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CHRISTIAN EPITAPHS OF THE FIRST SIX CENTURIES.

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THE following article contains the substance of a paper on the funereal inscriptions of the early ages of Christianity, that I read before the Canadian Institute, and, also, of a public lecture that I delivered on the same subject. I have availed myself of the opportunity, presented by its publication, to introduce many additional examples, and to arrange them all in classes. The selection of the inscriptions has been made without any controversial aim, and solely with a view to their forming a useful introduction to the study of Christian Archæology, so far as it is illustrated by the epitaphs of the first six centuries. I have limited myself to those inscriptions, within this period, that bear dates, so that there may be no question as to their age. No example has been given without *examination

* No one, but those conversant with epigraphy, can fully appreciate the necessity for such examination. There are whole classes of inscriptions so justly suspected, that no scholar would accept one of them without the greatest caution; such, for example, are the Spanish, given under the name of Cyriac of Ancona, or on the authority of Morales or Occe, or the Italian, vouched for by Ligorio, a name of