

CHRIST AND WOMAN.

It is remarkable that no woman is mentioned as ever speaking against Christ in His life, or having a share in His death. On the contrary, He is anointed by a woman for His burial; women are the last at His grave, the first at His Resurrection; to a woman He first appeared; women ministered to His wants at Galilee; women bewailed and lamented Him; a heathen woman interceded for His life with her husband; and above all, He was "born of a woman"; so that as woman is most conspicuous in the first transgression, so she is not conspicuous in the second great crime of the children of Adam.—*Isaac Williams.*

ANCIENT COPIES OF THE HOLY BIBLE.

GREEK copies of the Holy Bible, or of portions of it, have been handed down to us from a very early age of Christianity, and are the most ancient copies of the Scriptures known to exist. One of the most complete of these is preserved in the British Museum, under the name of the Alexandrine Manuscript, and dates from the end of the 4th or beginning of the 5th century. It was given to Charles I. by Cyril Lucar, Patriarch of Constantinople, in 1628. It consists of four volumes (one of which is laid open to the sight of visitors, under glass) and is written in double column on parchment, in "uncial" or capital letters. This manuscript of the Bible is almost complete; it contains an ancient Arabic memorandum, which states that it was penned by the Martyr Thecla, an

Alexandrian lady, who suffered martyrdom in the Diocletian persecution, before A. D., 320.

At Rome there is a Greek Bible equally ancient with the preceding, or perhaps a quarter of a century older. It is called the "Vatican Manuscript," having been preserved in the Vatican Library for about 400 years, and is supposed to have been brought from Constantinople to Rome about that time. It is written on parchment, with three columns on a page in a rather smaller hand than the Alexandrine. It is not so complete as that in the British Museum, but it contains nearly the whole of the sacred books.

Another Greek Bible, of inestimable value and of about the same date as the two preceding, was discovered by Tischendorf, the great German scholar, in a Monastery at Mount Sinai, and placed in the Royal Library at St. Petersburg. It is called the Sinaitic Manuscript. It is written with four columns to a page, on parchment, in a character similar to the two preceding. There exist about forty manuscripts in the same capital-letter character of smaller portions of the Bible, of nearly as ancient a date, those of the gospels being most numerous. Of manuscripts in the ordinary running hand, there are ten or twelve times as many; but these are always of a later date. It will give an idea of the extreme value possessed by the three we have mentioned, to add that only twenty-seven MSS. out of all that exist contain the whole of the New Testament.

The Latin Bible is also found in very ancient copies, some going as far back as the 6th century. It seems probable that some portions