

## P. S. Leaving Literature.

### THE LORD OF BURLEIGH.

ANSWERED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

1. What is the subject of this poem?
2. What qualities of the author's style are exemplified in the poem. Give examples.
3. Classify the poem, giving reason for your answer.
4. What was the author's purpose in writing the poem?
5. Why is the conversational element introduced into the poem?

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES.

"In her ear he whispers gayly." Notice the abruptness of the opening of the story; this is one characteristic of the old ballad style. You will also notice the spelling of "gayly," this is preferable here because not so common as "gaily," and therefore more "poetic."

"In accents fainter." Denoting the greater modesty of the maiden.

"He to lips that fondly falter." Notice the melody of this line caused by the "alliteration" and by the broad sounds of the vowels.

"Lodges." In England the gate-keeper lived in a small house (lodge) built at the park gates.

"Summer woods, about them blowing,  
Made a murmur in the land."

Draw attention to the onomatopœia, (on-o-mat-o-pe'ya); this is the harmonizing of the sound of the line with the sound of the object spoken about. This is "harmony," not "melody." Refer again to line 9 for melody.

"From deep thought." The Lord of Burleigh finds now that "deception is dangerous," and ponders how to undeceive his wife.

"Ordered gardens." Gardens arranged and kept in an orderly way.

"All he shows her makes him dearer." By contrast she loves her simple landscape-painter more than all the grandeur she sees. This makes the coming disillusion far more pathetic.

"Armorial bearings." The coat of arms or escutcheon carved on the keystone of the gateway.

"Speak in gentle murmur." Notice the onomatopœia again. How beautifully the long-drawn liquids, the broad vowels, and rolling r's harmonize with the tone of deference with which the English servant speaks to his master.

"Her spirit changed within." All her dreams of a happy life in her cottage home are dispelled at a stroke.

"A trouble weighed upon her." The duties which she was neither by education nor by birth fitted to perform.

"Bring the dress, and put it on her,  
That she wore when she was wed."

Here the tender pathos of the poem reaches its height. The husband's remorseful memory of the past, calling up to him his plan of overwhelming the woman he so truly loved with the rapture of a delightful disappointment—a plan which has, in a few years, resulted in crushing her into an early grave—suggests to him the fittingness of clothing her when dead in the dress in which she had been so happy while alive. We scarcely know whether to sympathize more deeply with the modest wife or the mistaken husband.

These last lines are worthy of Tennyson at his best, and give us an excellent copy of the spirit of our best ballads.

### DEAR HARP OF MY COUNTRY.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN OUR LAST ISSUE.

1. The theme of the poem is the revival of the Irish melodies by the poet.
2. The poem is in the form of an address by a harper to his harp. This figure of speech is called an "apostrophe," that is, an address to a thing which would not be spoken to in ordinary composition.
3. The subject of each stanza is as follows:
  - (a) The Irish people had forgotten their ancient melodies until revived by the poet.
  - (b) The poet here speaks of the kinds of Irish melodies, songs of love and songs of gladness.
  - (c) The poet here states that this is the last of his "Irish Melodies," but expresses the hope that a greater poet may succeed him.
  - (d) The poet modestly disclaims that the popularity of his poems rests on any merit of his own, but asserts that the Irish people received them so kindly because of their native patriotism and lofty sentiments.
4. The circumstance of time is not revealed in the poem, except it is thought that evening would be the most suitable time for playing on the harp, which is supposed to be addressed. The place is clearly shown, as the poet must have been standing over the harp when addressing it, and his mood was plainly one of lofty patriotism.
5. The poem reveals to us that the author was an Irish patriot. "Dear Harp of my Country." That is, my country is Ireland. Also, "My