

well-deserving one, having left your [relations], lie in peace—in sleep—you will arise—a temporary rest is granted you. She lived forty-five years, five months, and thirteen days: buried in peace. Placus, her husband, made this.”†—*Biblical Review*.

#### Population of Imperial Rome.

The population of this celebrated city has been variously estimated. Gibbon reckons it at 1,200,000, Burgress at 1,104,000. Some scholars have placed it as high as six and even eight millions, and one has recently given it as low as 562,000. All these computations, however, appear to be incorrect.

The most recent and important authorities on this subject, nearly coincide in their estimates, which are based on the following particulars:—

1. The known topography of the city. From an official topography of the city now extant, which was made in the fifth century, when the population had much diminished, Rome contained 1,790 houses of the upper class, and 46,602 dwellings of the common citizens. Professor Hoeck supposes that each of the former contained, on an average, six persons of rank and sixty slaves; and the latter, which were very lofty and had many stories, thirty freemen and fifteen slaves. Furthermore, the circuit of the city, in the time of Vespasian, by actual measurement, was thirteen and one-fifth Roman miles.

2. Provision made for the populace at the public shows. The theatre of Balbus had accommodation for 11,510 persons. That of Marcellus held 20,000; the Odeum, 10,600; the Stadium of Domitian, 30,088; the theatre of Pompey, 40,000; that of Scæurus, 80,000; the Colosseum, 100,000; and the Circus Maximus, 260,000.

3. The number of poor citizens who received the monthly allowance of corn distributed by the state. Julius Cæsar found the number 320,000; but reduced it to 150,000, by sending 80,000 to distant colonies, and other means. During the reign of Augustus, the corn-receivers amounted to 200,000. All these belonged to the commonalty of Rome, living within the limits of the city. Senators, knights, foreigners, infants, and females were excluded. Slaves were not included in the number—and these lived in vast numbers in Rome. If Athenæus is to be credited, some Romans possessed 10,000 and 20,000. Pliny tells of a freedman, under Augustus, who left 4,116. Indeed, it was considered as a reproach not to keep a considerable number of slaves.—(Cic. in Pis. 27.)

4. Deaths caused by pestilence. In the reign of Nero, 30,000 deaths were caused by one autumn's pestilence.—(Suet. Ner. 39.) Under Vespasian, 10,000 deaths were for many days entered in the public registers.

These particulars, and others of a similar nature, when compared with the statistics of various cities, ancient and modern, furnish the data from which the statements of recent scholars are drawn. From a careful survey of these facts, the Chevalier Bunsen, in his admirable work on the topography of Rome, thinks that the entire population of the city could not have been much less than two millions. With him, the celebrated scholar, Zumpt, entirely concurs. Professor Hoeck, in his learned work on the later Roman Republic and Empire, gives the population of the city, during the reign of Augustus, at 2,265,000; the free population being 1,325,000, and the slaves 940,000.

Such was Rome when the first Christian church was founded, and when the Apostle Paul was imprisoned within its walls.

† Church in the Catacombs, p. 41.