

QUESTIONS ON "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE"

FROM EXAMINATION PAPERS

Senior High School Entrance, Senior Public School Diplomas, and Entrance into the Model Schools

1. *Lorenzo.* Madam, although I speak it in your presence,
You have a noble and a true conceit
Of god-like amity ; which appears most strongly
In bearing thus the absence of your lord.
But if you knew to whom you show this honour,
How true a gentleman you send relief,
How dear a lover of my lord your husband,
I know you would be prouder of the work
Than customary bounty can enforce you.

(a) State briefly the circumstances which caused Lorenzo to address Portia as above.

(b) Describe the nature of the honour shown and the relief sent by Portia to which Lorenzo refers in lines 5 and 6.

(c) On what grounds does Portia explain her desire to aid thus an unknown person ?

(d) How does Lorenzo chance to be in Portia's house at this time ?

(e) Explain "true conceit" (l. 2) ; "god-like amity" (l. 3) ; "How dear a lover" (l. 7) ; "customary bounty" (l. 9).

2. By whom, and in what connection is each of the following passages spoken ?

(a) Had I but the means
To hold a rival place with one of them,
I have a mind presages me such thrift,
That I should questionless be fortunate !

(b) If he will take it, so ; if not, adieu ;
And, for my love, I pray you wrong me not.

(c) Take this same letter,
And use thou all the endeavour of a man
In speed to Padua : see thou render this
Into my cousin's hand.