

" And these ! and these !howled the jew with haggard looks ; and these.....and these.....were my brides."

Other skulls roll down.

" And these.....and these.....murmured Ashaverus, were my children. Ah ! they could die.....but I, reprobate, I cannot die.....a terrible judgment hovers with threatenings over my guilty head.

" Jerusalem fell. I crushed the infant in its cradle, I threw myself into the flames, I insulted the Roman ; but alas ! an indefatigable malediction held me by the hair.....and I did not die.

" Rome was about to fall ; I hastened to bury myself under its ruins. The colossus fell and crushed me not.

" Nations arose in my sight, and were destroyed by time ; I alone did not die.

From the summit of a rock which divided the clouds I precipitated myself into the sea ; but the waves threw me back on the shore, and the poisoned arrow of existence again pierced me.

" At the mouth of Etna's burning gulf, during ten moons, I joined my roaring to the roaring of the giant, his sulphureous mouth was filled with my cries.....alas ! during ten moons ! but Etna vomited flames and threw me back in a torrent of lava. I struggled in the ashes.....and I still lived.

" A forest was burning ; driven by delirium, I ran into the midst of the flames. The boiling resin fell drop by drop on my limbs ; but the fire consumed my flesh and dried my bones, and devoured me not.

" I joined myself to the butchers of humanity, and threw myself into the midst of battles : I defied the Gaul, I braved the German, but darts and lances broke upon my body, the edge of the Saracen's sword was blunted by my skull ; a shower of balls fell on me like unto peas against an iron shield ; the powder of battle affected me as it does the crust of mountains whose heads are lost in the heavens.

" In vain the elephant has trod me under foot ; in vain has the powder mine burst under me and thrown me high into the air : I fell back to the earth stunned, I was.....burnt, consumed ; my