is bid forth to supper; (iii) in Act III., Scene 1., where Shylock discovers the flight of his daughter?

- (b) What are the merits of Portia's speech on Mercy that make it so widely known?
- 5. Give an estimate of the character of Bassanio as represented in The Merchant of Venice.
- 6. "That such a bond should be proposed, that when proposed it should be accepted, that it should be seriously entertained by a court of justice, that if entertained at all it should be upset on so frivolous a pretext as the omission of the reference to the shedding of blood; these form a series of impossible circumstances that any dramatist might despair of presenting with even an approach to naturalness."

State in a sentence or two in cach case how Shakespeare succeeded in overcoming each of these difficulties in connection with the story of the pound of flesh in *The Merchant of Venice*.

- 7. Point out the various means whereby in The Merchant of Venice Shakespeare (a) evokes in the reader a measure of sympathy with Shylock, and (b) excites detestation of him.
- 8. (a) Refer to any indications of Portia's feelings with respect to each of the three suitors.
- (b) State the important details of that portion of the scene following Bassanio's successful choice.
- 9. "Shylock is great in every scene where he appears, yet each later scene exhibits him in a new element or aspect of greatness."

By reference to the various scenes in which Shylock appears, estimate the truth of this statement.

- 10. (a) Show how the main stories of The Merchant of Venice are woven into a unity.
- (b) What is contributed to this unified plot by the Lorenzo and Jessica story?
- 11. Show that the scene in The Merchant of Venice, in which Bassanio makes his choice, is the meeting place of the four stories in the play.