

of the columns of the original edifice. A remarkable confirmation of the tradition as to the time of the erection of the subterranean building has been found in an inscription, on a slab discovered in one of the aisles, which gives the names of the consuls of the year 339. Before I close this reference to the progress of Archaeological researches in "the Eternal City," I must mention that the first volume of the great work by De Rossi on the Christian Inscriptions found at Rome has been published. The whole collection numbers about 11,000, of which 4,000, drawn from the catacombs, are anterior to the time of Constantine, and about 1,250 bear dates.

The labours of the Prussian Commission in Athens have been rewarded<sup>1</sup> by discoveries of singular interest. Prof. Strack had the honor of pointing out the spot where the remains of the Theatre of Dionysius were found, and early in the year the thirteen lowest rows of seats, with two marble thrones in front, were exposed to view. Other important results are expected from the excavations carried on under the superintendence of two other members of this Commission, Profs. Böttiger and Curtius. The enquiries of the former were directed to the Erechtheion and Parthenon, of the latter to the Pnyx.

In France, the researches promoted by the Emperor have been rewarded by the discovery and identification of some localities mentioned by Cæsar in his account of his Gallic wars. The question relative to the points from which Julius Cæsar started, and at which he landed, in his invasion of Britain, has been reconsidered. The first of these has been fixed at Wissant, coorrectly, as seems to me; but others believe either Boulogne or Calais, especially the former, to have stronger claims to identification with the *Portus Itius*. The other point, *scil*, that of his landing, has been placed at Deal, or between Walmer Castle and Sandwich; but on this we may expect more definite information when the report of an English committee appointed to investigate the subject shall have been published.

The excavations, which are proceeding in England, near Wroxeter, the ancient Viroconium, may be expected to yield a considerable number of Roman relics—already some valuable remains have been discovered. The ambitious name, however, which has been given to the place, "the British Pompeii," is likely to raise hopes which will certainly not be realized. Very lately in the north of England, in the line of the Roman Wall, at Benwell, the ancient *Condercum*, two altars have been discovered, the inscriptions on which add another