

deprived of burial, the soul perished with it ; and then there could be no triumph after death.

Still, the Christians persevered in claiming the bodies of their dead, and ran no small risks to reclaim them from the indignities cast upon them by pagan hatred. They gathered up reverently the mangled remains of their brethern, and bore them away, if not with pomp, at least with true Christian love, to the place prepared for them within the Catacombs. The more distinguished saints and martyrs were given special honors as regards the size and magnificence of their tombs ; and, as I have already said, some of them gave their name, not only to the crypt wherein they were buried, but also to the little necropolis that sprang up around it. We must bear in mind that the Catacombs were the common burial places of the Christians : not only the saints and martyrs were laid in their silent vaults, but all other as well, whatever their social condition or degree, so long as their sepulchral slab could receive the words *in pace*, by which it was signified that they died in peace, that is, in communion with the Church. Venerating as they did, these unwavering champions of the faith, whose example had encouraged them in so many trials, the faithful Christians desired that in death they might find a resting-place beside them. They endeavoured, therefore, to procure for themselves a burial place as near to them as possible, and in their zeal they sometimes overstepped the