

# Northern Messenger

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## Eastern Foot-Wear.

(Christian Herald.)

In Eastern lands, where the dry season prevails during the greater part of the year, the foot-wear generally used is quite different from that usually adopted where changeable seasons and cold climate are the rule. Among the ancient Hebrews and Egyptians, sandals were almost universally worn, except, probably, in the hilly parts of the country, where, owing to the greater roughness of the land, foot-wear of a more substantial character was used. There is a great variety in the shape and quality of the sandals; those of the wealthy were made of fine material, the upper part being of cloth or delicate leather, with pointed turned-up toes. Still another sort is of woven or interlaced palm-leaf fibre, or papyrus stalks, the heavier kinds being lined with cloth.

Some of the nations contemporary with ancient Israel wore sandals, on the inner soles of which were painted the figure of a captive, thus giving almost a literal interpretation to the idea of 'treading the enemy under foot,' (Josh. x., 24). Shoes with higher covering, and even low boots, have been found depicted on some of the inscrip-

slipper. All Orientals prefer shoes that afford ample room for the foot, and which can be put on and off the foot easily. Our illustration represents an itinerant mender of shoes at work in a public thoroughfare near Jerusalem. The old man, a native Syrian, probably, is busily repairing a shoe, while his children stand beside him watching the progress of the operation. He will travel a considerable distance in a day, doing odd jobs of mending as he proceeds, and getting paid either in money or food. His is not a lucrative occupation, but it must be remembered that a family can subsist on very little in the East.

Shoes are frequently mentioned in the scriptures, and in connection with certain usages, they possess peculiar significance. Thus, in transferring land, it is customary to deliver a shoe or sandal (Ruth iv., 7). To cast a shoe upon the soil was a declaration of occupancy (Psalm lx., 10). A sandal thong was a type of worthlessness (Gen. xiv., 23). Shoes were taken off when the wearer approached a sacred place or a temple, or addressed a superior. To this day, an Oriental removes his shoes when he desires to specially honor some one, and a Moslem leaves his shoes at the door of the mosque he

the great Himalaya mountains in the north of India. The road skirted along the side of a steep hill. Here and there she saw a village surrounded by its narrow terraces of



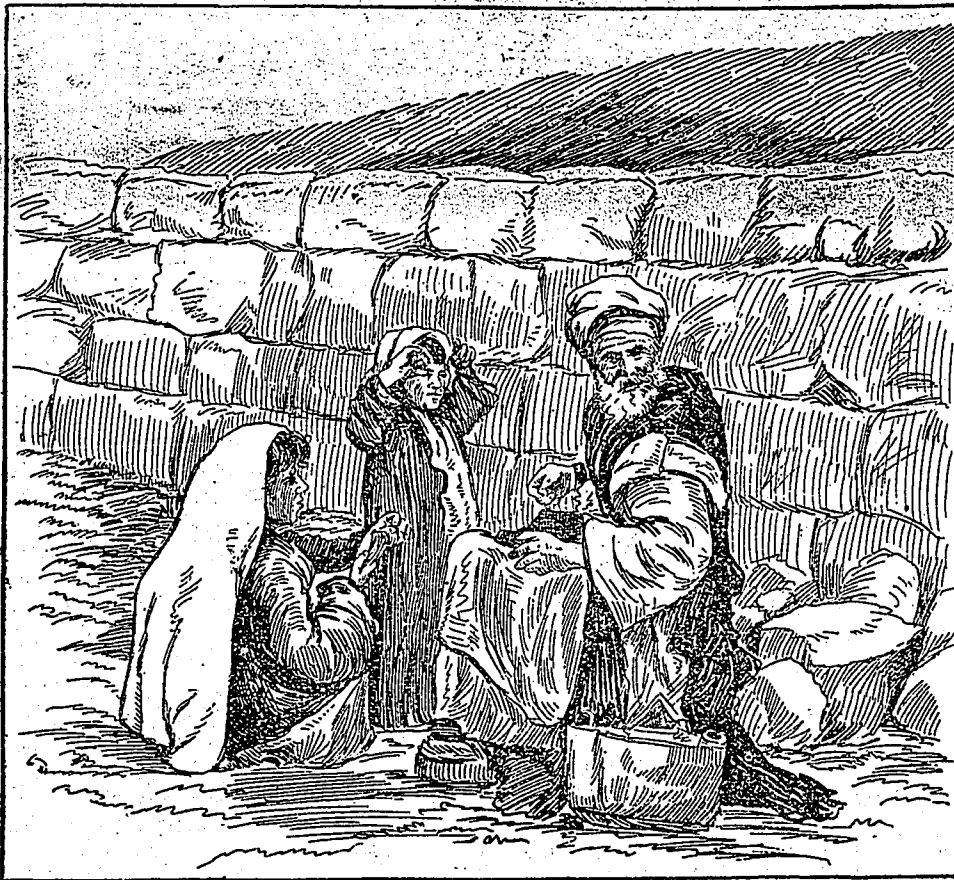
'SHE WENT TO SCHOOL.'

cultivation, from just such a village nestling amongst a few trees on the rugged face of the mountain the woman had come. She had been turned out of her little home, and was now wearily dragging her steps towards a place where she had heard she might have food and shelter. How she longed to reach her destination! How tired she was! And she was more tired than she might otherwise have been, for she was a leper, and it was with difficulty that she could walk. It was because she was a leper that she had been turned out of house and home by her husband, and she had brought little Phoebe her baby girl, away with her.

At length she reached the house where she had been told the good, kind people lived who would take care of poor outcasts like herself and her baby, and she found out what she had heard was true. For the missionary sent her to a clean and comfortable home, where other lepers lived, and she soon learned to be happy like them, because Jesus came into her heart and filled it with joy and gladness.

Meanwhile, what had become of her little baby? The child was not a leper, but was a healthy little girl; so the missionary said, 'I will keep your little girl for you, and feed her and teach her, and you shall come and see her every Saturday if you are able.' The mother was anxious that her little girl should grow up strong and healthy, so she consented to give her to the missionaries. Oh, it was very, very hard to be separated from her baby, but better than that she, too, should become an outcast leper like herself.

The little girl soon grew used to her new surroundings. In a little while she could walk and run about and chatter instead of only crawl on the ground. And when she was big enough she went to school, and learned her alphabet along with other little



A TRAVELING SHOEMAKER AND HIS OPEN-AIR WORKSHOP.

tions of Thebes, but these are now believed to have been Greek, rather than Egyptian. On the ancient Assyrian monuments, shoes are found pictured as being worn by some of the native princes. In those early days, however, as at present, a very large proportion of the people of the East wore no foot-covering whatsoever.

Among the modern Orientals there is a large variety of shoes, some of them being almost similar to those worn in Europe and America, while a great majority are a modification of the ancient sandal or the modern

is about to enter. To carry the shoes of another person is an act of servitude, and to tie another's shoe is a courtesy paid to high distinction alone.

## Little Phoebe--Her Home in India.

(The Springing Well.)

A woman with a tiny baby in her arms came plodding wearily along the road. The scenery through which she passed was grand and beautiful, for she was travelling among