

ANCIENT TOMBSTONES.

Discovered by Rabbi Lehman in the Vicinity of Mayence.

Rabbi Dr. Lehman, of Mayence, has come across a venerable Jewish tombstone at a village in the vicinity of that town. The Hebrew inscription is to the following effect, "To the memory of Belet, daughter of Rabbi Jacob. Died on the 2nd Ellul, 506—Her soul be in Paradise." At first sight the stone itself bears testimony to its great age. Confirmation of this assumption is lent by the form of the letters, the composition of the inscription, and by the name, "Belet," which has become obsolete for many hundreds of years. The date, 506, given on the stone cannot be other than 456 of the Jewish reckoning; equivalent to 806 A. C. Mayence, it appears, is noted for its ancient gravestones. Maharil, its famous rabbi, who was driven thence in 1420, with the entire Jewish congregation, related that in the then old Jewish cemetery at Mayence there was a stone which, according to the inscription, was no less than 1100 years old. After the expulsion of the Jews, the tombstones in the Jewish burial ground were used for building materials. Hitherto the oldest known memorial stone was one in the Jewish cemetery at Worms, and dated 4000 A. M.—*New York Post.*