

ON THE OTHER SIDE.

(Written for THE COURIER by C. Y. Smith.)

No. 11.

As I stood in the Piazza San Marco with my eyes resting first on the gorgeous facade of the Basilica of St. Marks, and then on the beautiful walls of the Doges Palace, I was in doubt which to enter first. But my attention was drawn from the sublime to the ridiculous. A few steps away was a group of small Italian boys, squatted on the pavement. They had circled around an old felt hat, and in it were eight little hop toads. Their purpose seemed to be to divide the eight toads among five boys in equal proportion. This problem in mathematics created quite an interesting discussion in Italian. After the death of one of the boys or three of the toads, I have forgotten which, I began to walk around the Piazza mingling with the pigeons and the nobility.

The square is among the finest in all Europe and certainly the most unique. It is encased in part by a promenade in the shadow of stone pillars which support the beautiful structures above. It is irregular in shape, being 600 feet in length and 200 feet wide on one side and 300 feet wide on the other. The interior is paved with blocks of grey trachyte and white Istrian stone. It reminds me of the interior court of some palatial residence, with shops and cafes in the arcades to give it the appearance of spicy activity. From sunset to midnight the entire Piazza is filled with an animated concourse of pleasure seekers, listening to the music from the military band.

To the left as we face the church we see the Torre dell' Orologio (clock tower) surmounted by two bronze figures, called Moors, which strike the hours of day and night. Two bronze men, they are, life size, each with a sledge hammer in hand, to knock upon the bell a constant reminder of the flight of time.

The top of the Campanile tower, 322 feet in height, gives a magnificent view of the whole city, the Adriatic and the Alps beyond. Looking south the way opens to the grand canal through the Piazzetta; a small square. At its termination is the tall column of St. Theodore, and directly opposite its mate, crested by the winged lion, brought from the Grecian archipelago in 1156.

Between these two columns the public executions took place. A place most convenient, I take it, to bear away the body in a black gondola and consign it to the waters of the Adriatic. It was but the day before when the doomed man crossed the Bridge of Sighs in the rear of the Ducal Palace and entered a dungeon cell to await his farewell of tomorrow.

The Doges or Ducal Palace was originally founded in 800; the present structure dates from 1350. In 1577 a disastrous fire destroyed its principal salons and many works of Bellini, Tintoretto, Titian and others. Entrance to the palace is through the Porta della Carta opening into the grand courtyard. Here we stand at the foot of the Giant's staircase, guarded to the right and left by the colossal statues of Mars and Neptune, by Sansovino.

Upon the landing of this celebrated staircase occurred the coronation of the Doge. The spectacle must have been an imposing one indeed; so gorgeous and magnificent are the surroundings.

'Tis a source of inspiration to walk around these palace halls. Silent now, but still trembling with the echoes of history. The interiors are adorned with wonderful paintings by old artists. The Hall of the Great Council is perhaps the finest interior in all Europe. A marvel in beauty and magnificence. At one end is the "Paradise," by Tintoretto, 84 by 34 feet—the largest oil painting ever executed. The four walls are embellished with paintings illustrating various court scenes of the Doges. Art and skill are rare these days which can produce an equal to the grandeur combined with elegance and beauty found in the interior of the Ducal palace in Venice. Nothing of its kind can be finer than the inner facade of the east wing of the palace, a perfect example of the Renaissance. Antonio Rizzi and Pietro Lombardo may well rest in eternal peace for having executed such a work of art.

One of the most horrible places without the sun's rays is the dungeon cell just back of the palace. We enter a corridor through a massive door and descend by a narrow, dark stairway down, down, down to the thrice cursed Pozzi, dark, damp and dismal. It is unpleasant down here. There is a feeling we may get locked in. A single night here alone might mean death. It is best not to remain, for we have much to see yet in Venice. Up, up up, the

narrow steps we pass through the massive door, cross the bridge, the frame of which is filled with the moans and sighs of the doomed, and pass out into the sunlight of the palace court and rest upon the bronze curb of the well. The change from the awful dungeon darkness to the bright sunlight is most agreeable and refreshing.

The cathedral of St. Marks was founded in the 9th century by Doge Giustiniano Partecipazio. The name of the founder is certainly sufficient to warrant it being an edifice of some beauty.

The church is in the form of a Greek cross, each arm surmounted by a dome. The roof is topped with many spirals and gives to the pile a very oriental appearance. The facade facing the Piazza presents a most gorgeous array of golden arches supported by beautiful marble columns brought from the East. At mid-day, when the sunlight glitters upon it, or at midnight when the lamps give it light, its splendor may be better imagined than described. It is like a picture in fairyland.

On the gallery above the central door stand four bronze horses, beautiful works of art, perhaps by the hand of Praxiteles. In 1797 Napoleon took them to Paris where they adorned the Arc du Carrousel. They were restored to Venice in 1815.

The interior of the church is of exceeding richness, the pavement being of tessellated marble, the supporting columns of beautiful marble and the vaulting of mosaic upon a ground of gold. The mosaics represent scenes from the old testament and do appear to us fearfully and wonderfully made. Some of these decorations of the 13th and 16th century are extremely hideous and even ghastly. I call to mind a head of Christ with intense staring eyes and gaping mouth. Under an arch is the "Creation of the World," and again, The Deluge—mosaics fashioned from small bits of various colored stone, firmly set in the vaulting. On close inspection they appear a mere jangle of color, but distance here lends enchantment. Although some of the mosaics of this wonderful church are monstrous in themselves, yet they appear not out of place, and as a whole, give the interior a most gorgeous air. The marble pavement is undulating in many places, and one is obliged to step with some degree of care or he may stub his toe. Difficulty arises when one becomes seriously interested in the mosaics and attempts to take another step or two to get a different view of the subject.

The high altar stands under a canopy of verd antique supported by four columns of Greek marble. Behind this lies the body of St. Mark. Near by are two transparent alabaster spiral columns said to have come from Solomon's temple. In the treasury is a small crystal vase containing the Saviour's blood, also a fragment of the pillar to which the Saviour was bound, piece of the skull of St. John and a chair said to have been used by St. Mark. These are interesting because you see the very same things in almost every cathedral in Europe.

Just back of the high altar is the Pala d'oro, or alta: piece wrought in enamel and jewels upon plates of gold and silver.

I was fortunate in witnessing the service of high mass held for one who on his death left a large sum of money for the occasion every year. The church was full of people and there must have been some two or three hundred priests taking part in the service. The music was very beautiful, for none can make it like the Italians.

The following instance that occurred in Venice may be interesting. One day I hired a gondolier for an hour or two to go at random over the city, and as we were gliding along a narrow canal, the gondolier asked me: "Are you American?" I replied I was. His face in a smile of pleasure, he drew from his coat pocket a piece of paper and handed it to me. I read as follows as I now remember it: "To whom it may concern. During my stay in Venice I have employed Antonio Orlandini, Gondoliere, Traghetto Danieli No 49, and I have always found him to be very obliging and trustworthy. It gives me pleasure to recommend him to any American whose good fortune it may be to have him serve them."

(Signed) MARK TWAIN.

You may well imagine what a pleasant surprise this was to me and how much it put my mind at ease, for one unconsciously looks upon these water craftsmen of Venice with some trepidation.

When I had finished my ride Antonio handed me his card, and told me he was coming to Chicago to the World's Fair. Sure enough he was there, and when I presented to him his business card of Venice, he was indeed surprised to see

me. He remembered me.

We can't leave Venice without visiting the Venetian glass and lace stores. Their work is simply beautiful.

The Academy of Fine Arts contains a store of remarkable paintings by old masters. Besides others by Bellini, Veronese and Tintoretto, I must not fail to mention "The Assumption of the Virgin" by Titian, one of the twelve great masterpieces.

"Overhead midway in the air, rises the Virgin in the midst of a halo glowing like the vapor of a furnace. Her attitude is athletic, her expression grave, and the low tone of her features comes out in full relief against the flaming brilliancy of the aureole. Venetian art centers in this work, and perhaps reaches its climax." (Taine.)

When the time comes for us to leave behind this curious city—this pearl of the sea—we step into the noiseless gondola with reluctance and paddle down the grand canal, past the palaces of nobles by the home of Lord Byron, under the grand Rialto, through the narrow canal so picturesque. Our farewell to Venice is in silence. We fain would stay a while longer.

MASTER'S SALE.

First Publication May 25.

Docket Q, Number 9.
In the Circuit court of the United States, for the District of Nebraska.
Edwin Darlington, complainant,
vs.
Joseph U. Main, et al, defendants—in
Chancery.

Foreclosure of Mortgage.

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance and by virtue of a decree entered in the above cause on the 5th day of July 1894, I. E. S. Dundy, Jr. Master in Chancery of the circuit court of the United States for the district of Nebraska, will on the 26th day of June 1895 at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of said day at the east door of the Lancaster county court house building in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, state and district of Nebraska, sell at auction for cash the following described property, to wit:

The southwest quarter of section thirty, town 12, range 5, east of the sixth p. m., Lancaster county, Nebraska.

E. S. DUNDY, Jr.,
Master in Chancery.

C. C. FLANSBURG,
Solicitor for Complainant.
June 22

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL.

[First Publication June 15.]

In the County Court of Lancaster county, Nebraska.

The State of Nebraska to H. B. Lowry and Mrs. Harry J. Miller and to any others interested in said matter.

You are hereby notified that an instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of Austie Lowry deceased, is on file in said court, and also a petition praying for the probate of said instrument, and for the appointment of H. B. Lowry as Executor. That on the 6th day of July, 1895, at 9 o'clock A. M., said petition and the proof of the execution of said instrument will be heard, and that if you do not then appear and contest, said Court may Probate and record the same, and grant administration of the estate to H. B. Lowry.

This notice shall be published for three weeks successively in THE COURIER prior to said hearing.

Witness my hand and official seal this 14th day of June 1895.

I. W. LANSING,
County Judge.
July 6.

SHERIFF SALE.

First publication June 1.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of district court of the third judicial district of Nebraska within and for Lancaster county Nebraska in an action wherein Mary M. Reading is plaintiff, and James L. Silvernail et al are defendants, I will at 2 o'clock P. M. on the 2nd day of July A. D. 1895 at the east door of the court house, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to-wit:

Lot number nine (9), in block number three (3) Summerdale Addition to the City of Lincoln, in Lancaster county Nebraska according to the recorded plot thereof.

Given under my hand this 31st day of May A. D. 1895.

June 29. Fred A. Miller, Sheriff.

BLUE RIVER ICE

can only be had from the wagons of

P. H. Cooper.

Telephones 583 and 584.

SHERIFF SALE.

First publication June 8

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of an execution issued by the clerk of the district court of the third judicial district of Nebraska within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein Albert W. Jansen is plaintiff and Lou Wessel, Jr., is defendant, I will at 2 o'clock P. M., on the 9th day of July A. D. 1895, at the east door of the court house in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to-wit:

Lot "A," of Spencers subdivision of lot seven (7) of block three (3) and lot seven of block four (4) in Spencer's addition to Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 31st day of May A. D. 1895.

Fred A. Miller
Sheriff.

July 6.

SHERIFF SALE

(First Publication June 1)

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of the district court of the third judicial district of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county in an action wherein Alexander Lederer and Moses Strauss partners doing business under the firm name and style of Lederer and Strauss, are plaintiffs, and Charles M. Hovey et al are defendants.

I will at two o'clock P. M. on the 2nd day of July, A. D. 1895, at the East door of the court house in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to-wit:

Lot number two (2) in block number four (4) in Cottage Grove addition to the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 31st day of May A. D. 1895.

June 29. Fred A. Miller
Sheriff.

NOTICE OF CHATTEL MORTGAGE SALE.

(First Publication June 8.)

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of two chattel mortgages, dated on the 31st day of May 1895, and duly filed in the office of the County Clerk of Lancaster county Nebraska on the first day of June 1895, and executed by Mrs. J. H. Blair to A. E. Hargreaves, and Stevens and Cochran for the purpose of securing to the said A. E. Hargreaves the sum of \$2850.00 upon her promissory note dated May 31st 1895, and due on demand with ten per cent interest, and upon which there is now due the said sum of \$2850 with interest from date thereof at ten per cent per annum. And for the purpose of securing to the said Stevens and Cochran subject to the above described mortgage to A. E. Hargreaves, the sum of \$500.00 as witnessed by her promissory note dated May 31st, 1895, and due on demand, and on which there is now due the sum of \$500.00 with interest thereon at ten per cent per annum from the date thereof. And default having been made in payment of the sums so agreed to be paid as aforesaid, and the terms and conditions of said mortgages having been broken, and default having been made therein, and no suit or other proceeding at law, having been had for the recovery of the sums so due or any part thereof:

Now, therefore we will sell the property therein described to-wit:

All the certain stock of millinery goods, furnishing goods, and every article in and about said stock of goods, situated at 117 south 11th street in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska. Also all fixtures, furniture, tools, implements, appliances and property of every description used in and about said stock, also also all notes, bills and book accounts due or to become due, at Public Auction at the store room heretofore occupied by said Mrs. J. H. Blair, No. 117 south 11th street, Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, on Saturday, the 29th day of June 1895, at the hour of 2 o'clock in the afternoon. If necessary said sale will be continued from day to day until completed.

A. E. HARGREAVES, STEVENS & COCHRAN,
Lincoln, June 8th, 1895. Mortgagees.
W. Q. BELL, Att'ny, 444 McMurtry Bk.
June 22.