

At no great distance to the north of Rome lies Civita Castellana, whose cathedral boasts of a respectable antiquity. A fine flight of steps leads up to a porch of fair pretensions, flanked by porticos. The porch opens on to the chief portal by a broad arch resting on pilasters and crowned with an entablature and balcony. The portal is a series of entering pilasters and columns, above the architrave of which is a recess with a fan window. The arched border of this recess, as well as the pilasters, friezes, and wall are worked in mosaic. In the key of the border is the lamb, on the pilasters, the symbols of the Evangelists.¹ The following inscription on the architrave reveals the name of the author:

Laurentius cum Jacobo, filio suo, magistri
doctissimi Romani hoc opus fecerunt.²

Two lateral doors flank the chief portal, and in the lunette of that to the right is a bust figure in mosaic of the Saviour, with a cruciform jewelled nimbus holding a book and stretching out his right hand in the act of benediction. A natural movement and fair contours mark the figure, which has none of the usual grimness or vehemence. The oval head, inclosed by hair falling in a triple wave behind the shoulders, has at least an expression of repose. The chin, broad and bare, is fringed with a short beard, the nose is straight, the mouth small and the eyes without stare. A red tunic with gold borders and jewelled blue cuffs, a gold mantle, complete the dress which is shadowless and flat, but fairly lined. The yellowish flesh tints tend to red on the cheeks and are outlined with red in the lights and black in the shadows. On the architrave below this gay and not unpleasant mosaic are the words:

Tübingen, series of the year
1825) beginning at No. 41.

¹ The architecture of Civita Castellana is purely Roman without a trace of Gothic.

² These two artists worked also at the old church of Falleri, 3 miles

from Civita Castellana, where, according to Karl Witte, is the following inscription:

† Laurentius cum † hoc opus
Jacobo filio suo Quinta vatt.
fecit hoc opus. fieri fecit.

Kunstblatt ub. sup. 1825.
No. 41.