

arrival in St. John. The card is required for the recording of your attendance. The railway certificates require to be attested by me, and, as soon as the Railway Companies' officer has gone over these, your certificate will be returned to you.

According to agreement with the Companies, tickets may be obtained going, from May 25th to June 10th inclusive, and, returning, certificates will be honored at St. John up to and including July 10th.

Commissioners from west of Port Arthur will obtain round trip tickets for single fare. These will be issued ten days before the first of June, good to return sixty days from date of sale. The return part of these round trip tickets should be handed in at the office of the Clerks of Assembly on arrival in St. John.

All the above arrangements apply to commissioners' wives and daughters, or to any persons having business with the Assembly, provided they obtain a standard certificate and comply with the terms as above.

ROBT. H. WARDEN.

ENGLAND'S PATRON SAINT: OR The Story of St. George and the Dragon.

(Extract of a paper read before the Westminster Guild of Knox Church, South London, April 25, 1904.)

BY GEORGE W. ARMSTRONG.

The Story of Saint George and the Dragon belongs very largely to the literature of myths and may, without much difficulty, be classed among Roman Fables and Greek Mythologies. Who the patron Saint of England really was is a question of great uncertainty, as no less than three distinct persons lay claim to the honour and all have their advocates even to this day. Probably St. George is a composite character formed from some of the best qualities of the several claimants of the honour; just as Uncle Tom, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, is the combination of several negro slaves.

No one clothed and in his right mind ever thinks there was a real and actual dragon with which the historic Saint had a physical contest. Whatever Saint George may be, the dragon, as such, is only a myth. All dragon stories are more or less of the same character. A monster with a large mouth and large sharp teeth, with wings and claws and a scaly skin of almost impenetrable thickness and hardness, living in streams and caves and finding security by lying on the banks and in the caves, its green color being so near like the grass that unwary passersby are within its power before they realize its presence.

One peculiar feature which you may have noticed in reading these fabled stories is that these monsters devour men, women and children; and that the hero only appears when some fair and beautiful maiden or some attractive princess has to be rescued from their power; but rarely, if ever, are persons in humble life objects of the chivalric deeds of the nobles and saintly knights.

Such monsters may exist in the form of serpents, alligators and such like beasts, and men may have fought with

them as the enemies of our race; but, I rather think that the St. George and Dragon story is a more reasonable record as an account of emblematic moral victories, rather than of personal prowess and valour.

Light conquering darkness; good overcoming evil; Christ triumphing over Satan; Christianity over paganism; and enlightenment over ignorance. Such enemies are worthy of knight's valor and success of canonized saintship.

Saint George is said to have been a great and powerful preacher. It may be his dragon was the force of evil, pagan darkness, superstition and ignorance, which he overcame with the Sword of the Spirit.

Paul fought with "beasts at Ephesus" and many other places on his wonderful missionary tours.

Luther fought with the dragon of Romish error and superstition and rescued England and the north of Europe from its power.

Knox fought with the dragon of spiritual declension in the high places of his nation.

Wesley fought with the dragon of spiritual indifference and moral and mental darkness of his day.

Though these saintly knights fought and triumphed, succeeding generations find that these bygone dragons left a posterity for coming ages to combat, and our own age needs the skill and courage of saintly heroic men just as much as any ages in the past have needed them.

Knightly deeds may still be done,
And knightly glory still be won;
by any, who realizing the still rampant dragons of evil, determine in the strength of God, to fight with valour, armed with the whole armour of God as their weapons of defence and defence.

No wonder England has adopted Saint George as her patron Saint, for she has had many dragons to fight and has overcome them; but there are still other dragons yet to be laid low. Let us ascend from the mythical to the practical.

England centuries ago fought the dragon of monarchial supremacy and autocratic despotism, and secured the glorious Magna Charter which is the foundation of British, Colonial and American liberty.

England fought the dragon of religious bigotry and intolerance and though religious freedom and equality is not fully secured religious toleration on the broadest basis has been conceded, the contest will go on against Episcopal presumption and supremacy until the Church of Christ in England has destroyed the dragon of state patronage and control, and the church enters upon a new era—secures its lost heritage—the freedom wherewith Christ makes His people free.

England fought the dragon of human slavery which held men as chattels, to be bought and sold, but with her knight Saint George in the persons of Wilberforce, Clarkson and others; with a metaphorical spear of one hundred million dollars, destroyed the slave trade dragon and adopted the sentiment: Slaves cannot breathe in England—nor in any part of her world wide possessions.

England fought the dragon of fettered trade, and the iniquitous corn laws yielded to Knight Saint George's power in the per-

sons of Cobden, Bright and Sir Robert Peel, giving cheap food to the people and a world-wide commerce to the nation; and through the present generation is seeking to adopt a modified measure of protection, it will be long before the British nation will fetter itself with the trammels of a tariff bondage.

There are many dragons yet to be overcome—the debasing liquor traffic, the upraising and elevation of the "submerged tenth" of society, providing homes in lieu of the dens and slums of the great cities.

The Irish question—giving peace, plenty and prosperity to the sister isle over which Saint Patrick presides.

The dragon which produced discord between capital and labor; bringing them into harmony and contentment.

Saint George has yet many dragons to fight before he can hold his spear with a slack hand; or, before his prancing steed can be released from its burthen—the patron saint of England, the great, glorious and noble Saint George of our patriotic conceptions.

The rallying battle cry in the days gone by was:

"For God, for King and Saint George."

May the spirit of that sentiment continue until every evil dragon is destroyed beyond the hope of a resurrection, and when justice and righteousness and peace shall usher in the long promised and looked for millennium, when man and man the world o'er shall be others be in spirit and in truth.

London, Ont., April 23rd, 1904.

FOR BIBLE STUDY.

The Sabbath School committee of the Ottawa Presbytery have now all arrangements completed for the opening in June of the summer school for Bible study at the Ottawa Ladies' college. This is the first time anything of this nature has been started in Ottawa, and the movement is creating unusual interest in the city and surrounding districts, and reflecting great credit upon the committee in charge for bringing the scheme to a successful issue. The objects of the school are to afford an opportunity to Sunday School teachers and workers to obtain instruction and assistance that will enable them to more efficiently carry on the teaching in their respective schools and classes. The course mapped out is short, and arranged in such a way that those attending can do so without leaving their business or occupation for any serious length of time. It will last from June 27th to July 2nd. During that time Professor F.W. Kelley, principal of the Montreal high school, will give lectures on the principles of teaching as illustrated in the gospel of St. John. Professor F. Tracey, of the Toronto University, will give a course of lectures on Education, Its Aims and Material. Rev. Dr. Bayne, of Pembroke, will deliver a series on The Conception of God as Shown in the Gospel of St. John, and Rev. J. A. MacFarlane, of Bristol, will speak on the Book of Kings. Rev. W. D. Reed, of Montreal, will speak on The Function of the Holy Spirit in Christian Work, and also give a lecture the subject being Power. Professor Kelley will also give lectures on Palestine, illustrated by limelight views on two evenings of the course. A social reception will be held on the evening of Tuesday, June 28th.