

JUDAS.

Behold the altar with its idols decked
My father hath thrown down: and there too lies
The worshipper of idols in his blood.
God is avenged!

MATHATHIAS.

Was I then to remain
In silence, when I saw my God despised
And men bow low, adoring wood and stone?
O men and brethren, hear ye not the call?
Why stand ye idle then the live-long day?
The very stones in shame would hide away,
To see us fearful in the cause of God.
O men of Israel, if such there be,
And who hath zeal for God's most holy law,
Let him now follow! But who cometh here?
From face and eyes, belike, a tale of woe.

ISRAELITE MESSENGER.

Hail! From the mountains I alone am come,
From where our people found their last retreat.
I, I alone escaped to cross in haste
The burnt-up plains, with weary body and mind,
Till my heart fails me.