

# HOME SCHOOLS



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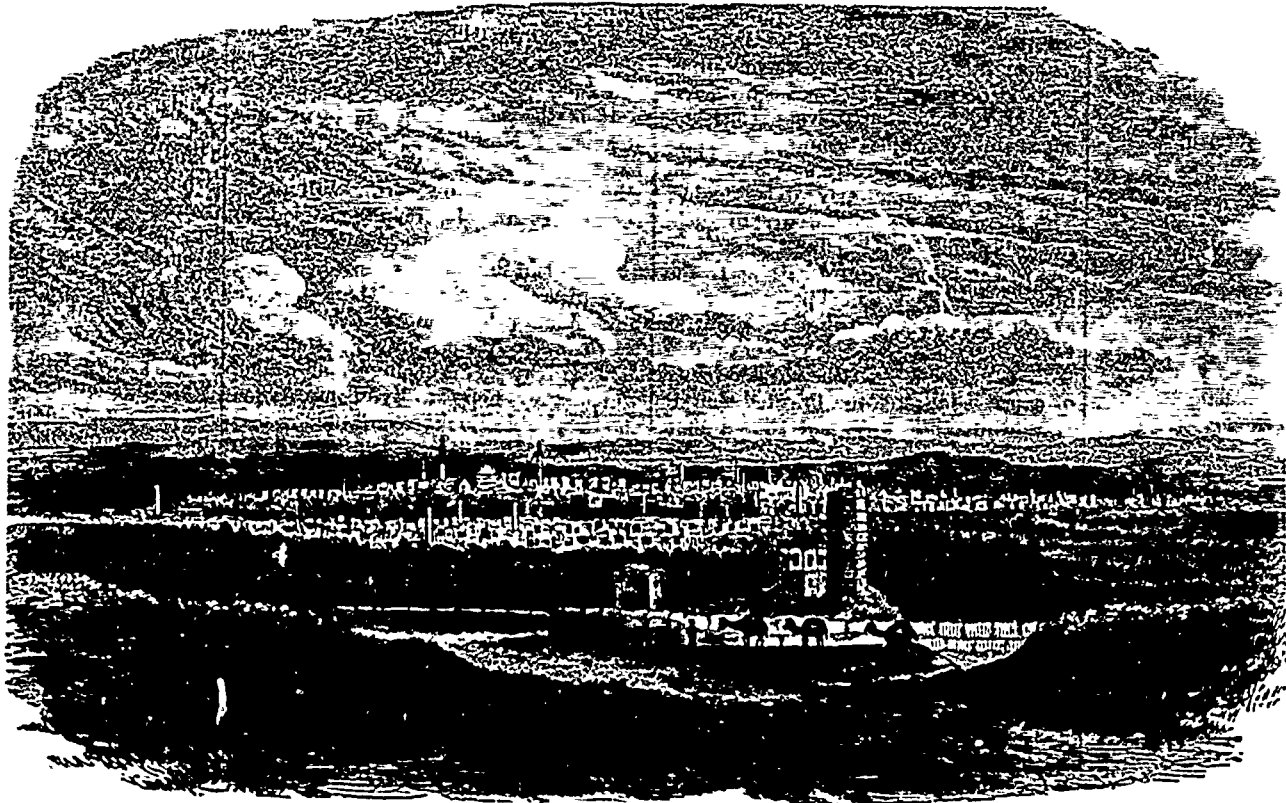
## I Cannot Choose.

I CANNOT choose—I should have liked so much  
 To sit at Jesus' feet, to feel the touch  
 Of His kind, gentle hand upon my head,  
 While drinking in the gracious words He  
 said,  
 And yet to serve Him!—O divine employ,  
 To minister and give the Master joy!  
 To bathe in coolest springs His weary feet  
 And wait upon Him while He sat at meat!  
 Worship or service—which? Ah, that is  
 best  
 To which He calls me, be it toil or rest—  
 To labour for Him in life's busy stir,  
 Or seek His feet, a silent worshipper.  
 So let Him choose for us: we are not strong  
 To make the choice; perhaps we should go  
 wrong,  
 Mistaking zeal for service, sinful sloth  
 For loving worship, and so fail of both.

watered by rivulets and sparkling streams, the Abana and Pharpar of the Syrian leper, giving to the vegetation a charming freshness and sweetness. It is nearly two miles in length, and a mile in width. The city is divided into two parts, the old and the new. In the old portion are the principal buildings, the castle, the mosque Abdel-Malek, the most beautiful architectural monument in the city, and some of the principal Christian churches and Jewish synagogues. A Turkish mosque, which was formerly a Christian church, may also be seen, which still bears its ancient inscription, "Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an ever-

ward Mecca, consequently the trade is much increased. There are many fine paths with marble pavements, and the market-places are well built and adorned with many columns. Damascus was formerly celebrated for the manufacture of sabres that would bend to the hilt without breaking, and the edge was so keen as to divide the firmest coat of mail. The Saracens took the city shortly after the death of Mohammed, and made it the capital of the Mohammedan world. In 1860, a fearful massacre of the Christians took place there. It is supposed that about 3,000 were murdered, and many of the women were made slaves.

We have seen too many such who expected to climb up 'he ladder of fame and fortune without working for it. They are looking around for pins to pick up, and then be folded to the embrace of some wealthy bank president or philanthropic merchant, made a partner, and finally marry into the family. Such cases are not to be found every day in the present time. We read Munchausen tales of years gone by, that had an ending like this. But today the merchant who wants a young man wants one of character and ability. Learn a trade, young man; first become a proficient in some industry, so when you go forth to pastures new



VIEW OF THE CITY OF DAMASCUS.

## Damascus.

DAMASCUS, lately mentioned in our Sunday-school lessons, is one of the oldest cities in the world, having been mentioned as early as the days of Abraham. It is situated in Syria, about one hundred and thirty-six miles north of Jerusalem. It bursts upon the traveller's view with such beauty that it is said that Mohammed, beholding it, turned away and refused to enter, saying, "Man can have but one Paradise, and mine is not here!" For many miles the city is surrounded by fertile fields and gardens, which are

lasting kingdom," a prophecy of the future spread of Christianity. The beautiful mosque and hospital of Sultan Selim, and the palace, are in the suburbs west of the city. The streets are very long and narrow, and one, referred to in the Acts, still bears the name of Straight. The houses, though mostly plain outside, are magnificent within. They usually have a decorated fountain in the court. The bazaars are very numerous. Damascus is the centre of commerce in Syria. It is the rendezvous of all pilgrims from the north of Asia, who are travelling to-

## Why Boys Should Learn a Trade.

HARDLY a day passes by but we see evidence of the folly of our young men, both in the city and country. They are willing to work for about half the pay they should be receiving. If you ask them what is their trade, they will reply they have none, and in these days when skilled labour is in demand it is a shame and outrage for so many promising young men to be loitering their time away, either looking for work, or, if they have it, in a position where their pay is nothing.

you will know within yourself that you have something to fall back on for a living.

If the young men of the day would ask some of our old and successful merchants for the secret of their success in life, they would be much astonished at the stories of early hardships, trials and privations they endured. Fathers, mothers, is there not a lesson to be learned from this? Is it not your duty to see that your boys are educated to make their living, so that when they come to man's estate, they can bless you for it?—Selected.