

"Severus, who had also the name Paschasius, was born on one of the Paschal days, the day before the Nones of April (*i. e.* April 4th), on the day of Jupiter, (Thursday), in the Consulship of Flavius Constantinus and Rufus, most distinguished men (*i. e.* 457 A. D.), who lived six years. He received baptism on the eleventh day before the Calends of May (*i. e.* April 21st), and laid aside his albs at the sepulchre, on the Octave of Easter, on the fourth day before the Calends of May, in the Consulship of Flavius Basilinus, a most distinguished man," *i. e.* 463 A. D.

1. 1. *nomine*. Whether we regard *Severi* as used for *Severus*, or governed by some word understood, it seems certain that *nomine* should be joined to the name following, as in De Rossi's nn. 41, 49, 172, 229, &c. De Rossi remarks: "*Ille, cujus hoc est epitaphium, paterno sive materno cognomine Severus appellatus Paschasii quoque agnomen habuit, quod natus erat anno 457 die Jovis paschali.*" 1. 2. *dies Paschales*. Used for *die Paschali*. These *dies Paschales*, as we know from a law of the Emperor Valentinian, *Cod. Theodos.* ii. 8, 2, were in number 15, 7 before and 7 after Easter-day. *pridie Nonas Apriles die Jovis, i. e.* on Thursday, April the 4th, in Easter week, for in the year 457 A.D. (*scil.* the year in which Constantine and Rufus were Consuls), according to both Roman and Alexandrian calculation, Easter-day was observed on March the 31st. 1. 5. *percepit, i. e. baptisma percepit*, "received baptism." **Percipio* is similarly used in heathen inscriptions, where it is applied to those who had participated in the mystic rites of the *Mater Deum Magna Idæa* or of *Mithras*, known as the † *Taurobolium* and *Criobolium*. Thus we have — *percepto Taurobolio Criobolioque*, in an inscription, given by De Rossi n. 24, of the date

* In some instances, where this verb is used, it is difficult to decide whether the inscription is Christian or Pagan. Thus in Henzen's n. 6147:—*D. M. Murtius Verinus pater Murtie Verine et Murtie Florianeni filibus malemerentibus crudelis pater titulum iscripsit. Verina percepit M. X, vixit annos XII, menses V, Florianes percepit M. XII. vixit annis VIII, M. III. Innocentes acceperunt a suo patre quod ei debuerant*; and in Mommsen's 1. N. n. 3160:—*D. M. Ingeniosæ que vixit annis III, M. V, Dies XXI. Fide percepit mesorum VII. Aur. Fortunius pater filia.* Henzen regards *fide* as used for *fidem*; I am inclined to take it as an adverb.

† The *Taurobolium* and *Criobolium* were respectively sacrifices of a bull and a ram, on the occasion of initiations. The persons who received them (*qui perceperunt*) descended into a deep pit, which was covered over with a wooden platform composed of pierced planks. On this platform the animal was killed, and the persons beneath presented their bodies to receive the blood, as it descended through the holes. The result was believed to be purification that lasted for twenty years, or everlasting regeneration.