

QUESTIONS.

1. Brutus speaks of the victory of Antony and Octavius as a "vile conquest." Why?

2. In his prophecy over the body of Cæsar in Act III., Antony had spoken of "Cæsar's spirit ranging for revenge." How was his prophecy fulfilled?

3. We know that Brutus as leader of the conspirators made many mistakes. How then can you justify Antony's eulogy in lines 73-75?

4. It was in reality Antony who made the arrangements for the disposition of the body of Brutus. Why, then, does the dramatist represent Octavius as giving the final instructions, in lines 76-81?

SUMMARY OF ACT V.

Act V. opens with a parley between Brutus and Cassius, on the one hand, and Antony and Octavius, on the other. Then follow the battles of Philippi, with the deaths of Cassius and Brutus, and the play closes with the triumph of Antony and Octavius:

"So call the field to rest; and let's away
To part the glories of this happy day."

To outward appearances Brutus and Cassius have failed. All the conspirators except Brutus "did that they did in envy of great Cæsar," and even though Brutus "in a general honest thought and common good to all, made one of them," the events of the story show that he was fighting against the spirit of the times, which he did not understand. But even if Brutus and Cassius are defeated, we feel that the loyal friendship of Cassius and the ideals of Brutus become them better even in defeat, than the cold unsympathetic spirit of Octavius and the treacherous eloquence of Antony, and that Brutus is right when he prophesies that he

"Shall have glory by this losing day,
More than Octavius and Mark Antony
By this vile conquest shall attain unto."

Lofty ideals and noble purposes, even though they bring defeat in their train, are better than mere practical wisdom, even though it be followed by worldly success. Brutus, not Cæsar, Octavius, or Antony, is the real hero of the play.