My Vacation in Florence

I was a student at St. Thomas' Hospital and the Easter vacation gave me six weeks to myself. With my clothes in a Gladstone bag and twenty pounds in my pocket, I set out. I was twenty. I went to Genoa and Pisa and then to Florence. Here I took a room in the via Laura, from the window of which I could see the dome of the Cathedral, in the apartment of a widow lady, with a daughter, who offered me board and lodging (after a good deal of haggling) for four lire a day. I was afraid she did not make a very good thing of it, since my appetite was enormous, and I could devour a mountain of macaroni without inconvenience. She had a vineyard in the Tuscan hills, and my recollection was that the Chianti she sold me was the best since I had ever drunk in Italy. Her daughter taught me an Italian lesson every day. She seemed to me then of mature age, but I do not suppose that she was more than twenty-six. She had had troubles, a bitter, heartless, unkind, and revengeful man, who had been killed in Almaviva, and she was converted to virginalism.

It was an understood thing that on her mother's death (a bump, grey-haired, jovial lady) who did not mean to die a day before the dear Lord saw fit) I should not enter upon any religious vows. But she looked forward to this with cheerful. She loved a good laugh. We were very gay at luncheon and dinner. But she took her lessons seriously, and when I was stupid or inattentive, she over the knuckles with a ruler. I should have been inclined to be more of a child if it had not reminded me of the old-fashioned pedagogues I had read of in books and so made me laugh.

I visited the Galatea in many forms and the Uffizi, and the Pitti had a very nice collection of paintings. The last was a triumph.

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Crosswords

ACROSS
1. a nation
2. meeting with somebody for discussion
3. heavy (superlative degree)
4. part of a structure giving support
5. raisin
6. sound made by a snake
7. a kind of insect
8. kingdom
9. row
10. unpleased sound
11. not within

DOWN
12. not placed high or reaching far up
13. hold with the bands

Tokyo Ban on Export of Firecrackers

Tokyo
A spokesman for the Ministry of International Trade and Industry today said the government bans the export of firecrackers strong enough to cause severe bodily injuries.

He said the firecrackers which caused 11 deaths and injuries to more than 30 persons in Singapore the past days were definitely "not of Japanese origin."

He said that the firecrackers exported from Japan are all of "toy" category and "very weak" in explosive power. He added that export is permitted only after each sample is approved by the Ministry. He said cracker balls and toy fireworks are exported from Japan but "it cannot be imagined that they are powerful enough to cause the tragedy reported in Singapore."—United Press.

[註] ban 禁止 ‧ fireworks 烟花 ‧ cause 造成 ‧ origin 來源 ‧ category 種類 ‧ sample 樣本 ‧ fireworks 烟花