

QUESTIONS ON "HENRY ESMOND."

1. What do you mean by a historical novel? In *Henry Esmond*, which are the more prominent, the historical characters or the fictitious ones? How do the historical events affect the fortunes of the fictitious people? Are the latter merely passively affected, or do they take an active part in these events?

2. How many years are covered by the events of the story? Give the dates, approximately. What English sovereigns reigned within this period? The book copies the manners and language of whose reign? In whose reign and in what country is it *supposed* to be written? When did Thackeray write it? What had he written before this? How old were (a) Esmond, (b) Lady Castlewood, (c) Beatrix, at the beginning of the story? At the end?

3. Into what three periods is Esmond's life divided? Tell briefly the story of his life up to the age of twelve. Give the substance of one of the following chapters: "I have the smallpox, and prepare to leave Castlewood," "I am made welcome at Walcote," "A paper out of the 'Spectator'." Where were Castlewood and Walcote?

4. Who writes the introduction to the story? What do we learn from it of her own life and character? Give her description of Esmond's personal appearance. How does her account of his character agree with that shown in the story? What historical persons are mentioned in the introduction?

5. "Mr. Esmond's military life." In what war, and where? Give the dates of this war, and tell why England took part in it. From what point of view is the Duke of Marlborough described? What does the writer say might have changed that point of view? With what good qualities does he credit the Duke? What prominent man of today is descended from the Duke of Marlborough? Where is Blenheim? Blenheim Castle? Who wrote the poem "The Battle of Blenheim?" Discuss the battlefields of this war as compared with those of today.

6. Write short notes on Versailles, St. James's, St. Germain, Lille, Newgate, Chelsea, Trinity College, Dr. Swift, "Dick the Scholar," "The Campaign," the Chevalier de St. George, Dulcinea del Toboso, Prince Eugene, The Temple Gardens, Eikon Basilike, Jacobites.

7. Does the story concern itself with one class of people only, or with many? Write with some fulness on this point, giving names. Write a note on the society in which Esmond moved in London.

8. "A strange series of compromises is that English history" (Bk. III, Ch. 5). What instances does Thackeray give of this? Where does Esmond foretell the American Revolution? What reasons does he give for his forecast?

9. What do we learn from the book of the manners, customs and language of the time? Answer this as regards the following: Education of boys, of girls, men's dress, women's dress, amusements, entertainments, travelling, eating and drinking, newspapers, religion, letters, family relations, duelling, methods of carrying on war.

10. It has been said that Thackeray has succeeded in making us feel the loveliness of Beatrix by mere force of

words. Do you agree? What passages might be quoted in support of this statement? Describe her personal appearance. Why did Esmond love her? What killed his love? Give her own reasons why she did not love him? "Thus, for a third time, Beatrix's ambitious hopes were circumvented." Give particulars of each time.

11. Name ten historic persons mentioned in the story, and write short paragraphs about any three of them.

12. Tell briefly how Esmond resigned his birthright and titles. What were his reasons? Who knew his true position?

13. Give examples from the book of pathos, humour and irony. Write a note on the changes from first person to third and back again in the narration. Quote one or more general observations that you think worth remembering. What scenes seem to you most impressive? Where does the language rise to the highest level of beauty?

14. Of whom are the following words said: 1. If ever men had fidelity 'twas they. 2. He neither knew how to wait an opportunity, nor to use it when he had it. 3. No man ever better deserved the greatest praise and the strongest censure. 4. He had light blue eyes, extraordinary bright, and a face perfectly regular and handsome, like a tinted statue. 5. I have always thought of ——— and of Marlborough as the two greatest men of that age.

15. What were Esmond's reasons for supporting King James III?

A READING CIRCLE FOR TEACHERS.

At the closing session of the meeting of the New Brunswick Provincial Institute in St. John, a suggestion was brought forward to organize a Half Hour Reading Club for teachers. The Chief Superintendent of Education and several of the inspectors expressed their sympathy with the plan, and many of the teachers present signified their willingness to join such a club.

It was too late to do anything in the way of organizing during the meeting, and the members with whom the plan originated decided to postpone action until after the summer vacation. It is proposed to form a committee to work out the details of the scheme and to issue calendars and lists of suggested books, so that the work of the club may begin in January, 1917.

Information about the progress of the plan, and announcements as to application for membership will appear in the REVIEW.

An army order has been issued providing that wounded soldiers may wear strips of gold braid on the left sleeve, one to mark each occasion on which they were wounded. It has also been decided to issue a special badge to men discharged after service with the colours.