

Now let us retrace our steps across the city and glance at the mighty Colosseum, or the Flavian Amphitheatre, to give it its Roman name.

It was begun in the year A.D. 72, and took about eight years to build, during which about 12,000 Jews were employed. In this circus gladiatorial combats and great spectacles were

arena would be flooded with water, and naval sham fights would take place.

The Romans of yesterday were a people who delighted in bathing. Public bathing establishments were to be found all over the city. To mention only one of these, the Baths of Caracalla cover more ground than any other ruined building in Rome except the Colosseum.

The building was commenced by the Emperor whose name it bears in A.D. 212. There was accommodation for more than 1,600 bathers at one time. The huge supply of water required was conveyed by the aqueduct Antoine.

These places were used not only for bathing but also for social intercourse and entertainment. Here, while poets recited their works, and Roman youths displayed their athletic powers, their elders walked and chatted in the pleasant shaded gardens or enjoyed the intellectual pleasure of the theatre.

All these forms of entertainment were open to the Roman citizen, be he senator or poor man, for the price of admission was but a small copper coin.

The Appian Way

Just a short excursion outside the massive walls of this great city and one may walk along the Appian Way on the same paving-stones as the ancient Roman drove his chariot. Down this same road St. Peter fled from his persecutors, until he saw the vision of the Christ.

This broad thoroughfare, so intimately associated with the story of early civilization in Europe, is lined with the tombs of illustrious citizens, but eventually we reach the last resting-places of

Christian saints and martyrs. The catacombs are vast systems of galleries that run in every direction for miles, and in some places there are as many as five different levels. Here lived the early Christians who were destined to overthrow the mighty power of pagan Rome, and here many of them died.

And now let us take a somewhat closer view

TEMPLE OF ANTONINUS AND FAUSTINA



One of the temples in the Forum was that of Antoninus and Faustina. It stood on the north side of the Sacra Via, between the Temple of Romulus, on the left, and the Basilica Æmilia, on the right. The Sacra Via was the road that led from the Capitol to the Colosseum.

given, and it was also the scene of many Christian martyrdoms.

The Emperor Hadrian celebrated his birthday here, and made high revel. It is said that no fewer than one hundred lions and a like number of lionesses were slaughtered in a forest of living trees and shrubs which had been specially brought to the Colosseum. At other times the