

EXCAVATIONS AT OSTIA.—The works now going on at the ancient port of Rome, at the expense of the Papal Government, has recently brought many interesting relics to light. The removal of the ground is in progress at two different points—one where the gate of the town rises in sight of modern Ostia, and the other at a short distance from the Torre Bovacciana. The former site contains the remains of houses rebuilt after the destruction of the town by the barbarians, and the walls therefore contain numerous fragments of old edifices, with inscriptions, marble ornaments, and bas-reliefs, utensils made of bronze, ivory, or clay, &c. Here the continuation of the great leaden conduit, bearing the inscription "Colonorum Coloniae Ostiensis," has been found. On the other site an ample and elegant edifice, almost in perfect preservation, has been laid open. One of the rooms is incrustated with some rare kinds of alabaster; its pavement is in mosaic, executed in stone and enamel, representing flowers and other delicate ornaments. The colours are still perfectly brilliant. In another room there is a Cupid riding on a dolphin, in black and white mosaic; and in a third there are the figures of five athletes of the size of nature, one of whom is in the act of putting on the crown of victory, all executed in white and black mosaic.

---

**THE EXCAVATIONS AT OSTIA.**—A letter from Rome gives some additional details of the excavations going on at Ostia in the Papal States. The more important excavations thus far have been made on the side of the gate which opened on the road which led to Rome. The road of the tombs, which has been entirely freed from rubbish, contains monuments which, from their state of preservation, and from the inscriptions relative to historical personages, are of equal interest with those of Pompeii. The military station is near the gate, and is well preserved; in it has been discovered a marble table, on which the soldiers played at different games when not on duty. Near the gate also is a fountain richly decorated and fed by a large conduit. As the soil is sandy and arid surprise is felt that the site should have been chosen for a fountain. From the gate narrow and winding streets run in different directions. Ostia was built near the sea, though it is now somewhat inland; but on account of the ravages of the barbarians its inhabitants, instead of causing it to spread along the shore, as originally intended, continued building landwards. Excavations have also been made on the side near the sea, and it is there that the veritable Roman remains are most numerous and interesting. Some time ago ruins of what appeared to M. Visconti, director of the excavations, to be the baths built by Antoninus Pius, were discovered, but some authorities considered that he was mistaken. It has now been positively ascertained that the ruins in question are those of the baths. In one of the rooms a mosaic floor has just been brought to light. Its colours are striking, and the design exceedingly pleasing.

## THE PAPAL STATES.

A letter from Rome of the 26th ult. says :—

“ M. de Kisseleff, the Russian Minister to the Holy See, left this morning for Naples, charged, it is said, with a mission from his Court to the King of the Two Sicilies. Yesterday a large party of the French residents here went to Ostia to visit the numerous discoveries made in that old city by means of the excavations ordered by the Pope, and directed by Commander Visconti. The Tiber steamer, attached to the service of the army of occupation, was put into requisition on the occasion. The French Ambassador and the Duchess de Grammont, General and the Countess de Goyon, several members of the diplomatic body, and a select party were at an early hour on board. The first place visited was the port of Fiumicino, and while the company were engaged on shore viewing the different buildings tables were laid out on board, and when the company returned they found a handsome *déjeuner* prepared for them. On reaching Ostia the party again landed, and were conducted by M. Visconti through the excavations; and the greatest surprise was expressed at the complete manner in which the ruins of that once splendid city have been brought to light. The fountains, the public squares, the baths of Antoninus Pius, with their fine mosaics, the statues, and the columns constitute the finest group of ruins that can be possibly conceived. The chateau of Castel Fuzano, with its wood of fir trees, was afterwards visited by the party, after which they returned to Rome, delighted with their excursion. The Princess Del Drago, *née* Massimo, has just died here suddenly. She had been at an evening party, and after returning about midnight she tried on a head-dress which she intended to wear at a ball to be given on the following day by the Duke de Massimo at his villa. Two hours after she was found dead in her room. She had been much distinguished in the highest society at Rome for her beauty and accomplishments.”