

northern latitude have been out many a cold day and know what hard frost means. And we can set to our seals that the first two stanzas of St. Agnes' Eve are a perfect revelation of what a northern clime can do at that season of the year. "The owl"—so comfortably clad, almost necessarily frost proof, yet "for all his feathers was acold." We can see him huddled up.

"The hare limped trembling through the frozen grass
And *silent* was the flock in woolly fold ;
Numb were the headsman's fingers while he told
His rosary, and while his frosted breath
Like pious incense from a censer old
Seemed taking flight for heaven without a death.
The sculptured dead on each side seemed to freeze.
Knights, ladies praying in dumb oratories
He passeth by ; and his weak spirit fails
To think how they may ache in icy hoods and mails."

We feel like shuddering when we read these words and find ourselves blowing upon our fingers to keep them warm. It is a case where words have passed into hard frost. And yet although we blow our warm breath on our fingers and shudder at the thought of the cold we feel no disturbing sensation. We are charmed by the truthfulness of the delineation and rejoice at such a delicate handling of words. Besides the cold evening is enveloped in the warm, mysterious sanctity and awe and reverence and symbolism and incense of the Mediaeval Church and there is a strange delight in that. And this scene, too, is placed in contrast with the warm, glowing picture of love that is to succeed and the gorgeous evening's revelry "with plume, tiara and all rich array, when up aloft the silver snarling trumpets 'gan to chide, and the level chambers ready with their pride were glowing to receive a thousand guests." The Beadsman had no part in this. But *we* have and we relish the loveliness of a clear, frosty night without, and glowing hearths within, and beauty, chivalry, love, fair women and brave men. The pathetic part of it—and unfortunately the poetry of Keats is full of this pathos—the nature touches subordinate the interest in the