

II. (1) Point out words or phrases that are of a poetic nature. Give prose equivalents for them. (2) What is meant by "her pride shall kiss the ground?" (3) Why is that expression said to be a figure of speech; what figure is it? [Note that we compare pride with a person bowing down to the dust; we have, therefore, a comparison of unlike objects, giving us a figure of comparison. This comparison is stated absolutely, which constitutes the *metaphor*.] (4) Point out similar figures in the poem. (5) What is meant by "thunder" and "wings" (l. 7). (6) Why "celestial" fire? [Prophecy inspired by heaven]. (7) Why "awful" lyre? (8) What do you notice peculiar in sound in "pitiless as proud?" (9) What name is given to this peculiarity? [Alliteration]. (10) Point out other instances of alliteration in the poem.

V.—BIOGRAPHICAL.

The poetic spirit of the Elizabethan age had almost died out. Poetry had become a soulless thing, a nicely polished form from which, however, the spirit had fled. Cowper was one of the first in a reactionary movement, by which again the superiority of the natural to the artificial, of the thought to its expression, was asserted.

The gray November weather in which, in 1731, the child of the Rev. John Cowper opened his baby eyes upon a cheerless world, was a mournful prelude of the life that was to follow. He was of a good Whig family, and descended through his mother from Henry III. That mother died when the little, sensitive child was only six years of age. He was sent to a boarding-school, where his experience was such as he could never look back upon without shuddering. After spending two years with an oculist, on account of weak eyes, he next passed to Westminster school, where he laid the foundation of a good classical scholarship. At eighteen he left school to study law, and in course of time was called to the bar. But all hope of a successful professional career was cut off by an attack of insanity. He recovered after a few months, but, abandoning all thought of a return to his profession, he was provided with a home at Huntingdon. Here he made the acquaintance of the Rev. Wm. Unwin, his wife, and their son and daughter. The acquaintance ripened into so warm a friendship that Cowper soon left his bachelor home and became a member of the Unwin household. They were intensely religious people, for they had caught the fervor that was being felt throughout England in the form of the great revival of religion which produced the Methodists. After Mr. Unwin's death, Cowper and Mrs. Unwin removed to the dreary town of Olney, in Buckinghamshire, attracted by the presence of an enthusiastic preacher of the revival, John Newton. A life spent in uninterrupted religious exercises—for hymn-writing was scarcely an