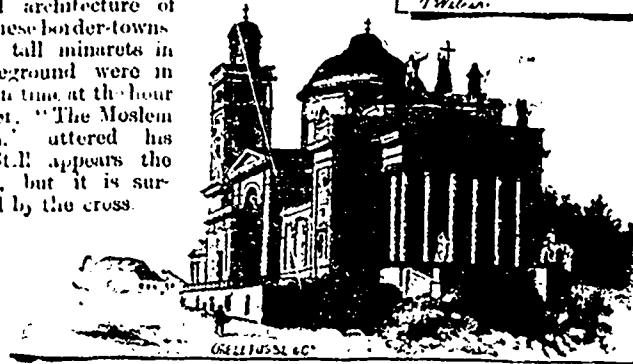




SCENES IN EASTERN EUROPE

The whole of Eastern Europe from Vienna to Constantinople has, in the architecture of the towns and cities and costumes and customs of the people, striking evidence of the war that for hundreds of years was waged between the crescent and the cross. Army after army of the fierce Ottoman soldiery swept over these borderlands and near almost every stream and mountain pass, fierce battle has been fought between the Christian and the Moslem hosts. The upper part of our picture shows the half Oriental architecture of one of these border-towns. On the tall minarets in the foreground were in the olden time at the hour of prayer, "The Moslem muezzin," uttered his call. St. E. appears the crescent, but it is surmounted by the cross.



ARCHITECTURAL GROUPS AND COSTUMES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

The lower cut is of a Greek or Catholic church, crowned with many crosses and having on its lofty pedestal figures of the apostles, like most of the churches of Eastern Europe. The quaint figure in the margin indicates the bright colours and queer costumes which one meets in these border-lands. This beautiful engraving is one of many which will illustrate the Editor's papers on "Eastern Europe" in the forth-coming volume of the *Methodist Magazine*.

LESSON NOTES.

CHRISTMAS LESSON.

LESSON XIII.—DECEMBER 25.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

Luke 2: 8-20. [Memory verses, 11-14.]

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.—Luke 2: 10

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The coming of Jesus Christ is the proof and promise of God's love to men.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

In the same country. In the fields near Bethlehem *Abiding in the field*—which could easily be done in December, as often very pleasant weather and good pasturage is found all through that month. Note, that the angels came to the shepherds while they were performing their regular duties. *Sore*—Extremely. *City of David* Bethlehem, so called because David was born and spent his early life there. So foretold in Mic. 5: 2. Mary and Joseph were descendants of David, and in the same line. Jesus was the King who fulfilled the promises made to David. *Christ*—The Messiah, the anointed; i.e., one set apart by God for a special work. Note, that Jesus lived in heaven, the eternal Son of the Father, before this. (See John 1: 1-3, 14; Heb. 1: 1-3.) *A sign*—By which to know when they had found the right babe. *Manger*—A stone trough in which the cattle were

fed. The inns were unfurnished lodging-places, not like our hotels. *In the highest*—In the highest places, in the highest straits, in the highest degree. *Good will toward men*—Christ, the Son of God, coming to earth to die for men, is the highest proof of God's love, good will, toward men. *Returned*—To their work with their flocks.

Find in this lesson—

1. The greatest event in the world.
2. A proof of God's love to us.
3. Some reasons why we should love Jesus.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Where and when was Jesus born? "In Bethlehem of Judaea, 1893 years ago." 2. Who was he? "The Son of God in heaven, and of Mary on earth." 3. Who announced his birth? "The angels, to the shepherds in the field." 4. What did the angels say? (Repeat the "Golden Text.") 5. What did the shepherds do? "They found the Saviour, and proclaimed him." 6. What did Mary do? "She kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Which were the ancient commandments thus quoted? Deuteronomy 6: 4, 5; Leviticus 19: 18.

What, then, do you learn by all these commandments?

Two things: my duty towards God and my duty towards my neighbour.

THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE.

ONE fine summer day a hare was laughing and jeering at a tortoise because he went along so slowly. But the tortoise offered to run a race with her any day, and to beat her, too. "Very well," said the hare, and they started at once. The tortoise jogged along at a slow and steady pace, but never stopped for a moment. The hare laughed at him, and said: "Go on, Mr. Tortoise, I shall soon catch up to you; so I think I will take a nap for a few minutes." Meanwhile the tortoise plodded on, but the hare overleapt herself. Suddenly she jumped up, rubbed her eyes, bounded along the road, and reached the winning-post just in time to see the tortoise there before her.

A Christmas Thought.

BY LUCY LARCOM.

Oh! Christmas is coming again, you say,
And you long for the things he is bringing;
But the costliest gift may not gladden the day
Nor help on the merry bells ringing.
Some getting is losing, you understand,
Some hoarding is far from saving;
What you hold in your hand may slip from
your hand;
There is something better than having;
We are richer for what we give;
And only by giving we live.

Your last year's presents are scattered and gone,
You have almost forgotten who gave them;
But the loving thoughts you bestow live on
As long as you choose to have them.
Love, love is your riches, though ever so poor,
No money can buy that treasure;
Yours always, from robber and rust secure,
Your own, without stint or measure;
It is only love that can give;
It is only by loving we live.

For who is it smiles through the Christmas morn,—
The light of the wide creation?
A dear little child, in a stable born,
Whose love is the world's salvation.
He was poor on earth, but he gives us all
That can make our life worth the living;
And happy the Christmas-day we call
That is spent for his sake—in giving;
He shows us the way to live;
Like him, let us live and give.

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THE first Christian Sabbath in New England fell upon the 10th of December, 1620. On Saturday afternoon, in a storm of snow and rain, the faithful few who had crossed the ocean in the *Mayflower*, left the ship to seek a shelter somewhere on the bleak coast. Under the lee of a rise of land they kindled a fire, and there spent the holy hours of God's day. On the next day they touched, with weary feet, the rock made famous as the landing place of the pilgrims.

Xmas List No. 4.

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