

a rather expansive material and it was obvious that there had been writing on the vellum before the time when Ephraem's sermons were written on it. This - an attempt had been made to erase the writing in order to use this expansive writing material over again for Ephraem's sermons. However considerable traces of these previous writings remain on the vellum. Scholars have tried to copy what they could find of the previous writing which was a copy of a portion of the New Testament but had little success. Tishendorf got permission to examine the manuscript and astonished the scholarly world by his ability to figure out exactly what was contained in the manuscripts underneath the sermon of Ephraem.

M-3. (10)

Tishendorf's success in working out - in copying what was on Ephraem Rescriptus gave the world a very important ancient manuscript from the Fifth century A.D. (or sixth?) and Tishendorf went on to visit various other places in Europe where ~~there~~ there were ancient manuscripts looking for important copies of the Greek New Testament. He found certain manuscripts of interest that had not been studied before. Then he went still further and began to visit monestaries in the East which had old manuscripts in their libraries. Eventually he came to the famous old monestary in Sinai in the very region where - somewhere near the place where the children of Israel had ~~been~~ encamped to receive the ten - and where God had given them the Ten Commandments. ~~in~~ Here in a very remote monestary inaccessible portion of the wilderness there was a library that contained many ~~thousands~~ hundred ~~and~~ of ancient manuscripts. Tishendorf got permission to look over some of them. After spending a number of weeks there he found practically nothing of any great importance and was just planning to leave when he saw a monk carrying a basket of old sheets of vellum preparatory to burning them. Glancing at the top of the pile he saw that the top paper was a part of what was evidently an ancient manuscript of the Greek New Testament. He was so excited that he asked if he might look at it and glancing at it he soon became convinced that it was perhaps the oldest manuscript that was known - of the Bible that was known at all. - that had yet been found. In a great excitement he asked if he might carry ~~and~~ it to his room and examine it. This was granted and he looked it over and he spent most of the night copying portions of it and was thrilled with what he found. He was told that two baskets of fragments had already been burned, and only the chance that he happened to

see this one kept it from being burned. Tishendorf was successful in securing