

But here and there a straying sunbeam flashes  
On palace, castle, tower, and hall,  
Thronged with the idle crowd whose lordly pleasures  
Cast desolation over all.

Who thrust across wild waves of Western Ocean,  
The scanty remnant of the clans,  
And gave to gorse and brake and forest-rangers  
The meadow slopes that once were man's.

Gazing athwart this weary waste of heather,  
And desolate haunts of bird or deer,  
And lonely homes of selfish Saxon splendour,  
A southern cry rings in my ear.

A cry that, bursting from ten thousand voices,  
Awoke from midnight into noon  
Marseilles, Bordeaux, St. Etienne, Lyons, Paris,  
With lips that shrieked, "Vive la Commune!"

My thirsty bosom pants for sunny waters,  
And luscious glebe of vine-clad lands,  
And chanted psalms of universal freedom,  
And sacred grasp of brotherly hands:

Pants to behold the ruddy Highland ranger,  
With fair-cheeked sons of English soil,  
Linked to the sunburnt throng of Southern cities  
In one vast brotherhood of toil;

Banded to break the pride of hoarded treasure,  
Or insolent boast of lordly birth,  
And spread the equal boon of free-born manhood  
Through all the mighty skirts of earth:

No longer with the red right hand of slaughter,  
Or eyes made drunk with blood and wine,  
But sober sweat of brows whose sure endeavour  
Builds slowly up the grand design:

Not eager to forestall in raw impatience  
The lagging wheels of distant years,  
But working out a silent revolution,  
Unstained by blot of blood or tears:

Till once again that holy cry re-echo  
From mightier crowds, and louder still,  
Through ocean-sundered streets, with happier auspice  
Of single, undivided will:

And once again this gloomy Scottish landscape  
With glowing glories shine afar,  
Spreading the nobler wealth of golden harvests  
High up the slopes of Lochnagar:

And, step by step, the men of many nations  
Merge in one boundless league and free,  
As Thames and Seine, St. Lawrence, Nile, and Ganges  
Mingle in one illimitable sea.