of it is only necessary that I should quote the beginning and the end:—

"Majoric tree, whose wrinkled trunk hath stood
Age after age the patriarch of the wood;
Who long have been a thousand years unvisited.

Yet shall she fall, thy leafy tree's face,
And here be buried in the round of the world;"
ST. VALENTINE IN THE CAVALIER DAYS.

The *Wesminster Dollery* is a book an edition of which is not to be had for love or money. But one edition, in 1672, has been printed in perfect form, please to Mr. Roberts of Boston, Lincolnshire, who has obligingly forwarded us a copy. It contains the songs and poems current at the time, and much can be learned from them about the social life of the day. The work is edited by J. Woodfall Elsworth, M.A., Cantab., who has written an Introduction on the Literature of the Period, and added a copious Appendix of notes, illustrations, etc.

The songs are poems, and are, of course, very much like the men of the time, and it may be added, the women also, whose ways and manners they illustrate. There is an impulsive but unmistakable seriousness of purpose about most of them. Love is more passion. The words flatter like the ribbons which were in fashion with both sexes and the oaths bind to nothing; the vows are broken as soon as made; and if the rogues and hussies are amusing, they are not edifying.

The book is, in short, one of those apologues for society, approved by the statement that it is intended for the student rather than for the general reader. There is, in short, a very great gulf in some of its poems, and it is not surprising that its contents are not edifying.

In the above rough lines we find some of the ceremonies of the Eve of St. Valentine. The two poems are in the same example, and it is a curious fact that in some of the old poems, St. Valentine's Day was observed when the swains and their mistresses contrived to encounter each other:

"The Valentine"

As youthful day put on his best
Attire to show the Vale of Venus:
A piece of ribbons, a piece of lace,
Utmost to set the ladies to dance.

The first example runs thus neatly:

"The Boating of Valentine.

There was neither there, nor there,
And the young maid was there.
A Crew in St. Valentine's Day meet together,
And every lad had his particular lady;
A charming day in April, June,
Comming thither.

Then John did saunt on the bank first in Sir,
And John and Joan did fain have drawn John as she desired.

So Mrs. Mary drew Mrs. Gillian the next Sir,
And Mrs. Gillian not drawing of William, was next Sir.
They then did jumble all together,
And each did promis to draw on Sir.

But Mrs. Justice voweled that she had rather draw Mrs. Mary than Mr. Justice,

Mrs. Mary did draw Mr. Mary for Mr. Mary,
And Mr. Mary drew Mrs. Mary for a lady.

While the Valentine did grow this year,
I purchased from her breast.
To me she gave her golden look for mine;
My ring of Jett.

For her Bracelet,
I gave my Valentine.

Signed with a line of love,
My name for her I wrote;
In all the form she knew it was,
Wherein that was her out.

As shall this year thy truth appear,
I still, my dear, I am true,
Your swain to day, and love for age.
If so may, was mine,
While thus on each other's favours shine
No more have to change, quoth she.

Now farewell, Valentine,
Also, said I, let friends not seem
Between themselves so strange.

The Jewels both we desist from, yet,
Yet she was best, as she's known me.

She answers no, yet smiles as though
Her face wasilda, her thought desires;
Whose truth of morrow's mind will know,
Must seek it in her Eyes;

They all told tales, I said,

In the above rough lines we find some of the ceremonies of the Eve of St. Valentine. The two poems are in the same example, and it is a curious fact that in some of the old poems, St. Valentine's Day was observed when the swains and their mistresses contrived to encounter each other:

"The Valentine"

As youthful day put on his best
Attire to show the Vale of Venus:
A piece of ribbons, a piece of lace,
Utmost to set the ladies to dance.

The first example runs thus neatly:

In fields, by Thebou, great with young
Of flowers and hopeful birds.
Resembling the love that fresh spring
In lovers' lively bodes.

The Second example runs thus:

In fields, by Thebou, great with young
Of flowers and hopeful birds.
Resembling the love that fresh spring
In lovers' lively bodes.