

To rend the sail or snap the bending mast.
 Their ship was now insured 'gainst wind and tide,
 And time's disorganizing touch beside ;
 And they, her crew, were co-eternal ; Death
 Was but a moment of suspended breath,
 From which they would regenerate arise
 And co-exist in that eternal guise.

What common or uncommon scenes betide
 On board the fated ship before they died ?
 When did they die ? and which of them was first
 To drain the mortal cup and know the worst ?
 When the defunct arose to join the corps
 From which he had been called not long before,
 What were the feelings that their looks express'd ?
 With what emotion heaved each mortal breast ?
 Did some inertly stare, and some appall'd,
 Rush from the presence of the dead recall'd ?
 Or had anticipation of the scene
 Made it less fearful than it would have been
 To ordinary mortals ? Were they fed
 As were the Israelites ? or had they bread
 Enough in cargo ? These are all unknown
 Save to Infinite Knowledge and their own.
 Suffice to know they died within the span
 Of time allotted to the creature Man.
 Death came at times, till all on board had paid
 The common tribute on transgression laid ;
 But for his spoils the shark pursued in vain,
 For as he cut them down they rose again.
 They rose in the same flesh and the same heart
 That in the mortal breast had played its part,