

p. 326. *The difference of our Christian spirit.*—The duke pardons Shylock's life before he is asked to do so; Shylock would not pardon Antonio's life though often implored to do so.

p. 327.—*Affected to be affronted.*—Pretended to be insulted.

p. 328. *Tax.*—Accuse, charge.

p. 329. *A little scrubbed boy.*—A wretched little stunted boy.

*A civil doctor.*—A doctor of civil law.

*My soul upon the forfeit.*—Staking my very soul upon the safe keeping of the ring. Notice the strong pledge—Antonio had staked his life upon making the payment to Shylock on the appointed day. Here he risks much more than his life.

### III. EXERCISES.

Write essays on the following themes: 1. The Courtship and Marriage of Bassanio; 2. The Trial of Antonio; 3. The Return of Bassanio.

### IV. BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

Charles Lamb, the kind-hearted, self-sacrificing poet and essayist was born in London in 1775. He was a son of a clerk to one of the benchers of the Inner Temple. From his earliest years he was an omnivorous reader, and before leaving school had almost read through an extensive library to which he had access. At the age of seven he entered Christ's Hospital School. Here he had Coleridge for a school-fellow, and with him he contracted a life-long friendship. Though he was an ardent student, an unconquerable impediment in his speech disqualified him for a school exhibition, and thus deprived him of his only chance of obtaining a university education. Taken from school at the age of fifteen, he was set to work in the South Sea House; but in 1792 he received an appointment in the office of the accountant of the East India Company. In this office he labored faithfully for thirty-three years, devoting his spare hours to his books, his pen and the society of his friends. He retired from the Company's service in 1825, on a pension of £450, and died in 1834.

There was in his family the hereditary taint of insanity; and in his twenty-first year he was confined for some weeks in a lunatic asylum. A few weeks after his restoration, his beloved sister Mary, in a fit of acute insanity, brought on by over-work and anxiety, stabbed her mother to the heart. She was confined in a lunatic asylum, and was soon cured of her awful malady. On her recovery, Charles interceded with the authorities for her liberation, and finally secured her release by himself undertaking the responsibility of her safe-keeping. Biography furnishes no parallel to the devotion exhibited by the brother to his afflicted sister. In order to give her all his care he renounced a coveted