

conditions improved at once. Even to-day the thriving business carried on by its factories, and the immense exports and imports which pass through its magnificent harbour, continue to draw people to Naples. Dwelling-houses are crowding out the beautiful gardens and groves, while the expansion on the outskirts bids fair soon to connect the pretty chain of small suburbs on the shores of the bay into one huge city.

An Important Manufacturing Centre

Naples is a centre for the manufacture of silks, cottons, and woollens, glass, coral, tortoise-shell, and other art objects, kid gloves, tobacco, olive-oil, soaps, perfumes, chemicals, and macaroni. Machinery, guns, and other objects of steel and iron are growing in importance; and wine is an important export.

But a care-free spirit seems to mark the city's industrial life. The workers from the factories, the pedlars, with shrill cries, pushing their carts in the markets, the mule drivers from the surrounding country bringing in their produce, the fishermen from the neighbouring villages—all mingle together in the streets in a gay and

MODELLED AFTER THE PANTHEON OF ROME



The church of San Francesco di Paolo, viewed from the Piazza del Plebiscito. It is a modern building designed on the lines of the famous Pantheon of Rome.

noisy throng, shouting, waving arms, singing and laughing—all this presents a scene not matched anywhere in the world.

The instinctive love of beauty which is characteristic of the Neapolitans is reflected not only in their picturesque costumes, but in their appreciation of serious art. Naples is filled with museums, theatres, and opera houses, among which is San Carlo, one of the largest opera houses in Europe, where many of the best singers in the world may be heard.

Early a Home of Learning

The cathedral, one of the principal buildings, dates back to 1272, and stands on the spot where were formerly two temples dedicated to Neptune and Apollo. Naples was one of the earliest centres of learning in Europe. Its

university was founded in 1224, while that of its neighbour Salerno, 25 miles to the south-east, dates back to 1150—the oldest in Europe. The National Museum of Naples is one of the most important in the world. In it are housed objects dug up at Pompeii and Herculaneum, and unequalled Greek and Roman relics, as well as collections belonging to the Italian crown, the Farnese group of paintings and sculpture, and 600,000 books, pamphlets, and manuscripts containing many rare historical writings. A big Marine Aquarium contains the largest collection of living sea animals in the world, and its laboratories attract zoologists from all parts of the globe.

An Ancient Greek Settlement

Naples was an old Greek settlement (called *Neapolis*, "the New City"), founded about 450 B.C., when southern Italy and Sicily were styled *Magna Græcia* ("Greater Greece"). The Romans conquered it in 326 B.C., but the Greek language and customs survived down to the days of the Roman Empire. It suffered in the 6th century when the generals of the eastern Emperor Justinian wrested it from the East-Gothic conquerors of Italy. The Normans conquered it about 1130, and it became the capital of the "Kingdom of the Two Sicilies," which these mighty descendants of the Northmen set up in southern Italy. It flourished greatly under the enlightened Frederick II, of the Hohenstaufen house, whose mother was the last of the Norman line. He it was who founded its university, and in his court, where mingled Greek, Saracen, Teutonic, and classical elements, the first stirrings of the Renaissance were manifest. With the Pope's aid, Charles of Anjou was seated on the throne (1266).

Torn by Intrigue and War

For centuries this territory was then the scene of violent intrigue and war. It was continually changing hands, and knew many masters. First one prince and then another struggled for and succeeded in gaining possession of the coveted land. From 1266 until 1494, it was fought over by Angevin and Aragon princes; then the kings of France and Spain alternately took possession, until the latter gained the ascendancy in 1504, ruling the Two Sicilies until 1713. After the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-13), the Two Sicilies passed to the Austrian Hapsburgs, who

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