

And still empower her ingrates them to bear :
 Unalterable, as we once have sworn,
 Our edict shall irrevocable stand ;
 Therefore go down, and even as our decree
 And thine own will, be't done." Straightway the Son,
 Whose rising seemed a thousand summer noons,
 And eyes the gathered brilliance of the stars,
 Obeyed ; and, from his Father turning, shed
 A tenderer light o'er heaven than from the moon
 Distils the live-long night, from her full orb
 Upon the slumbering earth ;—then, clad in frown,
 Swept in his chariot down the etherial sky.
 Vengeance preceeded Him, behind Him came
 The obsequious Destiny : all nature quailed ;
 His left hand steered his car, and in His right
 Ever He grasped the air, that in His fist
 Conceiving thunder, thence 't was hurled below :
 This upon hell told sore, and quelled the fray :—
 As during some convulsion of the earth,
 Her hostile creatures herd together tame ;
 So then, upon the wide, infernal plain,
 Demons and shadows lay promiscuously
 Trembling, a world of strewn. Soon hell He gained,
 That would have fled away, but He forbade,
 And, bidding it be still with sovereign voice,
 Thus 'midst its deep and horrid silence spake :
 " Sinners depart : " and earth's prone host, from hell's
 Dividing, fled ; then, to the recreant angels ;
 " Hear ye rebellious, " and his altered tone
 Enhanced their terror by a hundred told,
 " See yon grovelling, arch-apostate yonder :
 Since ye have chosen him to be your leader
 Him shall ye follow ; ye who have refused
 Obedience to me, without appeal,
 Shall be compelled to yield it to yon Prone ;
 Your master he forever, and your doom—
 Who light nor liberty once knew to prize,
 And of our loving kindness made so small—
 Here in this dungeon always to abide,
 Nor earth at length you respiting as now,
 Slaves of a slave, and bond things of a bound."

As on the still, and corpse-strewn battle-field
 Lie the unburied dead, now lay the host
 Speechless, transfixed : then one long, wordless cry,
 Swollen to big ocean's moan from multitude,
 From out them rose—soon overwhelmed, for now
 Re-roared the thunder, and, with lightnings red,