

Constantine caused many such sumptuous copies to be made for leading churches.

Though the existence and value of this manuscript were known almost from the time that the Greek text began first to be printed it is only very recently that scholars have been able to make a perfectly satisfactory use of it. A tolerably good edition of the Old Testament portion appeared as long ago as 1586, but it was not until 1868 that this facsimile edition for the first time enabled scholars to know with any certainty what its readings were in many passages of the New Testament. It had been examined again and again by competent critics, but always under such restrictions from the papal authorities that accuracy was almost impossible. Each successive examination only served to enhance the estimate of its importance and increase the impatience for some such edition as this that could be relied on for accuracy. Repeated promises proved delusive, and after a long delay which sorely tried the faith of the learned world in the willingness or ability of its custodians to publish it at all, it at length appeared and many disputed questions were set at rest. They have since followed it with an autotype edition that leaves nothing further to be desired. Our copy is the gift of the Rev. L. H. Jordan, formerly of this city.

2. Next to the Vatican in the order

of time and about equal to it in value, stands the Codex Sinaiticus, so named because it was found by Dr. Tischendorf in the Greek Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai in 1859. The story of its discovery reads like a romance. He came near being too late to find it all, for already some portions of it had been used for fuel or for the binding of other books, and more of it had just been thrown into the waste-basket for similar uses by the ignorant monks, when it was happily rescued by Tischendorf. This was in 1844, and it was not until fifteen years later that he succeeded in finding the rest, after a third journey to the Convent. At his suggestion the monks presented the remaining portions of the precious volume to the Emperor of Russia, and it is now safely deposited in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg. Tischendorf issued a splendid facsimile edition of it in four volumes shortly after, through the liberality of the Emperor, who presented copies to the leading institutions of learning in Europe and America. Our own was fortunate enough to be among the number, thanks to a suggestion from Dr. MacKay, then of Brighton, to Count Schouvaloff, the Russian ambassador to England.

The style of this manuscript is quite similar to the Vatican in most respects, except that there are four columns to a page instead of three and the letters