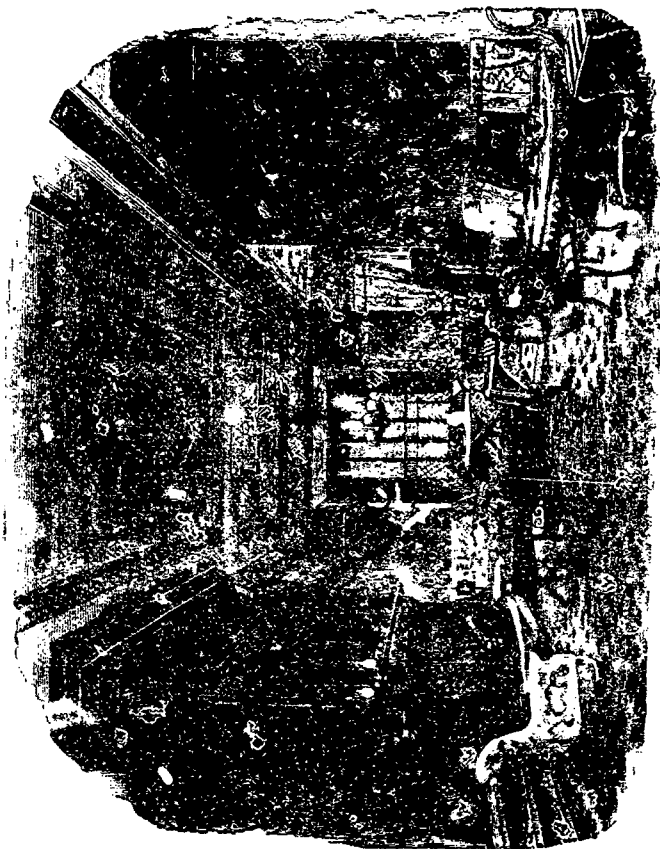


Through days of sorrow and of mirth,
 Through days of death and days of birth,
 Through every swift vicissitude
 Of changeful time, unchanged it has stood,
 And as if, like God, it all things saw,
 It calmly repeats those words of awe,—
 "Forever—never!
 Never—forever!"



In that mansion used to be
 Free-hearted Hospitality;
 His great fires up the chimney roared;
 The stranger feasted at his board;
 But like the skeleton at the feast,
 That warning time-piece never ceased,—
 "Forever—never!
 Never—forever!"