

SAN MARINO, THE SMALLEST INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC IN EUROPE.

Few visitors to Italy ever make the excursion from Rimini to San Marino, the smallest independent republic in Europe, although it is one of the most curious places in Italy, if not in Europe, for it has maintained itself as a republic ever since the earliest times of Christianity. San Marino, which has an area of 33 square miles, lies between the provinces of Forli and Pesaro-Urbino, and is thus entirely surrounded by Italian domains. It is situated on part of the eastern spurs of the Apennines. Monte Titano, the central and culminating summit, has three peaks, each surmounted by a castle, as shown in our engraving. The coat of arms of the republic is three feathers, which seem to have been suggested by these rocky summits with their fortresses. The city of San Marino has 1,600 inhabitants out of the 8,000 of the republic. It is one of the most picturesque places in the world, being perched on perpendicular cliffs; and when we look at them we can then understand that the extraordinary mountains and rocks introduced into the backgrounds of the paintings of Perugino, Raphael, and other Umbrian painters were not nightmares, but were really taken from nature. Borgo di San Marino, at the foot of the cliffs, is the commercial center of the republic, and here we first find the money coined by it. A steep path leads up to the picturesque Città, to which we have already referred. From the castle there is a magnificent view of the Adriatic, and even on a clear day the coast of Dalmatia may be seen. It is said that when the mail arrives at Borgo a bell is sounded, and those who live on the cliffs have to descend to get their mail, if they wish it; for, owing to the primitive state of affairs, the postman never ascends the rock.

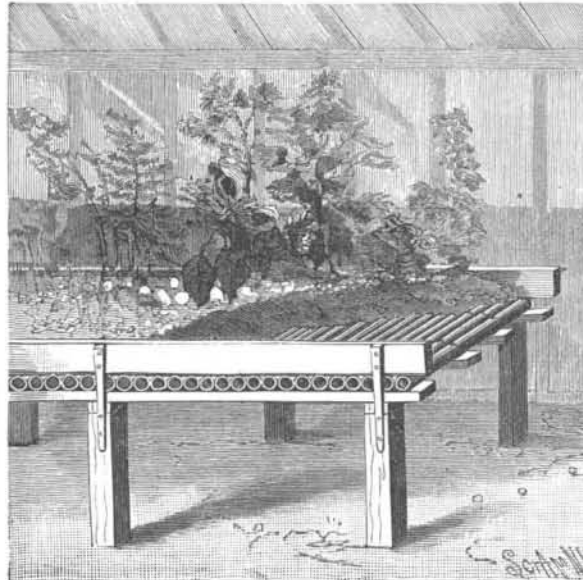
It may well be asked how it is that such an anomaly as the microscopic republic is allowed to exist in the heart of a monarchy. The history of San Marino is an interesting one. The first authentic document dates from 885. The inhabitants purchased territory from neighboring princes and the commonwealth assisted Pope Pius II. (Æneas Sylvius) against the Malatestas of Rimini, and as a reward received three little castles. On the annexation of Urbino to the States of the Church, in 1631, the independence of San Marino was acknowledged. In 1797 Napoleon decided to preserve the small republic, and in 1854 Napoleon III. saved it from the designs of Pius IX. When Italy became unified, San Marino obtained excellent terms.

It is governed by a great council of sixty members, twenty nobles, twenty burgesses, twenty rural landowners, named for life by the council itself. From this body is elected the Council of Twelve, which, with a legal adviser, decides all questions. Two captains-regent, elected every six months, represent the state, which

In order to avoid copyright difficulties, there is no printing press in San Marino. It is a curious fact that the commissary, or judge, and the physician must both be strangers, and they are paid out of the public purse. Such are a few of the curious facts connected with the smallest independent republic in Europe, or the world, for that matter.

A NOVEL USE FOR DRAIN TILES.

Florists and those who are interested in growing flowers can easily make a tiled bench which possesses



DRAIN TILES FOR FLORISTS' BENCHES.

remarkable advantages over the old soil benches, for if the first cost of the tiled bench is from 25 per cent to 30 per cent greater than the wooden bench, it is a great deal cheaper in the end, and the results are more satisfactory. While the drainage is perfect, still the soil will not dry so completely as with the bench with a wooden bottom. The benches rest on posts placed four feet apart; the cross pieces are two by four inches, and the stringers upon which the tiles rest are also two by four inches. The tiles used may be two or three inch, the two inch being slightly preferable, but the three inch covers so much more space for the same amount of cost that they are much more economical. On these benches five inches of soil is placed, as the drainage is so rapid that this depth can be safely used, and depth is considered desirable where the

to make a special flat, hollow tile for florists' use. If made with plenty of sand in the clay to make it porous, it would make a good bench for flowers and would perhaps be more convenient than drain tiles.

Cost of Rare Metals.

The following shows the cost of rare metals per pound, avoirdupois, says The Mining and Scientific Press:

1. Gallium.....	\$68,600 00
2. Vanadium.....	10,780 00
3. Rubidium.....	9,880 00
4. Thorium.....	8,330 00
5. Glucinium.....	5,800 00
6. Calcium.....	4,900 00
7. Lanthanum.....	4,900 00
8. Lithium.....	4,900 00
9. Indium.....	4,410 00
10. Tantalum.....	4,410 00
11. Yttrium.....	4,410 00
12. Didymium.....	4,410 00
13. Strontium.....	4,200 00
14. Arrium.....	3,675 00
15. Erbium.....	3,675 00
16. Ruthenium.....	2,695 00
17. Niobium.....	2,450 00
18. Rhodium.....	2,450 00
19. Barium.....	1,960 00
20. Titanium.....	1,102 00
21. Zirconium.....	1,040 00
22. Osmium.....	1,040 00
23. Uranium.....	980 00
24. Palladium.....	560 00
25. Tellurium.....	490 00
26. Chromium.....	490 00
27. Gold.....	300 00
28. Molybdenum.....	245 00
29. Platinum.....	144 00
30. Thallium.....	122 50
31. Iridium.....	112 00
32. Tungsten.....	86 00
33. Potassium.....	28 00
34. Selenium.....	18 80
35. Cobalt.....	8 00
36. Magnesium.....	4 50
37. Bismuth.....	2 75
38. Sodium.....	2 50
39. Aluminum.....	34
40. Manganese.....	1 10
41. Cadmium.....	1 30
42. Arsenic.....	40

Good Advice.

Life is too short and full of care and sorrows for one to be the cause of adding one feather's weight of trouble to another's load. Will Carleton, the poet, in the "First Settler's Story," we believe it was, makes the old man say, in speaking of his wife, that she used to stand around and boss the job, and by her kind words lifted whole tons. Kind words have the same effect the world over. They lift a fellow out of the slough



THE SMALLEST INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC IN EUROPE—THE THREE FORTRESSES ON THE THREE PEAKS.

has also its home secretary, its minister of foreign affairs, its chancellor of the exchequer, its army of 950 men, and a regular budget. By treaty with Italy, San Marino receives a certain proportion of the Italian customs revenue, but exacts no customs on her borders. She also agrees not to grow tobacco, but is allowed to import tobacco duty free.

drainage is such as to warrant it. The tiles are a trifle over a foot long, three lengths being used on a side bench, five lengths being used on a center bench. Occasionally a few of the tiles are broken in changing the soil, but this breakage is so unfrequent that the expense on this account is insignificant. The demand for tiles for this purpose might induce manufacturers

of despond; they break the stiffened, set features of the worried into a pleasant, hopeful smile. And how much better it is to cultivate the habit of treating everyone as though a time would come when we should lay down the mortal form; and that to leave behind a character and reputation of fairness, truth, and honor is the most enduring of riches.

