



AN INDIAN OX.

GRANDPA'S WAY.

My grandpa is the strangest man!
Of course I love him dearly,
But really it does seem to me
He looks at things so queerly.

He always thinks that every day
Is right, no matter whether
It rains or snows, or shines or blows,
Or what the kind of weather.

When outdoor fun is ruined by
A heavy shower provoking,
He pats my head and says, "You see,
The dry earth needs a soaking."

And when I think the day too warm
For any kind of pleasure,
He says, "The corn has grown an inch—
I see without a measure."

And when I fret because the wind
Has sent my things all whirring,
He looks at me, and says, "Tut! tut!
This close air needs a stirring!"

He says, when drifts are piling high,
And fence-posts scarcely peeping,
"How warm beneath their blanket white
The little flowers are keeping!"

Sometimes I think, when on his face
His sweet smile shines so clearly,
It would be nice if every one
Could see things just so queerly!

AN INDIAN OX.

The ox represented in the picture is such as religious mendicants in India sometimes lead about. This one carries waterskins for supplying water where it is scarce. But the mendicants often train them to nod assent to certain questions and shake their heads in disapproval of others. Then they put artificial horns on to the natural ones, making them very long indeed, and adorn the horns and neck and

body with bright colored rags. Taking them through the streets as they beg, when any one gives them food, they ask the ox if the gods will bless that house, and the ox answers "Yes," by nodding. When they are turned away from any house they ask the ox if any blessing will come to that house, and it shakes its head in dissent. And the poor, ignorant people think they will be blessed or cursed as the ox indicates, and they are afraid to refuse them food.

THE CHAMELEON.

The Chameleon, which is once mentioned in the Bible (Lev. 11. 30.) belongs to the family of lizards. Some fifteen or twenty species of it are known, one of which is found in Southern Europe, and one in Florida, but most of them live in tropical regions. It is a very sluggish animal, its quickest pace being about five feet a minute. Its power to change its form and appearance is remarkable. By inflating its sides it flattens its body and looks something like a leaf lying flat; and again, by throwing out the air from its lungs and expanding itself upward and downward, it becomes thin like a knife. Sometimes, with its back curved upward and its tail erect, it resembles a small

crouching lion, and hence, it is said, comes its name *chamai-leon*, or "ground-lion."

Its natural color is a light pea-green, blending at times with straw color or yellow. The least disturbance or excitement, however, causes a change both of color and appearance. Stripes of deep green appear, nearly encircling the body and reaching from the head to the tip of the tail, and if the excitement continues these stripes change to black. The common idea that the chameleon takes on the peculiar hue of the foliage among which it may happen to be is a mistake.

The body of the chameleon is cased in an armour made of thousands of granular plates or scales placed edge to edge and running in circular bands. At night it hangs by its tail or a claw, or both, from some branch of a tree, and so manages to sleep and rest comfortably. Its eyes, unlike those of most animals, work independently—one looking forward, for instance, while the other is looking backward—and each eye is covered by a lid which is pierced with one small hole. The ears are concealed beneath the skin. The toes are in two opposite sets, fitted for grasping small boughs of trees.

The mouth of the chameleon has been called an "open sepulchre," for when open it shows a deep cavern almost down to the stomach, though no sign of the tongue is visible; but let an insect come within three or four inches of the mouth, and, quick as a flash, a round tongue, in appearance resembling a common angle-worm, is darted out, and the victim is caught upon its viscid and enlarged tip and carried alive into the stomach. The mucus of the mouth attracts insects within the fatal reach of the unerring tongue, and often the chameleon may be seen quietly basking in the sun, with its mouth wide open, forming a trap to attract the insects which are its chief food.

A mother's intuitive knowledge of what is best for her boy or girl is deeper and surer than any conclusion of philosophy or science.



A CHAMELEON.