

SIR HILARY, AND OTHER RIDDLES.

One of Mackworth Praed's most celebrated charades, the proper answer to which has been the theme of endless discussion, is that beginning with the line: "Sir Hilary charged at Agincourt." As it has been somewhat incorrectly given in a number of publications, by those who perhaps quote from memory, we give it below as written by Praed, together with some of the answers. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to supply a better solution.

Sir Hilary charged at Agincourt,
Sooth, 'twas an awful day;
And though in that old age of sport,
The rufflers of the camp and court
Had little time to pray,
'Tis said Sir Hilary muttered there
Two syllables by way of prayer.

"My first to all the brave and proud
Who see to-morrow's sun;
My next, with her cold and quiet cloud,
To those who find their dewy shroud
Before to-day's be done;
And both together to all blue eyes
That weep when a warrior nobly dies."

Amongst the many answers that have been printed are: "Good-night," "Gramercy," "Heart's-ease." The first, which has been accepted by Miss Mitford, the talented authoress of the "Memoirs of Praed," reads:

The conflict was over, the victory won,
And Agincourt saw the last rays of the sun
'Ere Sir Hilary dared to alight;
His steed and his armour were covered with gore,
And, oppressed by his toil, he could utter no more
Than one feeble prayer, "Good-Night."
He thought with joy of the proud and brave,
Who had fought by his side and escaped the grave,
And he prayed for all "good" for those:
But he mourned for his friends who lay dead on the field,
Unburied, exposed, without corset or shield,
The victims of battle's woes.
And he prayed that the "Night," with its quiet cloud,
Might over them cast a peaceful shroud,
And give them safe repose.
Then he bade "Good-night" to those bright blue eyes
That weep when a warrior bravely dies.