

Thus by themselves accused and self-condemned
The guilty ten reproached themselves in vain,
And in suspense awaited Joseph's call.

VI.

Now, when three days had dragged themselves away,
In Joseph's presence once again they came,
With visage strangely marred and spirit pained ;
And so concerned were they about their fate,
They ne'er restrained their thoughts, but clamoured out,
As when in bondage held. When Joseph saw
Their grief, his soul was moved to tears and turned
Himself away alone to sob aloud ; but when
His troubled soul was calmed, he soon returned
To them again, and forthwith Simeon bound
Before their eyes, and ordered him to ward.
And then he gave command to fill their sacks,
But secretly their money to restore
Within the sack of every man, and then
To send them well-provisioned on their way.
Thus Joseph lavished on them of his stores,
They empty came, but filled they went away.
And just as dusky eventide approached,
They halted at a wayside Inn to rest ;
Where, one, by chance, his provender unbound,
To feed his ass, when lo ! to his dismay,
His gold espied within the sack enclosed ;
And suddenly they all were filled with fear