

barously executed, his bright hair, all dabbled in blood, sweeping the dust of the scaffold.*

24. Which are Surrey's chief literary productions?

His *Translation of the Second and Fourth Books of Virgil's Æneid into English* and his *Songs and Sonnets*.

25. What is remarkable about his translation of the *Æneid*?

It is the *first* specimen of *blank-verse* in our literature. Surrey deserves the title of Father of English Blank-verse.†

26. What other new form of poetical composition did he introduce into our literature?

The *Sonnet*.‡

"Surrey has the merit of having restored to our poetry a correctness, polish, and general spirit of refinement such as it had not known since Chaucer's time."—*Craik*.

"Surrey, for justness of thought, correctness of style, and purity of expression, may justly be pronounced the *first* English classical poet."—*Warton*.

"In his purification of English verse, he did good service by casting out those clumsy Latin words with which the lines of even Dunbar are heavily clogged."—*Collier*.

* Political and religious animosity was the chief but secret cause of Lord Surrey's death. Henry VIII. had him convicted on a flimsy charge of treason, and we all know what treason meant in the reign of that merciless tyrant. The defence of the gifted poet and gallant young soldier was nobly eloquent—unanswerable. But he was condemned to die, and "his early and unmerited death depends the romantic interest that surrounds his name."

† Surrey borrowed his blank-verse from Italy, where it began to be used in the early part of the sixteenth century. His translation of the two books of the *Æneid* is thought to be simply an imitation of the Italian version of Cardinal de' Medici. Of Surrey, Hallam says: "No one before his time had known how to translate or imitate with appropriate expression."

‡ It is its form in blank-verse that so strikingly distinguishes the language of Shakespeare from that of Chaucer.

§ The sonnet is also borrowed from Italian literature. There is a remarkable sweetness and polish about Surrey's "Songs and Sonnets." Like the productions of Petrarch, most of them treat of love, the star of inspiration being the beautiful Geraldine, a daughter of the Earl of Kildare, in Ireland. "It was a pure love," says Taine, "to which Surrey gave expression; for his lady, the beauti-

LESSON IV.

CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE. DIED 1593.

Chief works: (1) *The Life and Death of Dr. Faustus*. } All tra-
(2) *The Rich Jew of Malta*. } gedies.
(3) *The Life of Edward II*.

27. Who was Christopher Marlowe?

The ablest of the English dramatists before Shakspeare, he may be considered the forerunner of that great literary master.

28. Give a few of the chief events in his life.

The son of a shoemaker, Marlowe was born at Canterbury, England, and received a learned education at Cambridge, where he took the degree of M.A. He drifted into atheism, led a wild, disgraceful life, and finally died of a wound which he had received in a miserable tavern brawl.*

29. Give the title of Marlowe's first drama, and mention some remarkable feature of the work.

His first drama was *Tamburlaine the Great*. It was composed before his graduation, and was among the *first English plays* written in *blank-verse*.

30. Which is his second play, and what does it exhibit?

His second play is *The Life and Death of Dr.*

ful Geraldine, like Beatrice and Laura, was an ideal personage—a child of thirteen years."

Surrey also translated the *Book of Ecclesiastes* into verse, which shows the serious religious cast of his mind.

* There was, indeed, hardly a Christian element in Marlowe's untamable nature; and, although he was called a skeptic, infidelity in him took the form of blasphemy rather than of denial. He was made up of vehement passions, vivid imagination, and lawless self-will; and what Hazlitt calls "a hunger and thirst after unrighteousness" assumed the place of conscience in his haughty and fiery spirit.—*Whipple*.

Faustus. It exhibits a much higher and wider range of dramatic power than his first tragedy.*

31. What have you to remark of *The Rich Jew of Malta*?

It is considered a play of much power and originality. It is said that its principal character furnished Shakspeare with the first ideal of his *Shylock*.†

32. What is the play entitled *The Life of Edward II.*?

It is a tragedy, and the *first truly historical play* written in English. Eminent critics consider it Marlowe's ablest production, and the best historical play before the time of Shakspeare.

33. Did Marlowe write anything except dramas?

He left some pretty lyrics behind him, a few of which still find a place in collections of poetry.

34. What may be said of Marlowe's style?

It is marked by force and vigor, with which there mingles an element of bombast and exaggeration. Ben Jonson speaks of "Marlowe's mighty line."

LESSON V.

ROBERT SOUTHWELL, S.J. DIED 1595.

Chief works: *Fifty-five Poems*.

35. Who was Robert Southwell?

He was a Jesuit Father, a hero, a charming poet, and one of the real refiners of the English language.

* His *Faustus* perhaps best reflects his whole genius and experience. The subject must have taken strong hold of his nature, for, like *Faustus*, he had himself doubtless held intimate business relations with the great enemy of mankind, and was personally conscious of the struggle in the soul between the diabolical and the divine.—*Whipple*.

† In *The Merchant of Venice*.

36. State some of the chief events in his life.

Southwell belonged to an ancient Catholic family, and was born in Norfolk, England. He made his studies in the English college at Douay.* The poet went to Rome, and in his sixteenth year entered the Society of Jesus. Being raised to the priesthood, he returned to his native country as a missionary, and, for eight years, secretly labored for the salvation of souls in the face of penal laws that threatened him with a death certain and terrible.

37. When was Father Southwell arrested?

In 1592.

38. What followed his arrest?

He was at once thrown into one of the most filthy dungeons in the Tower. For three years the holy and heroic Jesuit bore this imprisonment, was brutally tortured on the rack *ten* different times, and finally executed at Tyburn with the most revolting cruelties.

39. What new element did this venerable man introduce into English poetry?

Southwell, so to speak, Christianized English poetry. He was the *founder* of the modern English style of religious poetry, being the first modern Englishman who showed "how well verse and virtue suit together."

* By the zeal of the learned Catholic professors who were banished from Oxford—and especially of the famous Cardinal Allen—an English college was established at Douay, in France, 1568. For nearly two centuries and a half the Catholic students of Great Britain directed their steps to this renowned institution. Here the flame of faith was nourished and the light of knowledge kept burning when all was bigotry and religious darkness in the once Catholic land of England—the home of the holy Bede and the great Alfred. Here were trained those bands of devoted priests who laid down their lives in laboring to restore the true faith among their unhappy countrymen. Here our Catholic Bible was translated into English. Here the pious and learned Alban Butler, author of the *Lives of the Saints*, received his education.

40. When were his poems first issued, and were they popular?

The first edition of his poems was issued the very year he was executed; and so popular were those beautiful productions that during the next hundred years eleven editions were reprinted.

41. Are Southwell's poems numerous?

They are *fifty-five* in number. The longest is *St. Peter's Complaint*.

42. What may be said of their merits?

They are marked by quaint figures, much beauty of language, and purity of sentiment; and as they were chiefly composed in prison, they breathe a tone of quiet, lofty resignation.

43. Did Southwell leave any productions in prose?

He did. *Mary Magdalen's Tears* is his best-known production in prose, which is not less charming than his poetry. A deep, strong, loving heart sanctified all he wrote.

"Southwell shows in his poetry great simplicity and elegance of thought and still greater purity of language. He has been compared in some of his pieces to Goldsmith, and the comparison seems not unjust."—*Angus*.

"Southwell, it seems, was the founder of the modern English style of religious poetry; his influence and example are evident in the work of Crashaw, or of Donne, or of Herbert, or Walker, or any of those whose devout lyrics were admired in later times."—*Thomas Arnold*.

LESSON VI.

EDMUND SPENSER. DIED 1599.

Chief works: (1) *The Fairy Queen*.
(2) *The Shepherd's Calendar*.
(3) *View of the State of Ireland*.

44. Who was Edmund Spenser?

With *Chaucer*, *Shakspeare*, and *Milton*, he was one of the great old masters of English poetry.

45. What do we know of his early life?

Very little; he was born in London, and educated at Cambridge, where he took the degree of M.A.

46. On leaving college, where did Spenser live for some years?

In the north of England.

47. While residing in the north of England what work came from his pen?

His first production—a poem entitled *The Shepherd's Calendar*.

48. What position did Spenser obtain in 1580 through the influence of Sir Philip Sidney, who was his warm personal friend?

The position of Secretary to Lord Grey, who was at that time appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

49. How were his services in Ireland rewarded by Elizabeth in 1586?

By the grant of Kilcolman Castle and 3000 acres of confiscated land in the county of Cork.* This tract of country was one of the most beautiful in beautiful Ireland.†

* It was a gift plucked from the bleeding heart of unhappy Ireland.

† The castle of Kilcolman, from which the Desmonds had lately been driven, stood by a beautiful lake in the midst of an extensive

50. What celebrated poem did he write at his Irish residence?

The Fairy Queen.

51. What happened to Spenser the year before his death?

With his family he was obliged to fly from Kilkolman Castle, which was committed to the flames. Hugh O'Neill, the great Earl of Tyrone, was making a gallant struggle to regain the lost liberties of Ireland. The spirit of insurrection spread over the island, and among the English adventurers who sought safety in flight was Edmund Spenser.*

52. Where and when did he die?

At London, in 1599. According to Ben Jonson, he "died for want of bread." He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

53. What is the *Shepherd's Calendar*?

It is a pastoral poem in twelve eclogues, modelled to some extent after the Latin eclogues of Virgil.

54. What is an eclogue?

A pastoral poem in which shepherds are introduced conversing with each other.

plain girdled with mountain-ranges. Soft woodland and savage hill, shadowy river-glade and rolling ploughland, were all there to gladden the poet's heart with their changeful beauty and tinge his verse with their glowing colors.—*Collier.*

It was in this retired Irish paradise that Spenser composed the greater part of his works, especially *The Fairy Queen*; and from the banks of the "gentle Mulla" we may still see how his famous poem is pictured with that delightful Munster scenery.

* Spenser was justly regarded with odium by the Irish, who looked upon him as a polished robber and needy adventurer.

LESSON VII.

SPENSER, CONTINUED.

55. Which is Spenser's famous masterpiece?

The Fairy Queen.

56. What is *The Fairy Queen*?

It is a great narrative poem in the form of an allegory.

57. What does Spenser declare its object to be?

He states that the object of the poem "was to fashion a gentleman in virtuous and gentle description."

58. How is this poem divided?

It is divided into six books, each book being subdivided into twelve cantos.

59. What does each book picture to the mind?

Each book has a story and a hero of its own, with a series of connected adventures, all intended to illustrate some *one great moral virtue.*

60. Of what does the first book treat?

It treats of the adventures of *St. George, the Red-Cross Knight*, who represents the virtue of Holiness. The first book is the grandest of all.

61. What does the second book recount?

It recounts the adventures of *Sir Guyon, or Temperance.*

62. What does the third book give?

It gives the adventures of *Britomartis, or Purity.*

63. What does the fourth book recount?

It recounts the legend of *Cambel and Triamond, or Friendship.*

64. What does the fifth book give?

It gives the adventures of *Sir Artega*, or *Justice*.

65. What does the sixth and last book give?

The adventures of *Sir Calydore*, or *Courtesy*.*

66. Who is the chief hero of the whole poem?

Prince Arthur, the chivalrous Celtic warrior of the old British legends. The poem opens by his paying a visit to the court of the *Fairy Queen* † in Fairyland, where the hero finds her holding a solemn festival during twelve days.

67. Which are the chief qualities presented for our admiration in this poem?

Heroic daring and ideal purity.

68. As a literary artist, in what way does Spenser especially excel?

As a scene-painter. He drew pen-pictures with unrivalled power. He describes to the eye. He gives the distinctness of real objects to the airy conceptions of allegory.

69. What name is given to the stanza used in the *Fairy Queen*?

The Spenserian stanza, because invented by Spenser. It consists of *nine lines* of a peculiar construction.

70. Mention some of the more serious defects of this fine composition.

The obsolete diction and cold, tedious allegory of the *Fairy Queen* repel most modern readers. It contains dozens of indecent passages, and is pervaded with an anti-Catholic spirit.

* The *Fairy Queen* is an unfinished poem. Spenser's plan embraced *twelve books*; only six were completed. Still, it is more than twice as long as *Paradise Lost*.

† Hence the name of the poem.

71. What is Spenser's chief work in prose?

His *View of the State of Ireland*.

72. What may be said of this volume?

To the author of the *Fairy Queen* it is a disgrace. It might have come from the pen of the ruthless Cromwell.

—
 "The admiration with which Shakspeare regarded Spenser, and the care with which he imitated him in his lyrical and idyllic poems, are circumstances of themselves sufficient to make us study, with the liveliest interest, the poem of the *Fairy Queen*."—
F. Schlegel.

"There is something in Spenser that pleases one as strongly in one's old age as it did in one's youth. I read the *Fairy Queen* when I was about twelve with a vast deal of delight, and I think it gave me as much when I read it over about a year or two ago."—
Pope.

LESSON VIII.

THOMAS SACKVILLE, LORD BUCKHURST. DIED 1608.

Chief works: (1) *Gorboduc*.
 (2) *The Mirror for Magistrates*.

73. Where was Sackville born and educated?

He was born in Sussex, England; and studied at both Oxford and Cambridge, taking his M.A. at the latter university.

74. For what profession did he study?

The law.

75. While still a student at the Temple,* what play did he write?

A play entitled *Gorboduc*.†

* The Temple is an edifice in London once occupied by the Order of Knights Templars, and now appropriated to the chambers of two Inns of Court. They are called the *inner* and the *middle temple*.

† Sometimes called *Ferrex and Porrex*.

76. Is *Gorboduc* a tragedy or a comedy, and what is remarkable about its history?

Gorboduc is a tragedy. It is the first instance in which *blank-verse* became the language of an English dramatic composition.

77. Give the date of its production.

It was first acted with great applause in 1561.

78. What, however, is Sackville's most remarkable work?

A poem entitled *The Mirror for Magistrates*.

79. State the design of this poem.

It was designed to exhibit, in a series of metrical narratives and soliloquies, the calamities of men prominent in the history of England.

80. Is the whole poem from Sackville's pen?

No; the plan is his, but he wrote only the *Induction* and one legend—that on the career of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham. Other duties soon compelled Sackville to commit the completion of the poem to two inferior poets.

81. What honors and dignities were heaped on Sackville, the duties of which transferred his mind from literature to politics?

Soon after writing *Gorboduc* Elizabeth created him Lord Buckhurst; and in 1598 he became Lord Treasurer of England, an office which he held up to the date of his death.

82. What may be said of the merits of that part of *The Mirror for Magistrates* written by Sackville?

Though it contains but a few hundred lines, yet these are sufficient to place Sackville high on the list of British poets.*

* Speaking of the *Mirror for Magistrates*, Craik says that it "must be considered as forming the connecting link between the *Canterbury Tales* and the *Fairy Queen*." It should be remembered that the *Mirror for Magistrates* was written in 1558, when Spenser was but five years of age.

LESSON IX.

SIR THOMAS MORE. DIED 1535.

Chief works: (1) *Utopia*.
(2) *History of the Life and Reign of Edward V*.
(3) *Theological Writings*.
(4) *Letters*.

83. Who is the earliest and most distinguished among the English prose-writers of the sixteenth century?

Sir Thomas More, one of the most shining and illustrious names in the history of England.

84. Where and when was More born?

At London in 1480. He was the only son of Sir John More, a judge of the court of King's Bench.

85. After a course of private study, where was he placed in his fifteenth year?

As a page in the household of *Cardinal Morton*, Archbishop of Canterbury. Here he mingled in the society of the most learned and celebrated men of the times. "This child here waiting at the table," the Cardinal used to say, "whoever shall live to see it, will prove a marvellous man."

86. What did Dean Colet of St. Paul's remark of young More's keen sense and ready wit?

"There is but one wit in England, and that is young Thomas More."

87. At which of the universities did More study?

At Oxford, where he gained the friendship of the famous *Erasmus*, and greatly distinguished himself as a scholar.*

* It is said, among other things, that More wrote many English poems of much merit during his university career.

88. Give a short account of his public career.

He became a lawyer, and rose rapidly in his profession. At twenty-one he was a member of the English Parliament. He was employed in negotiations with various European powers, was appointed Treasurer of the Exchequer, became Speaker of the House of Commons, and, on the fall of Wolsey, he was raised to the office of Lord High Chancellor of England.*

89. How did he discharge the duties of this high and perilous office?

With a singular purity and manly integrity that were the admiration of a corrupt age.

90. What was the end of this illustrious man?

He fell a victim to the tyranny of Henry VIII. Because More, as a faithful Catholic, refused to acknowledge the royal apostate as head of the Church of God in England, he was condemned to death, and cheerfully gave up his life for the true faith.†

* For many years Henry VIII. had been the bosom-friend of More, upon whom he lavished every mark of esteem. The King often ran up to the Chancellor's quiet home at Chelsea to enjoy the wit, learning, and delightful society of the author of *Utopia*. It is said, however, that More always felt a secret distrust as to the disinterested sincerity of Henry's friendship; and time, unhappily, proved the depth of his keen insight into human character.

† More's death, like his life, was lit up with the joy of a pure conscience and the beautiful brightness of Christian heroism. On the way to execution he was met by his favorite daughter, Margaret, and the scene was most touching. As he climbed up the shaky scaffold, he gayly remarked to the lieutenant, "Pray see me safely up; and for my coming down let me shift for myself." He embraced the headsman, and forgave him, saying, "You are to do me the greatest benefit that I can receive; pluck up your spirit, man, and be not afraid to do your work." A moment passed, the cruel axe fell, and the wisest, most learned, and most venerable head in England was severed from the body; and thus died for truth, and justice, and the Catholic faith, the great Sir Thomas More.

"More," writes Charles Butler, "was one of the greatest promoters of classical learning. The letters which passed between him and Erasmus are elegant and interesting; those in which the latter

LESSON X. ✓

SIR THOMAS MORE, CONTINUED.

91. What is More's best-known work?

The *Utopia*, which he wrote in Latin.* It was soon translated into English.

92. What is the meaning of the word *Utopia*?

The word *Utopia* is derived from the Greek, and literally signifies *nowhere*. The island of *Utopia* was the *land of nowhere*.

93. What is the nature of the book to which this odd name is given?

It is a political romance in which More pictures a model republic on an imaginary island named *Utopia*.† Here all the laws and all the customs of society were marked by wisdom and goodness.

94. What was the object of this strange book?

It was clearly a satire on the society of the sixteenth century. In the imaginary island of *Utopia*, English vices, follies, errors, and blunders were carefully shunned.‡

95. Mention some of the laws and customs that ruled in *Utopia*.

All those model islanders learn agriculture. All have trades at which they work six hours a day and

relates his tragical end and records his great and amiable virtues are pathetic and beautiful in the highest degree."—*Historical Memoirs*, Vol. I.

* It was published in 1516.

† Hence our adjective *utopian*, meaning foolish, fanciful, or impossible.

‡ To More must be given the credit of originating that peculiar kind of composition which we may style *political romance*. Among his distinguished followers in the same field was Dean Swift. *Utopia*, no doubt, suggested *Gulliver's Travels*.

no more. War is unknown, and religious persecution unheard of. There are no taverns, no ever-changing fashions, few laws, and no lawyers.*

96. What can you say of More's *History of the Life and Reign of Edward V.*?

It is the *earliest historical work in our language*; and it has been warmly praised for its beauty of diction and for the ease and spirit of the narrative.

97. Did More produce anything on religious subjects?

He did. In his day the religious question agitated Europe, and the ancient faith had no braver defender than the learned and brilliant author of *Utopia*.

98. Mention some of his religious writings.

(1) His answer to Luther's attack on the King of England; (2) his Dialogue on Heresies; and (3) His explanation of the Passion † of our Blessed Lord, with a beautiful prayer.‡

99. What may be said of More's *Letters*?

They are the earliest specimens of simple, charming, and dignified epistolary correspondence in the English language.§

* When the *Utopia* of Sir Thomas More was first published, it occasioned a pleasant mistake. This political romance represents a perfect but visionary republic, in an island supposed to have been newly discovered in America. "As this was the age of discovery," says Granger, "the learned Budeus, and others, took it for a genuine history; and considered it as highly expedient that missionaries should be sent thither in order to convert so wise a nation to Christianity."

† This volume on the Passion was More's last. It remains unfinished. On the last page the ancient editor adds these touching words: "Sir Thomas More wrote no more of this worke; for when he had written this farre, he was in prison kept so streyght, that all his bokes and penne and ynke and paper was taken from hym, and some after he was putte to death."

‡ It can be seen at page 315, *Garden of the Soul*.

§ *The Life and Letters of Sir Thomas More*, by Miss Agnes L. Stewart, has recently been published in England.

100. Had he much reputation as an orator?

His speeches have not come down to us; but tradition assigns to Sir Thomas More the *earliest* place on the glorious roll of English parliamentary orators.‡

LESSON XI.

ASCHAM, SIDNEY, HOOKER.

ROGER ASCHAM. DIED 1569.

(1) *Toxophilus*. (2) *The Schoolmaster*.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY. DIED 1586.

(1) *The Arcadia*. (2) *The Defence of Poesie*.*

RICHARD HOOKER. DIED 1600.

The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity.

101. Who was Roger Ascham?

He was the tutor of Queen Elizabeth, and one of the most elegant and scholarly prose-writers of the sixteenth century.

‡ The months of June and July, 1535, are remarkable ones in English history. On the 6th of July Sir Thomas More was beheaded. On the 22d of June—fourteen days previously—the venerable John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, perished on the scaffold. He was born in England in 1459. A stainless and beautiful life of 76 years had made him worthy to die a martyr. He denied that Henry VIII. could be head of the Church of Christ, and in those unhappy days such a denial was high treason—a crime to be punished at the block. He was seized and cast into the Tower. As the venerable bishop lay in prison, the Pope sent him a cardinal's hat. "Ha!" exclaimed the royal monster, "Paul may send him a hat, but I will leave him never a head to wear it!" He was as good as his word, and on the 22d of June the holy, learned, and eloquent John Fisher gave his manly head for the truth. More and Fisher were devoted friends. Of these two great men we can truly say—illustrious in life, they were sublime in death.

Fisher merits a place in English literature on account of his eloquent sermons, which were the *earliest* specimens of classical pulpit oratory in our language.—See *The Life of John Fisher, Cardinal-Bishop of Rochester; with an Appendix containing his Funeral Sermons and Letters*, by Miss Agnes L. Stewart.

* "Poesie," i.e., *Poetry*.

102. What is his *Toxophilus*? †

It is a treatise on archery, in which he advocates the use of the bow and arrow as a pastime.

103. Of what does his *Schoolmaster* treat?

It is a work on education, in many ways remarkable for its keenness and good sense.

104. Who was Sir Philip Sidney?

He was one of the most gifted young Englishmen of the reign of Elizabeth, as a soldier, statesman, and writer.

105. What is the nature of his work entitled *Arcadia*?

It is a tedious pastoral romance.

106. Which is Sidney's chief production?

The Defence of Poesie. On this work rests his reputation as an English classic prose-writer.

107. What is the *Defence of Poesie*?

The title suggests the nature of the work. The grim Puritans of that day attacked poetry. Sidney became its vindicator, and in his book, which is quite short, proves the high uses of poetry to man, and shows that it is the brightest flower in the field of literature. †

108. Who was Richard Hooker?

He was a minister of the Anglican Church, and one of the ablest advocates of that institution.

109. Which is his principal work?

The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity.

110. What is the object of this treatise?

Its general object was to defend the English Pro-

* *Toxophilus* is from the Greek, and signifies a lover of archery.
† Sidney was killed at the battle of Zutphen, aged 32. In his own time he was in high repute as a poet, but is now little known as such.

testant Church, its laws, rites, and ceremonies, from the attacks of the Puritans or Calvinists.

111. What are the merits of this work in a literary point of view?

It was an important addition to the English prose literature of the sixteenth century. The style is marked by much grace and dignity.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER III., BOOK II.

1. The sixteenth century is the most eventful in English history. It carries us through the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth.

2. It was in this age that Luther began the so-called Reformation in Germany.

3. The corrupt, tyrannical Henry VIII. withdrew his kingdom from the Catholic Church, and proclaimed himself head of the English Church.

4. Elizabeth continued the work of irreligious change. Monasteries were destroyed, libraries burned, and Catholics persecuted like wild beasts.

5. The Reformation reached Scotland, and that kingdom became a prey to mobs and factions. Mary Queen of Scots fled to England, was cast into prison by Elizabeth, and, after eighteen years' imprisonment, was cruelly beheaded.

6. The chief agents that influenced the literature of the sixteenth century were: (a) the printing-press; (b) the mature condition of the English language, which had reached its full stature; (c) the study of the Latin and Greek classics and the poetry of Italy;

(d) the growth of schools and colleges and the spread of education; (e) the rise of the people in the scale of social and political importance; (f) the discovery of America and the circumnavigation of the globe.

7. The Reformation hindered the progress of sound thought and pure, healthy literature. At first it showed itself an enemy to art, science, literature, and education. English letters, learning, and civilization owe nothing to the so-called Reformation.

8. The English drama dates from the middle of the sixteenth century. It reached its highest eminence in the plays of Shakspeare.

9. *Gavin Douglas*, Catholic Bishop of Dunkeld, was the *first* to translate a Latin classic into English.

10. *William Dunbar* was the *greatest* of the old Scottish poets.

11. *Henry Howard*, Earl of Surrey, introduced the *sonnet* and *blank-verse* into English literature.

12. *Christopher Marlowe* wrote the *first historical play* in English.

13. *Robert Southwell*, S.J., was the *founder* of the modern religious poetry of England.

14. *Edmund Spenser* is one of the great poets of English literature. The *Fairy Queen* is his masterpiece.

15. *Sackville's Gorbuduc* is the *first* English drama of any kind written in blank-verse.

16. *More's* best-known work is his *Utopia*.

17. He is the *first* person in British history distinguished by the faculty of public speaking, and remarkable for the successful employment of it in Parliament.

18. More was the originator of *political romance*. He wrote the *earliest historical work* in our language, and was one of the great, heroic men of all time.

19. *Bishop Fisher's Sermons* may be considered the *first* productions of classical pulpit oratory in English.

20. Ascham's *Schoolmaster* is the *earliest* important work on education written in English.

21. *Sidney's Defence of Poesie* is the *earliest* work in the department of English literary criticism.

22. *Hooker* wrote English in a style of much elegance and dignity; but he has often been censured for the great length of his sentences.

23. *Bird's-eye view* of the *chief British writers and works* of the *sixteenth century*:

POETS:

Gavin Douglas, *The Palace of Honor*.
William Dunbar, *The Dance of the Seven Deadly Sins*.
Henry Howard, *Songs and Sonnets*.
Christopher Marlowe, *The Life of Edward II*.
Robert Southwell, *Poems*.
Thomas Sackville, *The Mirror of Magistrates*.
Edmund Spenser, *The Fairy Queen*.

PROSE WRITERS:

Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*.
Roger Ascham, *Toxophilus*.
Sir Philip Sidney, *The Defence of Poesie*.
Richard Hooker, *The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.