

THE DEVIL'S TOLL

Their bond and seal; now who would step
within

The church their contract to fulfill? Might
not

The people rightfully demand that one
Of them, who signed the deed, should pay the
price

As well? So worried days brought sleepless
nights

To these misguided men, who had approved
Thus thoughtlessly the Devil's subtleties.

Most bitterly they now repented (all
Who call on Satan must), and turned this time
To Mother Church to help them in their woe.
She did not fail; an aged monk, much learned
In legal lore, suggested that no word
Was used to qualify the soul. A wolf
Or bear's would answer; why a Christian's,
then?

The Councillors now breathed relief and
watched