

18. **what we owe.** What we really own (owe) or possess.

19-20. When we indulge in conjectures (thoughts speculative) we only state what we hope will take place. It is only by actual fighting that we can decide (arbitrate) the result for a certainty.

QUESTIONS.

1. Contrast the mood of Malcolm, Macduff, and Siward, in this scene, with that of Macbeth in the previous scene.

2. Point out the details in this scene that help to strengthen the belief of the audience that the downfall of Macbeth is certain.

SCENE V.

At the opening of Scene V. Macbeth announces his resolve to stand siege in the castle. Then comes the news that Lady Macbeth is dead, and at the same time a messenger brings him word that Birnam Wood is actually moving towards Dunsinane. To a man of Macbeth's temperament, his only safety appears to be in action, and he resolves to go forth to fight the enemy instead of remaining in the castle as a prey to his own gloomy thoughts.

5. **forced.** Reinforced, strengthened.

10. **cool'd.** It would have made my blood run cold.

11. **fell.** Skin, scalp.

12. **treatise.** Story.

14. **Direness.** Horror.

17. *Should* is used in the sense of *would*. She would have died some time anyway. So Brutus says in *Julius Caesar* :—

“With meditating that she must die once,
I have the patience to endure it now.”

18. **such a word.** Such a word as “death.”

19-23. Day by day, little by little, time passes, and men will continue to die in the future, just as others have died in the past.

23. **dusty death.** “Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Gen. iii., 19.)

candle. Life is compared to a candle.