

Campania's bell sent its tone lonely amid the earth, and now, when a million spires raise this emblem and herald of worship, above the clustering dwellings of men. But we leave this simple topic. The origin of this summoner to the altar and the grave—this bidder to the marriage and the funeral feast, gives place to a more important theme.

In the fifth century the Roman Empire, so long the wonder and dread of earth, shook to its base, and its ruins, still valuable as the fragments of a golden statue, astonished the nations. The seat of Government removed from Rome to Constantinople—the empire divided between the sons of Constantine—Britain and other extreme points given up—and hordes of barbarians hasting like locust swarms to batten on the imperial plains—were the foregoing shadows of events, which simple, though above controul as the revolutions of the stars, were to eclipse the light of the imperial sun. Lamentable is the consideration, that arts and sciences, and civilization, and high soul'd honour, and god-like state, were trampled under the feet of half humanized swarms. “Alas the lofty city!”—

“She saw her glories star by star expire,
And up the steep barbarian monarchs ride,
Where the car climb'd the Capitol.”

But were there not many blots on the character of this mistress of earth?—blots, which rise trumpet-tongued to our imagination, as worthy of being erased by blood? The grasping of the robber after the wealth of every nook of earth—the murderous blow, which fell like the thunder of heaven, when independence and living at ease were the only offence—the low depravity of manners, and at length the venality of the universal despot—were some of the plague spots, which as the carcass calls the ravens to the wilderness, lured the barbarians to their prey amid the very temples and thrones of the Cesars. Those thoughts temper our commiseration, and we can see the discomfiture, without any strong emotion, if those brigands, whose habits were so incongruous, and who alike were famous for cruelty and honour, for science and sensuality, for bravery and low debauchery,