

In quest of duller objects to allay
The smarting, such as racks the orbs of sight
Bared to the blazing Sun's untempered light.

Convinced that ev'ry regent from on high
Must be no less repugnant to the eye,
They probed the murky caves of Earth below
To find a prince of less resplendent glow.
Through igneous rocks and clay-fields stratified,
Thro' fossil earths and coal-formations wide,
They bored, delved, plunged, extracted from the mine
A creature to oppose the maid divine,—
A large, grim monster, who, encased in mail
And grinning helmet, threatened to assail
The faithful few, and drive their gentle queen
Back to her 'bode of endless bliss serene.
And this was Science!—Science in his pride,
Besmeared, distorted, and so' modified
That even Revelation failed to see
In him a scion of her parent tree.
Around this proud Colossus thousands rose
Of secret plotters hatched to open foes,
Of malcontents whose hank'rings hail the hour
To bid defiance to a sov'reign's power.
Such craven hearts in vaunting language send
A challenge to the few who'd dare defend
The god-like queen;—the few in fear abide,
And leave their steels hang idle at their side.
Then spake the royal maid: "Must I alone
Engage this monster who'd devour my throne;
"Or may their still one knightly arm be found
"To strike the vile impostor to the ground?"
Deep silence reigned—no knightly arm assayed
To do the bidding of the heaven-sent Maid.
Then up rose Thomas, grasped the proffered sword,
And, as of old th' anointed of the Lord,
With sling in hand, Goliath's strength defied,
And felled the giant boaster in his pride,
He clove the monster's massive casque in twain—
Its shattered jaws in fragments strewed the plain.
But, as the hollow, loud-resounding shell