

Three Commandments in the Vulgar Tongue

I

"Read on, Pierre," the sick man said, doubling the corner of the wolf-skin pillow so that it shaded his face from the cradle.

Pierre smiled to himself, thinking of the unusual nature of his occupation, raised an eyebrow as if to some one sitting at the other side of the fire,—though the room was empty save for the two,—and went on reading :

"Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the sea; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!"

"The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind."

"And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us."

I