

Ah me! I am here to stay, and soon  
The wind blows, chill, from the cold north east,  
And the mercury drops so low, so low  
Scant comfort, indeed, has man or beast,  
And then, when my patience is almost spent,  
('Tis Manitoha's own fickle way)  
I arise some morning, and find installed  
An absolute gem of a winter day.

My day of days, in the winter time,  
Is a dull soft day, when snowflakes drift  
Not eddying, wild, at the winds free will,  
But gently down through the mild air sift.  
And whenever the cold King's hard old heart,  
Is moved to grant me a day so fair;  
I hie me forth to the silent woods,  
Down the woodland path, through the still pure air.

Down the woodland path, where stately trees,  
Form on either hand, so tall and brown,  
A background, dim, of sombre hue.  
To feathery snowflakes fluttering down,  
Just pausing to rest on the gnarled old oaks  
Or the maple boughs, till Earth's eerie lure,  
Bids them to blend with their star-like mates  
And weave for my pathway, a carpet, pure.

In deep mid-woods, is an open glade  
Where I linger, to rest, on a fallen tree,  
And the joy of living enters my soul  
In this fair white world, which holds only me.  
Beyond the trees there's a town, perhaps,  
But here I'm alone 'neath the soft grey sky,  
Save a twittering snow-bird overhead,  
Or a snow-white rabbit scurrying by.

Beyond the trees there's a town, may be  
With hurrying mortals, too intent  
On business, or household cares, to know  
That a fairy day has to them been sent.  
Insensate? perhaps, yet I so hest,  
A sigh for their loss, can surely spare,  
When even King Winter's hard old heart  
Has softened, to grant me a day so fair.

Dear day of days, if you could but stay  
With your crystal flakes, and your soft grey sky,  
But ah! in the air there's a twilight chill,  
A hint that the hours are passing by.  
And as up the woodland path I stroll,  
Through the falling snow, to the haunts of men,  
A prayer from the depths of my heart, I breathe,  
"Dear snowy day, come soon again."