

1898

Honour School of English Language and Literature.

BEOWULF AND OTHER OLD ENGLISH TEXTS.

1. Turn into Modern English:—

- (a) þonne bið brocne on bā healfē
āð-sweord eorla, syððan Ingelde
weallað wæl-nīðas, ond him wif-lufan
æfter ceor-wælmum cōlran weorðað.
þy ic Heaðobeardna hyldo ne telge,
dryhtsibbe dæl Denum unfæcne,
frēondscipe fæstne.

Give an account of the events alluded to.

- (b) Secg eft ongan
sīð Bēowulfes snyttum styrian,
ond on spēd wrecan spel gerāde,
wordum wrixlan, welhwylc geowæð,
þæt hē fram Sigemundes secgan hȳrde
ellen-dædum, uncūdes fela,
Wælsinges gewin, wīde sīðas.

What is here alluded to?

- (c) þā þæt sweord ongan
æfter heaðo-swāte hilde-gicelum,
wīg-bil wanian; þæt wæs wundra sum,
þæt hit eal gemealt ise gelicost,
þonne forstes bend fæder onlæteð,
onwindeð wæl-rāpas.

Is the use of similes frequent in *Beowulf*?

- (d) Geseah þā sige-hrēðig, þā hē bī sesse gēong,
mago-þegn mōdig mādðum-sigla feola,
gold glitnian grunde getenge,
wundur on wealle, ond þæs wyrmes denn,
ealdes ūht-flogan, orcas stondan
fyrn-manna fatu, feormend-lēase,
hyrstum behrorene.

In what context does this passage occur?

- (e) Nō hē þone gif-stōl grētan mōste,
mādðum for metode, ne his myne wisse.

What various explanations have been given of these
two lines?