his intellect, and, convening an assembly of the nobility, explained and justified his conduct. In fact he did what Shakspeare's Hamlet requested Horatio to do:

> —— " Report me and my cause aright
> To the unsatisfied." :

It seems strange that Hamlet should always be perfectly sane or rational when he is in company with Horatio; he never exhibits to him any of those " fitful incoherencies " and " antick dispositions " which he betrays to Rosencrantz, Guildenstern and Polonius, whom he regards as spies set to " pluck out the heart of his mystery and sound him from the lowest note to the top of his compass."

Again, when Hamlet is alone, if we reflect upon his awful reverence for the Great Supreme, his reflections on man and his admiration of the works of nature, the philosophic turn of his mind, his acute penetration, his observations upon an infinity of unconnected and dissimilar subjects, who shall pronounce him mad—insane—bereft of reason—" driven into desperate terms " ?   He may have had a morbid melancholy preying upon his heart; his views of life may have been clouded; he may have been weary of the world and disgusted with his fellow-creatures.   There are thousands such who are not irresponsible beings.

" What is this quintessence ? Man delights not me,—nor woman neither." Would they delight any one under similar circumstances?   A loving father

> " Cut off in the blossom of *his* sin,
> Unhousel'd, disappointed, unanel'd;
> No reckoning made, but sent to *his* account
> With all *his* imperfections on his head."

The fair Ophelia, whom he loved to such an extent that

> " Forty thousand brothers
> Could not, with all their quantity of love,
> Make up *his* sum,"

locking herself from his resort, admitting no messengers, repelling his letters, denying his access to her, his remembrances suddenly and ungraciously returned to him:

> " His path ever dogged by spies."

Yet we are asked to believe Hamlet to be mad because he is harsh to Ophelia, sarcastic to Polonius, and discorteous to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, disdainful to the King who had " killed