

Tecumouch. March 10. 1879

My good Friends

I call my address to you this evening

"Some glances at the domestic life and manners of ancient Rome"; and I have thus entitled it, because in a single Lecture like this I can only take a summary and partial view of so wide a subject, — some glances in short at a few of the more salient and striking features of it, and such as may seem most likely to afford amusement or interest to an assembly like the present.

The period which I have selected in the history of Rome as best fitted for giving us a view of the common life and customs of that celebrated people, is at the end of the Republic and the beginning of the Empire, — a period commencing a little before and reaching a little beyond the beginning of the Christian era. And this particular time is the most appropriate for our purpose, not only because it was one of the most marked periods of Roman greatness, but because we have more abundant information from contemporary authors respecting this than any other time of their history.

I. Dress. The first point to which I will direct your attention shall be the Roman Dress; — and we will begin with

1. The Dress of the men. —

(i) The outer or principal garment, which was called the "Toga", was one peculiar to the Romans, and one on which they prided themselves as much apparently as John Bull does upon his roast-beef and plum-pudding. The honour of wearing this garment is alluded to by one of their greatest poets as second only to the possession of their mighty Empire, "Lords of the world, the toga-wearing race"