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#### Notes on a Continental Tour

Written for The Standard by Mrs. W. L. McFarland LETTER NO. 8.

me to Naples is a ride for the white villas with their redon miles. The country tiled roofs. Oleander and magnolia which we passed was trees filled the soft, warm air with barren except where was the home of and birthplace of was used, and there the Tasso, and in it the late Marion the range, the lemon, and Crawford lived and wrote his many alive trees flourished in an stories of Italian life and romance. andance of exquisite foliage, We saw his picturesque home sitmers and fruit. The trees were uated on the edge of the cliff overstooned with grape vines and hanging the water meyar's covered the slopes of the balconies with stately pillars and ornate railings were cut out of the

te rode for miles in sight of the rock cliff down to the sea level. A few miles out in the Mediterranean Sea lies the charming Island wetch across the undulating Cam- of Capri, composed of two mounand in a series of arches, some tain masses separated from each them crumbling and broken, other by a ravine like depression. The mountains are covered with state of preservation. All trees and foliage, and the runs of iong the way nut-brown women the palace of the Emperor Tiberius sere toiling in the irrigated fields stands on one of the summits. Here ating the tops off the ripened the Emperor, when tired of ruling ain, or hewing great blocks of the world, retired to indulge in the some from the quarries or doing most infamous vices. The little work of beasts of burden. Little village of Capri, the home of fisher morely packed towns and old mili- men and coral gatherers, is situatare forts crowned the peaks of the ed on the shelving rocks and teredurcless hills. In the distance races of one of the mountain sides could see the crater of Mount We climbed up the steep, rocky issuins with its thin cloud of path to a sheltered vine-covered moke and steam hovering over it, terrace where we had lunch. D an in a short time we arrived in rectly below us the deep blue wat ers rolled in sunny billows on the the greatest sea-port town on silver sands, where naked children scrambled about picking up, sea-Naples has a population of over weed and coral, or waded into the all a million, and is superbly situ- warm sea, diving from the rocks; ol in the amphitherical slopes of and swimming about like fish the hills sheltering it from the Away in the distance Mount Ve and winds. It encircles the beau suvius was sending up great clouds and blue waters of the lovely Bay of smoke, steam and lava, the large Naples. The wonderful beauty of est eruption since the disastrous

s surroundings and the delicious one four years before. To the west of the village is the celebrated Blue Grotto, a remarkable cavern, We drove through miles of streets entered from the sea by a narrow paved with stone and lava blocks. opening not larger than three feet In the older section of the city the As the steamer neared the cave sreets are narrow and the houses llozens of fishermen row boats darted from the diff strings of peppers, and tomatoes! surrounded the

rying in the sun and dust. Great and we were rowed into the most striking features of this had been hewn from sapphire, the orchards and fine gardens. opalescent shades and coloring. The wide crater thin clouds of smoke ing in the thoroughfares where an indigo blue water is as clear as come forth. A railroad runs nearly mess of throng of vendors, pur-crystal, and the star fish and shells to the top, from which mules carry on the bottom, fathoms below, the passengers the rest of the way.

The passengers the rest of the way. strike them through the tiny open-

ter no with their odd-looking Another trip was to the Silent millong two-wheeled carts City - Pompeii, which was buried we neared the sea the trees and which are hitched a horse, donan ox. Herds of goats beneath the volcanic ashes and lava foliage took on a deeper tinge of to house to house of Vesuvius over 1800 years ago. green, as if touched by a magic have are milked for their Through the centuries this city lay wand. The hot, dusty air was stoners, and cobblers, tinkers and buried until by accident its loc ity filled with the moist fragrance of risms of all classes were working was discovered, and for the last the sea breezes, and passing over the trades on the streets. The fifty years excavations have been the iron bridge two miles in length transport the structures, shrill conflicting made until nearly the whole city is which spans the marshes and maze palaces of the old republic, and the chanted city of Italy.

The structure of the unearthed and we have an exact of islands from the mainland, to east side is occupied by St Mark's masses, whose sole abode exhibition of the old Roman life. "Where Venice sat in state, Church built in the 11th century throned on her hundred is les." It is built in the shape of a Greek and streets, was quite be narrow streets crossing one another It is such a delightful surprise to at right angles. It was a city of leave the dusty, noisy train and cross and covered with right colits be utiful Quay, a fine broad were destroyed in the terrible dis street of water, beyond where no avenue running along the bay in a aster which overwhelmed it. The rumbling, clattering cab or omnicursed course of over three miles, houses are plain, two stories high bus met us, but a long, graceful more than fulfills the highest ex and built right to the street. The gondola glided noiselessly up to pectations. A row of palaces and roofs and woodwork are all gone the steps where we stood, and stepthe levely grounds of Villa Reale being destroyed by the lava, but ping into it we were borne over the filles with fountains and groups of the contents have been perfectly water streets, under arched bridges, statuary, amid the acacia, myrtle preserved. In all departments of to our hotel Not a sound is heard and meander groves, lines one side social, domestic and public life, of in this strange city save that of of the beautiful street. It is here their worship, of their amusements, rippling water and human voices. also that the great palatial hotels of their arts, and of their mercan It seems a most remarkable place are built. Splendid and luxurious tile life we could see an exact rep to choose for a city site, but so modern villas with lovely gardens resentation. Pompeii was a favor haunted and persecuted were the tise or up on the slopes of the ite resort for wealthy Romans and Venecians that after the devestahills From our hotel balcony we here they lived in great luxury and

tould look out over the shimmering pomp. It was a large sea-port blue waters of the beautiful bay town, and through its sea-gate enwith its curving shore dotted with tened the merchandise of the world. white villas and little villages. It was through this gate we entered Twenty miles distant Vesuvius the city of the dead. The museum with her, smoking cone towered was the first building we visited, and in it are the bodies of many There are not many great found in the different attitudes. of attractions in Naples, but its flight; one young girl still work on surroundings abound in places of her finger a ring of gold set with a surpassing interest, some of them precious stone. All kinds of houseimmortalized by Virgil in his great hold furnishings, decorations and even the pastry cakes and loaves of One of the most delightful excur- bread taken from the ovens of the sions from Naples was to Sorrento bakers; their clothing, jewellery, and the Island of Capri. We' were money, statuary, paintings and the taken in small boats from the steps articles from the toilet table, rouge

of the Quay out to the steamer pots, cosmetics, mirrors, and many canals run in all directions. The anchored in the bay, where half-articles of personal adornment. Grand Canal winds its tortuous haked men and boys were diving in can be seen here. Then course through the city in the form the clear blue water for the coins we walked up through the of the letter S, and divides the city the passengers threw over-board narrow, stone paved streets where in two unequal parts and is the Overhead the sky was clear and the chariot wheels had made deep main thoroughfare for traffic and blue, but nothing could describe the ruts. Great fountains stand on the pleasure. In Venice canals are the depth of the blue of the sea street corners where the slaves streets, and gondolas are the carthrough which the ship ploughed came to fill their water-jars, and it riages. The canals are lined with her way. Around us in a half circle was the overflow from these foun white marble palaces which rise swept, the shore dotted with vil- tains that continually flushed the vision-like from the sea. lages and little towns. Sorrento streets which are only 14 to 20 feet can be had to all parts of the city labyrinth of watery streets in was the first stop, and very beau- wide. We could follow every detail by land across arched bridges, of tiful indeed is the picturesque little of their lives as we passed along which there are 400, and along ornate white palaces. From the town rising on a rocky cliff high through the business streets with winding lanes, no wider in many lattices twinkling lights cast dancover the sea. The soft, rounded their bake shops and ovens, wine places than the length of an um- ing reflections on the rippling waves hills covered with pomegranate, stores with deep crocks set in brella. There are three large stone and as the light of day faded the orange, lemon, cypress and fig marble counters, the shops of the paved squares in which are the outline of the towers and churches trees made a charming background barber, grocer and perfumer with great cisterns used to supply water stood out against the deep, dark

their owner's name and occupation above the doors. through the vestibules with their arms, such as a dog, a bear, lion or "salve," etcl, embedded in the mosaic flooring, into the court yards with their fountains, statuary, ed by the living rooms of the house such as dining room kitchen, bed rooms, etc., and saw their painted | walls and frescoes still bright in color and perfect in

design. Then the vast, beautiful bath with their luxurious appointments. tepid chambers with hypocausts for hot and caleducts in the walls for cold air; and the great swimming baths, shower and plunge baths for public and private use. The system of plumbing found in these ruins of Pompeii is the same as that which is being used to-day.

We entered the temples of the ods where the smoke-stained tars stand, and we could see th secret openings behind the image of the god, through which the priest

spoke his oracles. We sat in the great theatres and looked down on the stage, corridors, and tiers of marble seats where great audiences once sat and razed on strange and awful sights. from the distance softly came the sound of pick and shovel, and the words of command of those directing the work of excavation. Every day reveals some new disclosure and while we were in this silent city, brought from its grave of centuries, the large gorgeous tomb of

wealthy Roman was unearthed. It certainly is a strange experience to walk through this longburied city with its little shops like those seen in Naples to-day, courts of justice, with cells prisoners, its temples with their shrines and images, and the public places where election placands still

adorn the walls. From Pompeii we took train, passing through the districts where four years ago the brown lava had flowed down over the fertile flelds and destroyed land and houses in its progress.

Vesuvius is about ten miles fron Pompeii, and is a mountain about three or four thousand high, and a celebrated volcano. vessel jestically from the plain of pania, The slopes, where the lava washing hung across the the cavern which is marvellously beds have degenerated into fertile beautiful. The walls look as if they soil, are covered with fruitful reflection on them, from the danc-e publicity in, which life is passed. ing waves, brings out a myriad of numerous fissures, and from the

> Naples over brown, sun-burned plains and parched lands to Venice, "The Queen of the Adriadic." As

tion of their city by the Huns in the 4th century, they left the mainland and sought protection amid the cluster of marshy islets on this fringe of the Adriatic Sea. Here they prospered and extended their

commerce and conquests until the "City of Palaces, Venice, once enthroned a queen mid fence of Secure,

flashing waters, Whom East and West with rival homage owned wealthy mother with fair, trooping daughters."

The city is built on numerous marshy islands through which Access McFarland & Combany MARKDALE

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est of these squares is that of St. land and sea. Silently we Mark's, being the great centre of out into the broad canal east side is occupied by St Mark's

It is built in the shape of a Greek cross and covered with righly colover the transcepts. Over the entrance glow the bronze steeds given to Venice by Dandalo. In the vast shadowy interior the roof is sheeted with gold and austere mosaics cover the walls. The carved work is profuse and exquisite, and the whole cathedral is an example of the delicate colored architecture of

Near the church is the far-famed Palace of the Doges, filled with stately halls, council chambers, and hanquet rooms. In one of the picture galleries hangs the largest painting in the world, Tintorettos' Paradise." But

"the long file Of her dead Doges are declined to dust \ .

But where they dwelt, the vast sumptuous pile Bespeaks the pageant of their splendid trust; Their sceptre broken, their sword

in rust Have yielded to the stranger; empty halls, Thin streets and foreign aspects,

such as must Too oft remind her who and what inthrals Have flung a desolate doud o'er Venice' lovely walls."

The Bridge of Sighs connects the Palace with the prison, in which we saw the dark, damp dungeons haunted by the memories of their murdered victims.

Our last evening in Venice was spent in a gondola traversing the which were reflected the beautiful

to the people. The largest and fin-sky and long shadows crept over glided where business and amusement. All day stringed instruments and sweetlong cooing pigeons cover the voided singers broke the stillness of square and tamely cluster about the the silent city with their strains of

visitors. In the evenings military music. A delightfully strange bands play such music as we heard experience, more dream than realno other place in Europe. The ity, and it was with a sigh we square is surrounded by marble bade farewell to Venice. the en-

> "Her palaces are crumbling to the shore And music meets not always now

the ear: hose days are gone-but Beauty still is here. States fall, arts fade- but Nature does not die

el of the earth, the manue

the art, antiquity brinty of Ithly, we were pression. Here Christian a carliest triumphs, vet superstition and social his the common conthe great masses of people. be continued.).

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