

**POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM,
THE BURIED CITIES OF
CAMPANIA: THEIR HISTORY,
THEIR DESTRUCTION, AND THEIR
REMAINS**

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Pompeii and Herculaneum, the Buried Cities of Campania: Their History, Their Destruction, and Their Remains by W. H. Davenport Adams

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DISCOVERY OF BREAD IN AN OVEN AT POMPEII.

POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM, THE BURIED CITIES OF CAMPANIA.

THEIR HISTORY, THEIR DESTRUCTION,
AND THEIR REMAINS.

By W. H. DAVENPORT ADAMS.

" And in an hour of universal mirth,
What time the trump proclaims the festival,
Buries some imperial city, there to sleep
The sleep of ages—till a spade
Disclose the secret, and the eye of day
Glances proudly on the streets, the skeletons;
Each in his place: each in his gay store,
And eager to enjoy !

ROBERTS.

WITH SIXTY-FIVE ENGRAVINGS.

London:
T. NELSON AND SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW,
EDINBURGH; AND NEW YORK.

1831.

preface.



SHAKSPEARE makes Malcolm say of the Thane of Cawdor, that "nothing in his life became him like the leaving it." Of Pompeii it may be said, that nothing in its history is equal in interest to its last scene. The fate of the gay Campanian city has been curious. Some cities have secured enduring fame by their commercial opulence, like Tyre; by their art-wonders, like Athens; by their world-wide power, like Rome; or their gigantic ruins, like Thebes. Of others, scarcely less famous for their wealth and empire, the site is almost forgotten; their very names have almost passed away from the memory of men. But this third-rate provincial town—the "Brighton" or "Scarborough" of the Roman patricians, though less splendid and far less populous than the English watering-places—owes its celebrity to its very destruction. Had it not been overwhelmed by the ashes of Vesuvius, the student, the virtuoso, and the antiquary, would never have been drawn to it as to a

shrine worthy of a pilgrim's homage. As a graceful writer has justly remarked, the terrible mountain, whilst it destroyed, has also saved Pompeii; and in so doing, has saved for us an ever-vivid illustration of ancient Roman life. Hence the imperishable interest which attaches to it; hence its charm for every cultivated mind. The year-long labours of the most assiduous German commentators could never have thrown such an amount of light upon the manners and customs of the Romans, upon the works of the great Latin writers, as has been accomplished by the spade and pickaxe of the excavators of Pompeii. They show us the theatre, the forum, and the temple—the baker's shop, and the gladiator's training-school—the lady's boudoir, and the wealthy patrician's tablinum,—just as they were when the life and motion of the bright city were suddenly arrested, and its annals abruptly closed. What would we not give for a similar illustration of Egyptian or Assyrian manners! How the historian would rejoice if Persepolis, or Palmyra, or Babylon, could in like manner be restored to the light of day!

It is not the object of the present volume to furnish a hand-book to the ruined city. In the works of Gell, Mazois, Fiorelli, Overbeck, Dr. Dyer, and Nicolini, scarcely a detail has been overlooked; the subject is treated with the most exhaustive minuteness and painstaking research.

The writer's intention in the following pages is simply to furnish a general description of its more remarkable objects, that the reader may form a just conception of their value as illustrative of the customs, arts, and domestic economy of the ancients. Then, if so disposed, he may pursue his studies with the assistance of the writers above mentioned. The excellent work on Pompeii in the "Library of Entertaining Knowledge" is now, to a certain extent, obsolete, and no other compendious summary, in a handy and convenient form, is accessible to the general reader. The writer, therefore, believes that there was a want to be supplied; and he trusts he has succeeded in supplying it, by bringing within a moderate compass the results of the discoveries made at Pompeii and Herculaneum up to the present time. And as his volume is designed for the young, he has introduced concise explanations of various points connected with Roman antiquities, when they seemed needful to a clear comprehension of the subject. Thus: in connection with the baths of Pompeii he has briefly described the general arrangements of the Roman Thermae, and in connection with its theatres the mode of construction adopted by the ancient architects. The critic will be pleased to remember, however, that these descriptions have been purposely rendered as plain and unadorned as was consistent with accuracy.

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Lastly, the writer has to acknowledge his obligations to the authorities already quoted, and especially to Overbeck's "Pompeji." Some admirable photographs of noteworthy buildings and objects, accompanied by agreeable descriptions, will be found in Dr. Dyer's "Ruins of Pompeii;" Sir W. Gell's "Pompeiana" is still a standard work; and the coloured lithographic plates in Nicolini's "Le case ed i Monumenti di Pompeii" are remarkable for their accuracy and spirit.

W. H. D. A.