

Marx Hardy Machiavelli Joyce Austen
Defoe Abbot Melville Montaigne Cooper Emerson Hugo
Stoker Wilde Christie Maupassant Haggard Chesterton Molière Eliot Grimm
Garnett Engels Schiller Byron Maupassant Schiller
Goethe Hawthorne Smith Kafka
Cotton Dostoyevsky Dostoyevsky Smith Willis
Baum Henry Kipling Doyle Henry Willis
Leslie Dumas Flaubert Nietzsche Turgenev Balzac
Stockton Vatsyayana Crane
Burroughs Verne
Curtis Tocqueville Gogol Vinci
Homer Tolstoy Whitman Gogol Busch
Darwin Thoreau Twain Plato Scott
Potter Freud Zola Lawrence Dickens Harte
Kant Jowett Stevenson Burton Hesse
Andersen London Descartes Cervantes Voltaire Cooke
Poe Aristotle Wells Bunner Shakespeare Chambers Irving
Richter Chekhov da Shaw Wodehouse
Doré Dante Pushkin Alcott
Swift Chekhov Newton



tredition was established in 2006 by Sandra Latusseck and Soenke Schulz. Based in Hamburg, Germany, tredition offers publishing solutions to authors and publishing houses, combined with worldwide distribution of printed and digital book content. tredition is uniquely positioned to enable authors and publishing houses to create books on their own terms and without conventional manufacturing risks.

For more information please visit: www.tredition.com

TREDITION CLASSICS

This book is part of the TREDITION CLASSICS series. The creators of this series are united by passion for literature and driven by the intention of making all public domain books available in printed format again - worldwide. Most TREDITION CLASSICS titles have been out of print and off the bookstore shelves for decades. At tredition we believe that a great book never goes out of style and that its value is eternal. Several mostly non-profit literature projects provide content to tredition. To support their good work, tredition donates a portion of the proceeds from each sold copy. As a reader of a TREDITION CLASSICS book, you support our mission to save many of the amazing works of world literature from oblivion. See all available books at www.tredition.com.



The content for this book has been graciously provided by Project Gutenberg. Project Gutenberg is a non-profit organization founded by Michael Hart in 1971 at the University of Illinois. The mission of Project Gutenberg is simple: To encourage the creation and distribution of eBooks. Project Gutenberg is the first and largest collection of public domain eBooks.

The Wonders of Pompeii

Marc Monnier

Imprint

This book is part of TREDITION CLASSICS

Author: Marc Monnier

Cover design: Buchgut, Berlin - Germany

Publisher: tredition GmbH, Hamburg - Germany

ISBN: 978-3-8424-8382-8

www.tredition.com

www.tredition.de

Copyright:

The content of this book is sourced from the public domain.

The intention of the TREDITION CLASSICS series is to make world literature in the public domain available in printed format. Literary enthusiasts and organizations, such as Project Gutenberg, worldwide have scanned and digitally edited the original texts. tredition has subsequently formatted and redesigned the content into a modern reading layout. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the exact reproduction of the original format of a particular historic edition. Please also note that no modifications have been made to the spelling, therefore it may differ from the orthography used today.



Recent Excavations made at Pompeii under the Direction of Inspector Fiorelli, in 1860.

THE WONDERS OF POMPEII.

BY

MARC MONNIER.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL FRENCH.

Illustrated Library of Wonders.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Recent Excavations Made at Pompeii in 1860, under the Direction of the Inspector, Signor Fiorelli

The Rubbish Trucks Going up Empty

Clearing out a Narrow Street in Pompeii

Plan of Vesuvius

The Forum

Discovery of Loaves Baked 1800 Years Ago, in the oven of a Baker

Closed House, with a Balcony, Recently Discovered

The Nola Gate at Pompeii

The Herculaneum Gate Restored

The Tepidarium, at the Thermæ

The Atrium of the House of Pansa Restored

Candelabra, Trinkets, and Kitchen Utensils Found at Pompeii

Kitchen Utensils found at Pompeii

Earthenware and Bronze Lamps Found at Pompeii

Collar, Ring, Bracelet, and Ear-rings Found at Pompeii

Peristyle of the House of Quæstor, at Pompeii

The House of Lucretius

The Exædra of the House of the Poet

The Exædra of the House of the Poet—Second View

The Smaller Theatre at Pompeii

The Amphitheatre at Pompeii

Bodies of Pompeians Cast in the Ashes of the Eruption

CONTENTS.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

CONTENTS.

DIALOGUE.

I.

THE EXHUMED CITY.

The Antique Landscape. — The History of Pompeii Before and After its Destruction. — How it was Buried and Exhumed. — Winkelmann as a Prophet. — The Excavations in the Reign of Charles III., of Murat, and of Ferdinand. — The Excavations as they now are. — Signor Fiorelli. — Appearance of the Ruins. — What is and What is not found there.

II.

THE FORUM.

Diomed's Inn. — The Niche of Minerva. — The Appearance and The Monuments of the Forum. — The Antique Temple. — The Pagan ex-Voto Offerings. — The Merchants' City Exchange and the Petty Exchange. — The Pantheon, or was it a Temple, a Slaughter-house, or a Tavern? — The Style of Cooking, and the Form of Religion. — The Temple of Venus. — The Basilica. — The Pg viii Inscriptions of Passers-by upon the Walls. — The Forum Rebuilt.

III.

THE STREET.

The Plan of Pompeii. — The Princely Names of the Houses. — Appearance of the Streets, Pavements, Sidewalks, etc. — The Shops and the Signs. — The Perfumer, the Surgeon, etc. — An

Ancient Manufactory. — Bathing Establishments. — Wine-shops, Disreputable Resorts. — Hanging Balconies, Fountains. — Public Placards: Let us Nominate Battur! Commit no Nuisance! — Religion on the Street.

IV.

THE SUBURBS.

The Custom House. — The Fortifications and the Gates, — The Roman Highways. — The Cemetery of Pompeii. — Funerals: the Procession, the funeral Pyre, the Day of the Dead. — The Tombs and their Inscriptions. — Perpetual Leases. — Burial of the Rich, of Animals, and of the Poor. — The Villas of Diomed and Cicero.

Pg ix V.

THE THERMÆ.

The Hot Baths at Rome. — The Thermæ of Stabiæ. — A Tilt at Sun Dials. — A Complete Bath, as the Ancients Considered It: the Apartments, the Slaves, the Unguents, the Strigillæ. — A Saying of the Emperor Hadrian. — The Baths for Women. — The Reading Room. — The Roman Newspaper. — The Heating-Apparatus.

VI.

THE DWELLINGS.

Paratus and Pansa. — The Atrium and the Peristyle. — The Dwelling Refurnished and Repeopled. — The Slaves, the Kitchen, and the Table. — The Morning Occupations of a Pompeian. — The Toilet of a Pompeian Lady. — A Citizen Supper: the Courses, the Guests. — The Homes of the Poor, and the Palaces of Rome.

VII.

ART IN POMPEII.

The Homes of the Wealthy. — The Triangular Forum and the Temples. — Pompeian Architecture: Its Merits and its Defects. — The Artists of the Little City. — The *Pg x* Paintings here. — Landscapes, Figures, Rope-dancers, Dancing-girls, Centaurs, Gods, Heroes, the *Iliad* Illustrated. — Mosaics. — Statues and Statuettes. — Jewelry. — Carved Glass. — Art and Life.

VIII.

THE THEATRES.

The Arrangement of the Places of Amusement. — Entrance Tickets. — The Velarium, the Orchestra, the Stage. — The Odeon. — The Holconii. — The Side Scenes, the Masks. — The *Atellan* Farces. — The Mimes. — Jugglers, etc. — A Remark of Cicero on the Melodramas. — The Barrack of the Gladiators. — Scratched Inscriptions, Instruments of Torture. — The Pompeian Gladiators. — The Amphitheatre: Hunts, Combats, Butcheries, etc.

IX.

THE ERUPTION.

The Deluge of Ashes. — The Deluge of Fire. — The Flight of the Pompeians. — The Preoccupations of the Pompeian Women. — The Victims: the Family of Diomed; the Sentinel; the Woman Walled up in a Tomb; the Priest of Isis; the Lovers clinging together, etc. — The Skeletons. — The Dead Bodies moulded by Vesuvius.

AN ITINERARY.

DIALOGUE.

(IN A BOOKSTORE AT NAPLES.)

A Traveller (*entering*). – Have you any work on Pompeii?

The Salesman. – Yes; we have several. Here, for instance, is Bulwer's "Last Days of Pompeii."

Traveller. – Too thoroughly romantic.

Salesman. – Well, here are the folios of Mazois.

Traveller. – Too heavy.

Salesman. – Here's Dumas's "Corricolo."

Traveller. – Too light.

Salesman. – How would Nicolini's magnificent work suit you?

Traveller. – Oh! that's too dear.

Salesman. – Here's Commander Aloë's "Guide."

Traveller. – That's too dry.

Salesman. – Neither dry, nor romantic, nor light, nor heavy! What, then, would you have, sir?

Traveller. – A small, portable work; accurate, conscientious, and within everybody's reach.

Salesman. – Ah, sir, we have nothing of that kind; besides, it is impossible to get up such a work.

The Author (*aside*). – Who knows?

THE

WONDERS OF POMPEII.

I.

THE EXHUMED CITY.

The Antique Landscape – The History of Pompeii Before and After its Destruction. – How it was Buried and Exhumed. – Winkelmann as a Prophet. – The Excavations in the Reign of Charles III., of Murat, and of Ferdinand. – The Excavations as they now are. – Signor Fiorelli. – Appearance of the Ruins. – What is and What is not Found There.

A railroad runs from Naples to Pompeii. Are you alone? The trip occupies one hour, and you have just time enough to read what follows, pausing once in a while to glance at Vesuvius and the sea; the clear, bright waters hemmed in by the gentle curve of the promontories; a bluish coast that approaches and becomes green; a green coast that withdraws into the distance and becomes blue; Castellamare looming up, and Naples receding. All these lines and colors existed Pg 14 too at the time when Pompeii was destroyed: the island of Prochyta, the cities of Baiæ, of Bauli, of Neapolis, and of Surrentum bore the names that they retain. Portici was called Herculaneum; Torre dell'Annunziata was called Oplontes; Castellamare, Stabia; Misenum and Minerva designated the two extremities of the gulf. However, Vesuvius was not what it has become; fertile and wooded almost to the summit, covered with orchards and vines, it must have resembled the picturesque heights of Monte San Angelo, toward which we are rolling. The summit alone, honeycombed with caverns and covered with black stones, betrayed to

the learned a volcano "long extinct." It was to blaze out again, however, in a terrible eruption; and, since then, it has constantly flamed and smoked, menacing the ruins it has made and the new cities that brave it, calmly reposing at its feet.

What do you expect to find at Pompeii? At a distance, its antiquity seems enormous, and the word "ruins" awakens colossal conceptions in the excited fancy of the traveller. But, be not self-deceived; that is the first rule in knocking about over the world. Pompeii was a small city of only thirty thousand souls; Pg 15 something like what Geneva was thirty years ago. Like Geneva, too, it was marvellously situated—in the depth of a picturesque valley between mountains shutting in the horizon on one side, at a few steps from the sea and from a streamlet, once a river, which plunges into it—and by its charming site attracted personages of distinction, although it was peopled chiefly with merchants and others in easy circumstances; shrewd, prudent folk, and probably honest and clever enough, as well. The etymologists, after having exhausted, in their lexicons, all the words that chime in sound with Pompeii, have, at length, agreed in deriving the name from a Greek verb which signifies *to send, to transport*, and hence they conclude that many of the Pompeians were engaged in exportation, or perhaps, were emigrants sent from a distance to form a colony. Yet these opinions are but conjectures, and it is useless to dwell on them.

All that can be positively stated is that the city was the entrepôt of the trade of Nola, Nocera, and Atella. Its port was large enough to receive a naval armament, for it sheltered the fleet of P. Cornelius. This port, mentioned by certain authors, has led many to believe Pg 16 that the sea washed the walls of Pompeii, and some guides have even thought they could discover the rings that once held the cables of the galleys. Unfortunately for this idea, at the place which the imagination of some of our contemporaries covered with salt water, there were one day discovered the vestiges of old structures, and it is now conceded that Pompeii, like many other seaside places, had its harbor at a distance. Our little city made no great noise in history. Tacitus and Seneca speak of it as celebrated, but the Italians of all periods have been fond of superlatives. You will find some very old buildings in it, proclaiming an ancient origin, and Oscan inscriptions recalling the antique language of the country. When the Sam-

nites invaded the whole of Campania, as though to deliver it over more easily to Rome, they probably occupied Pompeii, which figured in the second Samnite war, B.C. 310, and which, revolting along with the entire valley of the Sarno from Nocera to Stabiæ, repulsed an incursion of the Romans and drove them back to their vessels. The third Samnite war was, as is well known, a bloody vengeance for this, and Pompeii became Roman. Although the yoke of the con Pg 17querors was not very heavy—the *municipii*, retaining their Senate, their magistrates, their *comitiæ* or councils, and paying a tribute of men only in case of war—the Samnite populations, clinging frantically to the idea of a separate and independent existence, rose twice again in revolt; once just after the battle of Cannæ, when they threw themselves into the arms of Hannibal, and then against Sylla, one hundred and twenty-four years later—facts that prove the tenacity of their resistance. On both occasions Pompeii was retaken, and the second time partly dismantled and occupied by a detachment of soldiers, who did not long remain there. And thus we have the whole history of this little city. The Romans were fond of living there, and Cicero had a residence in the place, to which he frequently refers in his letters. Augustus sent thither a colony which founded the suburb of Augustus Felix, administered by a mayor. The Emperor Claudius also had a villa at Pompeii, and there lost one of his children, who perished by a singular mishap. The imperial lad was amusing himself, as the Neapolitan boys do to this day, by throwing pears up into the air and catching them in his mouth as they fell. One of the fruits Pg 18 choked him by descending too far into his throat. But the Neapolitan youngsters perform the feat with figs, which render it infinitely less dangerous.

We are, then, going to visit a small city subordinate to Rome, much less than Marseilles is to Paris, and a little more so than Geneva is to Berne. Pompeii had almost nothing to do with the Senate or the Emperor. The old tongue—the Oscan—had ceased to be official, and the authorities issued their orders in Latin. The residents of the place were Roman citizens, Rome being recognized as the capital and fatherland. The local legislation was made secondary to Roman legislation. But, excepting these reservations, Pompeii formed a little world, apart, independent, and complete in itself. She had a miniature Senate, composed of decurions; an aristocracy in

epitome, represented by the *Augustales*, answering to knights; and then came her *plebs* or common people. She chose her own pontiffs, convoked the *comitiæ*, promulged municipal laws, regulated military levies, collected taxes; in fine selected her own immediate rulers—her consuls (the *duumvirs* dispensing justice), her *ediles*, her *quæstors*, etc. Hence, it is not a provincial city that we are to Pg 19 survey, but a petty State which had preserved its autonomy within the unity of the Empire, and was, as has been cleverly said, a miniature of Rome.

Another circumstance imparts a peculiar interest to Pompeii. That city, which seemed to have no good luck, had been violently shaken by earthquake in the year B.C. 63. Several temples had toppled down along with the colonnade of the Forum, the great Basilica, and the theatres, without counting the tombs and houses. Nearly every family fled from the place, taking with them their furniture and their statuary; and the Senate hesitated a long time before they allowed the city to be rebuilt and the deserted district to be re-peopled. The Pompeians at last returned; but the *decurions* wished to make the restoration of the place a complete rejuvenation. The columns of the Forum speedily reappeared, but with capitals in the fashion of the day; the Corinthian-Roman order, adopted almost everywhere, changed the style of the monuments; the old shafts covered with stucco were patched up for the new topwork they were to receive, and the *Oscan* inscriptions disappeared. From all this there sprang great blunders in an artistic point of Pg 20 view, but a uniformity and consistency that please those who are fond of monuments and cities of one continuous derivation. Taste loses, but harmony gains thereby, and you pass in review a collective totality of edifices that bear their age upon their fronts, and give a very exact and vivid idea of what a *municeps* a Roman colony must have been in the time of *Vespasian*.

They went to work, then, to rebuild the city, and the undertaking was pushed on quite vigorously, thanks to the contributions of the Pompeians, especially of the functionaries. The temples of Jupiter and of Venus—we adopt the consecrated names—and those of Isis and of Fortune, were already up; the theatres were rising again; the handsome columns of the Forum were ranging themselves under their porticoes; the residences were gay with brilliant paintings;