

## THE AMBITIOUS GUEST.

This selection is taken from *Twice Told Tales*, published in 1837. The scene of the story is laid in the Notch of the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

114. General Court. The legislature.

## TITBOTTOM'S SPECTACLES.

This selection is taken from *Prue and I*, published in 1856. "I" is "An old book-keeper, who wears a white cravat and black trousers in the morning, who rarely goes to the opera, and never drives out. His only journey is from his home to his office; his only satisfaction is in doing his duty; his only happiness is in his Prue and his children." The "Aurelia" of the text is an imaginary young lady, who forms the subject-matter of the first chapter of the book, and whom the old book-keeper has endowed with every imaginable beauty of person and of character. The story of *Titbottom's Spectacles* is an expansion of the paragraphs on page 122. If possible the whole of *Prue and I* should be read by the student.

125. Vicar of Wakefield. A novel of English country life by Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774). Chapter XII contains an amusing story of Moses, the son of the Vicar, who being sent to the fair to sell a pony invested the proceeds of the sale in a gross of worthless spectacles.

130. Parsee. A follower of Zoroaster, the great Persian religious teacher. The Parsees are fire-worshippers.

131. Prince Charlie. Charles Edward Stuart, who made an unsuccessful attempt in 1745 to recover the throne of England for the Stuarts. He is the "Bonnie Prince Charlie" of the Scottish Ballads.

133. Claude. Claude Lorrain, the great landscape painter (1600-1682).

136. vis-a-vis. Opposite.

138. Madonna. The Virgin Mary.

140. Xerxes. The Persian king who invaded Greece at the head of an army said to consist of over five millions of men. He was defeated in his attempt, and obliged to return to Persia.