

elevated mountains long after spring has made considerable advance ; while hoar-frost scatters its diamonds, or a mist like that of our northern climates, obscures the face of nature.

Owing to the great inequalities of surface in the Holy Land, there are some sheltered and favored spots which are free from the cold of winter. Here the season is soft and mild ; snow is seldom seen on the plains, and the orange-tree and the citron and the godly palm contrast with the white summits and glittering icicles of Lebanon. On the mountains the snow is peculiarly deep from December, and scarcely decreases before the month of July. Dr. E. D. Clarke, speaking of one of the hills which forms a part of the majestic Lebanon, says :—" The snow entirely covers the upper part of it ; not lying in patches, as I have seen it, during summer, upon the tops of very elevated mountains,—for instance, that of Nevis, in Scotland ; but investing all the higher part with that perfect white, and smooth, and velvet-like appearance, which snow only exhibits when it, is very deep ; a striking spectacle in such a climate, where the beholder, seeking protection from a burning sun, almost considers the firmament to be on fire." We have various other instances in Scripture besides that quoted at the head of the chapter, of the cold and snow of Palestine. The Psalmist of Israel sung of the fleeces which the Creator "giveth like wool," and prayed that he might be purified and made "whiter than snow." We infer the cold from the statement of the prophet Jeremiah, when he described Jehoiakim king of Judah, as sitting with his nobles around the hearth, and daringly cutting with his penknife, and casting into the fire, the scroll which contained the denunciations of the Almighty. * * *

Scarlet was a color much esteemed in the East, and the Jewish nobles and courtiers were accustomed, on state occasions and festivals, to wear robes of this brilliant dye. In that exquisitely touching lament, uttered by David, over the fallen king, he exclaims, "Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with scarlet, with other delights,—who put ornaments of gold upon your apparel." And now, in the land endeared to us by the holiest associations, the bright coloring of the scarlet robe still attracts the eye of the traveller, in the winter season ; and Lamartine speaks of the picturesque scarlet