

submitted to the Emperor a proposal to execute an edition of this Bible which should be at once worthy of it and of the Emperor. The proposition was accepted, but Tischendorf declined the brilliant offers which were made him on condition of remaining in Russia, and returned to Leipsic, where at the end of three years the great fac-simile copy of the manuscript was completed. In October, 1862, Tischendorf presented his edition to their Imperial Majesties, at whose expense it had been prepared. It was arranged that it should appear when the millenary jubilee of the Russian Empire was celebrated, and copies of it were presented to the chief libraries of the world, and to some eminent persons. The reception of it everywhere was such as it deserved, and even the Pope wrote to the editor to express his congratulations and admiration.

Of this grand work three hundred copies were printed from types cast in close imitation of the characters of the original manuscript. Two hundred copies were distributed as presents, and one hundred were allotted to the editor, for whom they were sold at 3*l.* 10*s.* each. They reached England, such of them, that is, as were consigned to this country, at the very end of December, 1862. Two years before this Tischendorf had gratified the natural desire of scholars for information by publishing a quarto volume of "Notitia," which contained very many details and a fac-simile page of the manuscript. But this only made the learned world more anxious for the book, and when it appeared it was eagerly investigated. The art of printing had never achieved a greater triumph and critics had never been favoured with such a treasure. Tischendorf did not stop here however, for in 1863 he published in modern Greek type an edition of the Sinaitic New Testament, with the Epistle of Barnabas and the fragment of Hermas. In this edition the pages, columns, and lines corresponded with those of the ancient manuscript. Two years later our indefatigable critic published the New Testament again, divided into chapters and verses, and compared with the Vatican manuscript, and with its called the received text. He also largely used the Sinaitic Bible in other editions of the Greek Scriptures, as well as in preparing the handy edition of the English New Testament which was published by Tauchnitz of Leipsic in 1869. We mention this not only to show how laborious he was, but to show how anxious he was to make known the peculiarities of his great discovery.

It may be well to add one or two observations ere we pass from the Sinaitic manuscript. The first is, that in the opinion of its discoverer it was actually written in the fourth century, or fifteen hundred years ago, and therefore claims to be older than the famous Alexandrian manuscript in the British Museum—older even than the more celebrated Vatican manuscript at Rome. Over both of the two it claims the pre-eminence as containing the New Testament complete, which they do not. It is remarkable, moreover, that in the Sinai New Testament there are more notes of various readings than in any other known copy.

Another fact must be mentioned, and it is that a Greek, named Simonides, had the boldness to say that the Sinai Bible was not ancient, but modern, and that in fact he had written it himself when a mere youth. Some believed him, for although on his own showing he was a most unscrupulous forger, he got up a very plausible story. The matter went so far that on Feb. 15, 1865, Tischendorf read in London, before the Royal Society of Literature, a paper on "The Codex Sinaiticus and its age." Various persons of experience were present on that occasion, and Simonides himself was there to maintain the truth of what he had said, exhibiting sundry manuscripts, among which were some of his own avowed forgeries. Tischendorf was well supported and gained a conclusive victory. He had brought over with him part of the original manuscript—the one found by him at the Sinaitic monastery in 1844, as already mentioned; and the careful examination of it was very useful to those whose judgment was worth anything. To repeat the varying story of Simonides would be a waste of time, but it involved so much that was contrary to