

mantles of the Druses of Lebanon, and of the brilliant vests of scarlet velvet sometimes adopted by the Arab women.

The ancient scarlet appears to have been sometimes a vegetable dye, obtained from the berries of a tree common in Canaan, and at others, to have been procured from an insect resembling the American cochineal, though of a less brilliant tint. This insect, which was found chiefly on the leaves of the evergreen oak, (*ilex aculeata*), was called by the Greeks and Romans *coccus*, but by the Arabs *kermes*, and, from this latter word, we derive our *crimson* and *carmine*. * * *

The bright example of this pious woman as portrayed by the Hebrew writer, under the direct Inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God, is not that of a mean selfishness, not

“That strict parsimony
Which sternly hoarded all that could be spared
From each day's need, out of each day's least gain :”

Hers was an enlarged and bounteous providence ; one which, while it sought to guard against the ills, and provided for the comforts, of the coming days, while it gathered for her family enough and to spare, yet could have an open hand for the poor and needy. She acted on the principle of the charge given by the wise man to the sluggard, when he bade him consider the ways of the ant, “which provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” She could give liberally to those who had nothing, while she avoided the censure afterwards pronounced by the Apostle, “If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”—*The Excellent Woman*.



“Sire, one word,” said a soldier one day to Frederick the Great, when presenting to him a request of a brevet of lieutenant. “If you say two words,” answered the Prince, “I will have you hanged.” “Sign,” replied the soldier. The monarch, surprised at his presence of mind, immediately granted his request.