

may be wisely used as helps. One is "Shakespeare's Knowledge and Use of the Bible," by Bishop Wordsworth (London, Smith, Elder & Co.), the other is "Shakespeare's Morals," by Mr. Arthur Gilman (New York, Dodd, Mead & Co.).

Two suggestions may be in place here as to the way in which such quotations may be best introduced.

1. Some are most effectually employed without any note or comment. This is specially true of the briefer sort. Passages like these need nothing but a point in the sermon to illustrate or enforce :

"Heaven doth with us, as we with torches do,  
Not light them for themselves: for if our virtues  
Did not go forth of us, 'twere all alike  
As if we had them not."—*Measure for Measure, Act 1, Sc. 1.*

"That we would do,  
We should do when we would; for this *would* changes,  
And hath abatements and delays as many,  
As there are tongues, are hands, are accidents."—*Hamlet, Act 4, Sc. 7.*

"We are off to blame in this.—  
'Tis too much proved, that, with devotion's visage,  
And pious action, we do sugar o'er  
The devil himself."—*Hamlet, Act 3, Sc. 1.*

2. At times Shakespearian quotations gain in power when a short explanation is given of the dramatic situation in which they occur. As in *Hamlet* when the whole scene of the king at prayer (Act 3, Sc. 4) brings out so powerfully the meaning of the Psalmist's words, "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." Or, as in the *Merchant of Venice*, when the speech of Portia (Act 4, Sc. 1) so beautifully unfolds the Divine attribute of forgiveness, when "mercy seasons justice."

The homiletical illustrations from Shakespeare now to be given fall under the following classes: Those which illustrate the subjects of *temptation and sin, conscience and retribution*; those which illustrate *Divine attributes and Christian virtues*; those which illustrate *vices of private and public life*. It would be easy to extend the list, but this our limits forbid.

### 1. *Temptation and Sin.*

The words of Othello (Act 2, Sc. 3) are a striking commentary on the words of the Apostle Paul (II. Cor. i., 14) : "For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

"When devils will their blackest sins put on,  
They do suggest at first with heavenly shows."

So also the words of Banquo (*Macbeth*, Act 1, Sc. 3) :

"And oftentimes to win us to our harm  
The instruments of darkness tell us truths;  
Win us with honest trifles, to betray us  
In deepest consequences."