

A Holy Week at Rome

By W. W. STONE.

"Well, Dewey, anything new in Naples?"

"Big, bluff old Admiral Goldsborough was slowly pacing the quarter-deck of the flagship."

Lieut. Commander George Dewey had been on a flying visit ashore to see the American Consul. The Admiral was confined, temporarily, on board of the Colorado by an attack of rheumatism, and greeted our Executive Officer with the above exclamation.

"Yes, Admiral," Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, has arrived in Naples, on his way to Rome, and sends his kindly greetings. He starts on the morning train, and, therefore, regrets he cannot come aboard to see you."

"So, then, we shall have good company on our journey," said the Admiral.

"Do you think you will be able to start tomorrow?" asked Dewey.

"I certainly shall," returned the Admiral.

"The Governor tells me that he hears from very reliable source that King William of Prussia is about to declare war against the French Emperor," said Dewey. "Good!" exclaimed the Admiral, "I am lumbering back to his cabin. Then we shall see you ahead, depend upon it."

Several of the wardrobe officers were attracted to the quarter-deck by the news.

"So," said Fleet Paymaster John S. Cunningham, in his soft, velvety tone, "the Eagles have got to clawing at last, eh?"

"I do not believe that the time has yet come for open hostilities," said Dewey, intently.

"And why not, pray?" asked Cunningham, in a surprised tone.

"Bismarck is a statesman first and then a soldier. He will not strike until fully prepared. Once ready, he will strike like a flash; the thunder will come after."

"Come, come," exclaimed Cunningham, "Bismarck, you do not put Bismarck in the same class as Louis Napoleon for diplomatic, surely."

"No," returned Dewey, slowly, "I do not. The Emperor of France is a politician, not a statesman. Bismarck has already proved himself more than a match for Louis Napoleon."

"How in the name of the gods do you make that out?" asked the Paymaster.

"Has Bismarck not formed a North German Federation, with Prussia as the dominating element? Has he not thwarted Napoleon's scheme of annexing to his life a South German Empire, antagonistic to Prussia? Has he not drawn Italy to his support? I tell you, you and I will like to see the day when William II. will be Emperor of Germany."

"Tut, tut," exclaimed Cunningham, impatiently, "so far Bismarck has been favored by circumstances."

"Tut, tut," said Dewey, smilingly, "minds like Bismarck's force circumstances."

The discussion thus commenced was terminated that afternoon at the wardrobe room.

"Louis Napoleon," Dewey was saying, "dreams of becoming a modern Charlemagne. He has the ambition of that remarkable hero, and he has the means to accomplish it. He is a Napoleon, and he will spread his eagle wings over the world."

"Yes," said John Crittenden Watson, "there is a wide difference between the aggressive course of Charlemagne and the reactionary manipulations of the French Emperor."

"That's right," answered Dewey, "Napoleon is a soldier, looking in his den and spreading his net. Bismarck is a statesman, and he will catch the fish, but he will not spread the net. Napoleon's nature is to attack in detail."

"Ah, yes," broke in Lieut. Charles Craven, drawingly, "there's where the eagle will get him—in detail."

This really broke up the discussion.

"The absence of Mr. Dewey from the ship gave me a much desired opportunity," Bismarck left I obtained permission to spend Holy Week in Rome.

"I am going to Rome for the first time, paying the way for the convocation of the Ecumenical Council that two years thereafter decided in favor of Pagan infidelity. I went to Rome to see the world, and to see the world in the light of the old world."

"As fortune would, I had a very agreeable companion," Hans Muller, a thoroughly Bavarian, and a member of the Admiral's band, had introduced me to Herr Franz Schmidt, a German artist, resident of Rome.

Herr Schmidt had been making a professional visit to Naples, and, happily for me, returned on the same train that carried me to the Eternal City.

Franz's artistic temperament served to make the trip a delightful one. He pointed out historical spots as we flew through the dusty air, and he pointed out the ruins of ancient Volturnus; past the crumbling palaces of Nero and Augustus, and the Tarquins; alongside of silver streams whose crystal waters mirrored the intense blue Italian skies; across the Campagna with its broad fields of tender grain; bringing up in the Roman depot near the Appian Way.

A short distance out of Rome you come to the ruins of ancient viaducts that stand, like hoary veterans, on guard duty over the genius of a great past.

"Look," said I, enthusiastically, "there are the finger-posts of Rome; not so?"

"Yes," answered Franz, smilingly, "they are that, and more, too. They are the substance in time's endless highway, marking the passage of the swiftly-passing years."

We arrived in Rome about sunset and Franz obligingly took me in a cab, hunting for shelter. Hotels, annexes, lodging houses, all were filled to overflowing, and it was midnight before I succeeded in securing a comfortable suite of rooms on a side street, a few doors from the Corso, for the sum of 25 francs a night.

The great thoroughfare of Rome was still ablaze with light and alive with curious thousands, but I was too tired to venture out, so, bidding my friend good-night, I was soon fast asleep, oblivious of the fact that you grim Colosseum threw its solemn shadows almost into my window.

"Can there be such a thing as ghosts? No, for, keyed up as I was, I had then, in my dreams, at least, the tears and mangled limbs, and heard the groans and sighs of those who died in that blood-washed arena, in the mad attempt to crush out truth."

Easter Sunday, April 21, 1897.—Franz Schmidt and I started early in the morning for St. Peter's, in order to get a good position where might be seen the grand ceremony of Pontifical High Mass.

I had been over the old Roman Forum and through St. Luke's Academy; I had wandered about the Colosseum by daylight and moonlight; I had seen, at the cost of a big fee, the saintly image of the Santissimo Bambino, in the Cathedral of Santa Coeli; I had dived down into the Catacombs of St. Cecilia, and had scented the sweet incense of a distant mountain; and for a spiritual bath in the waters of this Roman Sileas.

We were standing near the entrance to the Sistine Chapel, looking at a piece of sculpture, when Franz caught his breath and whispered to himself rather than to me:

"Ah, my American beauty!"

I looked, and saw a tall, slim, graceful young lady dressed in conventional black.

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Cures Weak Men Free

Send Name and Address To-day--You Can Have It Free and be Strong and Vigorous for Life.

INSURES LOVE AND A HAPPY HOME.

"Do you know, Cousin John," said the girl, as she bent over the steps of the grand plaza, "I have a presentiment that something is about to happen. I feel as if I had been floating for ages in a dense fog, but that just a little way ahead the sun is shining bright and clear."

"Well, well, my dear girl," said Bell, smilingly, "let us get quickly out into the material sunshine, hoping that the benevolent fate which has been waiting for you at that peace and one-time serenity so comforting to dearest friends."

Miss Ethelred gave Bell a searching look.

"Do you really believe, Cousin John, that, that?"

"Now, my dear girl, don't insist on my being any, psychical stunts; let us be responsive to every good fortune and shape our belief on what we feel."

The girl sighed.

By this time we had reached the center of the grand square. I secured a good position for sight-seeing on the steps of an obelisk in the center of the square. Here we could view the multitude, numbering possibly 100,000, a motley crowd it was. Dominican, Franciscan, Capuchin, Carmelite monks, in somber garb, with cowls and hood, girle and cord; monk-like nuns; solemn priests, and garbulous peasants; here a course-prond Prince with a mendicant friar for shading, there a haughty nobleman towering by the side of a cringing beggar; all were there in this Jubilee of Nations, doing their part in some cases, unconscious, homage, to the influence of the one old man who on that day held the center of the world's stage.

Twelve o'clock. The guns of St. Angelo commence to roar; the bells of the many cathedrals ring out a merry round; a murmur of distant voices is heard; their courses from their daily toil, and the Pope appears in the balcony above the entrance to St. Peter's. He is borne aloft on his portable throne. He looks very venerable and powerful in his regal robes, but prosaic Franz at my side murmurs in my ear that he has it from the Holy Father himself that the journey in this way is always made in great haste.

The Pope now arose from his seat and advanced to the front. Raising his hands aloft he chanted in his clear, marvellous musical voice, the "Gloria et Ori." At the end of the "Gloria et Ori," the benediction the air was rent with cries of:

"Viva il Papa Pio Nino! Viva il Papa Pio Nino!"

These manifestations of loyal affection seemed to gratify the aged Pontiff very much. He smiled and bowed and waved his hand in the most gracious manner.

The Pope's face, as he came forward, was thrown from the balcony, and the people scrambling for the possession of them like so many school-boys.

During the progress of the benediction the venerable Pontiff, as he came forward, was arrested by a stir in the mass on our left, some yards distant.

Just as the Pope concluded, the head of a very tall Austrian Surgeon was seen, gazing anxiously around, apparently in search of some one. As he swept the densely-crowded field, his eye lighted upon my companion.

With a gleam of joy he beckoned Franz to come to him.

Schmidt courteously raised his hat in acknowledgment and started in the direction indicated. He was some distance in making his way, but his stout shoulders served a good purpose and he was soon at the side of his friend, the Surgeon.

Word was now passed that an elderly gentleman had fainted from fatigue.

"Come," said Mr. Bell to the girl, "let us get away from here, while we may."

"No, Cousin John, I will stay where we are; it may be possible that I may be of some service to the gentleman," answered Miss Ethelred.

"As you please," said Franz, returned Mr. Bell, "but I fear that her ladyship will not approve of my consenting to your remaining, under the circumstances."

The girl's lip curled, a little scornfully. I fear, but she said nothing. Reminded by the maiden's expressed desire to extend aid, I muttered a brief apology and started to join my friend.

I attempted to pass my way through a crowd of curious tourists and beheld helplessly upon the arm of a handsome young athlete of distinguished appearance, but rather unkempt, and of a somewhat awkward build.

The old gentleman was evidently of a military family. When in robust condition he could, in appearance, at least, have borne the position of Marshal of France.

"He must be taken at once to the foot of your obelisk, where he can get good rest," the Austrian was saying to Franz.

"If you will kindly lend my father to you, said the young man, speaking in French, "I will run and get him a cup of water from the fountain."

Franz and I immediately placed ourselves, one on each side of the old gentleman, and assisted him to walk. The Austrian went ahead and cleared a passage.

As soon as he had been relieved, the young man dived into his coat pocket and drew out a tourist cup and rushed off in the direction of one of the fountains playing near the Colosseum.

We led the invalid to the obelisk and made him sit down on the upper step. Miss Ethelred had seen us coming up and

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"Do you know, Cousin John," said the girl, as she bent over the steps of the grand plaza, "I have a presentiment that something is about to happen. I feel as if I had been floating for ages in a dense fog, but that just a little way ahead the sun is shining bright and clear."

"Well, well, my dear girl," said Bell, smilingly, "let us get quickly out into the material sunshine, hoping that the benevolent fate which has been waiting for you at that peace and one-time serenity so comforting to dearest friends."

Miss Ethelred gave Bell a searching look.

"Do you really believe, Cousin John, that, that?"

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