

some of the Pagan superstitions. See Mabillon, p. 75, and Morelli, *Stil.* ii. 71, 72. To me it is plain, that whatever difference of opinion may arise as to the exact reading of this inscription to Leopardus, there can be no question that in it his parents asked the *Di Manes*, the Pagan deities of the unseen world after death, to receive with favor their innocent son. Nor can there be any doubt that the inscription is Christian, for this is proved by the use of the terms—*in pacem, cum spirita santa*. On the latter see Epitaph, n. 42; and on the use of Christian terms in Pagan inscriptions, see notes on Epitaphs 49, 88.

(c) Specimen of Palæography:— 93.

(See Plate IV, 1.)

(In Mus. Capitolin.; De Rossi, n. 50.)

Anime (Animæ) innocentî Gaudentiæ, quæ (quæ) vixit annos V, menses VII, dies XXII, in pace. Mercurius pater filiae d (epositæ) 9 idus Novemb. Urso et Polemio coss.

"To an innocent spirit Gaudentia, who lived five years, seven months, twenty-two days, in peace. Her father Mercurius for his daughter buried on the sixth day before the Ides of November, in the Consulship of Ursus and Polemius," *i. e.* November 8th, 338 A.D.

(f) Use of *puer* as applied to persons of mature age:— 94.

VRSO ET POLEMIO CONSS NATVS PVER
NOMINE MERCVRIVS D IIII KAL APRILI
DEPOSITVS VII · KAL · SEPT · QVI VIXIT
ANN · XXIIII · M · VII · DXV · BENEM · INP

(Pisauri; *e coem. Urbis*; De Rossi, n. 49.)

Urso et Polemio Consulibus, natus puer, nomine Mercurius, die IV Kalendas Apriles, depositus VII Kalendas Septembres, qui vixit annos XXIV, menses VII, dies XV, benemerenti in pace.

"In the Consulship of Ursus and Polemius (*i. e.* 338 A.D.) a boy was born by name Mercurius, on the fourth day before the Calends of April (*i. e.* March 29th). Buried on the seventh day before the Calends of September (*i. e.* August 26th), who lived twenty-four years, seven months, fifteen days; to him well deserving in peace."

On first sight of this inscription, it seems strange that a person of twenty-four years of age should be called *puer*, and that he should be said to have been born and buried in the same year. The explanation is that *natus* is used with reference to birth by baptism, estimated by