

### THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.

This building is said to be erected over the identical spots where the crucifixion and burial of our Lord took place. The correctness of that presumption is, to say the least, extremely doubtful; but it is unnecessary to state the arguments on either side, as the dispute is of small importance.

The first church was built by Constantine the Great, and was consecrated A. D. 335. It was a magnificent structure, and was richly furnished and adorned. The Persians destroyed it in the year 614, when they invaded and ravaged Palestine. It was rebuilt shortly afterwards, and continued to be the resort of numerous pilgrims till 1010, when it was razed to the foundation by the Mohammedans. Permission to restore it was, however, obtained, and another church, or rather small chapel was erected, over the presumed sepulchre only, which was completed in 1048. While Jerusalem was in the possession of the Crusaders, a splendid building was constructed, covering the above-mentioned chapel, and the eminence which is said to be Calvary. The walls and general form of the building remain to the present day. It was partially consumed by fire in 1808. Within two years afterwards, it was restored to its former magnificence, by contributions raised in various countries.

### A PRAYING FATHER.

Good old Isaac, of whom I am going to write, was much respected in the church of God. He attained a good degree and great boldness in the faith, but there was one thing in which he excelled, and that was—*prayer*. As a praying man he might be considered *common* property, for all classes admired and valued his prayers. He was often sent for by sick people where the doctor had given them up. Sometimes, at midnight, Isaac has been roused from his bed, to pray with anxious sinners under deep convic-

tions. Indeed, I have been afraid, that some people have superstitiously thought Isaac's prayers would be sufficient to introduce them into heaven.— However, he was pre-eminent in prayer.

Isaac had a large family, for whom he prayed, and over whom he wept; but he never saw any of them truly converted to God. This was a sore trial to his faith: still he had hope in the covenant; and, when he was dying, he expressed his full confidence in the truth of God: "I will pour out My Spirit on thy seed and My blessing on thine offspring; and one of thy children shall say, I am the Lord's, and another subscribe with his hand unto the Lord." Well, Isaac had not been long in heaven before one of his daughters became pious; next, one of the sons was converted, and has been for years an ornament to his profession. The first Sabbath that I preached in this town God converted the eldest son. He had been a soldier, and often uses military terms to describe his feelings; hence, when telling us what the Lord had done for his soul, he said, "The word came upon me like a cannon-ball, and knocked me right down; but I fell at the feet of Jesus, and there I found mercy."

A year after this, I preached a sermon to young men, when the *youngest* son was converted. He almost fainted in the house of God, and so powerfully was he affected, that he scarcely worked or slept, or ate or drank, for four days. By this time I became pretty well acquainted with the history of the family. One resided in London, and I wrote to a friend about her, and found that she was in a hopeful state, and was about to join a Christian Church. This was known at home, and it roused the eldest sister to seek her father's God. Then came the seventh, under great concern, lest all her family should get to heaven, and she be cast out.— Then I wrote to a minister, near Oxford, respecting the last member of Isaac's family, who had not joined the church of God. He sent for her, and