxed warm, and with a magnificent eloquence made pathetic reference to some of the leading men and women, about the dawn of the christian era, and for some years succeeding. Some of the grandest edifices known to architecture in any age of the world's history may be found in those recent excavations as exhibited by the lecturer on this occasion. The condition of the inhabitants was not in all points reassuring, as we see them, nevertheless some very eminent characters dwell in their midst.

Again we wended our way to the hall for the third time, and with eager ears, and wide-opened eyes followed the Captain as he sought with the tenderness of a father to give his audience a brief glimpse in Spain about Grenada together with all its diversified interests, its population and their customs; Naples with its almost incredible museum; the Palentine Hills; the ruins of Pompii; concluding with the Panthenon and the extirpation of paganism. It might seem to some who were not present that the last of the series would have been more appropriate or in better form, had it been used as the first; but it was apparent to the observing, as the Captain progressed, that he was opening up to a new field of thought, e'er he approached the special object in view. The plan was admirable in all its features, and, as an educating principle could not fail of its purpose. Large numbers of the inhabitants along those banks dwell in very inferior hovels, and subsist very much on dried grapes, which he says are exceedingly palatable. Hurrying along up to Naples, the narrative and views as exhibited shows it to be one of the most beautiful. For fourteen miles it stretches out along the sea shore, and has the capacity of docking an immense number of the largest seagoing vessels. Several of its important churches were with spires towering heavenward. The Palentine Hills lay to one side of the city rearing their lofty peaks skyward, while the railroad runs for miles at its base until it reaches the terminus at the city dock.

Capt. Leary took occasion to remark that he had not much ear for music nor foot for dancing, but near his door at one of the hotels, he heard several spaniards (men and women) indulging in the song, and he thought it the sweetest blending of voices that he ever listened to. The museum at this place is fully a quarter of a mile long, with proportionate width, but to estimate its contents is simply out of the question. So we pass on to the ruins of Pompii. Oh the once wonderful grandeur! Shown us imperfectly as the Captain stated, yet with his description these excavations are wonderful. Vast structures were reared in the long, long ago, with every possible lavish of taste and expenditure. Everything about the place and places as per exhibits was in its day grand in all points. The Captain put upon the canvas a most elegant and massive structure, designed no doubt by the very best talent the then known world could produce (an Egyptian may be). Standing in a niche of this palatial structure were six men, one of whom was our mutual white haired and white bearded friend. A lady who sat beside us remarked, why that is Capt. Leary. This son of Kent, thirsting for knowledge, always bears the impress of deep thought on the brow, and has so far outstripped the many, that he is now capable of translating a definite knowledge to future generations.

Not Likely to Be Disappointed.

An inquisitive person passing along a country road stopped to talk with a farmer hoeing corn.

"Your corn is small," said the inquisitive person.

"Yes. I planted that kind," replied the farmer.

"It looks yellow."

"I planted yellow corn."

"I don't think you'll get more than a half a crop."

"Don't expect to—I planted it on shares."

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Hair Cutting and Shaving a Luxury!

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f8-3m. R. W. BARNETT.

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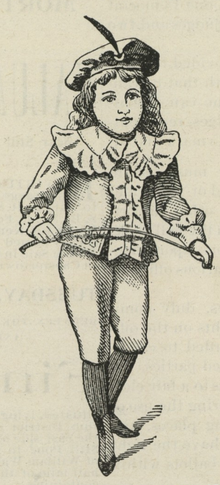

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