

**O wise . . . judgment**—These words are used in derision. What inflection in the reading?

**Nor . . . pound.**—See note on "Nor never," p. 308.

**A just pound**—an *exact* pound.

**More or less . . . scruple.**—The play has "the twentieth part of one poor scruple."

**To the senate.**—That is, to the "State of Venice," as above.

**Conspired**—plotted. Not used in its ordinary sense of a union of several persons for bad or illegal ends.

326. **Our Christian spirit.**—In the play it is simply "our spirit." Does the addition of "Christian" alter the meaning?

**I pardon . . . life.**—I pardon you so far as to spare your life.

**The generous Antonio . . . wealth.**—Antonio does not propose to give up "his share" absolutely, but to hold it "in use," or in trust, for Lorenzo during Shylock's life—Antonio himself to derive no benefit from it.

**Disinherited**—cut off from inheriting his property.

**Despoiled**—stripped, deprived of; now generally used in a sense which implies wrong or injustice.

**If you repent . . . riches.**—It was Antonio that required the Jew to become a Christian, the Duke confirmed Antonio's proposals.

**Ingenuity**—quickness and skill in inventing.

The "wisdom and ingenuity" of Portia will not appear so surprising, if we bear in mind that many Italian women of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were distinguished for their learning and eloquence. We read of them studying and teaching in the Italian universities, at that time the best schools of learning in the world.

327 **Affected . . . affronted.**—Express differently.

328. **Tax**—charge, accuse. What connection with the ordinary meaning?

**Naughty world.**—*Naughty* in Shakespeare's time meant *wicked*. Give other words that have so changed in meaning as to express more or less of praise or blame than formerly.

**Methinks.**—See note, p. 261.

**Paltry**—*paol'tri*—worthless. Notice how Gratiano tries to depreciate the value of the ring, now that he has given it away.

329. **Scrubbed**—dwarfed, or stunted in growth. *Scrubby* is now more commonly used.

**Civil doctor.**—A man learned in the law. *Civil* is here used in the sense of pertaining to the laws of the State, and *doctor* to denote a learned man.

**Beset**—surround, hem in, with hostile intentions; hence, to press hard upon, as here.

**Notwithstanding.**—Compare with its use in the first paragraph.

**Lend my body.**—What does Antonio mean?

Note the forcibleness of Antonio's speech. Once he had pledged his *body* for Bassanio; now he was willing to pledge his *soul*.

330. **Surety**—security, bondsman.

**Tragical**—of the nature of tragedy, mournful. See note on "Tragedy," p. 215.

**Leisure**—*lēzhur*—Often with *e* short in poetry, to rhyme with "pleasure."

**Comical**—of the nature of comedy, humorous, mirthful. For the definitions of "Tragedy" and "Comedy," see Introduction to the NOTES, p. 10.

The "comical adventure of the rings" was introduced no doubt for the purpose of relieving the almost tragical trial scene, and bringing the play to a mirthful close.