

(c) Specimen of Palæography:—

91.

(See Plate III, 1.)

*(E coemet. Cyriacæ; De Rossi, n. 21.)*

*Decesit* (decessit) *Serotina pride* (pridie) *Kal. Martias m(ensium)*  
*X, dier(um) XX, Diocl(etiano) 9 (VI) consule.*

"*Serotina* departed on the day before the Calends of March, (aged) ten months, twenty days, in the sixth Consulship of Diocletian," i. e. February 29th, 296 A. D.

(d) Use of D. M. by Christians:— 92.

D. M.

P · LIBERIO VIXIT ANN Ñ · V · MENS  
 Ñ III DIES Ñ VIII RANICIO  
 FAVSTO ET VIRIO GAL·

*(E coem. ?; De Rossi, n. 24.)*

*Diis Manibus. Publio Liberio, vixit annos numero V, menses numero III, dies numero VIII. Recessit Anicio Fausto et Virio Gallo* (Consulibus).

"To the Gods the Manes. To Publius Liberius. He lived years in number five, months in number three, days in number eight. He retired (from this world) in the Consulship of Faustus and Virius Gallus, i. e. 298 A.D."

We have here an example of the use of the heathen formula D. M., *Diis Manibus*, in an epitaph that De Rossi and other scholars regard as Christian. I have noticed this anomaly in Part XI of my "Notes on Latin Inscriptions found in Britain" (*Canadian Journal*, X. p. 95), and ascribed it either to thoughtless use of the form, produced by familiarity with it as the ordinary commencement of a sepulchral inscription, or to the fact, that grave-stones were kept for sale with these letters cut on them, and were purchased by Christians without consideration of their appropriateness. Fabretti insists that these letters when they occur in a Christian epitaph, stand for *Deo Magno*, or *Deo Maximo*; but there is no doubt that his opinion is erroneous, for the form is found, in at least one such inscription, *in extenso*, i. e. *Diis Manibus*. See Orelli, n. 4458=4723, and compare Maitland, "Church in the Catacombs," pp. 59, 60, 61, who regards this inscription to *Liberius* as 'almost certainly Pagan.' The same view of it is taken by Roestel. I incline, however, to the belief that it is Christian. My reasons are that it was found in one of the Catacombs, that the stone was not broken, and that we find in the inscription the letter R used