

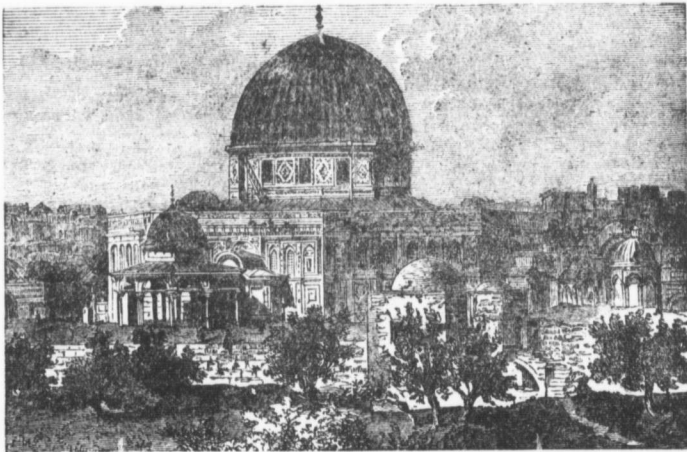
SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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THE MOSQUE OF OMAR.

The Mosque of Omar.

THE Mosque of Omar, commonly so called—its true name being Kubbet-es-Sukhrah, or Dome of the Rock—is the central object in this vast enclosure of the Haram-es-Sherif. It is an exquisitely beautiful building—one of the most beautiful in the world. It is in shape an octagon, each side being sixty-eight feet long, and is covered with tiles of richly-colored porcelain,—a frieze of tiles emblazoned with passages from the Koran running around the whole building. It is entered by four portals, one at each point of the compass, and is surmounted by a superbly proportioned and most graceful dome. The interior, which is very dark, shows, when the eye becomes accustomed

to the darkness, its splendid design and material. It consists of two cloisters, separated by an octagonal course of piers and columns, and within this again another circle of piers, and twelve Corinthian columns supporting the dome. The fifty-six windows of, I think the most lovely stained glass I ever saw, glitter like precious stones. The tiled walls are covered with passages from the Koran. The dome is ninety-eight feet high, and sixty-six in diameter, and the pavement is of marble.

It was wonderfully moving to stand in the dim light under this massive dome and see, fenced off by a railing from profane touch, the base rock-summit of Moriah, some sixty feet long and forty-five feet wide, the very beauty of its surroundings heightening the effect of its