

elders, viz:—Revs. Alexander Henderson, Robert Baillie, Samuel Rutherford and George Gillespie, with Lord Maitland and Sir Archibald Johnstone, elders. Ireland had only two representatives—Dr. Joshua Hoyle, Professor of Divinity, and Sir John Clatworthy, a lay assessor. For five years, six months and twenty-two days, through 1,163 sessions, the Assembly sat in solemn conclave and formulated the Confession of Faith, the Directory of Public Worship, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, which, though disowned by England, became, and are honoured to this day as the standards of the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland and America. From it also emanated that rugged metrical version of the Psalms of David, prepared by Francis Rous, which has ever since been used by these churches.

Another use to which this historic chamber was put in our own times, was its occupation by the revisers of the New Testament. The English company began its work here on the 22nd of June, 1870, and held regular monthly meetings for ten years and a half, completing its work on the 11th November, 1880. Dr. Schaff pronounces the revision to be "the noblest monument of Christian co-operation in this nineteenth century,*" and expresses the hope "that the Jerusalem Chamber may yet serve a nobler purpose than any in the past, namely, the re-union of Christendom on the basis of God's revealed truth in the Bible."

Sketches from Palestine.

BY REV. THOMAS CUMMING, TRURO.
I. GENERAL VIEW.

IN my tour, around the globe I devoted about one month to "the Holy Land." From earliest recollections I had a yearning desire to see with my own eyes the land that had been trodden by patriarchs, prophets and apostles. I was particularly anxious to see

"Those holy fields,
Over whose acres walked those blessed feet,
Which eighteen hundred years ago were nailed
For our advantage on the bitter cross."

* See SCHAFF'S COMPANION TO THE GREEK TESTAMENT: Harper and Brothers, New York, 1883: price, \$2 75. We are indebted to the politeness of Messrs. HARPER & BROTHERS for the accompanying beautiful cut of the Jerusalem Chamber.

This desire has now, in the providence of God, been gratified, and at the request of the Editor, I shall endeavour to give a few brief sketches of my travels in that historic land. Three marked features of Palestine struck me forcibly,

(1) It is, speaking generally, a mountainous country. It has plains and valleys, no doubt. There are notably the beautiful Plain of Sharon, on the Mediterranean coast, and the great Plain of Esdraelon, stretching through Central Palestine from the Mediterranean to the Jordan, and the Jordan valley itself, through which flows the most interesting river on the surface of our globe. But to my eye the mountains in all directions were the most prominent feature of the natural scenery. Even when travelling in the plains and valleys I found myself continually looking up to the mountains rising up north, and south, and east, and west, around me. In the north I never grew weary of gazing on the lofty ridges of Lebanon, and Carmel, and Tabor, and Hermon, and Gilboa. South of Esdraelon we have the mountains of Samaria, conspicuous among which are Gerizim and Ebal, from which the blessings and the curses were pronounced according to the command of Moses. In Southern Palestine we have the hill country of Judea, in which we see Olivet and Hebron and other heights that are as familiar to us as the names of our children. These mountains, towering heavenward in all directions, were the natural fortifications of the country in the olden times, and I would say the natural educators of the covenant people. Numerous and powerful armies might pass, actually, have passed, through the land without vanquishing the people, who found a safe retreat in these natural fortresses. And then in turn these fastnesses taught the believing Israelites to say, "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even for ever," "I will lift mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth." "It shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and all nations shall flow unto it."

(2) A less pleasing feature of Palestine is