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MOSLEM SCHOOLS.

Such "educational institutions" as that represented in the cut abound in Moslem cities and villages, especially in Egypt. There are over 5,000 of them in the Delta and along the banks of the Nile. They are found within the sacred precincts of the mosques, in vacated bazars, rooms in private houses, and in the open air. There is one attached to nearly every *sebeel*, or drinking-fountain.

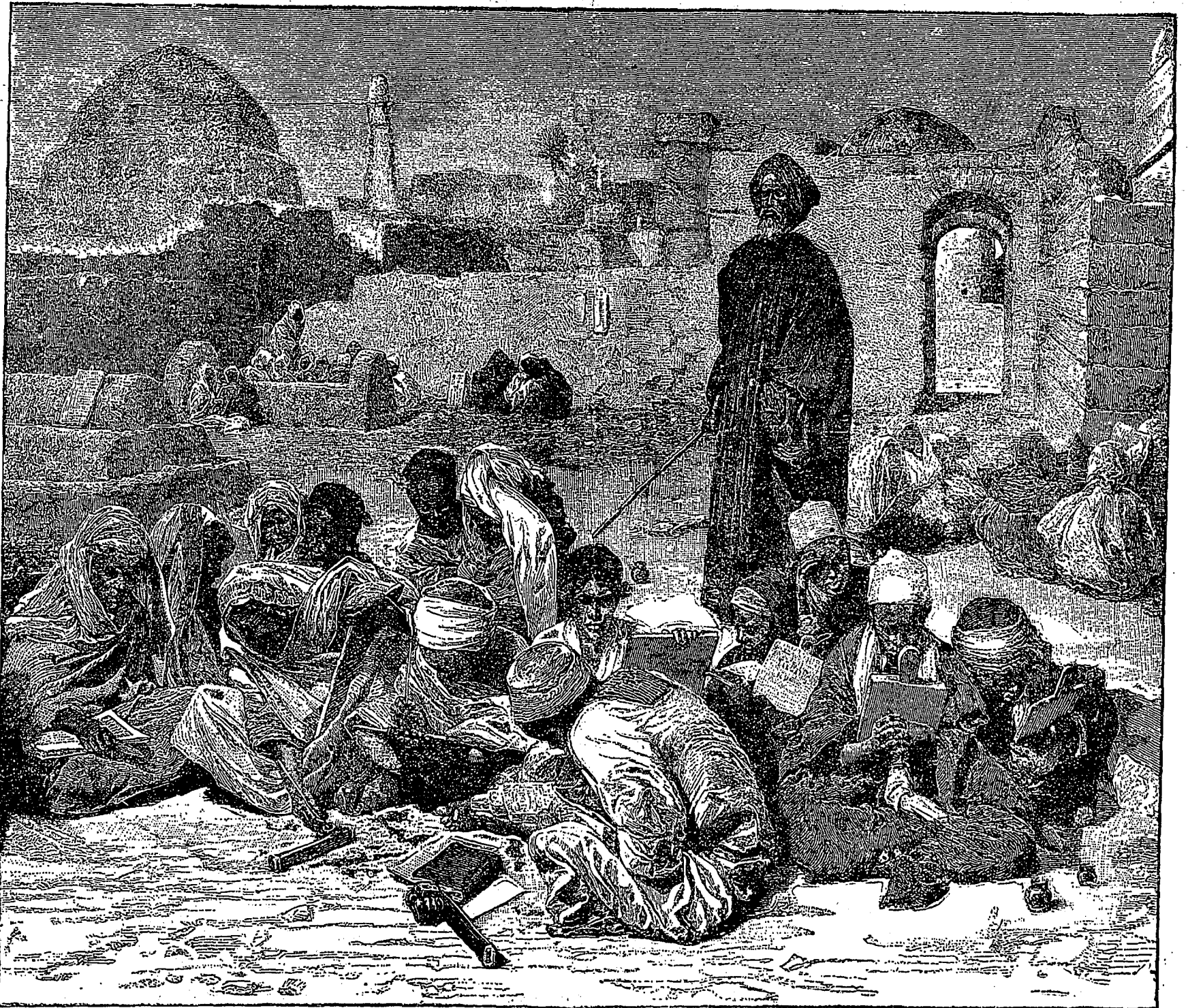
The teachers of these *kuttabs*, or primary schools, among the Arabs are generally ignorant men, often blind, and thus disqualified for other work. Their remuneration consists in the piastre, worth about two and a half cents, which each child is expected to bring weekly, and the gift of a piece of cloth for a new turban, which is provided at Government expense at the time of Ramadan feast. The worthy pedagogue is, however, in the way of obtaining some per-

quisites. He is presumed to be familiar with the Koran, and is called upon to repeat its prescribed verses on occasions of funerals, weddings, and circumcisions, for which he exacts a fee according to the ability of the parties he is serving.

The children in these schools are seated on the ground or floor. The lessons are written on white boards which answer for slates and books. Holding these in their hands the pupils repeat the lessons over and over again

in a loud murmuring tone, each independently of his neighbor, until he has memorized them. One passing such a school group might imagine himself in proximity to a hornet's nest.

The lessons consist almost entirely of extracts from the Koran. One such task is that of committing to memory the 99 names of God which are used in the sacred book. The first chapter of the Koran is the first connected portion to be mastered. It is



AN EGYPTIAN SCHOOL IN THE OPEN AIR.

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