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Eviction

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STRETCH'D a score of straggling hovels scatter'd down the
mountain
side,
Throng'd the tenants at each threshold famine-stricken, terror-
eyed;
Age in every shape of suffering, feebleness, decrepitude—
Manhood fire-eyed, husky-throated,—tear-brimm'd, wan-faced
woman-
hood,
Youth wild-wondering, expectant, awestruck in an unknown
dread,—
Infancy, eye wonder lacking in the sharper lack of bread;
All a hamlet watching, waiting; terror-stricken, dazed, aghast;
Such a night upon the moor-side, roofless in the winter-blast!
All the straggling, scattered hamlet waiting, watching through
the
snow,
For the crowning act of "justice,"-for-Rent's lawful murder-
blow!

Scatter'd, huddled by the moorside, all a hamlet's chattels, cast,

Thrust from hovel, hut and cabin, to the snow-drift and the waste

Crouch'd around each little home-wreck, round each squalid household

heap,

Age and infancy and sickness in as squalid clusters creep;

While a score of clanking troopers, while a score of arm'd police,

Guard "emergencies" commiss'd in the name of law and peace,

By a Christian queen's strict warrant, 'neath a Christian government,

To unhouse, unroof a village in the sacred name of Rent!