

156 QUESTIONS ON "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE"

- (d) When she put it on she made me vow
That I should neither sell nor give nor lose it.

3. State briefly your estimate of the character of Antonio, supporting your conclusions by references to the play.

4. *Shylock*. I have possess'd your grace of what I purpose
And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn
To have the due and forfeit of my bond :
If you deny it, let the danger light
Upon your charter and your city's freedom.
You'll ask me, why I rather choose to have
A weight of carrion flesh than to receive
Three thousand ducats ; I'll not answer that ;
But, say, it is my humour : is it answer'd ?
What if my house be troubled with a rat,
And I be pleased to give ten thousand ducats
To have it baned ?

(a) To what remarks of the duke is Shylock here replying ?

(b) Give the substance of Shylock's reply to the question suggested in the last three lines.

(c) Describe briefly the conduct of Gratiano during the trial.

(d) Explain : "possess'd" (l. 1) . "our holy Sabbath" (l. 2) ;
"your charter and your city's freedom" (l. 5).

5. Outline briefly the story of the caskets as given in *The Merchant of Venice*.

Junior Matriculation

1. (a) Give the substance of Portia's comment on each of any three of the different suitors named to her by Nerissa.

(b) What do we learn about Portia's character and ability from her comments on these suitors ?

(c) State the terms of the sentence passed on Shylock. Discuss the justice of each of these terms.

2. (a) Give in your own words the arguments by which Portia tries to persuade the Jew to be merciful.

(b) Why have these arguments no effect on Shylock ?