of France and dark forests of the Danube and Carpathians - stretch from the ~~at~~ mouths of the Loire to those of the Volga - seen through clefts in grey swirls ~~fields~~ of rainclouds and flaky veils of the mist of the brooks - spreading low along the pasture lands - And then farther north still to see the earth heave into mighty ~~purple~~ masses of leaden rock and heathy ~~purple~~ moor - bordering ~~clouding~~ ~~that~~ with broad waste of glooming purple that ~~[illegible]~~ belt of field & wood - & splintering into irregular and grisly islands amidst the northern seas - beaten by storm & chilled by icedrift ~~into~~ and tormented by ~~[illegible]~~ furious ~~[illegible]~~ pulses of contending ~~warming~~ tide - until the roots of the last forests fail from among the hill ravines - and the ~~[illegible]~~ hunger of the northwinds bites their peaks into ~~[illegible]~~ barrenness - and at last the wall of ice durable like iron death like sets its white ~~[illegible]~~ teeth ~~[illegible]~~ against us out of the Polar twilight: ~~Let us fix the sight of this great colour rainbow incompassing the~~ and having once traversed in thought this gradation of the ~~[illegible]~~ zoned iris of the earth - in all its material vastness - let us go down nearer to it - & watch the parallel change in the belts of animal life - the multitudes of swift and brilliant creatures that glance in the air & sea ~~and air~~ & tread the sands of the southern zone - striped zebras & spotted leopards, ~~[illegible]~~ glistening serpents and birds arranged in purple & scarlet, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~striped zebras & spotted leopards & all delicate in form & swift in motion - and then~~ Let us ~~and~~ contrast their delicacy & brilliancy of colour & swiftness of motion ~~[illegible]~~ with the ~~[illegible]~~ post cramped strength ~~[illegible]~~ shaggy coverings and ~~[illegible]~~ dusky plumage of the northern tribes - contrast the Arabian horse with the Shetland - the tiger & leopard with the ~~[illegible]~~ wolf & bear - ~~[illegible]~~ the antelope with the elk - the bird of paradise ~~[illegible]~~ with the ~~[illegible]~~ osprey - and then submissively acknowledging ~~with reverence~~ the great laws by which the Earth and all that it bears are ruled throughout their ~~[illegible]~~ being - let us not condemn - but rejoice in - the expression by man of his own rest in ~~sympathy with~~ the ~~[illegible]~~ statutes of the ~~[illegible]~~ lands that gave him birth - & let us watch him with reverence as he sets side by side the burning ~~stones~~ gems - & ~~to~~ smooths with soft sculpture the jasper pillars that are to reflect the a ceaseless machine & rise into a ~~the~~ cloudless sky

Facsimile of a Page of the MS. of "The Stones of Venice," Vol. II. (Chapter VI. § 8)

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