

Why booms the thunder through the sky?  
Why has this day of trouble come?  
What have the hapless people done,  
That those terrific tongues of fire  
Should threaten them with ruin dire?  
Have they e'er forgetful been  
Of duty to the great Unseen?  
Puffed up with unbecoming pride,  
His fearless statutes laid aside?  
Or taken credit in their songs  
For what to Him alone belongs—  
Occurrences which such as they,  
Could not foresee and might not stay?  
Or have they threatened sword and fire  
Those who without their leave aspire  
To hold, as erst, the sacred soil  
Our fathers won with grievous toil?  
Usurping thus the throne of God,  
Have they provoked His chastening rod?  
Do they, under claim of right,  
Wrongs commit in Justice' sight?  
Of wealth and power ever greedy,  
Do they oppress the poor and needy—  
Like Leech or Vampyre crying—*give!*  
For ever while their victims live;  
Pitying none, so they may sate  
Their appetite for show and state?