"White as Snow."

BY ELLA A. SMALL,

THE snow is noiselessly falling In whitened flakes from the sky, Draping the earth with a mantle Of purity from on high; Covering the leafless branches Of the trees with a garb of white, Transforming them into beauty, And objects of real delight,

I think as the crystal snow-flakes Make the earth a vision fair, Of the wondrous passage quoted By the ancient seer Isaiah: "Although your sma be as scarlet"-I have sinned, all this I know;

" Must I always bear its impress?" " They shall be as white as snow."

Can it be? My eyes glance outward, And as far as I can see. Only glimpses of rare whiteness, As an answer come to me; I look unward -1 see clearly-Christ the sinless Saviour dies, Pleads his blood for my redemption, Gives himself, my sacrifice.

Though the years have long since vanished Since the Master spoke to men, I can hear the echo ringing Down the centuries again: "Although your sins be as scarlet;"
Oh, that all the world might know The fulfilment of the promise

"They shall be as white as snow!"

The Brahmin and the Goat.

THERE is an old Sanskrit story told in India which shows the folly of being influenced into giving up what we know to be true just because so many clever people contradict it.

Three thieves once saw a Brahmin toiling along, carrying a fine goat on his back. Now these rogues made their living by outwitting people; and for this purpose, with diligence worthy a better cause, studied all the weaknesses and faults of the human race.

In this case a plan was speedily concocted, which they proceeded to carry out.

One ran swiftly through a by path till he was some distance beyond the Brahmin; then, striking the main road, he sauntered carelessly back till he saw the Brahmin coming.

"Ha," said he, accosting the latter, "it is a worm day to be carrying such a load. Is your dog lame?"

"Dog!" said the Brahmin; "what $\log T$

"Why, the one you have on your back!"

"Man, this is a goat!" quoth the Brahmin, and pressed on, feeling a mild contempt for the idiot.

Soon he met a second pedestrian (the second thief).

"What is the matter with that dog, friend?" asked this second man, in a sympathizing tone; "you must have a kind heart, indeed, to lug that great brute, this hot day."

"Man, can you not see that it is a goat?" asked the Brahmin.

"Do you joke with me, old man? Don't you suppose I know a goat from that dog?"

"It is a goat, I tell you!" asserted the Brahmin, and pressed on, but not before the look of innocent astonishment on the other's face awoke perplexing doubts. Could his eyes have deceived him, or had he taken leave of his senses? Here was another | 27 These books are printe, wholly without abridgment. stranger coming, he would refer the question to him.

He was saved that trouble, for the third thief, at the Brahmin's approach, struck an attitude of dumb amazement.

"What ails you, fellow?" said the Brahmin impatiently.

"Is it not enough to surprise a wiser man than I, to see one of your years carrying that great dog! But then, poor soul, poor soul, if it pleases you, what matter 1"

This was too much for the Brahmin, and throwing his burden off, he strode away, leaving the thief with his booty.

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