

# The Home Study Quarterly

Rev. E. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor  
Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D., Associate Edit

Vol. XVII. Toronto, July, August, September, 1911

No. 3

## "White as Snow"

Near Tarbet, on Loch Lomond, in Scotland, is a lonely little pool in a hollow on the mountainside, named Fairy Loch. Looking into it, a great many colors may be seen in the water because of the varied materials forming the bottom. A legend says that the fairies used to dye things for the people round about, if a specimen of the desired color were left at sunset along with the cloth.

One evening a shepherd left beside the loch the fleece of a black sheep, and placed upon it a white woolen thread to show that he wished the fleece dyed white. But the fairies could not dye a black fleece white. In despair, so the legend goes on, they threw all their colors into the loch, giving to it its present strange look, and then disappeared forever.

In the Bible there is a beautiful promise in which God says to us: "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." His power to cleanse us from sin knows no limit. We have but to trust Him, and the cleansing we so sadly need shall be ours.



## "My Canticle Divine"

By Rev. Andrew Robertson, D.D.

The Supplemental Hymn for this Quarter, Hymn 97, Book of Praise, comes to us without any name attached. It was turned into English by a man whose name we know, but its writer sang it first in German, and his name has been forgotten. Very much of the beauty and joy and freedom of life has come this way; all are ours, but the men and women who won these things for us remain unknown save by their gifts to us.

This hymn is really a song about a song. The writer sings about his "canticle divine". Now a canticle is simply a little song, and this man's little song is made up of just five words—"May Jesus Christ be praised." That little song means everything to him. He is always caroling it wherever he goes, and he finds that his song brings to him such good cheer that he would gladly share it with "earth's wide circle round".

First of all, it gives the glad keynote to life. Every day, as well as the day he hears "the sweet church bell", is crowned by this high note. That is worth knowing. Some folk think carols are only for Christmas time: they sing them with good cheer,—"salute the happy morn". This man salutes every morn: he has a Christmas day every day in the year.

Secondly, you will see how this little song is this man's best defence. He is not always in the sunshine. Sometimes "evil thoughts molest", and again "the powers of darkness" creep around. But he finds his song is both shield and weapon. So no one is safer in all the world than he, since his song defends. If you know the story of Martin Luther and the wonderful romance of St. Patrick, you will know how strong and safe a song may keep a man.

Thirdly, and I would not miss it if I were you, it is easy to see how this song acts like a charm on its singer. Do you know what a charm is? Have you noticed the horse-shoe over some one's door, the trinket on the watch chain, and asked what these meant "once upon a time"? When the evil thing fell in sadness on this man's mind, when earthly bliss passed away, and "earth's vain shadows" darkened him, he sang his song