

reader then weigh the estimate, as dignified as fitting, of the prerogative which the great dramatist offers by one of the characters in "Measure for Measure." A murderer's sister, it may be said, is interceding with the provisional head of the state for the condemned:

"Well, believe this,
No ceremony that to great ones 'longs,
Not the King's crown, nor the deputed sword,
The marshal's truncheon, nor the judge's robe
Become them with one half so good a grace
As mercy does."

Then occurs this highly attractive image:—

"And mercy then will breathe within your lips
Like man new-made."

The girl's touching appeal contains the well-known passage:—

"O, it is excellent
To have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant";

And that equally familiar,

"Man, proud man,
Drest in a little brief authority;
Most ignorant of what he's most assured,
His glassy essence, like an angry ape,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven,
As make the angels weep."

It should not be overlooked that, by his answer, the ruler displays the other side of the shield!

"I shew it, (pity) most of all when I shew justice,
For then I pity those I do not know,
Which a dismissed offence would after gall,
And do him right that, answering one foul wrong,
Live not to act another."

Thus far, little more than the worth and efficacy of the prerogative, as the lodging of mercy, has been emphasized. And