

lowers passed through in safety, "since Jason was dear to Juno," and immediately the rocks became fixed:

"While in and out the unused sea fowl flew
Betwixt them, and the now subsiding sea
Lapped round about their dark feet quietly."—*Jason*.

1020. See note to B. II., l. 600. *Ulysses*, the craftiest of the Greek warriors at Troy, encountered many dangers on his homeward voyage. Amongst these was his passage between *Scylla* and *Charybdis*, which he accomplished only after *Scylla* had taken "six of his companions from the hollow ship." *Scylla*, however, was a rock, not a monster.

Larboard. The Fr. *bâbord* (from *bas* "low") = *starboard* (as if *back-board*). So that *lar* may possibly be = *lower*, the *larboard* being lower in rank than the *starboard* (star = steer). *Larboard* is the left of the ship as one looks towards the prow. BENTLEY objects to this passage that, when *Ulysses* passed through, *Charybdis* must have been on his right hand. If we are to suppose M. meant an exact statement of what is said to have occurred, we must take on the *larboard* as adjectival to *Ulysses*.

1022. Observe the ONOMATOPOEIA and emphatic repetition of the same word at the beginning and end of the sentence. (EPANALEPSIS).

1023. "But he (being) once past, when man fell soon after—strange alteration! (an exclam. nom.)—Sin and Death following his track amain—such was the will of Heaven—passed after him, &c.

1029. *Umost orb*. Called by M. elsewhere "the wall immovable of this now fenceless world," "the outside base of this round world," "the bare outside of this world." M. apparently suggests the idea of an immense hollow opaque sphere separating Chaos from the Created Universe.

1034. *Influence*; in the literal sense. *Sacred*, in contrast to the accursed "gloom of Tartarus profound."

1038. *Her farthest verge*, i.e., where Creation "confines" with Chaos.

1042. *Wafts* = "floats." A sense now obsolete, but used by the poets of M.'s time.

1044. *Holds the port*. Cf. Horace's "Fortiter occupa portum."

1046. *Weights* = "balances." Cf. B. II., l. 905.

1048. *Undetermined square or round*. (1) An absolute constr. "(Whether) square or round (being) undetermined;" or (2) *undetermined* may be taken as an attribute (used like a participle) of *Heaven, square and round* being adj. complements. Cf. the constr. in B. I., l. 451.

1051. *This pendent world* (see quotation in note to l. 600, B. II.) is "the entire Starry Universe hung drop-like by a golden touch from the Empyrean above it. In proportion to the Empyrean, at the distance whence Satan gazes, even the Starry Universe pendent from it is but as a star of smallest magnitude (l. 1053), seen on the edge of the full or crescent moon."—MASSON. M. metaphorically represents the universe as connected with the Empyrean Heaven by a golden chain, thus symbolizing God's relation to the Created World. This expression has no doubt been suggested by the passage in HOMER, where Zeus (*Iliad*, B. VIII.) shews his superiority to the other deities by telling them to suspend a golden chain from Heaven and try to drag him down, and asserting that they would be unable to do this; whereas he could raise "earth itself and the very sea."