

SCENE V.

The conversation between Brutus and his friends only serves to show the affection in which he is held by his followers. Brutus has been defeated and he knows that his hour is come; but even in his defeat he feels that his life has not been a failure; and when he dies, even though the cause for which he stood is outwardly lost, yet even his enemies join in paying tribute to his virtues, and in treating him "with all respect and rites of burial."

2. With reference to this incident Plutarch says:—"Furthermore, Brutus thought that there was no great number of men slain in battle; and to know the truth of it, there was one called Statilius that promised to go through his enemies, for otherwise it was impossible to go see their camp; and from thence, if all were well, that he would lift up a torchlight in the air, and then return again with speed to him. The torchlight was lift up as he had promised. . . . But his evil fortune was such that, as he came back, he lighted in his enemies' hands and was slain."

23. to the pit. As in the case of animals driven by hunters.

29. office. Service, duty.

45. of a good respect. Well respected, of good reputation.

46. smatch. Taste. Another form of the word *smack*.

59. Lucilius' saying. See Scene IV., ll. 20-25.

60. entertain. Take into my service.

61. bestow thy time. Spend, or pass, thy time.

62. prefer. Recommend.

73. the elements. According to the old belief, all material things were composed of four elements, earth, air, fire, and water, and in the human body these elements took the form of the four humours, — choler (fire), blood (air), phlegm (water), and melancholy (earth). A person's temperament or disposition, was supposed to depend upon the way in which these humours were "mixed" in the body.

76. virtue. Worth.

77. burial. The body of Brutus was cremated.

79. ordered. Disposed.

80. the field. The army on the field.

81. part. Share.