POLA 27

Venetian Republic proposed to remove it, stone by stone, and re-erect it on the Lido. Some of its stones did actually get to Venice, and it is said the finely squared blocks of the church of S. Fantin came from Pola.

Pola, the Roman Pietas Julia—though the name Pola is not derived from that (it is a much older local name)—was colonized at the time of the Roman conquest of Istria, in 178 B.C., and is still full of Roman remains. Besides the amphitheatre there is the Porta Gemina, a double gate, as its name implies, with three Corinthian half-columns, one on each side and one between the twin arches. But here there occurs a singular architectural peculiarity, one which, as Freeman remarks, reminds us that we are on the road to Spalato, and which, perhaps, anticipates the development of the "free arch", which finds its first full expression in the peristyle of Diocletian's palace at that place. "The columns carry an entablature, with frieze and cornice, but the architrave is wanting." Is this the beginning of the break-up of the trabeate system? The answer is neither simple nor certain, but it must be borne in mind when the whole question is raised by Diocletian's palace. Then there is the Porta Aurea, or Aurata, in truth not a gate