

ed on his tomb to prove that his parents have not been inspired solely by their deep love for him (*ne adfectibus suis indulsisse videantur*).

The pagan family life is often of much tenderness. An inscription of one of the wealthiest women in Rome, Amia Regilla, describes her as the "light and soul of the house." Her monument is now used as a pig-pen. I have myself seen the sarcophagus of a senator used as a hog-trough.

Contrary to the general impression, there was no attempt at concealment of early Christian tombs. The author gives an engraving of the elegant entrance by the roadside to a catacomb; the very ruins of the architecture are quite impressive. In the excavation of the catacombs he estimates that 96,000,000 cubic feet of solid rock were removed.

The tombs of the martyrs were long the scene of pilgrimages from many lands, and itineraries, English and German, are still extant. A touching epitaph is given of a pilgrim from Thrace, "*cujus nomen Deus scit*," "whose name is known only to God." From the catacombs the best works of glyptic art, the rarest gems, coins, and medallions in European cabinets, have come to light. Our author identifies in an ancient tomb, that of Amplias, "My beloved in the Lord," mentioned by St. Paul, Romans xvi. 8.

On many slabs are outlined the tools of carpenter, mason, shoemaker, wool-comber, and even the forceps of a dentist

grasping a tooth, and the instruments of a surgeon. We have seen in the museum at Naples the very instruments themselves. The teeth of the Romans seldom showed decay, but there are examples of gold-plating and filling, still in excellent condition. An ancient law made it illegal to bury gold with a body except such as was thus used in the teeth.

This book is sumptuously illustrated with remains of pagan and Christian antiquity, including a girl buried in full bridal costume; copies of ancient frescoes and mosaics, including one of the Christian agape or love-feasts, in which the participants surround a table on which is placed a fish. The fish was a symbol of Our Blessed Lord, from the singular fact that the initial letters of the names and titles of Our Lord in Greek—*Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, Θεοῦ Υἱός, Σωτήρ*, Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Saviour—make up the word *ΙΧΘΥΣ*, a fish.

An exquisite ideal figure of Christ as the Good Shepherd, bearing a lamb upon His shoulder, is also given.

This book is a veritable *édition de luxe*, with its red and white and gold binding, its sumptuous printing and illustration. The learned author has devoted many years to exploration of both pagan and Christian Rome. This is a sequel to his companion book on "Ancient Rome in the Light of Recent Discoveries." The illustrations are in the highest style of the art.

THE CURTAIN FALLS.

Over the sorrow and over the bliss
Over the teardrop, over the kiss,
Over the crimes that blotted and blurred,
Over the wound of the angry word,
Over the deeds in weakness done,
Over the battles lost and won.
Now at the end of the flying year,
Year that to-morrow will not be here,
Over our freedom, over our thralls,
In the dark and the midnight, the curtain falls.

Over our gain and over our loss,
Over our crown and over our cross,
Over the fret of our discontent,
Over the ill that we never meant,
Over the scars of our self-denial,

Over the strength that conquered trial,
Now in the end of the flying year
Year that to-morrow will not be here,
Quietly final, the prompter calls;
Over it sweetly the curtain falls.

Over the crowds and the solitudes,
Over our shifting, hurrying moods,
Over the hearths where bright flames
 leap,
Over the cribs where the babies sleep,
Over the clamour, over the strife,
Over the pageantry of life,
Now in the end of the flying year,
Year that to-morrow will not be here,
Swiftly and surely, from starry walls,
Silently downward the curtain falls

Only waiting till the shadows
Are a little longer grown,
Only waiting till the glimmer
Of the day's last beam is flown.

Then from out the gathered darkness
Holy, deathless stars shall rise,
By whose light the soul shall gladly
Tread its pathway to the skies.