

ten upon it. The training and practising of the knights might be discussed. Read to the class the best prose description of a tournament as found in *Ivanhoe*. If this is read well by the teacher any boy who has not read *Ivanhoe* will not rest until he has procured a copy. Then tell the boys that we are now going to read the best description of a tournament that was ever written in verse, which is the first stanza of *Sir Galahad*.

"The shattering trumpet shrilleth high." This is the signal for the mounted knights arranged in two rows at either end of the lists to charge. "The hard brands shiver on the steel." They have met in the centre. "The horse and rider reel." The knights are contending for supremacy. "And when the tide of combat stands" the ladies shower flowers on those who have been successful. Although *Sir Galahad's* strength is as the strength of ten he does not glory in his ability to contend in the tournament but——— and now the lesson may proceed.

The *Lady of Shalott*. As *Sir Galahad* is a story relating to chivalry that appeals to boys, so "The *Lady of Shalott*" is a story relating to chivalry that appeals to girls. Here is an excellent opportunity to introduce the class to "The *Idylls of the King*," as this poem is only another version of "Lancelot and Elaine," the story of which may be told to the class in a few minutes and it will help wonderfully to arouse an interest in the lesson proper. King Arthur, "long before they crowned him king," when roving through a trackless glen came upon the skeletons of two men who had fought until "each had slain his brother at a blow."

"And he that once was king had on a crown,
Of diamonds, one in front and four aside."
When Arthur became king, he decided that there should be

"Once every year a joust for one of these"
"And eight years past, eight jousts had been and still
Had Lancelot won the diamond of the year
With purpose to present them to the Queen."
When the ninth year came and with it the contest for the diamond, Lancelot decided to go to the tournament in disguise.

"He left the barren-beaten thoroughfare
Full often lost in fancy lost his way."
and came upon the Castle of Astolat. The Lord of Astolat and his two strong sons came out to meet him
"And close behind them stepped the lily maid
Elaine, his daughter."

Lancelot borrowed from Lord Astolat a shield belonging to his son, continued on his way to the tournament, won the ninth diamond, refused to accept it, was severely wounded, was nursed back to strength and health by Elaine, who loved him with all her heart. When Lancelot

recovered he left the castle without returning Elaine's love for him. Elaine died of a broken heart. The theme of this poem, unrequited love, is the same as that of the *Lady of Shalott*, and a knowledge of the one will help the pupil to appreciate and enjoy the other.

"Break, break, break,
On thy cold, gray stones, O Sea.
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me."

A visit to a place where several years before one has had a very happy or a very sad experience, recalls vividly that experience. Where is Tennyson standing as he sees the waves breaking at the foot of the crags? What happened there just nine years before? As Tennyson overlooks Bristol Channel he thinks of the day when he said good-bye to a young man who had been his daily companion for years.

"The sweetest soul that ever looked with human eyes.
Dear as the mother to the son
More than my brothers are to me."
Hallam had gone to Vienna for his health but had died there. Tennyson longs

"For the touch of a vanished hand
And the sound of a voice that is still."

Reference to the experience of Tennyson gives to the pupil a fuller appreciation of the poem "A Dirge" The Sea Shell. A young man loved a young lady who, in turn loved him. Maud's brother did not desire her to be married to this young man but to another who had a higher standing socially and financially. This Squire was to give

"A grand political dinner
To the men of many acres;
A dinner and then a dance
For the maids and marriage makers.
And every eye but mine will glance
At Maud in all her glory
For I am not invited;
But with the Sultan's pardon
I am all as well delighted,
For I know her own rose-garden
And mean to linger in it."

He remains in Maud's garden all night waiting for the dancing to cease.

"All night have the roses heard
The flute, violin, bassoon,
Till a silence fell with the waking bird
And a hush with the setting moon."

He talks to the lily, the rose and other flowers and shows his great love for Maud and her beauty when he says:

"Queen rose of the rose bud garden of girls
Come hither, the dances are done,
In gloss of satin and glimmer of pearls
Queen lily and rose in one;