

QUESTIONS ON THE LADY OF THE LAKE AND CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

1. Mention the great periods of English Literature, and name the representative poets of each.
2. Trace the origin and enumerate the chief characters of the poetry of the age of Scott, and compare this age with that of Pope, accounting for any peculiarities you mention.
3. Mention any circumstances that entered into the cause of the great poetic activity of the beginning of the century.
4. Write a note on the awakened interest in old English poems about the close of the last century, its cause and effects.
5. What relation did Scott bear to the contemporary poetry? what effect has his poetry had on our literature?
6. Write a note on the peculiarities and objects of the "Lay," or "Metrical romance."
7. Enumerate and account for some of the peculiarities of Scott's poetry, and estimate his position as a poet, comparing him with some of his contemporaries.
8. What is meant by the terms "Lake School," "Natural Poets," "Poets of Liberty," "Romantic School," "Metaphysical School."
9. How do the influences of German and of French literatures respectively show themselves on our literature? At what periods has each been felt? Name poets showing such influence.
10. Name and characterize the author of each of the following:—*Task*, *Thalaba*, *Excursion*, *Pleasures of Hope*, *Pleasures of Memory*, *Don Juan*, *Queen Mab*, *Hyperion*.
11. Explain the terms *realism* and *idealism* as used in literature, and show where Scott exhibits each of these qualities.
12. What are the principal advantages and disadvantages attending an *interest of plot*, as in the *Lady of the Lake*?
13. Discuss the influence of the French Revolution upon the literature of this period.
14. Investigate the alleged aristocratical inclinations of Scott, pointing out evidence of them, if any, in his life and writings.
15. Write a short note on the peculiarities of Scott's diction, showing how far it had been affected by the nature of his subject.
16. "Characters in fiction should be well defined, well sustained, and varied, as well as natural and consistent."—*Armstrong's Notes to L. of L.*—Apply this rule to any of the principal characters in the "*Lady of the Lake*."
17. Enumerate the chief means employed by Scott to maintain the interest of the reader.
18. Show how far the metre employed in the "*Lady of the Lake*," harmonizes with the general character of the poem.
19. Discuss the propriety of the title of the poem "*Lady of the Lake*."
20. What are the advantages of the system adopted by Scott in subdividing the poem?
21. Explain the effect of the archaisms to be met with in the poem.
22. Give the most probable reasons for the retirement of Scott from the field of poetry.

(To be Continued.)