

Nota di Leigh Hunt
alla seconda stanza di *The Eve of St. Agnes*

The Eve of St. Agnes, stanza ii.

His prayer he saith, this patient, holy man;
Then takes his lamp, and riseth from his knees,
And back returneth, meagre, barefoot, wan,
Along the chapel aisle by slow degrees:
The sculptur'd dead, on each side, seem to freeze,
Emprison'd in black, purgatorial rails:
Knights, ladies, praying in dumb orat'ries,
He passeth by; and his weak spirit fails
To think how they may ache in icy hoods and mails.

Leigh Hunt pubblica la poesia di John Ketas *The Eve of St. Agnes* sul *London Journal* (21 gennaio, 1835) accompagnata da note. Alla seconda stanza segue il commento:

The germ of the thought, or something like it, is in Dante, where he speaks of the figures that perform the part of sustaining columns in architecture. Keats had read Dante in Mr. Cary's translation, for which he had a great respect. He began to read him afterwards in Italian, which language he was mastering with surprising quickness.