

of Refreshment " (*In Refrigerio*), " May God refresh thy spirit," with many more of similar import, might easily be mistaken for mere banalities devoid of any deeper meaning, were it not that now and again the true feeling of Christian hope which really forms the inspiration of these concise formulæ finds means to express itself with somewhat less restraint. Here is one such epitaph, discovered by Mgr. Wilpert in the Catacomb of Priscilla, and assigned by him to the beginning of the third or to the end of the second century. It is therefore almost contemporary with the monument of Abercius. The original is in Latin in rude hexameter verse :

I beg of you, brothers, when you come hither to pray,
And with heartfelt supplications entreat the Father
and the Son,
Let it be in your thoughts to be mindful of dear
Agapé
That God, in His omnipotence, keep Agapé with
Him for ever.¹

Here is another of the third century. The provenance is unknown, but the broken slab containing it is now in the Christian Museum of the Lateran :

To sweet Lucifera my wife all sweetness.
To her husband nought remains but deepest grief;

¹ Wilpert, *Ein Cyclus Christologischer Gemälde*, p. 50.