



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

From Rome to Naples.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53633](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-53633)

*His urbes arva, et latis Mevania pratis,
Hispellum, et duro monti per saxa recumbens
Narnia, &c.*—————

Sil. It. L. 8.

Since I am got among the Poets, I shall end this chapter with two or three passages out of them, that I have omitted inserting in their proper places.

*Sit cisterna mihi quam vinea malo Ravenna,
Cum possim multo vendere pluris aquam.*

Mar. L. 5.

Lodg'd at *Ravenna*, (water sells so dear)
A cistern to a vineyard I prefer.

*Callidus imposuit nuper mihi caupo Ravenna;
Cum peterem mixtum, vendidit ille merum.*

Id.

By a *Ravenna* vintner once betray'd,
So much for wine and water mix'd I paid;
But when I thought the purchas'd liquor mine,
The rascal fobb'd me off with only wine.

*Stat fucare colus nec Sidone vilior Aucon,
Murice nec Tyrio.*—————

Sil. It. L. 8.

The wool when shaded with *Ancona's* dye,
May with the proudest *Tyrian* purple vie.

Fountain water is still very scarce at *Ravenna*, and was probably much more so, when the sea was within its neighbourhood.

From *ROME* to *NAPLES*.

UPON my arrival at *Rome* I took a view of *St. Peters*, and the *Rotunda*, leaving the rest 'till my return from *Naples*, when I should have time and leisure enough to consider what I saw. *St. Peters* seldom answers expectation at first entering it, but enlarges it self

self on all sides insensibly, and mends upon the eye every moment. The proportions are so very well observed, that nothing appears to an advantage, or distinguishes it self above the rest. It seems neither extremely high, nor long, nor broad, because it is all of them in a just equality. As on the contrary in our *Gothic* cathedrals, the narrowness of the arch makes it rise in height, or run out in length; the lowness often opens it in breadth, or the defectiveness of some other particular makes any single part appear in great perfection. Though every thing in this Church is admirable, the most astonishing part of it is the Cupola. Upon my going to the top of it, I was surpris'd to find that the Dome, which we see in the church, is not the same that one looks upon without doors, the last of them being a kind of case to the other, and the stairs lying betwixt them both, by which one ascends into the ball. Had there been only the outward dome, it would not have shewn it self to an advantage to those that are in the church; or had there only been the inward one, it would scarce have been seen by those that are without; had they both been one solid dome of so great a thickness, the pillars would have been too weak to have supported it. After having survey'd this dome, I went to see the *Rotunda*, which is generally said to have been the model of it. This church is at present so much changed from the ancient *Pantheon*, as *Pliny* has describ'd it, that some have been inclin'd to think it is not the same temple; but the Cavalier *Fontana* has abundantly satisfy'd the world in this particular, and shewn how the ancient figure, and ornaments of the *Pantheon*, have been changed into what they are at present. This Author, who is now esteem'd the best of the *Roman* Architects, has lately written a treatise on *Vespasian's* Amphitheater, which is not yet printed.

After having seen these two master-pieces of modern and ancient architecture, I have often consider'd with my self whether the ordinary figure of the heathen, or that of the christian temples be the most beautiful, and the most capable of magnificence, and cannot forbear thinking the cross figure more proper for such spacious buildings than the *Rotund*. I must confess the eye is better fill'd at first entering the *Rotund*, and takes in the whole beauty and magnificence of the temple at one view. But such as are built in the form of a cross, give us a greater variety of noble prospects. Nor is it easie to conceive a more glorious show in Architecture, than what a man meets with in *St. Peters*, when he stands under the dome. If he looks upward he is astonish'd at the spacious hollow of the cupola, and has a vault on every side of him, that makes

one

one of the beautifullest *Vistas* that the eye can possibly pass through. I know that such as are professed admirers of the ancients, will find abundance of chimerical beauties the Architects themselves never thought of, as one of the most famous of the moderns in that art tells us, the hole in the roof of the *Rotunda* is so admirably contrived, that it makes those who are in the Temple look like Angels, by diffusing the light equally on all sides of them.

In all the old high-ways, that lead from *Rome*, one sees several little ruins on each side of them, that were formerly so many sepulchres; for the ancient *Romans* generally buried their dead near the great roads.

Quorum Flaminia tegitur cinis atque Latina.

Juv. S. 1.

None, but some few of a very extraordinary quality, having been interred within the walls of the city.

Our christian epitaphs, that are to be seen only in churches, or churchyards, begin often with a *Siste Viator*. *Viator precare salutem*, &c. probably in imitation of the old *Roman* inscriptions, that generally addressed themselves to the travellers; as it was impossible for them to enter the city, or to go out of it without passing through one of these melancholy roads, which for a great length was nothing else but a street of funeral monuments.

In my way from *Rome* to *Naples* I found nothing so remarkable as the beauty of the country, and the extreme poverty of its inhabitants. It is indeed an amazing thing to see the present desolation of *Italy*, when one considers what incredible multitudes of people it abounded with during the reigns of the *Roman* Emperors: And notwithstanding the removal of the Imperial seat, the irruptions of the barbarous nations, the civil wars of this country, with the hardships of its several governments, one can scarce imagine how so plentiful a soil should become so miserably unpeopled in comparison of what it once was. We may reckon, by a very moderate computation, more inhabitants in the *Campania* of old *Rome*, than are now in all *Italy*. And if we could number up those prodigious swarms that had settled themselves in every part of this delightful country, I question not but that they would amount to more than can be found, at present, in any six parts of *Europe* of the same extent. This desolation appears no where greater than in the Pope's territories, and yet there are several reasons would make a man expect to see these dominions the best regulated, and most flourishing of any other in *Europe*. Their Prince is generally a man of learning and virtue, mature in years
and

and experience, who has feldom any vanity or pleasure to gratify at his people's expence, and is neither encumbered with wife, children or mistresses; not to mention the supposed sanctity of his character, which obliges him in a more particular manner to consult the good and happiness of mankind. The direction of church and state are lodged entirely in his own hands, so that his government is naturally free from those principles of faction and division which are mixed in the very composition of most others. His subjects are always ready to fall in with his designs, and are more at his disposal than any others of the most absolute government, as they have a greater veneration for his person, and not only court his favour but his blessing. His country is extremely fruitful, and has good havens both for the Adriatick and Mediterranean, which is an advantage peculiar to himself and the *Neapolitans* above the rest of the *Italians*. There is still a benefit the Pope enjoys above all other sovereigns, in drawing great sums out of *Spain*, *Germany*, and other countries that belong to foreign Princes, which one would fancy might be no small ease to his own subjects. We may here add, that there is no place in *Europe* so much frequented by strangers, whether they are such as come out of curiosity, or such who are obliged to attend the court of *Rome* on several occasions, as are many of the Cardinals and Prelates, that bring considerable sums into the Pope's dominions. But notwithstanding all these promising circumstances, and the long peace that has reigned so many years in *Italy*, there is not a more miserable people in *Europe* than the Pope's subjects. His state is thin of inhabitants, and a great part of his soil uncultivated. His subjects are wretchedly poor and idle, and have neither sufficient manufactures, nor traffick to employ them. These ill effects may arise, in a great measure, out of the arbitrariness of the government, but I think they are chiefly to be ascribed to the very genius of the *Roman* catholick religion, which here shews it self in its perfection. It is not strange to find a country half unpeopled, where so great a proportion of the inhabitants of both sexes is tyed under such vows of chastity, and where at the same time an inquisition forbids all recruits out of any other religion. Nor is it less easy to account for the great poverty and want that are to be met with in a country which invites into it such swarms of vagabonds, under the title of Pilgrims, and shurs up in cloisters such an incredible multitude of young and lusty beggars, who, instead of encreasing the common stock by their labour and industry, lye as a dead weight on their fellow subjects, and consume the charity that ought to support the sickly, old and decrepid. The many hospitals, that
are

are every where erected, serve rather to encourage idleness in the people, than to set them at work; not to mention the great riches which lye useles in churches and religious houses, with the multitude of festivals that must never be violated by trade or business. To speak truly, they are here so wholly taken up with mens souls, that they neglect the good of their bodies; and when, to these natural evils in the government and religion, there arises among them an avaritious Pope, who is for making a family, it is no wonder if the people sink under such a complication of distempers. Yet it is to this humour of Nepotism that *Rome* owes its present splendour and magnificence; for it would have been impossible to have furnished out so many glorious palaces with such a profusion of pictures, statues, and the like ornaments, had not the riches of the people at several times fallen into the hands of many different families, and of particular persons; as we may observe, though the bulk of the *Roman* people was more rich and happy in the times of the Commonwealth, the city of *Rome* received all its beauties and embellishments under the Emperors. It is probable the *Campania* of *Rome*, as well as other parts of the Pope's territories, would be cultivated much better than it is, were there not such an exorbitant tax on corn, which makes them plow up only such spots of ground as turn to the most advantage: Whereas were the money to be raised on lands, with an exception to some of the more barren parts, that might be tax-free for a certain term of years, every one would turn his ground to the best account, and in a little time perhaps bring more money into the Pope's treasury.

The greatest pleasure I took in my journey from *Rome* to *Naples* was in seeing the fields, towns and rivers that have been described by so many *Classic* Authors, and have been the scenes of so many great actions; for this whole road is extremely barren of curiosities. It is worth while to have an eye on *Horace's* voyage to *Brundisi*, when one passes this way; for by comparing his several stages, and the road he took, with those that are observed at present, we may have some idea of the changes that have been made in the face of this country since his time. If we may guess at the common travelling of persons of Quality, among the ancient *Romans*, from this Poet's description of his voyage, we may conclude they seldom went above fourteen miles a day over the *Appian* way, which was more used by the Noble *Romans* than any other in *Italy*, as it led to *Naples*, *Baia*, and the most delightful parts of the nation. It is indeed very disagreeable to be carried in haste over this pavement.

Minus

Minus est gravis Appia tardis.

Hor.

Lucan has described the very road from *Anxur* to *Rome*, that *Horace* took from *Rome* to *Anxur*. It is not indeed the ordinary way at present, nor is it marked out by the same places in both Poets.

*Jamque et precipites superaverat Anxuris arces,
Et quâ * Pontinas via dividit uda paludes,
Quâ sublime nemus, Scythica quâ regna Dianæ;
Quâque iter est Latius ad summam fascibus Albam.
Excelsâ de rupe procul jam conspicit urbem.*

L. 3.

He now had conquer'd *Anxur's* steep ascent,
And to *Pontina's* watry marshes went,
A long canal the muddy fenn divides,
And with a clear unfully'd current glides;
Diana's woody realms he next invades,
And crossing through the consecrated shades
Ascends high *Alba*, whence with new delight
He sees the city rising to his sight.

In my way to *Naples* I crossed the two most considerable rivers of the *Campania Felice*, that were formerly called the *Liris* and *Vulturnus*, and are at present the *Garigliano* and *Vulturno*. The first of these rivers has been deservedly celebrated by the *Latin* Poets for the gentleness of its course, as the other for its rapidity and noise.

— *Rura quæ Liris quietâ*

Mordet aquâ, taciturnus amnis.

H. Li. 1. Od. 30.

Liris — *qui fonte quieto*

Dissimulat cursum, et nullo mutabilis imbre

Perstringit tacitas gemmanti gurgite ripas.

Sil. It. L. 4.

— *Miscentem flumina Lirim*

Sulfureum, tacitisque vadis ad littora lapsum

Accolit Arpinas —

Id. L. 8.

Where the smooth streams of *Liris* stray,
And steal insensibly away.

* A Canal, the marks of it still seen.

The warlike *Arpine* borders on the fides
Of the flow *Liris*, that in silence glides,
And in its tainted stream the working sulphur hides.

Vulturinusque rapax —

Cl. de Pr. et Ol. Con.

Vulturinusque celer —

Luc. L. 2. 28.

— *Fluctuque sonorum*

Sil. It. L. 8.

Vulturinum —

The rough *Vulturinus*, furious in its course,
With rapid streams divides the fruitful grounds,
And from afar in hollow murmurs sounds.

The ruins of *Anxur* and old *Capua* mark out the pleasant situation in which those towns formerly stood. The first of them was planted on the mountain, where we now see *Terracina*, and by reason of the breezes that came off the Sea, and the height of its situation, was one of the summer retirements of the ancient *Romans*.

*O nemus, O fontes! solidumque madentis arenæ
Littus, et æquoreis splendidus Anxur aquis!*

Mar. L. 10.

Ye warbling fountains, and ye shady trees,
Where *Anxur* feels the cool refreshing breeze
Blown off the sea, and all the dewy strand
Lyes cover'd with a smooth unfinking sand!

*Anxuris æquorei placidos frontine recessus
Et propius Baias littoreamque domum,
Et quod inhumana Cancro fervente Cicadæ
Non novere, nemus, flumineosque lacus
Dum colui, &c. —*

Id.

On the cool shore, near *Baja's* gentle seats,
I lay retir'd in *Anxur's* soft retreats.
Where silver lakes, with verdant shadows crown'd,
Disperse a grateful chilness all around;
The Grasshopper avoids th'untainted air,
Nor in the midst of summer ventures there.

*Impositum saxis latè candentibus Anxur.
Monte procelloso Murrarum miserat Anxur.*

Hor. S. 5. L. 1.

Sil. It. L. 4.

— *Sco-*

——— *Scopulosi verticis Anxur.*
Capuæ Luxum vide apud

S. It. L. 4.
 Sil. It. L. 11.

Murranus came from *Anxur's* show'ry height,
 With ragged rocks, and stony quarries white;
 Seated on hills—————

I don't know whether it be worth while to take notice that the figures, which are cut in the rock near *Terracina*, encrease still in a decimal proportion as they come nearer the bottom. If one of our voyage-writers, who passed this way more than once, had observed the situation of these figures, he would not have troubled himself with the dissertation that he has made upon them. *Silius Italicus* has given us the names of several towns and rivers in the *Campania Felice*.

Jam verò quos dives opum, quos dives avorum,
Et toto dabat ad bellum Campania tractu;
Ductorum adventum vicinis sedibus Osci
Servabant; Sinuessa tepens, fluctuque sonorum
Vulturnum, quasque evertere silentia, Amyclæ,
Fundique et regnata Lamo Cajeta, domusque
Antiphatae compressa freto, stagnisque palustre
Linternum, et quondam fatorum conscia Cuma,
Illic Nuceria, et Gaurus navalibus apta,
Prole Dicharchæâ multo cum milite Graja
Illic Parthenope, et Peno non pervia Nola.
Alliphe, et Clanio contemptæ semper Acerræ.
Sarrastes etiam populos totasque videres
Sarni mitis opes: illic quos Sulphure pingues
Phlegræi legere sinus, Misenus et ardens
Ore giganteo sedes Ithacesia, Baja,
Non Prochite, non ardentem sortita Tiphæa
Inarime, non antiqui saxosa Telonis
Insula, nec parvis aberat Calatia muris,
Surrentum, et pauper sulci Cerealis Avella,
In primis Capua, heu rebus servare Secundis
Inconsulta modum, et pravo peritura tumore.

L. 8.