

(Belgium) with Holland and Zealand, under the leadership of William of Orange, in their struggle against Philip II of Spain. Browning's explanation directs attention to the main points in the poem, the delight of riding and the rider's love of his horse. The ride from Ghent to Aix-la-Chapelle goes west and southwest across Belgium.

Robert Browning lived from 1812 to 1889. A sketch of his life and a portrait appeared in the REVIEW for April, 1912.

In the notes on these two poems in *Select Poems of Robert Browning* (Longman's English Classics), we find the following directions: *Incident of the French Camp*. "The speaker and the scene must be vividly imagined. We may suppose a little group of French veterans smoking their pipes over a glass of wine at an inn, and recalling incidents in their glorious campaigning with the little general. The speaker is standing, and begins in familiar story telling fashion, 'You know we French stormed Ratisbon,' and continuing, he insensibly assumes dramatically Napoleon's customary attitude, 'legs wide, arms locked behind.' The poem * * * needs careful reading, especially in the fourth and fifth stanzas—the desperate effort of the dying lad to deliver his message—and the transition to the quieter, slower, tenderer manner of the concluding stanza."

How they brought the Good News. "Again, essentially a poem for dramatic realization. The rhythm is the chief factor. The pauses of the opening stanza are important until as the more even swing of the lines intimates, the horses settle down to a steady gallop."

[The notes for January will be on *St Agnes Eve* and *Sir Galahad*.]

THE QUESTION BOX.

SHYLOCK (a misnomer, we trust).—Suitable passages for memorizing in *The Merchant of Venice* are: Act I, Sc. 1, "In Belmont is a lady," eleven lines; Sc. 2, "If to do were as easy" to "mine own teaching;" Act II, Sc. 6, "Who riseth from a feast," six lines; Act III, Sc. 1, "He hath disgraced me" to "better the instruction;" Sc. 2, "You see me Lord Bassanio," seventeen lines. "Is it your dear friend?" to "in Italy;" Sc. 4, "I never did repent," nine lines; Act IV, Sc. 1, "You may as well go stand," ten lines; "The quality of mercy" to "the deeds of mercy;" Act V, Sc. 1, lines one to fourteen; "How sweet the moonlight," twelve lines; "The poet did feign," nine lines; "How far that little candle," nineteen lines.

WHO, WHAT AND WHERE?

QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER.

(All from one author.)

1. Where does the winter thorn blossom at Christmas?
2. What story was read aloud by the author at Francis Allen's on Christmas Eve?
3. To whom did the merry bells of Yule bring "sorrow touched with joy?"
4. Who were "sick for the hollies and the yews of home" at Christmas time?
5. What happened on "that day when the great light of heaven burned at his lowest in the rolling year?"

QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

(All from one author.)

1. Where were: (a) Salem House, (b) the Nuns' House, and who was the favourite pupil at each?
2. Who went to school to (a) Dr. Blimber, (b) Dr. Strong, (c) Mr. Wopsle's great aunt?
3. Who said that Watts' verses on "The Little Busy Bee" were applicable only to genteel children?
4. Of what schoolmaster or mistress was it said that:
 - (a). The habit of questioning and of being questioned had given him a suspicious manner, or a manner that would be better described as one of lying in wait.
 - (b). It was part of her system not to encourage a child's mind to expand like a flower, but to open it by force like an oyster.
 - (c). He was a kind of human barrel-organ with a little list of tunes, at which he was continually working over and over again, without any variation?

ANSWERS.

(All from Dickens.)

1. (a). David Copperfield's first school, at Blackheath. Steerforth was accused by Mr. Mell of making use of his position of favouritism.—*David Copperfield*.
(b). At Cloisterham (Rochester). "The pet pupil of the Nuns' House is Miss Rosa Bud."—*Mystery of Edwin Drood*.
2. (a). Paul Dombey, (b) David Copperfield, (c) Pip, in *Great Expectations*.
3. Miss Monflathers said: 'The Little Busy