

THE BALLAD OF

CANTO IX.

How Tsoqalem's mother chooses to make ready against
the return of her son ; of the awe which her doings
inspire ; and of what grievous thing the occasion brings
forth.

AND now a woman took a stick--
A clam-stick sharp and strong,
And smote as she would drive a pick,
And dug both deep and long.

And when some asked her what she did,
'And why she never ceased
Digging at feast-time . . . "Feast forbid!"
Quoth she. "Said ye a feast?"