

There Sambo led his steeds up the sides of a high bank, when, lo! the whole party came tumbling down. He at the steering oar hoped "the black rascal" had broken his neck, and congratulated himself in the same breath for the safety of the horses, which presently got on their feet. Shortly after this we found our boat very snugly secured on the top of a rock midway in the stream, just opposite the mouth of Eel River.

Next day at noon we landed at Woodstock village, yet in its infancy. After dinner there we procured a cart and an excellent driver and proceeded along an execrable road towards Houlton, in Maine.

But before I bid farewell to the beautiful river of St. John, I must tell you that its navigation seldom exceeds eight months each year, the passage during the rest being performed on the ice.

In the spring of 1832 the ice jammed, and the elevated plain on which Fredericton stands was covered to a depth of four feet with water.

Readers who have obtained their last schooling at the New Brunswick Normal School may please imagine, if they can, what a commotion such a flood would make in Fredericton now. And why might it not come in the twentieth as well as in the nineteenth century?

The painting of the pine finches in the Audubon plates was made from specimens procured near the residence of Sir Alexander Campbell, in New Brunswick.

Among the Audubon relics in possession of the writer is a painting of the barn owl, representing a pair of these birds, and a chipmunk in natural size and colour; one of the adult male, female and young male of the summer tanager in a cluster of vines of a southern grape or muscadine; a painting of a polar bear by J. W. Audubon; volumes I, II, II of the "Ornithological Biographies;" the synopsis of "Birds of America;" vol. II, of "Birds of America;" also some letters from a granddaughter, Miss M. R. Audubon, of Salem, N. Y. To the latter, he sent views of the government house and of the Pokiok gulch mentioned by Audubon in his biographies. The first home of Audubon, in America, is owned and cared for in a manner that is thought to be perfectly in accordance with his ideas. The house, a large stone structure, is known as the Audubon Mansion, Mill-Grove-Farm, Audubon, Pa.

In the legislative library at Fredericton are the four volumes of paintings of "The Birds of America," each bird in life size and colour. Also five volumes of "Ornithological Biographies." These are all in perfect condition and of great value, not only to the province, but to bird students.

Lessons in English Literature—XII.

BY ELEANOR ROBINSON.

THE "FAERIE QUEENE"—Continued.

The Story of the Red Cross Knight.

The first book of the "Faerie Queene" tells the story of St. George, the Knight of Holiness.

Spenser says, in his preface, that the beginning of the whole history was to be told in the twelfth and last book, where he would show the Faerie Queene holding her yearly feast for twelve days. On each day a certain adventure presented itself, and a certain knight undertook that adventure. Upon the first day, at the beginning of the feast, there came in a tall, awkward and rough young man, who knelt before the Queen and asked a boon. The Queen might not refuse to grant any request made during the feast; so when the young man asked that he might have the doing of the first adventure that happened, she granted it; and the youth lay down on the floor, the only place that he was fit for, and waited. Soon after this a fair maiden rode in, dressed in black, and mounted on a white ass. She led beside her a milk-white lamb, and behind her came a dwarf carrying the spear of a knight, and leading a warhorse who was laden with the knight's armour. The lovely lady, whose name was Una, fell down at the feet of the Faerie Queene, and told her that the King and Queen, her father and mother, had been for many years shut up in a brazen castle by a huge dragon. She begged that the Queen would send one of her knights to kill the dragon, and set her parents free. At once the clownish youth started up from the floor, and desired that he might be sent on this adventure. The Queen wondered that he should wish to undertake it, and the lady thought he was not fit for such a knightly task. But he begged so earnestly, that in the end the lady told him that it was impossible for him to succeed unless he could wear the armour which she had brought. He put on the armour, and it fitted him perfectly, and he seemed the goodliest man in all the court, so that the lady was well pleased with him. The Faerie Queene gave him knighthood, and then, mounting the horse that the dwarf led, he went forth with the lady on the adventure.

Here begins the first book, with a description of the knight, St. George, with his mighty arms and his silver shield, which was not new, but bore the marks of many a blow.