

P. S. Leaving Literature.

THE LORD OF BURLEIGH.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN OUR LAST ISSUE.

I. The subject of the poem is :

The marriage of a village maiden to the Lord of Burleigh, and her sad death, overcome by the duties and responsibilities for which she was not fitted.

II. The qualities of style exemplified are :

1. *Simplicity.* This is secured by (1) a simple vocabulary. Notice how few long or learned words there are in the poem. (2) By a simple structure. Notice there are no long or involved sentences.
2. *Clearness.* We have no difficulty in seeing at once what the author means. This is secured by (1) precision in the use of his words ; each word is used in its exact sense. (2) By careful attention to the structure of his sentences.
3. *Force.*—This is secured by (1) brevity. Notice the abruptness with which the story opens, the rapidity with which the scenes follow each other, and the conciseness of the conversational parts. (2) By climax. Notice how all leads up to and centres in the death of the Lady Burleigh.
4. *Pathos.*—What could be more touching than this story. We hardly know whether to sympathize most with the wife, whose dream of humble love is dispelled and who dies of a broken heart ; or with the husband who, thinking to overwhelm his wife by a delightful surprise, finds he has only placed her in a position which causes her death. This rises to a climax when, after her death, the husband commands she be clothed in her wedding gown,

"Bring the dress and put it on her,
That she wore when she was wed."

5. *Elegance.*—Notice the extreme gracefulness of the poem.

"He was but a landscape painter,
And a village maiden she."

Read this,

"He was but a young pork-butcher,
And a village maiden she."

What a different effect ; notice how no words are used which can in any way offend the most refined taste.

III. The poem is an imitation of an old English ballad.

- (a) It tells a story, one mark of the ancient ballad.
- (b) It is an outline sketch brought out rapidly and often with abruptness.
- (c) The metre is simple, uncomplicated, and adapted to music.
- (d) The use of archaic collocations, and provincialisms, as, "Made a murmur *in the land*," also

"And he came to look upon her,
And he looked at her and said."

The introduction of such phrases which add little or nothing to the meaning, and the repetition of expressions, was a mark of the old ballads.

IV. The purpose of the author in writing the poem was,

- (a) To give us pleasure from awakening all our deeper and more tender feelings by this pathetic story.
- (b) To make us aware of the beauty of the ballad form of story-telling, which places before us the desired effect by a few strong, accurate, and skilful strokes.

V. The introduction of conversation into the poem gives it a dramatic element ; makes the action of the poem move more rapidly ; and enables the author to become more lively, vivacious, and interesting.

THE HANGING OF THE CRANE.

This poem was first published in 1874 ; it was received cordially, as the author's reputation had already been securely established.

The style is characteristic of Longfellow, in that it is eminently picturesque, and marked by elaborate and scholarly finish. Notice especially the rhythmical harmony and melody of the versification. The manner of dealing with the story or plot is also characteristic of Longfellow. You will notice how closely he associates the seen with the unseen, the real with the imaginary. The *preludes* to each stanza are intended to depict to us real scenes, while the *corollaries* which follow are pure creations of the poet's imagination.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

1. Write the story in your own words, reproducing as far as possible the spirit of the original.
2. In a single phrase or short sentence express the main idea contained in the poem.
3. "The Hanging of the Crane" is composed of a series of seven pictures ; supply a suitable title for each.
4. State fully the circumstances of time, place, and mood under which this poem has professedly been written.
5. What characteristics of the author's style are exemplified in the poem ? Give examples.
6. Show, introducing quotations when necessary, how the author gives force and beauty to his language.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

STANZA I.

"Thronging came." How vividly this brings before the reader the great number of guests ! They came in "throng." "Thronging" is used as an adverbial predicate adjective. See H. S. Grammar, c. xiii., s. 28.

"Jests." Not jokes, but the older meaning, "merry tales."

"The hanging of the crane." It was a custom, in Longfellow's New England home, when a newly-married couple were about to commence