

152. That trace him in his line. That follow him in his lineage.

154. no more sights. Such as the witches had shown him.

QUESTIONS.

1. Do you think that the details as to the contents of the cauldron are necessary in this scene? Why should the witches now make more elaborate preparations for the visit of Macbeth than they had made in the first scene in the play?

2. Point out the relation between the character of each apparition and the prophecy or warning which follows in each case.

3. The witches had told Macbeth that "none of woman born" should harm him. Why then did he decide to attack Macduff?

4. "In calling down a curse upon the witches, Macbeth unconsciously calls down a curse upon himself." Explain.

5. How do you account for the fact that Macbeth determined to kill the wife and children of Macduff?

6. At the close of the banquet-scene, Macbeth had decided to visit the weird sisters because he was "bound to know by the worst means the worst." What was "the worst" that he learned by his visit?

7. "From this moment the firstlings of my heart shall be the firstlings of my hand." What has led Macbeth to make this resolve? Point out in what respects this resolve is in keeping with Macbeth's character as seen in the earlier part of the play.

SCENE II.

The second scene shows some of the details of the crime which Macbeth had resolved upon after his interview with the weird sisters. In the conversation that takes place between Lady Macduff and Ross it becomes clear that Macduff was guilty of a fearful error of judgment in leaving his wife and family unprotected while he fled to England. In the first half of the play Banquo had been negligent in not protecting himself against Macbeth, and he had paid for his negligence with his own life. In the case of Macduff, however, it is because he is over-impulsive and over-hasty that the punishment falls upon him, and in this case it falls upon him