

kept nothing for himself. Then he rode on his way, and soon afterwards the persecution came and he suffered martyrdom.

Another beautiful story about the Red Cross Knight is told in the famous poem of "The Faerie Queene," by Edmund Spenser, a great poet who lived in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

The Faerie Queene was holding a great feast, when there came in a tall, rough looking young man. He knelt before the queen and asked her to let him undertake the next adventure that should be found for a knight to attempt. She granted his request and he lay down to rest. Soon afterwards there entered a beautiful lady dressed in mourning and riding upon a white ass. Behind her was a dwarf, leading a battle horse, and on the horse's back were the arms and armor of a knight. The lady told the Faerie Queene that she had come to ask for help for her father and mother, who were kept in a castle by a terrible dragon who would not let them come out.

Then the tall, rough young man started up and said, "Here am I; I will go and kill the dragon and rescue the lady's father and mother." The lady told him that he could not hurt the dragon unless he put on the armor that she had brought. Now this armor was that which is spoken of by St. Paul, "the whole armor of God"—the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. When the young man had put this armor on he no longer looked rough and clumsy, but "seemed the goodliest man in all that company." Then the Faerie Queene made him a knight, and he and the lady rode away together on the adventure.

This is part of the description of the knight:

"On his breast a bloody cross he bore,  
The dear remembrance of his dying Lord,  
For whose sweet sake that glorious badge he wore,  
And dead, as living, ever Him adored:  
Upon his shield the like was also scored,  
For sovereign hope which in his help he had.  
Right faithful true he was in deed and word,  
But of his cheer\* did seem too solemn sad;  
Yet nothing did he dread, but always was ydrad."†

The Red Cross Knight had many adventures to go through before he came to the castle. It would take too long to tell them, but some day you can read them for yourself in the first book of the "Faerie Queene." After killing one dragon and fighting with false knights, and being led astray by evil spirits and parted from the lovely lady, whose name was Una, at last he was brought to the House of Holiness. There he learned repentance and faith and hope and charity. Then a holy aged man

showed him a vision of the Heavenly Jerusalem with all the holy angels and saints; and he told him that after he had done his duty and conquered the great dragon he too should go to the Heavenly City:

"For thou, amongst those saints whom thou dost see,  
Shalt be a saint, and thine own nation's friend  
And patron; thou *Saint George* shalt called be,  
*Saint George* of merry England, the sign of victory."

But the Red Cross Knight thought he was too weak and sinful to win such glory. Then the holy man told him that all the saints were once men like him, and sent him on to finish his adventure. So the knight and Una came to the great castle and there was the dreadful dragon. The knight fought fiercely with him for two long days, and on the third day he killed him. Then the father and mother of Una came forth out of the castle in great joy and gratitude, and the Red Cross Knight and Una were happily married. But after he had rested and rejoiced for a time, the knight went back, as he had promised, to the Faerie Queene, to seek new adventures.

[NOTE.—Besides the first book of the "Faerie Queene," Bulfinch's "Age of Chivalry," Mrs. Jameson's "Sacred and Legendary Art," Vol. II., and Ency. Brit. Articles St. George and Knighthood are useful for reference on this subject. Bulfinch quotes from a ballad in Percy's "Reliques":

"St. George, then looking round about,  
The fiery dragon soon espied,  
And, like a knight of courage stout,  
Against him did most fiercely ride.  
Against him did most fiercely ride.  
And with such blows he did him greet,  
He fell beneath the horse's feet,  
And thus within the lady's view  
The mighty dragon straight he slew."]

E. ROBINSON.

## PRIMARY GRADES.

### Short Talks About Water.

The changeable weather of April makes it very easy to introduce the subject of rain, snow, sleet, fog, mist, and other forms of water. Such every-day matters may seem too familiar to need any discussion, but in reality children are not so intelligent about the common things around them as we are apt to suppose; seeing them so constantly they cease to wonder even before they learn to ask questions. The question, "What is steam?" once put to a class of children five or six years of age brought the reply from one of the brightest boys, "It's hot smoke!"

WATER.—Where do we find it? Wells, springs, brooks, rivers, oceans, lakes, ponds; let the children name all the places they can think of, even puddles and

\* Countenance.

† Dreaded.