

THIRD CLASS LITERATURE.

THE HANGING OF THE CRANE.

The seven stanzas of this poem correspond to seven panoramic views, each representing a stage in the progress of the family. The six introductory lines correspond to the showman's speech, the remainder expresses the thoughts produced in the beholder.

STANZA I.

The recent merriment and jests, the departure of the guests made emphatic by repetition, the only light that of the hearth fire, and being alone are circumstances favourable to the working of the imagination.

"A new star . . . roll'd on its harmonious way,"

An allusion to the "music of the spheres."

II.

Interfused—poured or spread between.

Compare the definite ideas of the introduction of I. with the vague pictures in that of II.

"Of love, that says not *mine* and *thine*,
But ours, for ours is *thine* and *mine*."

State the difference in meaning between "mine and thine," and "thine and mine."

"They want no guests." Why repeated?

III.

"They entertain a little angel unaware."

—*Heb. xiii. 2.*

"He ruleth by the right divine."—*Hist. of England, James I.'s reign.*

"He speaketh not, and yet there lies
A conversation in their eyes."

Explain how this is possible.

"The golden silence of the Greek."

"Silence is golden."

"And now, O monarch absolute." An allusion to King Canute. The sea forced Canute to give way; the nurse pushed back the baby's chair.

IV.

"The very pattern girl of girls."

Compare with :

"I know not how others saw her,
But to me she was wholly fair," etc.
—"The Changeling," 4th Read. r.

"And sailing with soft silken sails
From far-off Dreamland into ours."

Compare with :

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting," etc.

—Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality," Stanza V.

"Steadfast they gaze, yet nothing see
Beyond the horizon of their bowls."

They do not trouble themselves about anything but food.

V.

"As round a pebble," etc. An illustration used for many purposes.

"Garlanded with guests." A happy expression.

"Ariadne's crown," — a constellation. Ariadne, daughter of Minos and Creta, and wife of Theseus.

"Pursues the phantom with the beckoning hand
That still allures and still eludes."

Explain the meaning of the "phantom with the beckoning hand," by means of ambition, love of glory, and avarice.

VI.

The progress of time is compared to a river.

What portions of the life of the family correspond respectively to the brook where it "stands still," "quickens its current," and "the mill?"

"Some great heroic deed
On battle-fields, where thousands bleed
To lift one hero into fame."

Discuss the fairness . . . battles.

VII.

The comparison in the introduction of this stanza seems to be the best in the poem.

What are typified by "cloud and wind and rain," and "setting sun?"