

in a small crypt of the Catacombs of Priscilla, and belongs to the 2nd century. She is seated with the Divine Infant in her bosom; over his head is a star, and right in front of her and facing towards her, is a man, who is understood to be a prophet, with an open volume in his hand. Perhaps no *fresco* appears so strange, to those who are not acquainted with the symbolism of the Catacombs, as that of a horse running a race, and, at the same time, stretching out to catch in his mouth a piece of bread marked with the sign of the cross.

I have no doubt, the natural desire to know will here be excited in many of you who would wish to ask, 'What, then, does it mean?' Well, all may not agree in interpreting it and, as I said at the outset, the plan of this lecture keeps me aloof from interpretations. I shall therefore merely inform you how archeologists commonly understand it. They say: by the horse we are to understand the Christian in the course of this mortal life. The thought, they add, is taken from St Paul, who, in his 2nd epistle to Timothy (iv. 7), says he has finished his course; and in his 1st to the Corinthians (ix., 24), writes: "Know you not that they that run in the race, all run indeed, but one receiveth the prize?" And the bread marked with the sign of the cross, they tell us, signifies the Eucharistic bread which supports the spiritual life of the Christian in his weary race.

Nowhere in the Catacombs do we find, within the same