

BIBLE READINGS FOR OPENING EXERCISES. NOTES ON HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE.

1. Psalm XLIV, 1-6.
2. St. Matthew V, 1-9.
3. 1 Kings XIII, 22-25, 26, 44, 45.
4. Isaiah XXV, 1-4, 8, 9.
5. St. Matthew VIII, 5-10.
6. Psalm XLVI, 1-6, 11.
7. St. Matthew VI, 9-15.
8. Isaiah XXVI, 1-7.
9. 1 Peter II, 13-17.
10. St. Matthew XV, 29-31.
11. 1 Kings VIII, 57, 58, 60, 61.
12. St. Matthew VI, 25-34.
13. Psalm III, 3-6, 8.
14. 1 Peter II, 18-24.
15. St. Matthew XII, 46-50.
16. Psalm CXXII
17. Deuteronomy VI, 1-9.
18. Isaiah XLIII, 1-7.
19. 1 John III, 14-18.
20. Psalm, XVIII, 1-3, 46-49.

SEVERITY OF A MOTHER.

A very estimable widow in Germantown, Philadelphia, is the mother of a son who has given her much trouble by reason of his waywardness.

"I am afraid," said a friend one day, in speaking of the boy, "that you are not firm enough with him."

"On the contrary," said the mother, "I sometimes fear that I am much too harsh."

"Indeed!"

"Oh, I don't mean to say," the fond mother hastened to explain, "that I have ever really taken any summary action, but I have talked to him a great deal."

"And what have you said?"

"Why I have said, 'Richard! Richard!' and other severe things."—*Lippincott's*.

"There is no such thing as standing still in this world. Each soul is either a little stronger or a little weaker, a little nobler or a little less noble, a little more self-reliant or a little more dependent to-day than it was yesterday."

F. B. Meagher, Inspector for District No. 8, has been granted one year's leave of absence.

His place is being supplied by F. A. Dixon, with headquarters at Woodstock, N. B.

THE LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL.

II.

Since writing my notes for August, I have had some welcome suggestions as to the difficulties in studying and teaching this poem. These are chiefly concerned with the story, and especially with the trouble I have already referred to, of getting the story confused with the setting. So I have thought it well to give a summary of each. The student will do well to mark off in coloured ink, or in some other conspicuous way, the following passages.

I. The Introduction.

II. Canto I, 346-363.

III. Canto II, (a) 330-345; (b) 416, -434.

IV. Canto III, (a) 1-17; (b) 421, -434.

V. Canto IV, (a) 1-25; (b) 564-627.

VI. Canto V, (a) 1-38; (b) 514-523.

VII. Canto VI, (a) 1-36; (b) 554-583.

SUMMARY.

I. In the time of William III (l. 20) a poor old wandering Harper, the last of the Minstrels, seeks refuge in Newark Castle. The Duchess is kind to him, and he offers to sing for her a "Lay" that he had once sung to Charles I at Holyrood.

II. At the end of the first part of his story, the Minstrel, fearing that he has lost his skill, is discouraged and timid, but the Duchess and her ladies praise him and urge him to go on.

III. (a) The Minstrel breaks off in the story to complain that he is too old to sing of love. (b) At the end of this Canto, he is seen to be weary. A page brings him wine, which refreshes him, and he goes on in a livelier strain.

IV. (a) He sings a little song in praise of love. (b) When he stops in the story, at the end of Canto III, his hearers applaud. They wonder that he should be alone in his old age, and ask if he has no children. He answers the question,

V. (a) And laments the death of his only son. (b) He explains that although many minstrels say "such combat should be fought on horse" he has the authority of his master "the jovial Harper" for saying that the fight of William of Deloraine and Musgrave was fought on foot. He goes on to tell that his master slew a rival for questioning the truth of this, and suffered death at Jedwood Air for the murder. He laments that he is the last survivor of his master's scholars. The Duchess, to cheer him, marvels how the minstrel can bring to life, in his song, forgotten deeds and heroes. The old man is pleased.

VI. (a) He tells how the Poet, when he dies, is mourned by the spirits of those whom he has celebrated in his songs — the Maiden — the Knight — the Chieftain — because they will now be forgotten. Their sighs and wails pass into wind,