

QUESTIONS ON "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE" 157

(c) Name the four separate stories that Shakespeare uses in *The Merchant of Venice*.

(d) Show very briefly how he has woven them into one unified story.

3. (a) What are the various causes of Shylock's hatred of Antonio?

(b) By what means does Shakespeare preserve our sympathy for Shylock in spite of his blood-thirstiness?

4. (a) I speak too long ; but 'tis to *peize* the time
To *eke* it, and to draw it out in length,
To stay you from election.

Who is the speaker, and to whom are the lines addressed? Explain the italicized expressions.

(b) In such a night
Stood Dido with a willow in her hand
Upon the wild sea-banks.

Under what circumstances are these lines spoken? Who was Dido? Why is she represented "with a willow in her hand"?

5. (a) Gentlemen,
Will you prepare you for this masque to-night?
I am provided of a torch-bearer.

Who is the speaker? To whom does he refer in the last line? What is the meaning of "masque"?

(b) for in companions
That do converse and *waste the time together*,
Whose souls do bear an *equal yoke of love*,
There must be needs a like *proportion*
Of *lineaments*, of manners, and of spirit.

Who is the speaker? What companions does the speaker have in mind in making the statement? Explain the italicized expressions.

6. What purpose is served in the play by the introduction of Jessica? Indicate the three chief occasions on which she appears on the stage, and tell what she says and does on each of these occasions.