

are found in Pagan inscriptions, from which, also, *domus æterna*, although inconsistent with belief in the resurrection, has been inadvertently borrowed. See De Rossi, nn. 159, 173.

VII. THOSE WHICH CONTAIN CYCLIC MARKS OF TIME.

(a) Day of the month, day of the week, and day of the moon without the year :—

86.

BALENTINE QVE VIXIT ANNOS XXXVI
DECESSIT ·VIKAL ·MAR ·DIEBENERIS
LNAXVII.

(In *coem. Priscillæ* ; De Rossi, n. 597.)

Balentine (Valentinæ), *que* (quæ) *vixit annos XXXVI. Decessit VI Kalendas Martias, die Beneris* (Veneris), *luna XVII.*

"To Valentina, who lived thirty-six years. She departed on the sixth day before the Calends of March, Friday, the seventeenth day of the Moon," i. e. February 24th, 411 or 327 A.D.

In this inscription the Consuls are not mentioned ; nor is there any other form of expression for the year used ; and yet the full date may be inferred from what is therein stated. It is plain that it must be a year in which February 24th and the 17th day of the Moon fell on Friday. Marini's comments are :— "*Hujus inscriptionis characteres, si auctor veterem ecclesiæ cyclum annorum LXXXIV sequutus est, pertinere possunt ad annos 327, 411, 495, qui cycli XXX sunt, atque exordiantur die solis luna XXII ; proindeque novilunium Januarii contigit die X, Februarii die VIII, a qua ad VI Kal Martias, seu ad diem XXIV Februarii dies sunt XVII.*"

De Rossi discusses the subject, and shows that the choice lies between 327 and 411, as in 495 the Victorian canon was in use at Rome, according to which we should have had *luna XV*, not *XVII*. Of the two the first, 327, is preferable, as the characteristics of the inscription, i. e. the absence of contractions and the use of the ancient term *decessit*, point to the earlier date.

† This form or *domus æternalis* is unusually common in the epitaphs of *Pomaria* in Algeria. See Renier, n. 456. In different localities, as might be expected, different forms were popular. Thus *pius* often occurs in African, and *carus suis* in Spanish epitaphs.