

In sudden blaze ; and growing in its might
 The strong wind rises to a fearful height,
 Borne whirling on with such impetuous force
 As nought opposing may resist its course :
 Then,—as the breath of heaven had fann'd the flame,
 Swept fierce along the fiery deluge came,
 With triple fury spreading far and wide
 The multiplying blaze on every side,
 As burning shingles furiously were driven,
 Toss'd round and whirl'd, athwart the darken'd heaven,
 And clouds of cinders and black blazes rise,
 And volumed smoke commingling with the skies
 In awful grandeur,—while the lurid glare
 Intensely glows, and heats the heavy air.—

Then rose the voice of woe in fearful wail,
 And the loud shriek was heard above the gale.
 The flying masses rush in mingled throng,
 And the pursuing flames are borne along,
 Chasing before them in tumultous tide,
 Th' assembled hosts that flee on every side :
 No steady gale that blows its even course,
 But sudden whirl-blasts of resistless force,
 Scattering the glowing embers divers ways,
 And kindling up one universal blaze ;
 A moment's work, so furiously it blew,
 And carried conflagration as it flew.
 Then might the calm and watchful eye behold
 A scene of woe no language can unfold :—
 In that fierce flight, amid the general strife,
 All seek to save—not property, but life ;
 Rush in a torrent thro' the burning street,