

THE LADDER OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

1. *St. Augustine.* One of the early fathers of the church, who lived in the latter part of the fourth century.

10. That makes us belittle the good qualities of others in order that we may gain some advantage over them.

22-4. Fame is here compared to a kingdom or an estate of which we may become the supreme masters.

28. *cloudy.* So lofty that they are hidden in the clouds.

34. *bastions.* The ridges of the mountains are compared to the projecting angles of great fortifications.

41-2. Having overcome the difficulties which formerly oppressed us.

QUESTIONS.

1. In the first half of the poem (ll. 1-24) Longfellow develops the idea "that of our vices we can frame a ladder." In the latter half of the poem (ll. 25-48) he introduces a different idea. State this idea in simple language.

2. What idea does the poet wish to express in stanzas 8 and 9?

RESIGNATION.

Resignation was written shortly after the death of Longfellow's infant daughter Frances, in 1848.

6-7. See *Matthew*, ii., 18.

10. *the ground.* The poet is contrasting earthly evils with heavenly blessings.

14. *earthly damps.* The troubles and sorrows of this life.

19. *elysian.* Heavenly. Elysium, in Greek myth, is the abode of the blessed after death.

25. *cloister.* Here, a convent.

34. The natural love between parents and child.

51. *sanctifying.* Treating our grief as something pure and sacred.