

palm-branch, also, were interpreted as having similar significance, but these theories have not stood investigation. The figure in prayer is certainly a proof of Christianity, but the crown and the palm-branch are found on Pagan tomb-stones. See Muratori *Nov. Thesaur.*, 1828, 5, *Antiq. Ital. diss.* LVIII; Raoul Rochette, *Mem. sur les Antiq. Chrét.* p. ii. § 2; Cardinal Mai, *Vet. Script. Nov. Collect.* V, p. 3, n. 1; and De Rossi, n. 30.

No symbol has so far been suggested as a criterion of martyrdom, that has been universally accepted by scholars. And yet there are at present few, if any, who would give their assent to Dodwell's opinions *de paucitate Martyrum*, or to Burnet's views, in his "Letters from Switzerland, &c.," regarding the identity of the catacombs and *puticuli*.

Birds form one of the favorite decorations of Christian tombstones. The most common of these is the dove, represented singly or in pairs, with or without a branch in the mouth, sometimes perched on a tree, sometimes pecking at a bunch of grapes, and sometimes standing on a vase. Singly it has been regarded as the emblem of peace or of simplicity—in pairs it may have been, in some cases, the symbol of affection. It is Jewish in its origin, and was, doubtless, derived from the history of Noah. Two other birds are occasionally represented, the peacock and the phoenix. They are both Pagan in their origin, but were used by Christians as symbolical of the resurrection.

(m) Interval between death and burial :— 100.

DN·MAGNO MAXIMO AVG·II CONSS
III IDVS MAIAS FATVM FECIT LEO ET
DEPOSITVS PRIDIE IDVS MAIAS BENE
MERENTI IN PACE

(*E coem. Cyriacæ* ; De Rossi, n. 374.)

Domino Nostro Magno Maximo Augusto iterum Consule, III Idus Maias fatum fecit Leo et depositus pridie Idus Maias. Bene merenti in pace.

"In the second Consulship of our Lord Magnus Maximus Augustus (*i. e.* 388 A. D.), on the third day before the Ides of May (*i. e.* May 13th), Leo died, and was buried on the day before the Ides of May (*i. e.* May 14th). To him well deserving in peace."

1. 2. *Fatum fecit*. This rare expression for *defunctus est* is found in some other Christian epitaphs. See Corsini, *Not. Græc. Diss.* ii, p. XXIV.