

TSOQALEM

But as she thrust in mid-career
Athwart some woodland-lace,
She found her brothers stalking near,
And they were girt to hunt the deer,—
Her brothers face to face! . . .
And half she fainted with her fear,
And half with her disgrace.

Her, ere she fell or strove to speak,
With many words they seized:
"Dost thou flee also whom we seek—
Tsoqalem—him, the Beast?"

"Tsoqalem? That could never be!"
She cried with eyes a-swim. . . .
"'Tis he!" said they. . "Never!" quoth she;
"Tsoqalem—what of him?"

"And what of thee to say us nay?
Is it for thee to stare?
Are all thy silly wits astray?
Hast thou no knowledge of this day
Of hunt and rape and scare?"