

132-3. (It) being always kept in mind that I must be kept clear of blame.

134. *rub*. Imperfections. In bowling, a *rub* is something that interferes with the free movement of the ball.

136. *material*. Important.

138. *Resolve yourselves*. Make up your minds; or perhaps the word *resolve* is used in its literal sense, in which case the expression means, "separate yourselves."

QUESTIONS.

1. How does Banquo view the fulfilment of the prophecies of the weird sisters regarding Macbeth?

2. What means does Macbeth use to prevent Banquo from becoming suspicious regarding the inquiries that are made as to his plans?

3. What evidence do you find in this scene as to the length of time that has elapsed since the murder of Duncan?

4. What two reasons does Macbeth give for fearing Banquo?

5. Macbeth hesitated to murder Duncan because of his fear of the consequences. Why does he not show the same hesitation in undertaking the murder of Banquo?

SCENE II.

Scene II. is of interest because it gives us an insight into the state of mind of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. The short soliloquy of Lady Macbeth at the opening of the scene shows us that even though she has become queen she is far from happy:

"Nought's had, all's spent,
Where our desire is got without content."

We are not told why she is unhappy, but we are left to suppose that in some degree she is suffering from remorse. But no doubt it is the conduct of Macbeth that is the chief cause of her depression. She finds that although she was able to force him into the crime, she is unable to control his actions and feelings further, and she sees that as long as he is in these moods neither of them can have any real peace of mind.