

shelter from the storm, he yielded in a half-hearted way, and took a seat as near the door as he could with the intention of slipping out the moment the storm had passed.

Just as he became seated, the preacher read his text in a clear and sonorous voice: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Is. i. 18.)

His interest was at once awakened. The snow, blinding in its whiteness, from which he had but just escaped, was presented forcibly to his mind, and he saw himself at the same time above the snow, covered with all his sins, which were as scarlet. The Spirit of God in connection with this providential circumstance applied the word to his soul, which he had heard in such an impressive way, and in it all we can see the merciful hand of God.

He was at once profoundly convinced of his sinful state. "White as snow;" and, "scarlet sins;" the words resounded unceasingly in his ears, and for some time he heard nothing more of what the preacher was saying. He trembled before a righteous and holy God, against whom he had until then sinned heedlessly all his life. In the anguish and distress of his soul he sighed: "O God have mercy upon me!"

At this moment the voice of the preacher again arrested his attention.