

About what does he give us a message in this lesson?

What do Vs. 5 and 6 teach?

What is meant by 'walk in the light'?

What is the promise if we so walk?

How do some deceive themselves?

How do they thus dishonor God?

What two things are promised in V. 9?

How may we secure pardon when we sin?

Why are we sure of pardon when we so seek it?

How may we know that we are in Christ?

THINGS TAUGHT IN THE LESSON.

1. We must walk in the light to have Christ's blood cleanse us from sin.

2. We must confess our sins if we would have them forgiven.

3. If we sin Christ will intercede for us with God.

4. Christ died for our sins, and is able to save us from them.

5. If we are really Christ's friends we will keep his word.

REVIEW. 28 December.

Golden Text. John III: 16.

Read over the Lessons of the Quarter in the Acts. and Epistles, and review the Catechism for the Quarter.

A SCHOOL IN SYRIA.

As we go into the schoolhouse we see at the door a great pile of shoes. These shoes are of many kinds—bright red shoes, black shoes, yellow shoes, and wooden clogs made to raise the feet out of the mud and water. The people of Syria keep their floors very bright and clean; but they have no foot-mats or scrapers, and hence when they enter a house, they leave their shoes, dirt and all, at the door.

The schoolroom is the queerest place you can imagine. The boys sit on the floor in front of the teacher. Instead of nicely printed books, like those which we have, each boy has a tablet of wood painted white, upon which the teacher writes the lesson with a piece of charcoal. When one lesson is learned it is washed off and a new one written. The boys hold their tablets in

their hands and rock back and forth as they study. They learn their lessons aloud, and make so much noise while doing so that you would think they were screaming and fighting instead of studying.

When school is dismissed for the day the boys rush toward the door. Each one is eager to find his shoes and be the first to reach the street. In the struggle the stronger boys usually have the best of it, and sometimes the teacher is obliged to come out with a stick and settle matters. The pile of shoes at the door is the cause of many quarrels and school-boy fights. It often happens that boys wear off the wrong shoes; and then you may see Ali running with one shoe on his foot and one of Hassan's in his hand, shouting and screaming until he has found his own.

These boys know but very little about the world in which we live. If they have been taught to read the Koran—which is the sacred book of the Arabs—it is not thought necessary for them to learn anything else. When they grow up they will live just as their fathers and grandfathers have lived before them. The Arabs do not care to improve. They are content with their half-wild life on the deserts and in the old towns of Arabia, Syria, and Egypt, and but few of them wish for more.

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