

a layman named Hippolytus, himself a refugee, applied to the Bishop for counsel in a matter which caused him much anxiety. His sister Paulina, and her husband Adrian, both Pagans, who were acquainted with his retreat, used to supply him with provisions by means of their two children, a boy of ten and a girl of thirteen years of age. Hippolytus, grieving that his relatives should continue in their heathen state, applied for advice on the subject, and Stephen counselled him to detain the children on their next visit, so that their alarmed parents might seek them, and thus an opportunity be afforded of explaining the Christian faith. This plan was put in execution, and every persuasion was used by the Bishop to induce the parents to change their religion, but all seemed in vain. In time, however, the result of this effort became apparent in the conversion of the parents and children, who all, together with Stephen and Hippolytus, in the end suffered martyrdom and were buried in the Catacombs. This story is found in all the writers on the subject to which I have had access, and is considered to be genuine.

Under the persecution of Diocletian, it is said that Caius lived eight years in the Catacombs, and at the termination of this long period suffered martyrdom. And Chrysostom, who lived near enough to these times to have heard of some of the incidents that occurred, in one of his addresses alludes to "a noble lady, unaccustomed to privation, trembling in a vault, apprehensive of the capture of her maid, upon whom she depends for her daily food."

Efforts were made from time to time to prevent the Christians from using these cemeteries, as they were called: edicts were issued for this purpose both under Valerian and Maximian, and in vain. To show how constant was the practice of using them, there is an edict of the Emperor Gallienus extant, published at the close of the Valerian persecution, authorizing the Christians to retain the privileges of the Catacombs, or in the language of the edict, "to recover what are called the cemeteries."

Such was the state of Rome in those days—the Pagan triumphing and revelling in his cruelties above ground, and the