

open, the effort to escape the consequences of his crimes by striking down blindly all those who attempt to oppose him or stand in his way.

At the opening of Act III., Lady Macbeth appears in an unhappy, dejected mood—partly as a result of her own remorse, but chiefly because she sees that Macbeth is brooding over his crimes. Her self control, however, never forsakes her, and both before the murder of Banquo and during the banquet, she uses all her resources in the attempt to control the mood of Macbeth and conceal his weaknesses. When she sees that all is over, however, she gives way to a mood of utter dejection, which prepares the way for her “thick-coming fancies” in the final scene in which she appears in the play.

#### ACT IV.—SCENE I.

As the witches' prophecies and their fulfilment form the chief source of interest in the second half of the play, the dramatist takes special means in this scene to make the interview with the witches impressive. The witches' cauldron is introduced and the gruesome ingredients of the “hell-broth” are detailed in such a way as to make the audience shudder at the charm. Each of the prophecies is accompanied by a mysterious apparition which renders it more impressive; and the prophecies themselves are so striking as to challenge the interest of the audience in their fulfilment.

1. brinded. Brindled, streaked.
2. hedge-pig. Hedge-hog.
3. Harpier. This may be a corruption of the word *harpy*. In mythology, a harpy was a monster with the face of a woman and the body of a bird of prey.
- 6-8. It makes little difference whether we consider the verb to be *has sweltered* or *has got*.
  - sweltered. Like a cold sweat.
  12. Fillet. A little strip or slice.
  - fenny. Living in a bog or fen.
  14. newt. A small lizard. Originally this word was spelled *ewt*, but in the course of time the expression *an ewt* came to be written *a newt*, and the form *ewt* disappeared.