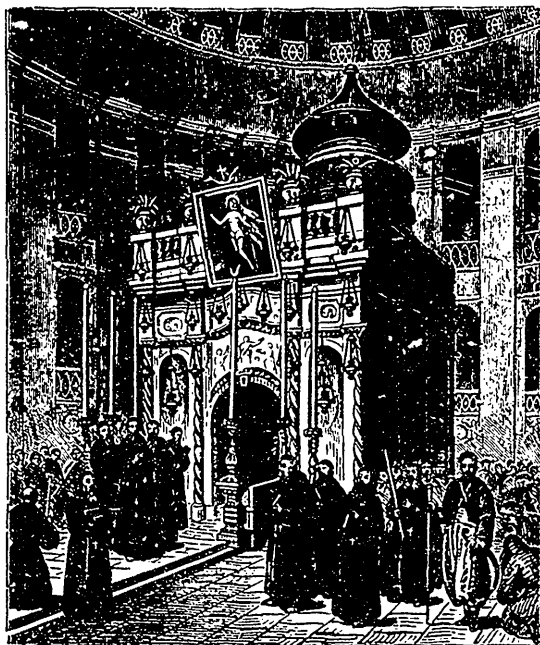


of the sepulchre, in the centre of which is the sepulchre itself. This rotunda, sixty-five feet in diameter, is surmounted by a graceful dome supported by eighteen piers, over which run two rows of arches. Beneath this dome is the supreme object of veneration, the Holy Sepulchre itself, a small marble structure, twenty feet long and seventeen and a half feet wide, surmounted by an Oriental-looking crown or dome. The chapel in its present form is quite modern, dating from 1810. In 1808, in a disastrous fire, the dome fell in and crushed the pre-existing chapel.



CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.

We enter first the vestibule, or Chapel of the Angels, sixteen feet long and ten feet wide, incrustated with marble within and without. In the centre is a stone said to be that which the angel rolled away from the mouth of the sepulchre and on which he afterwards sat. Through a low door we enter the sepulchre itself, a very small chamber, only six and a half feet long, by six feet wide, furnishing space for not more than three or four persons. From the ceiling hang forty-three precious lamps of the different sects perpetually burning. On the right hand is the marble slab, beneath which, the pilgrims devoutly believe, the body of our Lord was laid. It is impossible to enter this spot and to see the