

55. *the time is free.* Shakespeare constantly speaks of *the time* to signify the people living at the time.

56. *pearl.* All that is best in your kingdom; the flower of the nobility.

61. *reckon with.* Repay.

65. Which should be undertaken at the beginning of this new period.

68. *Producing forth.* Bringing to justice.

72. *That calls upon us.* That we should do.

QUESTIONS.

1. "In the closing scenes of the play the dramatist contrives to relieve the blackness of Macbeth's character by a series of skilful touches, which helps to some extent to reconcile the audience towards him."

Justify this statement by reference to particular passages in this scene.

2. Why does the dramatist not represent the triumph of Macduff and the death of Macbeth as taking place on the stage?

3. Why does Shakespeare think it necessary to introduce the conversation regarding the death of young Siward in this scene?

4. (a) What dramatic purpose is served by the concluding speech of Malcolm in the play?

(b) We are told in ll. 70-71 that Lady Macbeth was thought to have taken her own life. Why is this detail necessary?

5. Which, in your opinion, received the greater punishment, Macbeth or Lady Macbeth? Discuss in some detail.

SUMMARY OF ACT V.

With the conclusion of Act IV. Macbeth's career of crime, as far as the play is concerned, is practically complete. Act V. deals almost wholly with the punishment which falls upon Macbeth and Lady Macbeth as a result of their crimes. In