

and shows her high regard for him in the following words: "I remember him well, and I remember him worthy of thy praise."

It seems at first thought that Portia's father must have had a very unfeeling nature to trust the happiness of his only child to chance as he did, but on maturer consideration we must conclude that he was an excellent judge of human nature. He seems to have known that the one who would choose the golden casket was the one who was seeking the vain pomp and glory of the world; that the class, represented by the Prince of Aragan, who would not choose with those whom gold would tempt, would accept the silver casket rather than that of lead, and also that the one who would choose the leaden casket and was willing to give and hazard all he had would be the one most worthy of his noble daughter.

It must have been hard for Portia to be thus subjected to a mere whim of her dead father. She could neither choose whom she liked nor refuse those she disliked. It must have been trying indeed for her to stand by and watch those she did not love draw, as at lottery, for her as "first prize." What a sense of relief it must have been to her, when she saw those she did not love, choose the wrong casket!

A beautiful trait of her character is portrayed in her obedience to her father in this affair.

Again she must have been under considerable strain when Bassanio, whom she loved, come to try his luck. Would it have been wrong to have given him some hint as to which casket contained her picture? Whether or not it would have been wrong, she did not do it. She would have been forsworn and gave him no hint; but she makes him understand that she desires him to choose the casket in which her picture is, and she tells him:

"If you do love me you will find me out."