Battled and kept at bay most manfully The constantly accumulating cares Inseparable from marrying in haste, Where competition, in its thousand shapes, Stalks o'er the land; throwing its virus dire Through every vein of man's society; Making his friends the bitt'rest of his foes; Hypocrisy a garb of sanctity assume; Giving the olive branch the boa's will And might; converting into deadly hate, Or envy ill-concealed, fraternal love.

Thus Cain of old his brother Abel slew.

And Noah's sons their father ridiculed; And Joseph's brethren in their anger threw Into a pit, then sold to be a slave,

Him who with wisdom and discretion ruled.

Thus Pharaoh did destroy each first-born male Of those whose sire his forefathers did save

From death, and then of brick exact more *tale*. Thus did the Jews their task masters annoy, And magic staves, and conj'ring tricks employ. Thus Moses climbed high Sinai's Mount *alonc*. That he his laws might *chisel* upon stone; And thus his followers the molten calf did make, And thus in passion he his slabs of stone did break.