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REITERATION.

The effect of persistent reiteration is wonderful, as the following Eastern story illustrates:—A pious Brahmin made a vow that on a certain day he would sacrifice a sheep, and went to buy one. There lived in the neighbourhood three men, who, hearing of the intention of the Brahmin, laid a plot to deceive him. The first, meeting him, said, "O Brahmin wilt thou buy a sheep; I have one fit for sacrifice." Then he opened a bag and produced an ugly dog. The Brahmin cried out, "Wretch, do you call that unclean animal a sheep?" "Yes, truly," answered the other, "it is a sheep of the finest fleece and the sweetest flesh." "Friend," said the Brahmin, "either you or I must be blind." Just then the second accomplice came up. "Praised be the gods," said he, "that I have been spared the trouble of going to market for a sheep; this one will just suit me. For how much will you sell it?" When the Brahmin heard this, he began to doubt. The third confederate now arrived upon the scene. "Let us ask this man," said the Brahmin, "what the animal is, and I will abide by his decision. The Brahmin then said, "O, stranger, what dost thou call this beast?" "Surely, O Brahmin, it is a fine fat sheep," answered the new-comer. Then the Brahmin asked pardon of the owner, and bought the dog, taking it for a sheep fit for sacrifice. We have no desire to press this illustration too far into particulars, for in the Pope's case the parable is reversed as he represents the sheep as being the dog; but we use it as pointing the broad moral of the result of persistent dogmatic assertion. If the Brahmin had stuck to the evidence of his own senses and kept to his first utterance, "Friend, either you or I must be blind," he would have done well.

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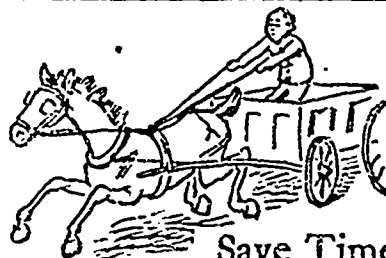
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