

THE CITY OF THE DEAD

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SECOND EDITION

Revised and Enlarged

LONDON

LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, AND ROBERTS

1860

THE HELMSMAN' OF LAKE ERIE.



• THE burning ship flies o'er the lake !
The crew the flaming helm forsake,
And crowd the prow along !
As brighter grows the wasting fire,
The last faint rays of hope expire
Amid that ghastly throng !

Yet there is one who fearless stands,
Grasping the tiller in his hands,

¹ John Maynard, the helmsman of Lake Erie, was, during many years, well known for his intrepidity in his calling and sincere manly piety ; which qualities, when put to the test, shone out conspicuously in the act of unselfish and Christlike devotion which the above brief sketch attempts to portray. All the crew of the *Jersey* (the name of the steamer) were saved, except him to whom they owed their safety.

As flames the sternports rake ;
While other tongues but rave or swear,
His calm lips move in silent prayer —
The helmsman of the lake !

The flames advance — each shrivell'd sail
Refuses now to hold the gale
The blacken'd masts upon :
With bursting eye and throbbing brain,
In spite of Torture's fiercest pain,
Still holds the helmsman on.

The flames advance with threat'ning stride ! —
He keeps his post the helm beside,
And nears the coming strand :
The flames with fiery fingers spread
A martyr's wreath around his head !
His strong hand shrivels in their breath !
But ere the hero sinks in death,
They gain the long'd-for land.

Let this, then, teach thy selfish heart
To choose, when call'd, the martyr's part ;
 With fearless soul to brave,
For others' weal, the direst woe ;
Like Him that others saved, although
 Himself He would not save.