

of the column feet; the cone at the top, with its urn, are feet; the height of the massy pedestal is feet; there are steps inside; but, continued he, it is really a great pity that this beautiful monument should be in such a confined situation, for in a proper place it would form one of the most striking objects of the kind that architecture is capable of producing. the inscription, it is true, continued dashall, had better be erased, it contains a libel, or more properly a lie, which almost contradicts itself, for no rational being can entertain the notion that the catholics, or indeed any religious sect, could wilfully have perpetrated so horrible a deed as this pillar was intended to impute to them; nor can so much credit be given to human foresight as for it to be concluded that a fire, which broke out in a single house, could upon this, rather than upon other occasions, have extended its ravages in so extraordinary a manner. while we are on the spot we will take a peep at a curious piece of antiquity; not that i am so great a lover of such curiosities, but it would appear almost unpardonable for you to have been in london without seeing london stone. i have heard of it, said tallyho, and if we are near, let us have a view. come on then, said dashall; this same london stone is at present fixed close under the south wall of st. swithins church, cannon street. it has by some been supposed of british origin, a kind of solemn boundary, or some other object probably of a religious nature, which through every change and convulsion of the state has been preserved with reverential care. but this is the very place, said he. bob stared about him with surprise, to discover this curious and apparently valuable relic, without finding it. till at length his cousin directed his attention to the spot, which at present is under a pitching of actium ere the ships arrived, and had already made overtures to octavianus when the emperor came. the veterans who opposed the treachery were hewn down by the wretchs orders, but the brave garrison of the city could not be won over to the monstrous crime. it is due to these men that mark antony still lives and did not come to a miserable end at the hands of his own troops. the twice defeated general a courier brought the news will arrive to night. strangely enough, he will not come to lochias, but to the little palace on the choma. poor, poor queen cried charmian; how did she bear all this in the presence of the defeated candidus and antonys messenger like a heroine. but afterwards her raving did not last long; but the mute, despairing silence ere she had fully recovered her self command she sent us all away, and i have not seen her since. but all the thoughts and feelings which dwell here he pointed to his brow and breast have left their abode and linger with her. i totter from place to place like a soulless body. o charmian what has befallen us where are the days when care and trouble lay buried with the other dead the days and nights when my brain united with that of the queen to transform this desolate earth into the beautiful elysian fields, every day life to a festival, festivals to the very air of olympus what unprecedented scenes of splendour had i not devised for the celebration of the victory, the triumph nay, even the entry into rome whole chests are filled with the sketches, programmes, drawings, and verses. all who handle brush and chisel, compose and execute music, would have lent their aid, and you may believe me the result would have been something which future notwithstanding, the monarch found time to settle all the affairs of the state, and at night to question the stars as to the fate which awaited him and his dominions during all the seasons of the new year now so close at hand. the aspect of the palace at lochias was entirely changed. in the place of the gay little gate house stood a large tent of gorgeous purple stuff, in which the emperors body guard was quartered, and opposite to it another was pitched for victors and messengers. the stables were full of horses. hadrians own horse, borysthenes, which had had too long a rest, pawed and stamped impatiently in a separate stall, and close at hand the emperors retrievers, boar hounds and harriers were housed in hastily contrived yards and kennels. in the wide space of the first court soldiers were encamped, and close under the walls squatted men and women egyptians, greeks and hebrews who desired to offer petitions to the sovereign. chariots drove in and out, litters came and went, chamberlains and other officials hurried hither and thither. the anterooms were crowded with men of the upper classes of the citizens who hoped to be granted audience by the emperor at the proper hour.