

Thus was she doomed, and her astonished crew,
 Benumbed with terror, knew not what to do.
 But now her destiny assumed command,
 And he that speechless stood with helm in hand,
 Steered for the foamy vast; and soon the shore
 Faded forever from the crew she bore.

He whose command 'twas death to disobey
 An hour ago, was now as weak as they
 Who had so lately feared him; and they would
 Have cast him headlong in the boiling flood—
 The fate of Jonah surely had been played,
 A shark performing what the whale was said
 To have performed; and all had been as plain
 As truth, except disgorging him again.
 But they had heard the dread avenger say,
 "Who are on board shall there forever stay,"
 And dared not move to counteract his will,
 For fear of being punished further still.
 Thus he escaped the vengeance of his crew
 That he had lorded, and on whom he drew
 The wrath of heaven—but we may assume
 That each was worthy of the common doom.

Their sempeternal voyage now begun,
 They with chronometers and charts were done;
 The sun's meridian altitude, that so
 Essential was, they sought no more to know;
 Their latitude and longitude were hence
 A computation of Omnipotence.

The warring elements that wonted erst
 To daunt the bravest, now might do their worst;
 They feared no more the fury of the blast