

THE SECOND TRIUMPHAL MARCH.

The glowing sun with brilliancy intense
Shone on that hall magnificent and grand,
Where Rome her judgment wonted to dispense
To David's house with high, imperious hand,
Whence went the edicts at her proud command
That made of Judah's children bondsmen base,
And daily deeper marked the servile brand
On them from whom the nations fled apace,
Whom Moses, Joshua led—Jehovah's chosen race.

Its lustre burned upon the splendid gates,
And clothed those walls in their majestic light ;
It beamed upon the hoary armour-plates,
And lit the lance of the flame-crested knight,
On spotless steed caparisoned with light,
Mounted, and keeping guard the gates beside,
A seeming statue, motionless and white.
The scene was Rome's own glory ; but her pride
Knew not whence glory came, looked upward and defied.

Sudden the gates swung backward, and the crowd,
That filled the place before in seething throng,
Brake the dead silence with commotion loud,
As all the demons that to hell belong
Were loosed the city streets and ways among :
There rent the air a wild, conflicting cry,
A shout of jeering laughter, hoarse and long
Brake forth, and yells of hate that would imply
They thought 'twas not enough to beat and crucify.

The mournful march emerges. In the front,
With sullen look of sternness and disdain,
The proud centurion rode as was his wont,
In whose steel eye's gray gleam, depicted plain,
Rome's reflex might be read and Judah's chain.
On either side two soldiers were arrayed,
Whose scoffs their sacred prisoner profane
As with their taunts they goad Him on, afraid
He sink beneath the weight, which on Him they have laid.

But He, and He alone, advanced unmoved,—
Except by inward pity, for anon,
Whene'er it chanced the raging fiercer proved,
Or railed more wildly the malicious throng,
His gaze He moved compassionate along,
And felt it more than cross and thorny sting.
But e'en though pitiful, a something strong,
Some lofty and supreme, majestic thing
Illumined that mighty brow, proclaiming Him a King.