

PEACE BE TO THE WAYFARERS WHO ARE
MINDFUL OF US.

The word *μνησκομένους*, as M. Cumont¹ remarks, is here clearly employed in a technical sense, being the equivalent of the Latin *meminisse*—i.e., make a memento for us. Other inscriptions belonging to the same part of the world are somewhat later, but they serve to interpret the earlier, and attest the uniformity of the tradition :

PRAY FOR US THAT I MAY FIND MERCY IN THE
JUDGEMENT.²

SPEED YE WELL, O PASSERS-BY, OFFER YOUR
PRAYERS FOR HIM.³

Sepulchral inscriptions are not a satisfactory vehicle for the expression either of deep emotion or of dogmatic belief. The cost, and the material difficulties of execution, even where freedom was less hampered than in the Roman Catacombs, preclude almost all graces of style. The thought can only be expressed in the briefest and simplest words. It is for this reason that in the Catacombs we meet little more in the inscriptions of the second and third centuries than the bare utterance of a wish or a half-dissembled prayer. Such phrases as : " Mayst thou live in God," " In Peace," " In the Place

¹ *Mélanges d'Archéologie et d'Histoire*, vol. xv, p. 264 (1895).

² *Ibid.* and *Μουσείον*, vol. v, p. 42.

³ *Revue des Etudes Grecques*, ii, 32.