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A STORM BY THE SEA.

We stood on the crest of a towering cliff,
Lashed by the huge Atlantic waves,
That onward drive with thundering roar
When loud and fierce the tempest raves;
And gazed afar o'er the boundless sea
Where huge waves gambelled fierce and free.

Thickly and fast the hurrying clouds
Roll madly across the darkened sky,
And thickly falls the briny rain,
On the wings of the tempest hurring by:
Most wierdly wild is the tempest's moan,
Most wildly wierd is the echoing groan.

Like an army vast with banners white,
The seas roll on in dread array;
Like trained batallions on they move,
As if nought their onward course could stay;
And we think of those on the mighty deep,
Where high the hungry surges leap.

On, grandly on, the billows roll
Against the adamantine rocks,
That back a creamy shower hurl,
And firm withstand the grinding shock:
Louder than thunder is the roar,
That rises from the sounding shore.

Huge crested breakers follow fast,
And roll along with deafening roar;
Driven before the howling blast
They loudly lash the resounding shore:
The creamy foam now upward springs,
And is borne away on the tempest's wings.

As we outward gaze o'er the surging sea,
And list to the tempest's booming roar,
We think of Him who its wrath could quell,
And say to the tempest—"Rage no more"—
Who bade the raging sea—"Be still!"
And the boisterous waves obeyed His will.

KAYOSHE.

THE POLITICAL LIFE OF MILTON.

Owing to the eminence Milton occupies as a poet, the part he played in civil matters receives comparatively little notice. He was not what might be called a practical

politician; but he was nevertheless a prominent figure among great statesmen of a momentous epoch. We do not find him in the important councils, taking part in discussions and helping to administer the affairs of government; but we find him in seclusion performing the routine duties of his office, and "buckling on the controversial panoply" meeting the additional obligations attendant upon his great abilities and learning.

Three years before the opening of the Civil War he was travelling in Italy, and when about to visit Sicily and Greece the intelligence reached him of trouble at home; and he resolved to return and serve his country, not as a soldier, but as a scholar. It would seem from the way in which he was for a time employed that he might have completed his projected tour without loss to the cause which he espoused; but as he could not predict what course affairs would take, he preferred, in his passionate love of civil and religious liberty, to be on the ground prepared for any emergency.

The want of freedom in the use of the press for the discussion of public questions led Milton to write his first political tractate,—*Areopagitica*,—which Burke calls "the most magnificent of prose poems." The time was one of mental activity, notwithstanding the political commotion, and in the poet's view this augured well for the nation; so that he felt constrained to raise his voice against putting shackles upon thought and preventing progress thereby. This cogent plea failed of an immediate effect, but no doubt it hastened the freedom contended for, although the press of England did not become wholly free for