

31. To wake. To arouse.

Siward. Earl of Northumberland, who had put down the rebellion of Earl Godwin.

35. Free our feasts and banquets from bloody knives.

40-3. When Macduff says, "Sir, not I," the messenger frowns and hums as if to say, "You'll be sorry for making me carry so unwelcome an answer back to the king."

cloudy. Frowning.

turns me his back. The pronoun *me* is ethical dative, suggesting the interest which the speaker has in the conduct of the messenger.

clogs me. Burdens me.

49. Under. Related to *suffering*.

QUESTIONS.

1. (a) Judging from the speech of Lennox, upon whom did Macbeth place the blame for the murder of Banquo?

(b) In what respect did the murder of Banquo and the escape of Fleance suggest the circumstances connected with Macbeth's former crime?

2. What do we learn from this scene as to (a) the fortunes of Malcolm, (b) the action of Macduff, and (c) the further action of Macbeth?

SUMMARY.

Act III. deals almost entirely with the murder of Banquo,—its causes and consequences; and, as we have seen, the murder of Banquo and the escape of Fleance mark the dramatic centre of the play. But although we are interested in the action we are still more interested in the further development of the characters of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Macbeth, as we have seen, cannot stand the strain of mental suspense, and his fear that the prophecy of the weird sisters regarding Banquo may come true makes him take action to prevent its fulfilment. The partial failure of his plans, however, proves too much for his disordered imagination and he betrays himself before the assembled nobles at the banquet. To a man of Macbeth's temperament, lacking in mental control and unhappy unless in action, there is only one course left