

CODEx ALEXANDRINUS.

This MS., preserved in the British Museum, was presented by Cyril, Patriarch of Constantinople, to Charles I. of England, with an inscription in Arabic to the effect that it was written by Thecla, an Egyptian princess who suffered martyrdom some time after the Council of Nicea. With regard to the place where it was written we do not know anything, but that Cyril obtained it in Alexandria is pretty certain; for this reason it is called "Codex Alexandrinus." It contains the Old Testament nearly entire, and the New Testament, beginning at Matt. xxv. 6, the previous portion having been lost, with an occasional loss of a page or two in the subsequent part. It has many marks of being very ancient, among which we may mention its being written in capitals, and its containing the Epistle of Clement, Paul's fellow-labourer (Philip. iv. 3), who wrote about the end of the 1st century. The epistle was long held by some churches to be canonical.

CODEx VATICANUS.

This MS., so called because for the past 400 years it has been in the Library of the Vatican at Rome, is a very fine one and about a century older than the Alexandrian. For a long time it was kept closely shut up in the Vatican, so that scholars found it almost impossible to get even a glimpse of it. It was carried to Paris by Napoleon I., but on the downfall of that emperor, it was restored to the popes.

In 1857 an edition of it was prepared by Cardinal Mai, under the authority of Pope Pius IX.; but it disappointed the expectations of the learned, for it was full of errors and in many places garbled. In 1868, however, Pius IX. again ordered an edition to be prepared, and a perfect and nobly executed fac-simile was soon published and given to the world. This MS. is without Philemon, the pastoral epistles, Hebrews from chap. ix. 14 to the end of the epistle, and the Apocalypse.

CODEx SINAITICUS.

This is the most recently discovered MS. we have, and is in many respects the most valuable, although it is disfigured by some marks of carelessness in the spelling of words, as Matt. xx. 19. It contains many of the books of the Old Testament, and the New Testament complete, with the addition of the Epistle of Barnabas