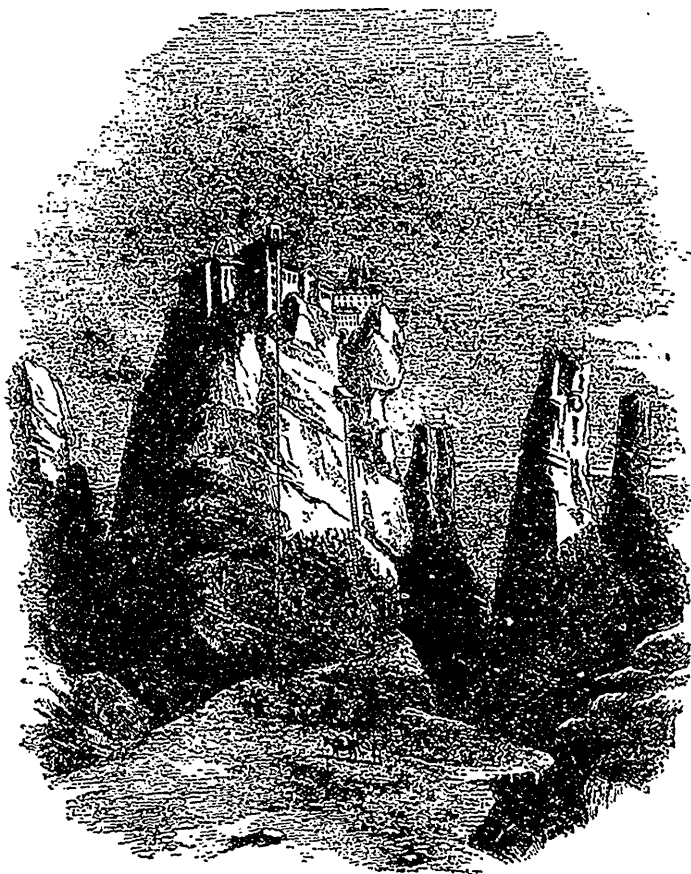


seen a woman, and formed their only conceptions of their appearance from the time-stained "Panagia" or "All Holy One," the Madonna on the altar.

About £20 seems to have been the average price paid for a tolerably perfect Biblical or classical MS. Some Mr. Curzon was quite unable to procure, and one fine Syriac MS. of date A.D. 411,



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which he left behind with poignant regret, was afterwards purchased for the British Museum. The contents of these monasteries were chiefly, however, books of theology and Church Services, great massive tomes of vellum in ponderous covers, with stout handles attached for opening them. We saw several of these in the old Scriptorium of the Convent of San Marco, at Florence.

Mr. Curzon witnessed a tragical scene at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on the Easter ceremony of giving the Holy Fire. A