Solution to Counting in Circles

The “poem” is a rather long mnemonic of the decimal expansion of pi with some mistakes thrown in. As stated in the introduction to the puzzle, there is exactly one mistake in each couplet. The location of the mistakes in each couplet code to a letter in the alphabet (mistake in the first word of the couplet would give A etc). The encoding scheme uses the following convention.

- If the word length is between 1 and 9, it corresponds to the number
- Word length of 10 corresponds to a 0 in the decimal expansion of pi
- Word lengths greater than 10 should be interpreted as encoding 2 consecutive digits of pi. This happens only once with the word tribulation in the 6th couplet.

Saw a Hare. A white scrambler in tuxedo - agile and truly delicate.
Overheard him murmuring - "God I’m now terribly late"
Roused by wonder, fear and awe followed but then swiftly
Rocketing crash avalanched me headlong abruptly
Yond a illumined hallway I saw; entrances
Low precisely separated. All secured alike - a formidable sight
Obscured by lamplight’s sparkling, passkey golden teasingly laid
Over table glassmade my eye recognized. Bending,
Kneeling I slowly door unfastened. Behold, an ethereal sight -
An immaculate woodland - verdurous, flowering delights.
Goaded by yearning, gainelessly did seek ardently to enter
And alas! My tribulation mounted. Diminutive access wouldn’t suffer entering
In a tiny decanter, definitive capitals
Noted "Savor a sip" - my windfall it was

Taking the alphabets corresponding to the locations of the mistakes gives us NIFFIRG. Spelt backwards, this gives GRIFFIN which is the answer to the puzzle.

The poem narrates the incidents of the beginning parts of Alice in Wonderland. There is also an Acrostic that reads “SORRY LOOK AGAIN”. Turns out this is one too many constraint which made the whole thing very forced.