

When gossip lost its cloak by half a fold,
 And ears fatigued forgot their office old,
 When magpie's chatter drowned the nightingale,
 And quickened interest trimmed an hasty sail,
 To seek afar fresh liveliness and love,
 Her inert soul anew to please and move,
 A stir was heard without and in a trice
 Hushed were they all as shivering, fear-stilled mice,
 When midnight cats fall on a stolen broil,
 O'er some new guerdon of unlicensed toil,
 And nearer still a footstep falls, more loud,
 Firm and determined, shrinks the crowd,
 And Marcia steps within the door. "All hail
 My sons," she cries, "and to mine host all hail ;
 What have ye done since hence I set my sail ?"
 Rudolph arises and does shortly tell—
 Himself says shortly ; what's the depth of hell— ?
 Rehearses all the speeches one by one,
 And criticizes each rehearsal done ;
 And then his own opinion supplements
 In much this wise—but e'er his speech commenced,
 I'll show you all the man—well, only part,
 If you will have it so—He has a heart
 Warm with the love of his ne'er resting voice,
 So warm his soul does know no other choice;
 And the warmed blood from heart to head does rise,
 And freights his mind with most exhilarant thought ;
 A warming twinkle flashes from his eyes,
 And on his nose a patch of warmth is caught ;
 And o'er his face, when happy with his tongue,
 A smile will run, as when from mountain sprung,
 The lava spreads o'er all the monster's side
 And flooding, damming, bursting far and wide,