

Chapter X

HIGH SCHOOL
FALL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
FALL RIVER NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL
DIMAN VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
CONTINUATION SCHOOL — TEXTILE SCHOOL
PUBLIC LIBRARY

High School

Before the establishment of a public high school, there were private teachers and private schools where high school subjects were taught. Some of the subjects mentioned in the old grammar school curriculum, we, in our day, would class as college material.

For some years, there had been considerable agitation on the subject of establishing a public high school. The State of Massachusetts had passed a law with reference to it. In May 1848, a new law was passed which provided a penalty unless such a school *was* established. The School Committee warned the townspeople, that \$17,200 was assessable against the town, if an appropriation for the purpose was not forthcoming. There was much opposition, because it was claimed that the subjects taught in the grammar schools of Fall River were equal to high school requirements. However, at the annual town meeting held in April 1849, an appropriation of \$1,500 was made. Samuel Longfellow, a brother of the poet, came to Fall River as pastor of the Unitarian Church. He was chairman of the School Committee at the time and much credit was given him for the establishment and organization of the first high school. He wrote Edward Everett Hale that this was an important step in the development of our school system.

In the month of May, 1849, a small building on Franklin Street near Oak Street was secured at a rental of eighty dollars a year. George B. Stone, at that time principal of the High Street Grammar School, was

elected principal, at an annual salary of nine hundred dollars and Miss Lucinda Stone was hired as his assistant at a salary of three hundred dollars. Although the building was poorly adapted for school purposes, it was the best that could be obtained at the time. Twenty-six boys and thirty-five girls were found qualified to enter the advanced studies. At the end of the first year, fifty pupils were enrolled.

A number of pupils attending this, our first high school, became prominent in the business, industrial and professional life of our city. Among them were George W. Bronson, Joseph A. Bowen, Charles J. Holmes, William H. Jennings, Lucy C. Hill, Nathaniel Boomer, William M. Hawes, Jesse Eddy, Newton Earl, Benjamin Buffinton, Sarah Brayton, George N. Bliss and Henry Clay Cook.

The urgent necessity of having a larger and better arranged high school building was apparent. The new structure was built, at a cost slightly less than seven thousand dollars. This school-house was on the southeast corner of June and Locust Streets and was occupied in January 1853. Mr. Stone remained as principal until his resignation in 1855.

Mr. Stone was a gentleman of rare charm and ability. His pupils in after years were influenced by his character and teachings. He in turn followed with great interest the careers of the young men and women who came under his charge. The eight room school-building erected on Globe Street in 1897 was named in his honor.

After the resignation of George B. Stone, James B. Pearson conducted the school with marked success until he resigned in 1858 and the vacancy was filled by the election of Charles B. Goff, who had been principal of the academic and classical department of the Union School in Schenectady, N. Y. Mr. Goff was principal until 1864. At his suggestion a three years course was adopted for graduation.

Albion K. Slade was promoted from the principalship of the Maple Street Grammar School, to become principal of the High School and a year was added to the course for those who wished to engage in teaching.

The curriculum was again changed when William H. Lambert served his first period as principal, from 1874 to 1879. Four years were required to graduate from any one of the three courses; the Classical, the English and Classical or the English.

Mr. Lambert was forced to resign because of ill health and William T. Leonard was elected principal in 1879 and served until 1885, at which time Mr. Lambert, now Dr. Lambert, was again placed at the head of the school.

The school on June Street became so crowded that finally the first year pupils were sent to rooms in the Davenport School on Branch Street. In the Davenport School annex, one of the so called Latin rooms was taught by Julia A. Read, the second Latin room by Charles W. Connell and later by Everett B. Durfee, who had been principal of the Tucker Street School, and the English room by George W. Bronson. Rooms in the adjoining June Street School were also used.

The city was about to enlarge the grounds and building, when Mrs. Mary B. Young came forward with the most munificent gift ever made to the City of Fall River; a deed of all the real estate included between Rock, High, Cherry and Locust Streets, together with a fully equipped high school building which she had built on the lot and an amount of fifty thousand dollars in cash. This deed was dated June 15, 1887. The gift was in memory of, and at the express desire of her son Bradford Matthew Chaloner Durfee.

There were conditions connected with the gift which have not served to detract from its value but which were designed to and have effectuated her purpose of assuring that the gift should perpetuate the memory of her son and provide public educational advantages for all.

Mary B. Young's first husband was Bradford Durfee. At his decease she inherited his vast fortune. Her residence was on the present site of the Fall River Public Library. In her youth, she was a teacher. Her charitable gifts were munificent and frequent.

The building when completed was considered the finest high school in the United States. There was ample room for the four hundred three pupils enrolled and accommodations, it was supposed, for years to come. The following teachers were of the faculty when the building was opened in September 1887: Dr. William H. Lambert, Principal, John M. Mackenzie, George F. Pope, Iram N. Smith, George W. Bronson, Everett B. Durfee, Edgar J. Rich, Julia A. Read, Hannah D. Mowry, Harriet E. Henry and Mary L. Aldrich.

The new building with its elaborately equipped laboratories, its work shop, auditorium, observatory and telescope, gymnasium and drill hall, afforded opportunities for the expansion of curriculum and extra-curriculum activities. Military drill was made compulsory for the boys and the cadets, already organized on a voluntary basis into two companies, were reorganized into a battalion of four companies. While the boys were having their drill periods, the girls were in the gymnasium. Everett B. Durfee conducted

volunteer classes for boys in the gymnasium, after school hours in the afternoon. The school paper "The Premier", prize drills, baseball and football games brought the school spirit to a high level. Musical clubs both vocal and instrumental were organized.

The school and the whole community were saddened by the sudden and untimely death of the honored and beloved principal, William H. Lambert, in December 1890. A sentence from the "In Memoriam" taken from the school report of 1890-'91 paints a word picture of Dr. Lambert as all knew him.

"His modest and gentlemanly bearing, his kind and considerate words, his masterly control of himself and others under his charge made him at once a remarkably pleasing yet strong personality."

A few months after the death of Dr. Lambert, Mrs. Mary B. Young passed to her eternal home.

Robert F. Leighton, Ph.D., a teacher, author and lecturer, was chosen on Dec. 30, 1890 to take Dr. Lambert's place. His term of service was short. He died May 3, 1892.

In September 1892, Charles C. Ramsay became principal. A comprehensive plan of study was adopted along the general lines of the one now in use, including required subjects and electives under each of the following courses, the General, College Preparatory, Scientific School Preparatory, Manual Training and Commercial. Mr. Ramsay resigned in 1902. The enrollment had increased to such an extent during his administration, that accommodations became inadequate. He influenced many of the graduates to seek higher education. As president of the Teacher's Association he planned forums and obtained prominent educators as lecturers, thus benefitting the entire teaching corps.

The Vice-Principal, George F. Pope was elected to take the place of Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Pope declined the honor but agreed to serve for the remainder of the year. At the end of the year the Committee, by a unanimous vote, again elected him principal and Mr. Pope accepted. Subsequent events proved the confidence of the Committee was not misplaced.

Mr. Pope, in his report for 1903 paid a tribute to a man whom all early students of the B. M. C. Durfee High School will surely remember. He wrote, "The excellent condition of our school building is apparent to all. This is of course due to the unremitting care of our janitor *Peleg Borden* and his assistants."

The undergraduate Athletic Association made known their desire for an athletic field. Interested graduates organized and incorporated the



B. M. C. DURFEE

*Photograph by George W. Rigby
Courtesy B. M. C. Durfee Trust Co.*



OLD HIGH SCHOOL



B. M. C. DURFEE HIGH SCHOOL

B. M. C. Durfee Athletic Association with Everett B. Durfee as President. The object as stated in the charter was "to acquire and hold ** real estate for an Athletic Field ** and in other ways encourage and aid pupils to engage in athletic and outdoor exercise". This was the movement that made possible the Athletic Field on Elsbree Street.

In 1909, Iram N. Smith, after nearly thirty years of teaching resigned. Many a student, preparing for college will remember the solid foundations attained in his Latin classes as well as his "yes, go on". He always held the respect of his students and associates.

The school became so crowded in 1911, that the entire Commercial Department and the first year pupils of the General Course were transferred to the third floor of the Lincoln School. The next year it also became necessary to hold afternoon sessions for first year college preparatory students.

Mr. Pope asked to be relieved of his duties and responsibilities as Principal and at his request he was appointed to his old position as head of the department of mathematics.

In June 1913 Frederick W. Plummer was elected principal of the B. M. C. Durfee High School. The Technical High School was completed and W. H. Dooley was chosen principal. In 1917, Mr. Dooley unexpectedly resigned, John N. Indlekofer was elected in his place but on account of ill health he was granted a leave of absence and Roy W. Kelly was appointed Acting Principal.

High School attendance was increasing rapidly all over the country and Fall River was no exception. Even the erection of the large Technical building had not solved the problem of accommodations. There had been an increase of about six hundred pupils in five years.

During the school year 1917-'18, Mr. Plummer was principal of the B. M. C. Durfee building and Charles K. Moulton was principal of the Technical building. In September 1918 the two schools were consolidated under the principalship of Mr. Moulton with Willard H. Poole and Joseph A. Wallace as assistant principals. Mr. Poole died in 1921 and Ralph M. Small was elected to succeed him. Mr. Wallace was appointed by the Governor, a member of the Board of Finance. Herbert W. Pickup was appointed in his place. This consolidation resulted in many changes in the curriculum and the school day was lengthened. During the epidemic of influenza which occurred at this time, the technical building was used as temporary hospital. When the two high schools were united, the School Committee voted to name the union The Fall River High School. This

aroused a storm of protest from former graduates and citizens. A mass-meeting was called in protest. The Committee rescinded its vote to meet the objections of the public and the name B. M. C. Durfee High School was restored.

George F. Pope retired in 1921. Mr. Pope was largely a self-educated man. He gained his broad culture by a lifetime of study and travel. He was elected a teacher in the High School in 1877. He was a master of mathematics and the greater part of his teaching was spent in instruction along these lines. Charles K. Moulton resigned July 7, 1925. Charles V. Carroll was elected principal in August of the same year.

Every available space in the two buildings was in use. There were seats for nearly four hundred pupils placed in the Durfee auditorium. For the first time in the history of the school, the graduating class (1925) contained more boys than girls.

On the night of April 10, 1928, the Technical building was destroyed by fire. It became necessary to find quarters for one thousand pupils. A two session program was instituted in the Durfee building. The girls' home economic classes were established in a nearby private residence and the shop classes for boys were located in the basements of the Lincoln and Westall Schools.

Miss Emily Winward who had been a teacher in Fall River since 1875 and a teacher of French in the High School since 1890 resigned. Later she served as a member of the school committee for two terms.

The new Technical building was occupied in September, 1930. The faculty had little cause for rejoicing, for under the economies forced upon the school department by the Board of Finance, salaries were reduced, teachers were discharged and those remaining were over-loaded with work. Of late years the school has been handicapped by crowded conditions and an insufficient teaching staff. Too few of the students however choose the technical and vocational subjects and too many (about 1,700 in 1939) pursue the commercial course. The school continues to ably prepare pupils who will continue their education in college or advanced technical schools.

In 1941, a program was arranged in the technical high school, in charge of competent teachers, for the training of defense workers; the Federal government providing the funds and the school committee granting the use of quarters and equipment. "Up to the end of December, these classes had prepared for employment 535 workers of whom 103 were women."¹

¹ Report of the Supt. of Schools, 1942.

Fall River High School Alumni Association

The Alumni Association was officially organized in 1876. Some four hundred graduates attended the first annual meeting held in Music Hall, July 6, 1877. Hon. Charles J. Holmes was the first president and music was provided by the orchestra of the Third Regiment Band.

That there was some form of organization before 1876 is evidenced by an article in the Fall River News of June 30, 1876. "It is a source of regret that the association known as the High School Alumni, once flourishing, has for a number of years been un-heard of. Graduates of the present class propose, with the assistance of last year's graduates, to revive the association."

As a part of the program of the 1877 meeting, Rev. George L. Westgate read a paper entitled "Sketch of Reunions, Rides, Excursions, etc.". Miss Mary L. Holmes, Secretary of Classes 1849 to 1852, presented in a pamphlet called "The Nucleus", published by the Alumni in 1891, the following note from the early records.

"In the first part of July (1849) the scholars held their first annual gathering. A grove near the Bear's Den, so called, was selected as the place of meeting. Nothing of particular interest marks the occasion except its being, as has been said, the first High School gathering."

"The records also report that for one of these excursions the hour of meeting was scheduled at 5 A. M. and those not on time were left behind."

The number of pupils attending High School is now so large, the members of the classes do not have an opportunity to get well acquainted, one with the other; consequently the class spirit and warm friendships do not exist as of yore. The result has been a waning interest in the Alumni meetings.

The Association has been and will continue to be of immeasurable benefit to the pupils and graduates. The B. M. C. Durfee High School Athletic Association composed of teachers and pupils in the school did not have the legal right to own property. The B. M. C. Durfee High School Alumni Athletic Association was incorporated and the land purchased for Alumni Field. Under expert and careful management many improvements have been made and the debt practically cancelled. Everett B. Durfee was the first president of the small group composing the association. Curtis E. Trafton followed Mr. Durfee as president. Ellis Gifford has been secretary since the beginning.

The Trustees of the Fall River High School Alumni Scholarships, now report total assets approximating \$96,000; the proceeds from which aid

eighteen deserving graduates seeking higher education. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Israel Brayton, the treasurer, and those who have served as trustees, for the care and fair allotment of these funds.

Normal Training School

Very few of our teachers until 1870 had any special training for their work. They were accepted as teachers when they graduated from the High School. In the late sixties, some preparatory work, consisting for the most part of a review of elementary subjects was given in the last year at the High School. Superintendent Tewksbury was the first to propose the establishment of a training school but it was not until February 1881 that one was in operation, in the Robeson School. Mrs. Emily J. Richards was the first principal and her assistants were Ella F. Keyes, Abby Fish and Eliza J. Robertson. Eighteen young ladies composed the first class and were graduated in six months. The second class began in September and was given a year's training; the first half year without pay and the second half with a nominal salary. The model teachers of the school were called floor teachers. They were required to teach about one hour daily in the presence of the student teachers. They also observed the teaching of the pupil teachers and made suggestions for improvement.

In 1888 more stringent rules were adopted and an examination was required for admission. The length of the course was increased to one and a half years.

The school was transferred from the Robeson School to the Osborn School. Miss Elizabeth S. Hammett, who had conducted the school since 1891 resigned and Miss Anna W. Braley, vice-principal of the New Bedford Training School took her place in 1896. The course was lengthened to two years. When the Fowler School opened, with grades from one to nine, it was made a part of the Training School, supplying eight practice rooms. The faculty consisted of the principal, vice-principal and four teachers. Because of the inconveniences of this two school arrangement, the faculty and students were transferred to the William S. Greene School.

By this time the number of state normal schools had increased. Transportation facilities were much improved. The opportunities for proper instruction in the normal schools were beyond the possibilities of a city training school. On July 5, 1911, the School Committee voted to abolish the Normal Training School, when the class entering in September 1911 had graduated in 1913.

Diman Vocational School

At a special meeting of the School Committee held in August 1912, a representative of Rev. John B. Diman, Principal of St. George's School at Middletown, R. I., stated that Rev. Mr. Diman offered to provide two thousand dollars for the purpose of equipping and maintaining, for one year, a manual training center, where boys from the upper grades could be trained under the part-time system, spending alternate weeks or periods in the school and in shops of various kinds. A sub-committee was appointed to confer with Rev. Mr. Diman and (that sub-committee) later presented as a partial report, the following communication from Mr. Diman, dated November 6, 1912.

"KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I John B. Diman, of Newport, County of Newport, and State of Rhode Island, being interested in the subject of Industrial Training and in consideration of the faithful performance of the terms and conditions herein contained, do hereby give, grant, set over and deliver unto the city of Fall River, a municipal corporation located in Massachusetts, the sum of Twenty-Five Hundred (\$2,500.00) Dollars upon the following terms and conditions. That the School Committee of said City of Fall River shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Part-Time Vocational Class in Industrial training; that said School Committee shall appoint a teacher or teachers, which appointment shall be subject to my approval; that the expense of equipment, salary of teacher or teachers, and all other expense incurred in the maintenance of said class up to August 1, 1913, shall be paid from the said sum of Twenty-Five Hundred (\$2,500.00) Dollars, upon an order of the Chairman of the School Committee drawn upon the City Treasurer, and audited by the City Auditor. That any balance of said sum of Twenty-Five Hundred (\$2,500.00) Dollars remaining unexpended after September 1, 1913, shall revert to the said John B. Diman, his executors, administrators or assigns."

Mr. Frederick H. Rundall, a teacher of experience in this line of work in Boston, was appointed instructor to take charge of such a room that was to be opened in the John J. McDonough School, as soon as the equipment was ready. Mr. Rundall attended Newburgh Academy, took summer courses at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before coming to Fall River, he had taught in the Newton Technical High School and the North Bennett Industrial School. His death on April 16, 1940, was keenly felt in educational circles.

The Diman Vocational² thus began with the initial gift recorded above. Mr. Diman continued similar gifts for several years. In 1915, the School Committee assumed the obligation for the entire support. The school remained at the McDonough School for only a short period, when it was moved to more commodious quarters in the Kennedy Building on Bank Street at the northwest corner of Durfee Street.

² The Diman School is now known as the Diman Vocational High School with quarters on Third Street and on Hartwell Street. Plans are under way to house the school in the city owned building at 128 Hartwell Street. The girls' division continues in the N. B. Borden School.

Continuation School

In 1919 an amended statute required fourteen year old applicants for employment to pass a sixth grade standard instead of a fourth grade record of attainment. This was shortly followed by another legislative enactment which required cities to provide schooling four hours a week, for minors between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, who were employed not less than six hours per day or remained at home under special permit. The law further required that the classes of boys and girls must be taught separately.

The *Continuation School* was established to conform to this law. The school in this city was in operation within a very short time, under the very able management of Charles E. Reed. The school was second only in size to the one in Boston established in 1914. It was classed as a model school of its kind in the state.

The girls' school was located in the N. B. Borden School, on Morgan Street. There were two divisions of the boys' school, one at the Bradford Durfee Textile School and the other in the Giesow Building on Third Street. In all three schools, part time was given to academic subjects and part time, in the girls' school to domestic arts, in the boys' school to shop work. In the early twenties, there were twenty-five hundred pupils attending every week.

The closing of many mills put an end to the employment of a large number of boys and girls under sixteen. In consequence the operation of the school was curtailed. There were a number of the pupils who remained in the school on full time. The time will probably come when this school will be combined with the Diman Vocational School.³

Bradford Durfee Textile School

The land on which the school is built is a part of the homestead estate of Major Bradford Durfee and was presented by Miss Sarah A. Brayton, the sister of Major Durfee's second wife, afterwards Mrs. Young.

During the administration of Mayor Amos M. Jackson, Mr. James Tansey and Attorney Arthur S. Phillips were selected to submit to the mayor recommendations for the organization and administration of a textile school. Mr. Phillips and Mr. Tansey, now Vice-President, have served continuously as members of the board of directors since 1898, the date of incorporation. Leontine Lincoln was the first President and served until

³ The two schools have been combined, with Joseph P. Gilligan as Director.

his death in May 1923. William Evans was the first Vice-President, William Hopewell the first Clerk and Arthur S. Phillips the Treasurer.

Under the provisions of Chapter 475 of the General Acts of Massachusetts, the state and the city shared equally the expenses of the school from 1895 to 1918. In July 1918, the school became strictly a state institution and under an agreement, Fall River contributes ten thousand dollars annually.

Day and evening classes are conducted. The school provides for three years of specialized training and has graduated over nine hundred pupils, many now filling responsible positions in textile and allied industries. There are day and evening classes for short intensified courses in special subjects. Over ten thousand students have received certificates for work accomplished. The courses include engineering, chemistry and dyeing, carding and spinning, weaving, designing and freehand drawing.

The shops and laboratories of the school have been of great value to local industries by supplying physical and chemical tests and other applied research. After World War I, rehabilitation training was given disabled veterans for a period of four years. In 1940, the first class in Massachusetts for the training of defense workers was established. The state aided Continuation School conducts academic and textile classes in the building. In times of stress or overcrowding in the public schools, temporary quarters have been provided.

Names of Principals and Terms

JOSEPH W. BAILEY.....	1903 to August, 1910
FENWICK UMPLEBY.....	September, 1910 to October, 1913
EVERETT B. DUFFEE.....	November, 1913 to August, 1916
WILLIAM HOPEWELL (Acting).....	September, 1916 to March, 1917
HENRY W. NICHOLS ⁴	April, 1917

Fall River Public Library

The Fall River Atheneum, a private library, was organized in 1835. By 1837, deserving pupils in the public schools were entitled to the use of the books for which the town paid \$800. The Atheneum collection suffered severely in the fire of 1843. It was at this time the *Skeleton in Armor* was lost. A new library was subsequently assembled and continued for seventeen years. The collection was first located in the Town Hall and afterwards in the old Music Hall on Franklin Street.

In 1860, the city established the Fall River Public Library, one of the earliest in the United States. An agreement was made with the Atheneum

⁴ Henry W. Nichols retired July 1, 1942 and was succeeded by Edward V. Carroll. Mr. Carroll died June 21, 1944, and Leslie B. Coombs was appointed principal July 14, 1944.

whereby the city obtained its collection of 2,362 volumes and a gift of 214 books from the Ocean Fire Company was added. With these as a nucleus, the library was opened in the southwest corner of the second floor of the City Hall building on May 1, 1861 and was later moved to the first floor. In 1886, after the burning of the City Hall in which nearly five thousand books were burned, the library occupied leased quarters. These included Flint's Exchange on South Main Street, then a skating rink on Danforth Street, and from January 1887 to March 1899, in the upper part of the Brown Building at the corner of North Main and Pine Streets.

In 1895 the proposition was made to erect a new library structure and land on North Main Street on the site of the homestead of Mrs. Mary Brayton Young was acquired. Although the site had a valuation of \$100,000, Mrs. Young's heirs sold it to the city for \$50,000. Ralph Adams Cram of Boston was the architect. The cornerstone was laid September 30, 1896 and the building was open to the public in March 1899. The entire cost of land and building and furnishings was \$252,000. All the conveniences of a modern library are to be found in this building. A large juvenile department was established and there is an art gallery in which are hung the works of modern artists.

Subsequently, Mrs. Robert C. Davis established a trust fund of \$50,000 in memory of her husband and his father, Dr. Robert T. Davis, for the purchase of reference books known as the Davis Memorial Fund, and the room containing these books is known as the Davis Reference Room.

In 1923 and subsequent years, four branch libraries were established in Flint Village at the north and south ends and on Columbia Street. In 1931 the Finance Board, appointed by the state, for the sake of economy decided to close all these branches which have not been re-opened. On January 1, 1940 the total number of volumes in the library was 163,287.

The librarians have been as follows:

GEORGE A. BALLARD.....	1860 to 1864
CHARLES G. REMINGTON.....	1864
WILLIAM R. BALLARD.....	1864 to 1905
GEORGE RANKIN	1905 to 1925
THOMAS HARRISON CUMMINGS	1926 to 1928
LEO R. ETZKORN.....	1929 to 1931
MARJORIE WETHERBEE	1931 to date

Mr. Rankin had served many years as assistant librarian prior to the death of William R. Ballard. His total service with the library covered fifty-two years. Miss Wetherbee also had served as assistant librarian before being appointed to the chief librarianship.



SKELETON IN ARMOR

The Skeleton in Armor

There will probably never be any further developments in the historical significance of the skeleton in armor which was a part of the old Atheneum collection destroyed by the fire of 1843. The subject cannot be better treated than it was in the "Centennial History of Fall River" by Henry M. Fenner:

"The skeleton in armor, celebrated by Longfellow, and since commemorated by a bronze tablet erected near by, was discovered in 1832, in a sand or gravel bank near Hartwell and Fifth streets.

It was near the surface, in a sitting posture, and quite perfect. On it was a triangular plate of brass, and about the waist a belt of brass tubes, each four or five inches long, about the size of a pipe stem and placed close together. Arrow heads and parts of other skeletons were found near by, and the skeleton was supposed to have been that of some Indian, probably a chief."

When Henry W. Longfellow wrote his poem on the skeleton in armor, he wrote it from tradition which he gathered on a trip to Newport. Of course it is not historical but with lapse of time it has almost reached the importance of a saga.

"Speak! Speak! thou fearful guest!
Who, with thy hollow breast
Still in rude armor drest,
Comest to daunt me!
Wrapt not in Eastern balms,
But with thy fleshless palms
Stretched, as if asking alms,
Why dost thou haunt me?"

"Then from those cavernous eyes
Pale flashes seemed to rise,
As, when the Northern skies
Gleam in December;
And, like the water's flow
Under December's snow,
Came a dull voice of woe
From the heart's chamber."

"I was a Viking old!
My deeds, though manifold,
No Skald in song has told
No Saga taught thee!
Take heed, that in thy verse
Thou dost the tale rehearse,
Else dread a dead man's curse;
For this I sought thee."

