

Shepherds' Song

By Nora Hopper

“**A**LL alas and welladay”
 (Shepherds say !)
Stepping with a stealthy pace
 Past the place
Where the idle lilies blow !
“ Here Diana dreaming lay
 (Snow in snow !)
Lay a-dreaming on a day
 Long ago.”

Few the prayers the shepherds say
 (Welladay !)
Now Diana ends her chase,
 Giving place
To a maid with softer eyes,
 Colder breast
(Mystery of mysteries !)
For her greatest gift, and best,
 Giving rest.

“ Now

Shepherds' Song

"Now we thole," the shepherds say,
 "Shorter night and longer day.

Shorter days

Sweeter were : when in the nights

Came a sudden press of lights :

Came the shining of a face

Far away.

And we gave Diana praise

For the passing of her face."

"All alas and welladay,"

Shepherds say—

"Maiden rule we still obey—

Yet we loved the first maid best :

Terror-pressed

Though we fled by herne and hollow

Fearing angry shafts to follow,

Dead, we knew that we should rest

On her breast."

"All alas and welladay,"

Shepherds say,

"Earth was green that now is grey :

Auster dared not any day

Beat or blow

When 'mid lilies Dian lay

(Snow in snow !)

Lay a-dreaming on a day

Long ago."