

others feel something of what the poet himself feels. Gray's *Elgy* also belongs to the same class of poems.

The charming melody of the verse will at once suggest a clear, rich, full tone for its appropriate expression, and the beauty of the reading will depend in great measure upon the quality of the tone employed.

The first six stanzas are descriptive, and should be read with animation of voice and manner, the last line of each stanza a much more slowly than the others.

In the succeeding stanzas there

is more of reflection, shaded towards the end with a tinge of sadness, arising from the contrast which is suggested between the "clear keen joyance" of the bird's notes, and the pain with which the sweetest songs of the poet are fraught.

The poem ends in a glad outburst of rapturous emotion, which can be fitly expressed only by one who has given it close, sympathetic study, and has been able in some degree to see and hear the beautiful visions and the joyous music presented to the poet's imagination.

CIV. THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

SECOND READING.

321. Nothing doubt.—"Nothing" is used adverbially, and is equivalent to "not," with the meaning intensified—not in the least, in no respect.

Counsellor in the law—"Counsellor-at-law" is the more modern expression. What terms do we chiefly employ in Canada?

Equipment—dress, outfit.

322. Balthasar—*bal-thä'zar*.

Counsellor's . . wig.—Lamb, not Shakespeare, dresses Portia like an English counsel. English judges and barristers still wear wigs and robes in court; ours have discarded the wigs, but retain the robes or gowns.

Arduous—very hard or difficult; from a Latin word meaning steep.

It dropped . . show mercy.—For this appeal to the Jew, see Lesson XC., and the notes thereon.

Attribute—a quality of mind or character, a characteristic.

323. Wrest—turn aside from its strict meaning.

A Daniel . . judgment.—The

allusion is to a story of Daniel related in the *History of Susanna*, one of the books of the Old Testament Apocrypha; these books were read in churches in Shakespeare's time. In Portia's plea for mercy there is another allusion to the Apocrypha in "It droppeth . . beneath" (see note), and perhaps also in "And that same prayer . . mercy." What is the meaning of "judgment" here?

Honorable—noble. Give other meanings.

Would lose.—*Would* denotes willingness; so in "would sacrifice."

324. Pronounce the sentence.—Announce the decision of the court.

325. Expressly.—Give synonymous words or expressions.

Confiscated—appropriated, as a penalty, to the use of the State.

Sagacity—shrewdness, keenness of perception.

Plaudits—expressions of praise and admiration.