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THE RED CROSS KNIGHT

Read and Remember — Teaching Unit III-E

SUNIL V. D.

SCHOOL ERNAKULAM

THE RED CROSS KNIGHT

RETOLD FROM
EDMUND SPENSER'S "FAËRIE QUEENE"

977



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TEACHING UNITS

SUPPLEMENTARY TO

READ AND REMEMBER

BOOK III

BOOK III–A	.	HERE AND THERE STORIES
BOOK III–B	.	ACTING STORIES
BOOK III–C	.	THREE INVENTORS
BOOK III–D	.	RHYMING TO PATTERN
BOOK III–E	.	THE RED CROSS KNIGHT
BOOK III–F	.	SINDBAD STORIES

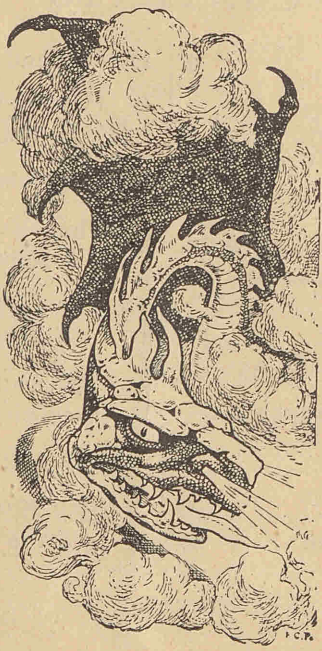
Each with Questions and Exercises

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CONTENTS

1. The Quest 5
2. The Monster Error . . 7
3. The Evil Magician . . 9
4. The Saracen and the Witch 11
5. The Palace of Pride . 14
6. The Tourney . . . 17
7. Duessa's Visit to Night 19
8. The Capture by the Giant 20
9. Una and the Lion . 24
10. Archimago's Plan . . 27
11. Una and the Woodmen 29
12. Prince Arthur to the Rescue 33
13. The Defeat of Orgoglio 36
14. The Release of the Knight 39
15. The Healing of the Knight 42
16. The End of the Adventure 45
17. The Marriage of Una . 50

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES 53



THE RED CROSS KNIGHT

I.—THE QUEST

IN the far-away region of Fairyland there dwelt a great and wise queen called Gloriana. The time when she reigned was in those early days when the great Prince Arthur and other brave knights rode through the world in search of adventure.

To the Court of Queen Gloriana there came one day a very lovely and gentle maiden named Una. She explained to the great Queen that in the land where her parents ruled a terrible dragon had taken up his abode.

It had driven the royal family to seek the protection of a castle of brazen metal where they were now imprisoned, awaiting the arrival of some brave knight bold and strong enough to deliver them ; and she asked from the Queen one of Her Majesty's knights to ride back with her and slay the monster.

Now there were many brave knights at the Court who were eager for adventure, and who had already performed great and valiant deeds, but the Fairy Queen chose none of these to perform this new task.

Shortly before she had made a promise to give the first quest that she had to bestow to a certain young man who had begged her for it and who, instead of being tried knight, seemed to be only a peasant.

This young man's name was Georgos, and in spite of his common dress there was something knightly in his bearing. When he had come into the Queen's

presence at a feast and begged for the next adventure, some secret impulse had caused her to give her promise.

So now when Una told her tale of distress, Georgos stepped forward and claimed the adventure, and Gloriana could not refuse it after having given her word.

Now when he was clad as a knight in the armour Una had brought for the purpose, every one forgot to be scornful. Una herself, when she looked upon him and noted how bravely he bore the silver shield marked with a blood-red cross, and how well the breastplate with the same device became him, felt well contented with her champion.



Then at the Queen's command Georgos knelt before her, and with a slight stroke of the sword she knighted him. He was now to be known as the Red Cross Knight, and the Queen told him to be true and brave, and fight to the death for the Lady Una.

But before he set out the Queen said he must make a certain solemn promise. If the adventure finished happily, he must come back to Court and serve the Queen as her true knight for six years, doing her bidding whatever it might be. The knight was ready to promise whatever the Queen might ask; and so it was arranged between the champion and his royal mistress.

Then the Red Cross Knight mounted a white horse, and Una seated herself on the little milk-white ass which had brought her from her home. Side by side they left the Court of Gloriana, followed by a dwarf, who acted as Una's attendant.

2.—THE MONSTER ERROR

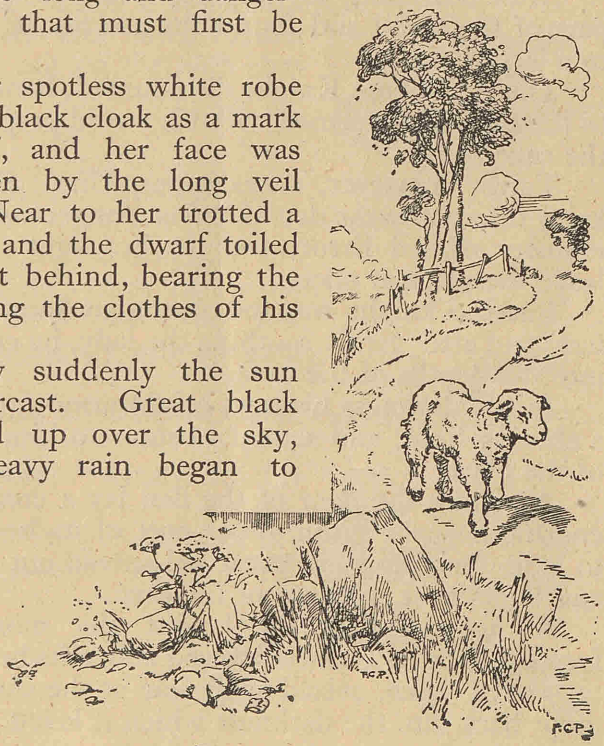
Although the Red Cross Knight had never yet fought, he had within him the knowledge that he had right on his side.

He rode gently across a wide open plain in the direction pointed out by the lovely Una, who rode by his side on her milk-white ass.

Una's own thoughts were very sad ones. She thought of her beloved parents in their tower of brass, and of the horrible dragon; and though she trusted that her knight would rescue them, she could not but think of the long and dangerous journey that must first be made.

Over her spotless white robe Una wore a black cloak as a mark of her grief, and her face was nearly hidden by the long veil she wore. Near to her trotted a little lamb; and the dwarf toiled along on foot behind, bearing the bag containing the clothes of his mistress.

And now suddenly the sun became overcast. Great black clouds rolled up over the sky, and such heavy rain began to



fall that the travellers looked eagerly round for shelter.

At a little distance they saw a grove of lofty, thickly covered trees, and into this they now turned, and found themselves in a quiet spot, which seemed to be far from the storm.

Charmed by the sights around them, and by the sweet songs of the birds, the knight and his lady wandered farther than they had intended. When at last, the storm having gone, they sought to return to their path they found they had forgotten the turning and no longer knew their way.

After searching for it, they came to a still thicker part of the wood and found themselves at the entrance to a large cave.

The Red Cross Knight dismounted, handed his spear to the dwarf, and armed with his sword prepared to enter the cave alone.

Terror, however, seized upon Una. She suddenly knew the spot as the den of a most dangerous and horrible monster named Error, and she besought the knight to leave the place at once.

But the knight was too strong to know anything of fear, and after gently soothing the lady, he entered boldly into the depths of the cave.

In the darkness his own bright armour gleamed with a shining light, and served to show to him the contents of the place.

All along the floor of the den lay a creature, like an enormous snake; the upper part of its body was filthy to look upon, and its great tail spread out in huge coils and knots over the floor of the cave.

At the sight of the knight the monster rushed forward with its great tail raised above its head as though to strike; then, seized with fear at the shining light, it crept back into the darkness which it loved.

Raising his sword on high the Red Cross Knight rushed at it, striking it with so mighty a stroke that it was completely dazed. But it was for a second only that it was checked; the next it had seized him in its coils, and twined its snake-like form around him so that he could not move.

Una cried to him not to be afraid, and bade him strangle his enemy. Cheered by his lady's word, the knight freed one hand, and with a great effort tore the monster's head from its body.

Thus did the new knight win his first adventure; and Una, proud of her champion, gave him words of praise as his reward. Then they left the den of Error, and after further seeking came out on the path they had left.

3.—THE EVIL MAGICIAN

For some time the knight and the lady rode on across the plain. As evening drew near they saw an aged man slowly approaching them.

He was clad in a black robe, and had bare feet, and his long grey beard swept nearly to his



waist. From his belt there hung a book. He walked with downcast eyes, muttering, and he struck his breast as he walked.

The knight stopped at the sight of this man, and asked him if he knew of adventure in those parts. The old man replied :

" Indeed, dear son, it is not likely that a simple old man living as I do as a hermit in a lonely cell should know what goes on outside.

" And yet," he went on, " I have heard of a dangerous man about here who does all kinds of evil deeds. Is this the adventure you seek ? "

The knight replied that it was.

" I beg you, sir, to show me the abode of this evil-doer," he said. " I wish to rid the world of one who works such evil in it."

But here Una reminded the knight that the hour grew late, and that he was already weary from his fight with the Error.

" Were it not best," she asked, " to rest now with the sun, and to-morrow rise with it again, refreshed for the new day's work ? "

" Now, surely that were well advised," said the old man ; " and if you will come with me, my cell is close at hand, and there you can rest until morning."

The knight agreed ; so with the hermit, he and Una came to a lonely dwelling in a dale, through which trickled the clear waters of a stream. It seemed a peaceful resting-place, and little did the travellers imagine all the evil which was to happen to them upon entering there.

The contents of the hermitage were of the simplest kind, but the travellers were well content with simple food and rough seats.

The hermit, too, made the evening pass pleasantly to them with many stories of all kinds.

At last sleep overcame the travellers, and having

shown them to their sleeping places, the so-called hermit went to his study, where his real character showed itself.

The fact was that he was no hermit at all, but a wicked magician, named Archimago. He had appeared in the dress of a holy man in order to get the knight and lady into his clutches.

Archimago saw quite plainly that together they would be able to destroy his own evil power in the land; and he also saw that the first step towards preventing them from doing this was to separate them. He called up, by his magic power, an evil spirit which took the form of Una. The next morning, very early, this spirit spoke to the knight, telling him that her story of the dragon was nothing but lies.

The knight was so angry that he put on his armour and mounted his horse. Then he rode away, leaving the real Una to do whatever she wished.

4.—THE SARACEN AND THE WITCH

The knight rode on for a time. He no longer cared for the adventure, since be believed Una to be wicked; and his heart was so full of grief that he cared little what happened to him.

After a time he saw approaching him a Saracen knight, bearing on his shield the name "Sansfoy." With him was a lady in bright scarlet robes, and riding a little horse gaily decked in tinsel trappings, and with a bridle hung with bells.

The Red Cross Knight prepared for battle, for the very fact of the new-comer being a Saracen was enough to declare him an enemy; and with couched spear he rode towards him.

The Saracen, for his part, was no less eager to do

battle. He hoped thereby to win favour in the lady's eyes ; and with a fierce shock the two knights met.

As they drew back the Saracen raised his sword on high and rained blow after blow on his foe. His blows, however, had no effect on the strong armour worn by the Red Cross Knight, who raised his sword and brought it down on his enemy with a mighty stroke. It pierced right through his helmet, and with a great groan the Saracen fell dead on the ground.

Meanwhile the lady had closely watched the battle ; and when she saw her knight overthrown, she fled as fast as she could from the spot.

At sight of her distress the Red Cross Knight started after her, bidding the dwarf to follow with the Saracen's shield, which was now his by right.

As he overtook her, the lady turned to meet him and begged him to spare her. The knight thought her very beautiful as he looked at her in her rich scarlet robes and sparkling jewels. He spoke to her with gentle words, and the lady told him her story.

" I am the daughter of a great emperor," she said, " who in very early youth betrothed me to a most brave and handsome knight, the son of a mighty king.

" Before our marriage could take place my betrothed was slain in a fight, and by a most cruel fate even his dead body was taken from me. I set forth in search of it, and after much wandering met with the Saracen whom you have just slain.

" He was the eldest of three brothers ; his name being Sansfoy, and the other two Sansloy and Sansjoy. My own name is Fidessa ; and now, Sir Knight, you know my sad story."

The knight begged her at once to look upon him as her protector, promising to be her faithful friend. Fidessa consented, and together the two rode onward.

After much travelling, they saw before them two

large trees whose shade offered a good resting-place, for the sun was now high in the heavens, and his scorching rays fell full on the wayfarers.

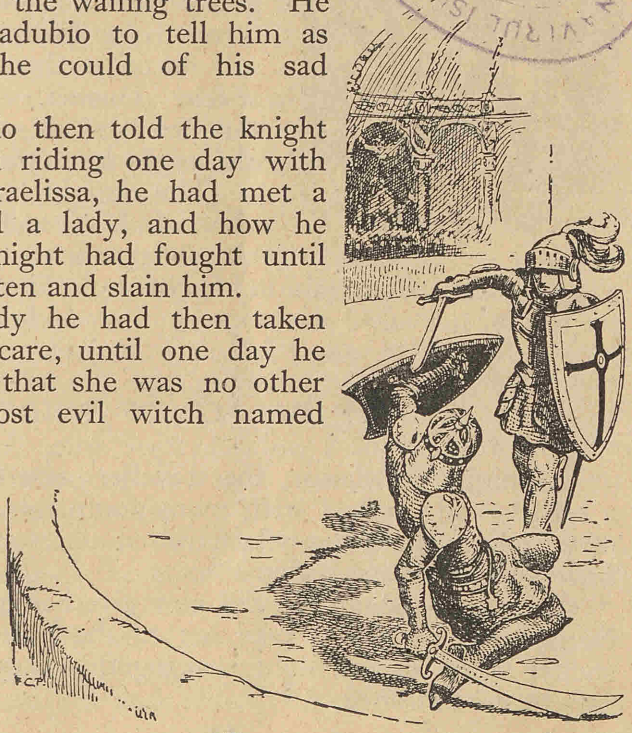
After they had rested and talked pleasantly together, the knight thought he would make for Fidessa a little crown or garland for her fair forehead from the leaves of the tree ; and he tore off a branch.

The next moment he stood frozen to the spot with terror; for from the tree there came a sad voice, begging the knight not to rend him thus, since the two trees were not trees at all, but a knight named Fradubio and his lady, who had been enchanted by a witch.

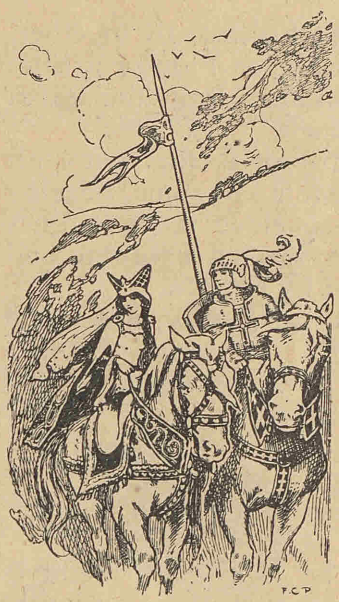
The knight was filled with great pity, and tried to comfort the wailing trees. He begged Fradubio to tell him as much as he could of his sad story.

Fradubio then told the knight how, when riding one day with his lady Fraelissa, he had met a knight and a lady, and how he and the knight had fought until he had beaten and slain him.

The lady he had then taken under his care, until one day he had found that she was no other than a most evil witch named Duessa.



By her arts Duessa had already turned his lady Fraelissa into one of the trees that the knight now saw; and soon after she turned him into the other. So now, side by side, the two lovers must dwell until the spell should be broken.



When the tree had finished speaking, the knight turned to Fidessa, and found her nearly fainting with terror, as it appeared, at what she had heard. But little did he guess the real cause of her terror; for Fidessa was herself no other than the wicked witch Duessa. She was terrified lest at any moment she might be found out.

The knight soothed and cheered her, and at length she slowly raised her eyes and a faint colour came again in her cheeks. The knight then set her on her steed and together they rode onward.

5.—THE PALACE OF PRIDE

As night drew near, the travellers saw before them a broad road marked with many footprints, at the end of which a glittering palace raised its walls and lofty towers to the evening sky.

Duessa, to whom we will now give her proper name, begged the knight to take her to the palace and seek shelter there for the night; so together they made their way to the entrance.

The great doors were standing open, while the porter who stood before them allowed the two to pass in, and they soon found themselves in a lofty hall.

Down each side of the hall stood fair ladies and gaily dressed knights. At the far end of the hall was spread a thick carpet, on which stood a throne of great brilliance, and on the throne, in robes of state, sat Lucifera, the queen of the palace.

She was most beautiful to look upon, but her face was very scornful and proud. In her hand she held a bright mirror, in which she often gazed, while at her feet lay a hideous dragon.

No sooner had the knight and Duessa been presented to Lucifera than she called for her coach to take the air, and they saw her start out. Her six councillors went with her.

It is difficult to say which of these evil persons was the most displeasing to look upon, and when they each mounted a different animal to draw the queen's coach, the sight was very terrible.

First came Idleness, clad all in black and mounted on an ass. Next to him rode Gluttony, a hideous monster, mounted on a pig.

Next to these two came Make Believe, dressed in green, and riding a goat. By his side was Greed on a camel loaded with gold, though he himself was in rags.

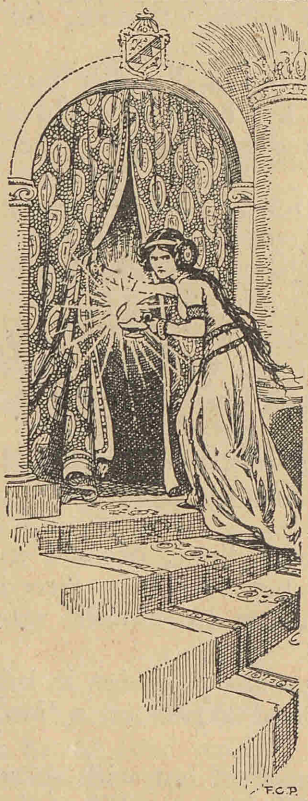
Last of all came Spite, holding a snake hidden in his bosom and riding upon a wolf; and Wrath on a lion, holding a burning torch.

Now Duessa joined the train and set out with these horrible people as the attendant of Lucifera. When the knight saw her do so he stayed behind in the castle. He was troubled in mind, and began to think that Duessa was not as good as she seemed.

When Lucifera and Duessa returned to the palace,

they found that a fierce quarrel had sprung up during their absence.

No sooner had they gone than Sansjoy, the younger brother of Sansfoy, arrived. On seeing his brother's shield in the keeping of the dwarf, he sprang at the little man and tore the shield out of his grasp.



Upon this the knight sprang at Sansjoy, and when she saw them Lucifera turned on them in great displeasure.

How now!" she cried; "do you thus fight without any proper rules of the tourney? Restrain your rage, and let the shield be fought for in proper fashion on the morrow."

The two knights parted for the moment; and it was arranged that on the following day the lists should be prepared and the fight should take place.

When the night had wrapped all the palace in darkness, and each of the knights slept in his bed, the wicked Duessa crept from her own couch and stole to Sansjoy, whom she awakened.

She then told him a lying story of how since his brother's death the Red Cross Knight had kept her for a long time his captive in a cave. This made Sansjoy still more angry, and he swore to be revenged for the death of his brother.

Then Duessa warned him that this might not be so easy a task as he expected. The Red Cross Knight, she

said, bore an enchanted shield and had magic armour that no one could pierce; but she promised him that she would use secret powers to aid him, if necessary.

6.—THE TOURNEY

No sooner had the golden beams of the rising sun flooded the chamber of the Red Cross Knight than he rose and carefully prepared himself for battle; and clad in his full armour, he entered the great field where the fight was to take place.

His enemy, Sansjoy, in his suit of mail, soon entered from the other side and stood glaring at him with hate and malice in his eyes.

Then the sound of sweet singing and of many instruments was heard, and a band of minstrels took up their position at one side of the field. Costly wine was offered to the two knights, who swore to obey all the laws of knighthood in their contest.

A loud sound of trumpeting now filled the air, and to the sound of this music Lucifera appeared with great pomp and majesty. She was led to a throne under a green canopy.

At the opposite end of the field Duessa took up her position with the shield of Sansfoy, which was the prize of the battle, hanging on a tree behind her.

Now once more came a shrill blast from a trumpet, and at this signal each knight seized his shield and advanced with uplifted sword.

The battle had begun, and blow after blow resounded as the swords fell on the armour. The Saracen knight was the stronger, and his blows came down on his foe like mighty strokes from an iron hammer.

But the Red Cross Knight knew that he fought for the right, and his sword-strokes were like swift flashes

of lightning which drew sparks from the armour of his foe.

Before long the fighters were both so badly wounded that none of the spectators could in the least tell who would win. Then Sansjoy caught sight of his brother's shield as it hung on the tree behind Duessa, and came on again with great fury.

At the same moment Duessa called to him, saying, "Thine shall be the shield, and I, and all!"



The Red Cross Knight, half swooning, heard these words, and thought they were spoken to him. He was urged on by them to one more effort, and gave so strong a sword-stroke to his enemy that he forced him to his knee.

But at the moment when his sword was about to descend on the fallen Sansjoy, a dark cloud sprang up before him, and lo! his enemy had disappeared.

Though he sought him, he could see no trace of him, and when he called to him, there was no reply. The thick cloud still rested on the spot where he had lain, but of Sansjoy himself there was no sign.

However, the Red Cross Knight was hailed by Lucifera the victor, and he was led by her side back to the palace, followed by a laughing, shouting crowd.

There he was laid in a fine bed, where his severe wounds were dressed, while sweet music was played to divert his mind from his suffering.

And as he lay thus, the false Duessa sat by his side, weeping as though overcome with grief at his sad state.

7.—DUESSA'S VISIT TO NIGHT

Duessa watched by the Red Cross Knight until nightfall. Then when none could see her, she crept to the spot where Sansjoy lay hidden under the thick cloud. When she saw how ill he was she set out to seek help for him.

Far away was the abode of the strange dark being, Night herself, who was the aunt of Sansjoy. To her Duessa now went with all the speed possible.

She found Night wrapped in garments of the deepest black, about to mount her iron chariot which, with four coal-black horses harnessed to it, waited at her door.

At the sight of Duessa in her glittering raiment, Night was at first dazzled, and would have withdrawn in fear to her cave; but when she saw that her visitor was Duessa the witch, she welcomed her right gladly as one of her own kind.

She bade her enter the chariot with her, that together they might go to Sansjoy, and take him where he could be healed of his wounds. So together Night and Duessa came to the spot where Sansjoy lay hidden by the dark cloud.

They bent over him and bound up his wounds before lifting him into the chariot drawn by the coal-black steeds.

As they worked, horrible sounds echoed around them. Watch-dogs bayed in fear, the screech owl uttered its wild shrill note, and hungry wolves prowled round howling at the sight of Night.

Between them Night and Duessa raised Sansjoy into the chariot. Then, urging on the fiery steeds, they bore him right away to the under-world, where they placed him under the care of the god of medicine.

Her work ended, Duessa returned to the palace, but during her absence something unexpected had happened. She found that the Red Cross Knight with his horse and the dwarf had disappeared.

8.—THE CAPTURE BY THE GIANT

The reason of the Red Cross Knight's departure from the Palace of Pride was, that during the absence of Duessa, he had been able to discover the true character of the place which gave him shelter.

It was the dwarf who first really opened his eyes to this. One day it chanced that he came across a deep dungeon within the walls, filled with most wretched captives.

Hearing of this, the knight was filled with hatred for the place. Although his wounds were not yet properly healed, he made up his mind to flee from the palace at once.

Before the sun was up on the following day, he stole from his room, and, followed by the dwarf, found his way to a small gate by which he was able to leave the palace.

He had to move very cautiously, for he knew now that Lucifera meant to keep him there as a captive, and that if he were discovered trying to escape he would be killed.

But at last he had reached the outer gate and passed through it. Soon the walls of the palace were left behind him, and its great towers were out of sight.

But though he had escaped from the Palace of Pride, his danger was by no means over

When Duessa found that he had gone from the Palace of Pride, she started off after him. Before long she found him quietly resting on the ground by the side of a fountain, with his armour on the ground.

With gentle words the witch drew near him, and at the sound of her soft tones the knight smiled at her.

He allowed her to take a seat by his side on the grassy bank where he rested. The green boughs of the trees made a soft screen against the fierce heat outside, and the waters of the little stream which ran through the glade had a most pleasant, cooling sound.

Duessa could not have found him in a spot which pleased her better; for the stream, which seemed so pure and harmless, was, as she knew, enchanted. Any one drinking from it immediately lost all bodily strength and became as a child or a feeble old man.

Her great hope now was that the knight would quench his thirst from the stream, and that when he was weak from the effects, she could get him in her power.

For a time the knight paid no heed to the stream. But before long the refreshing tinkle of the water attracted him, and stooping down he took a long draught. No sooner had he done so than a deadly chill seemed to pass all over his body, and he felt his courage fail.

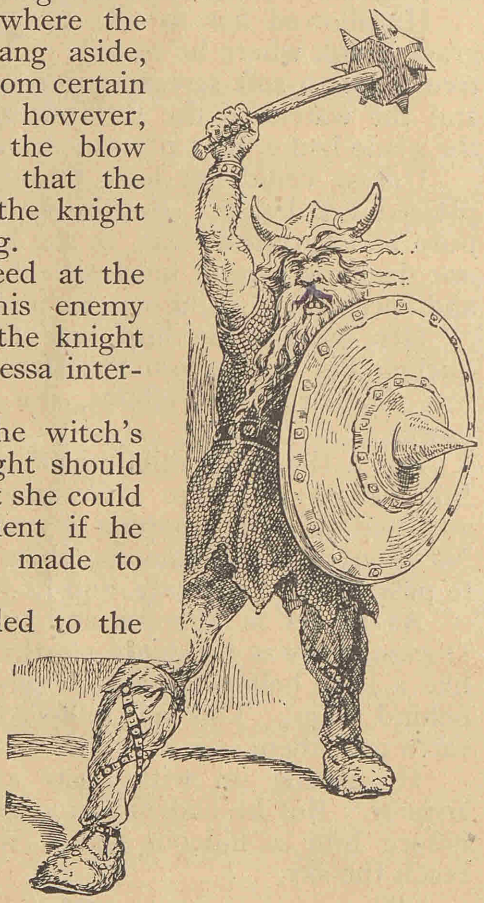
As he sat in idleness and unarmed by the side of Duessa, he was suddenly startled by a dreadful sound like a loud bellowing, which echoed through the wood behind them. This was followed by a trembling of the earth near them.

He sprang up with haste and tried to reach his armour. But he had not time to do this before he saw before him a hideous giant, who seemed almost to reach the sky.

It was this monster whose voice he had heard bellowing through the forest, and it was his heavy tread which had made the ground shake.

Now when he saw the Red Cross Knight the giant advanced upon him, waving a huge weapon in great fury, while the knight stood helpless before him.

There seemed no chance of his escape, but as the giant's great club swung round and fell with a swift stroke on the spot where the knight stood, he sprang aside, and was thus saved from certain death. He did not, however, escape entirely, for the blow caused such a wind that the force of it knocked the knight to the ground fainting.



Now was he indeed at the giant's mercy, and his enemy would have crushed the knight to death, had not Duessa interfered.

It did not suit the witch's purpose that the knight should be slain. She thought she could have further amusement if he were kept alive and made to suffer instead.

Therefore she called to the

giant by his name, which was Orgoglio, and begged him to hold his hand.

"Oh! great Orgoglio," she cried; "spare thy victim for my sake. Instead of killing the knight, make him your captive slave for ever."

This seemed to the cruel Orgoglio a very good idea, so he took the knight in his great arms, and bore him to his own castle.

Here he threw him into a dark and foul dungeon, while as for Duessa, she was treated with the greatest honour.

He clad her in gold and purple and placed a crown on her brow, and declared her to be a queen. In order to make her the more feared by the people, he set free from a den where it had long been kept a horrible serpent with seven heads, an iron breast, a back of scaly brass, and great red eyes, and gave it her on which to ride.

So now we see the Red Cross Knight beaten after all his brave fights, and a hopeless prisoner, it might seem, in the castle of the cruel monster Orgoglio. But there was one way of escape left for him, as we shall see later.

All this time Una was wandering far and wide seeking for him wherever there seemed the least chance of finding him, and her efforts were in the end not to be in vain.

When Orgoglio bore the knight away, the dwarf was left holding his good white steed and watching over the armour and shield which the knight had had no time to take up.

After his master's capture, the dwarf set out to seek help for him, and in course of time Una met with the little man. But before coming to this part of the story, we must follow Una from the time when the Red Cross Knight left her in the hermitage of the magician Archimago.

9.—UNA AND THE LION

On finding herself deserted by the knight, Una's heart was filled with great sorrow. She was alone and unprotected in a strange country, and had only her little white ass to bear her company.

Seated on this faithful creature, the forlorn maiden started forth to seek the knight; for she still loved him, and her one aim was to find him, so that together they might once more go on their journey.

Through dark lonely woods, and across wild open plains Una wandered day after day; but all in vain she sought news of the knight who was far away. It needed great courage to pursue her search, but Una had a brave heart, and would not let her fears conquer her.

At last one day even her spirit showed signs of failing. She had sought so long and all, so far, in vain, and the road before her seemed so hard that her heart sank.

The poor tired ass, too, could make but slow progress; and weary in body and spirit, Una alighted, and seeking a quiet grassy spot she paused there to rest her tired limbs.

She let her long hair fall round her, and her black cloak she laid beneath her, and tried to rest.

Hardly, however, had Una settled herself than her rest was broken.

There was a rushing sound in the wood near her, and out of it sprang a great ramping lion, with blazing eyes and open jaws. When he saw the maiden, he sprang forward as if to seize her, when behold! a most wondrous change came over him.

Instead of springing on her, he crept softly to her side, kissed her weary feet, and licked her delicate hands with his great tongue.

Una was deeply touched by the kindness of the lion.

"Alas!" she cried, "how is it that this lion, the lord of all beasts, forgets his rage when he sees me, while my own dear knight seems to hate and avoid me?"

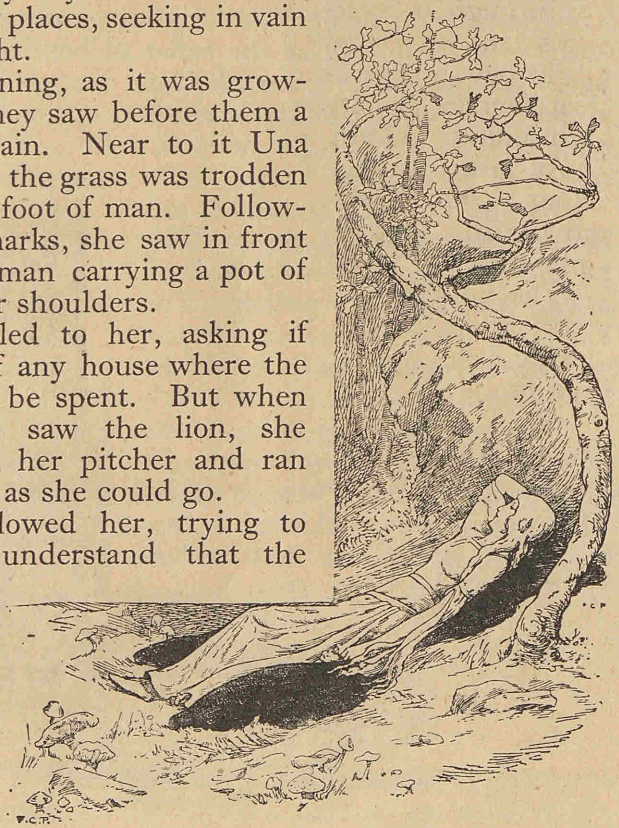
When Una rose after a brief rest and once more mounted the ass, the lion walked along beside her as her guardian and protector. When night came and she lay down to rest, the faithful beast kept strict guard over her.

For many days Una and the lion wandered through many lonely places, seeking in vain for the knight.

One evening, as it was growing dusk, they saw before them a high mountain. Near to it Una noticed that the grass was trodden as if by the foot of man. Following these marks, she saw in front of her a woman carrying a pot of water on her shoulders.

Una called to her, asking if she knew of any house where the night could be spent. But when the woman saw the lion, she threw down her pitcher and ran away as fast as she could go.

Una followed her, trying to make her understand that the



lion would do her no harm. Thus she came to the woman's house, but the woman herself entered at once and closed the door securely.

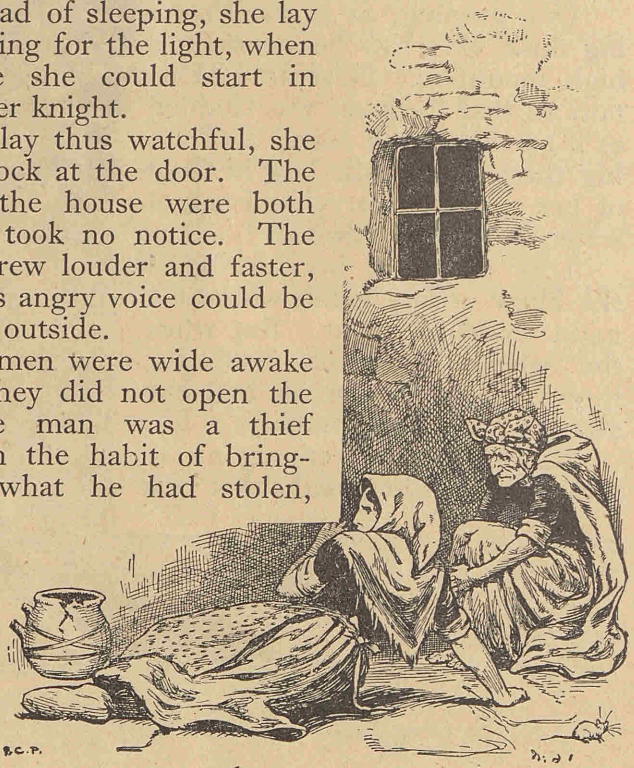
The lion tore open the door, and they soon found themselves in a cottage where the woman and her old blind mother lay together in a far corner.

The fears of the women, however, vanished before Una's gentle speech, and they allowed her to spend the night beneath their roof. So when darkness came Una rested her weary limbs, but sleep did not come to her.

The thought of her lost knight overcame her instead, and her tears flowed as the sense of her loss came over her. Instead of sleeping, she lay awake longing for the light, when once more she could start in search of her knight.

As she lay thus watchful, she heard a knock at the door. The people of the house were both asleep and took no notice. The knocking grew louder and faster, and a man's angry voice could be heard from outside.

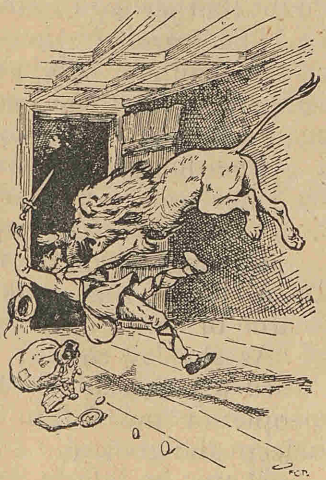
The women were wide awake now, but they did not open the door. The man was a thief who was in the habit of bringing them what he had stolen,



and they dared not let him in on account of the lion.

So they lay in their beds quaking with fear, and hoping the thief would go away.

The man did not do this, however. When he found that no one would open the door, he flung himself against it with such fury that he burst it open.



No sooner had he done so than the lion sprang upon him. The noble beast knew him at once as a bad man, and in a moment he had crushed the life out of him.

The two women did not dare to move nor show any pity, for fear that they should be seen to be the robber's friends and should be killed by the lion.

The next morning Una left the cottage and continued her journey, but though the women said nothing to her before she left, they hurled all sorts of abuse at her as soon as her back was turned.

While they were in this state of anger against Una, they met with the magician Archimago, and begged him to help them. They showed him the direction in which Una had gone, and the enchanter thought of a wicked plan for working harm to the maiden.

10.—ARCHIMAGO'S PLAN

Una and the lion had not travelled very far when she saw before her a sight that sent a thrill of joy to her heart.

Standing at a little distance from her on a low hill was a knight in armour on a white horse, and bearing before him the shield of her Red Cross Knight.

At first she was afraid to trust her eyes, but when she came nearer and spoke to him, there seemed no doubt that she had found her knight at last.

He replied to her in loving tones that sounded exactly like the knight's, and said that he had left her only because he had been obliged to go on an adventure against a wicked man in a far-off strange land.

On hearing these words all Una's sorrow seemed to be wiped out. The knight's own pleasure appeared to be no less than hers, and together they moved slowly on.

Their happy talk was, however, soon interrupted. Before they had gone many yards, a fierce-looking knight rode up, bearing the words "Sansloy" in letters of blood on his shield.

Seeing the shield of the knight with the Red Cross on it, he attacked him with such force that he soon laid him on the ground.

At this he lightly dismounted himself, and addressed the fallen knight in these words :

"Lo ! here is the just reward of him who slew my brother Sansfoy." Then he unfastened his helmet, and prepared to kill him.

Una meanwhile was begging that mercy might be shown him, when the unfastening of the helmet revealed not the face of the Red Cross Knight, but the grey beard and evil face of Archimago !

Una then saw that she had been tricked by the magician. The knight gazed at him, vexed at having wounded one who was really his friend ; she turned in terror to flee from Sansloy. It was in vain.

The Saracen knight followed her at once, seized her roughly by her clothing, and plucked her from her ass. Upon this the lion sprang towards the knight.

But his force was powerless before that of Sansloy, who with a thrust of his spear pierced the animal's heart, and the lion fell dead on the ground.



Terrible indeed was now the plight of Una, with her protector dead and she herself at the mercy of Sansloy. He seized her in his arms and bore her away weeping and shrieking on his charger.

One friend only was left to the maiden. As she was carried away by the Saracen, her little white ass trotted as fast as he could behind her.

II.—UNA AND THE WOODMEN

The Saracen went on until he came to a great forest, into which he rode for a short distance.

Then he dismounted from his horse, but he still kept fast hold of poor Una. She shrieked aloud for help, though there seemed little chance of any one hearing her in that lonely spot.

It happened, however, that in the forest were a number of little wild creatures of the wood, half man and half goat. They were dancing a merry dance round their master and leader, old Sylvanus, when they heard Una's cries for help.

At the sound the woodmen stopped their dance and hurried in the direction whence it came. When Sansloy saw this strange crowd he took fright, and mounting his steed, rode quickly away, leaving Una behind.

The funny little woodmen now crowded round her,

gazing at her with gentle eyes, but Una lay before them trembling with fear. The little men became more and more sorry as they saw her distress, and they tried with gentle smiles to comfort her.

Una was now sitting up, and very lovely did she appear to the strange companions grouped around her; and her beauty so overcame their kind savage hearts that they knelt at her feet and kissed her robes.



Upon this Una gave herself into their hands, and walked forth among them without fear; and the woodmen rejoiced greatly.

They made her their queen, crowning her with olive branches and strewing green boughs before her. As they led her onward, they shouted and sang merry shepherd's songs, while some played on pipes, until all the forest echoed with their merry music.

And so, leaping and singing and piping, they brought her to old Sylvanus, the master of the wood, who came out with tottering steps to greet her.

Among them all the gentle Una lived for several days, tenderly watched and waited upon by her strange friends.

But this quiet life was not to last for long. Una soon began to wish to escape from the gentle wood people. She longed to search again for the Red Cross Knight.

There chanced to come to the forest a brave knight,

whose name was Satyrane, and who was noted for his wonderful power over wild animals.

No matter how fierce they were, they became gentle with Satyrane. He could thus control fierce wolves, ravenous lions, or cruel tigers.

Even as a little boy he had shown this power. His mother, who was a gentle lady, had been seized with terror to see him bearing away in his arms the cub of a lioness.

Satyrane was much surprised when he found Una among the wood people. When he first came upon her, a small company of the funny little men were sitting round her in a ring. Their strange little faces were turned towards her as she tried to teach them wise and good lessons, such as they had never heard until this fair lady had come amongst them.

Satyrane was greatly struck at Una's beauty, and he was also struck by her words of wisdom and her gentle manner.

As he watched her, he felt quite sure that it must be some evil fortune which had made so wise and lovely a lady come to



the forest. He set to work to please Una and gain her trust. After a short time she told him all her sad story.

When Satyrane heard all this he promised to help Una. So they watched for their chance, and when all the wood people were busy in another part of the forest Satyrane took her on his horse.

Followed by the little ass, they hastened through the forest, and at last found themselves once more on the open plain.

When they had ridden across the plain for the better part of a day, and night was drawing near, they saw in front of them a weary-looking, ragged pilgrim.

Satyrane and Una hastened to overtake him, for they thought they might obtain news from him of the Red Cross Knight.

In reply to their inquiries, the pilgrim at first shook his head. He declared that he knew nothing of adventures or wars, or indeed of anything that was happening in the world.

Then Una asked whether he happened to have heard anything of a knight bearing a shield with a red cross upon it, he said:

"Ay, me, well may I shrink from telling you, dear lady, of the sad sights my eyes have seen. These very eyes have seen the knight you speak of both living and dead."

Una at once fell into a swoon, from which Satyrane gently restored her, when she begged the pilgrim to tell her all he knew.

The pilgrim said that only that very day he had seen the Red Cross Knight slain in a great contest with a Saracen. He also told them that they would find the Saracen bathing his wounds at a fountain close by.

Satyrane at once set off, and soon found the Saracen at the side of a fountain.

In reply to his angry challenge, the Saracen caught up his shield, and the two began to fight, though the Saracen said it was untrue that the Red Cross Knight had been slain by him.

While they were in the midst of their fight Una arrived on the spot, and what was her dismay to see that the Saracen was none other than Sansloy!

At this discovery she fled in terror, for anything seemed better to her than that of falling again into the hands of Sansloy. But in her terror she did not discover another danger.

Had she looked at the pilgrim very closely, she would have seen something in his eyes to fill her with dread. How could she know that this aged pilgrim was indeed no other than Archimago, who had once more vowed to do her all the harm he could!

12.—PRINCE ARTHUR TO THE RESCUE

Una had not gone far in her flight from the Saracen when she saw something which at first made her heart leap with sudden joy.

You will remember that when the Red Cross Knight was borne away by the giant Orgoglio, the faithful dwarf attendant had been left behind, and had started out alone to try to get help for his master.

It was the familiar twisted figure of the dwarf which now met Una's eyes. She went towards him even more quickly than she had fled from Sansloy.

But when she came nearer to the dwarf, and saw that he was leading the riderless charger, and that it bore the armour and shield of the knight on its back, all her joy changed to grief. She felt sure that this must mean that the knight had been slain; and she fell fainting to the ground.

The dwarf, kneeling by her side, chafed her hands and rubbed her temples till signs of life began to appear. But when Una awoke again to her sorrow, she wished that she might die.

" Let death come," she moaned. " Let my eyes be closed for ever from the sad sight of that empty armour."



And with these words she sank once more into a swoon.

Again the dwarf did all he could to restore her, and at last Una was well enough to ask him to tell her the sad story of her knight's fate.

Then the dwarf told her everything that had happened from the day when they had left her in the hermitage. He related how the knight had fought and killed Sansfoy, and had been taken to the Castle of Pride.

Then he gave an account of his combat with Sansjoy, and finally of his escape from the castle and his capture by Orgoglio.

When she had listened to the whole story fresh courage came to Una. As there was still a chance that her knight was alive, she rose at once to seek him far and wide until she found him.

So Una once more set out. Through fierce storms, beaten upon by cruel winds and driving rains, over high mountains, through gloomy valleys and dark woods, she and the dwarf pushed onward.

One day she saw before her a knight in armour, so bright that it looked like sunlight. He wore a wonderful

helmet of pure gold with a dragon on top. The dragon was of fine gold set with pearls, and shone brightly in the rays of the sun.

The knight's shield was carved out of one great diamond ; but this shield the knight kept covered, as its light was too dazzling to be shown without cause. Only when the knight had to fight with magicians and huge monsters, against which his sword alone was powerless, would he show the shield. Before its brightness such evil things would fade away.

In the midst of the jewels on the knight's breastplate was one that shone out above all the rest. It was in the shape of a lady's head, and showed to Una that the knight was from the Court of Gloriana, the Fairy Queen.

She knew at once that he was a good knight, and worthy of being trusted. Being a stranger herself, she did not know that he was Prince Arthur, one of the bravest and truest knights of all who served the Fairy Queen.

The knight was attended by his squire, armed with a stout wooden spear that had been carried to victory in many a fight ; and both he and the knight were mounted on fine chargers.

As soon as this knight came close to Una he saw that she was in great secret distress. So he tried to persuade Una to tell him all that troubled her.

" It were better," she said, " to keep such grief as mine buried in my heart, than to stir it up by speech when no help can avail to comfort me."

" Dear lady," the knight replied, " well do I see that your grief is great. But I beg you to tell me of its cause. Remember that none ever found help in trouble who did not tell the reason of it."

" But, sir," she said, " great grief cannot be told, and if talked about does only grow greater."

" That is so," said the knight, " but sometimes wise advice may help to lessen sorrow."

Won at last by his gentle words, Una told to him the whole of her sorrowful story. At the end Una seemed likely to faint again with sorrow, but her new-found friend spoke words which put fresh courage into her heart.

" Indeed, dear lady," he said, " you have cause enough for your grief ; but be of good cheer, and take comfort. From henceforth, until we have found your knight, I will not leave your side."

These cheering words gave poor Una fresh spirit. So, together with him and his squire, and led by the dwarf, she set forth once more on her search.

13.—THE DEFEAT OF ORGOGLIO

After some time the travellers saw before them a very strongly built castle. The dwarf at once said it was the one to which he had seen the knight borne away by Orgoglio. He pointed it out to Prince Arthur, who got down from his horse, and went up to the great gateway with his squire, bidding Una wait where she was, and watch what happened.

The doors were closely shut, and there were no signs of life from within. But the squire had a horn hanging by his side, the sound from which could be heard for three miles. A blast from it would also cause the stoutest door, or most securely locked gateway, to spring open.

The squire raised it to his lips, and as a piercing note echoed from it, the great castle shook as if about to fall, and every door in it flew wide open.

The giant himself, filled with fear, came rushing

forth; and after him came Duessa on the horrible seven-headed monster which Orgoglio had given her.

At the sight of this monster, with its seven fiery mouths gaping wide, the prince prepared at once for attack. At the same time the giant raised his mighty club in the air, and swinging it round his head, brought it down with great force. The prince by lightly springing aside avoided the blow, but the head of the club was buried deeply in the ground, which shook as if from an earthquake.

While the giant was struggling to raise the club again, the prince sprang lightly to him and with one swift stroke of his sword cut off his left arm. It fell like a block to the ground.

Upon this the giant bellowed so loudly with pain and rage that Duessa urged her strange charger to his rescue. He came running up against the knight with open jaws.

At the sight of this fresh danger, the squire, advancing toward the monster with his drawn sword in his hand, made a barrier between it and his master.

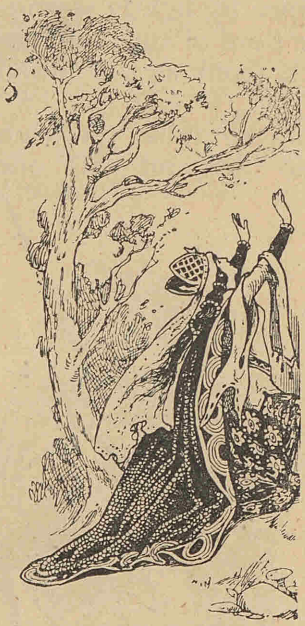
Duessa, however, still had magic powers, for in her hand she held a golden cup containing a secret poison. She now



threw this over the squire, and he sank down helpless before the monster.

In another moment all would have been over with him, for the dragon's claws were already prepared to tear him in pieces. But Prince Arthur left Orgoglio for the moment, and hastened to his rescue.

With one swift stroke he gave the dragon so severe a wound that a terrible roar arose from the strange beast. As he twisted in his agony Duessa was nearly flung to the ground.



Orgoglio, in great rage, came hurtling against the knight, dealing out such blows around him that the strongest oak could hardly have stood against their force. Prince Arthur was hurled to the ground.

To Una it must now have seemed as though all hope were lost. But she knew nothing of the prince's diamond shield and its magic power, and it was this which now saved him. As he fell, the veil which covered it slipped aside; and all its dazzling beams were flashed into the eyes of both the giant and the dragon.

As the dragon's eyes met this flashing light, he at once became stone blind, and began to totter. Duessa, feeling that he was about to fall, shrieked to Orgoglio to save her.

"Oh, help, Orgoglio, help!" she cried, "or else we perish all."

Orgoglio raised his club on high to strike once more

at the prince, but in vain. Beneath the brightness of that diamond shield he became powerless. His arm fell to his side and he swayed as though about to fall; and the knight sprang to his feet and struck at the giant's left leg near the knee. Down crashed Orgoglio to the ground like a great tree when the earth at its roots crumbles away.

As he lay there, the prince stepped swiftly to his side and cut off his head, and at the same moment the huge body seemed to shrink and vanish.

At the loss of her champion, Duessa flung aside the crown from her head, and hurled away her golden cup of poison. She would have escaped from the scene had not the squire swiftly overtaken her and brought her back as a prisoner.

Una now came running up, and she and the prince made their way into the castle to seek for the captive knight.

14.—THE RELEASE OF THE KNIGHT

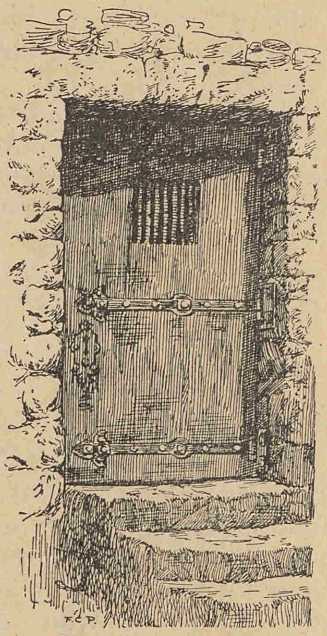
The whole castle seemed to be deserted as Una and Prince Arthur entered it. In none of the corridors or rooms could they see signs of any living person, and a solemn silence was the only answer to their cries.

At last an old, old man, with a beard as white as snow, came tottering forth, bearing a great bunch of keys by his side, and with his head so twisted that he looked almost in an opposite direction to the one in which he moved.

This old man proved to be the giant's kinsman, whose name was Ignaro In reply to the prince's question as to where the people of the castle could be found, his only answer was, "I cannot tell, I cannot tell," repeated in a foolish manner.

The prince took the keys from his hands, and unlocked the inner doors of the castle himself. A horrible sight met his gaze when he had done so.

The walls of the castle were adorned with fine curtains ; but the floors were a mass of filth and human bones. Through room after room went the prince, seeking the Red Cross Knight, but all in vain. At last he came upon a fast-closed iron door, the lock of which none of the keys seemed to fit.



In this door was a small grating, and through this grating the prince now shouted in case any one was hidden within ; and indeed a low hollow voice could be faintly heard in reply.

" Oh ! who is that ? " it said. " Who is it that brings me hope of death which would be so much better than the life which I endure in this dark spot, where I have lain for three whole weary months ? "

At the sound of this voice, the prince's heart beat fast. He felt almost sure that he had at last found the Red Cross Knight. With a mighty push of the door he burst it open, and nearly fell headlong into a deep hole on the other side.

Prince Arthur lowered himself to where the wretched knight lay in the depths below ; and with great difficulty he brought him back to the upper air.

It was a sad sight that met his gaze when at last he laid the Red Cross Knight at the entrance to the dungeon. His eyes were sunken in his pale thin face, and his

shrunken limbs were unable to bear the weight of his body.

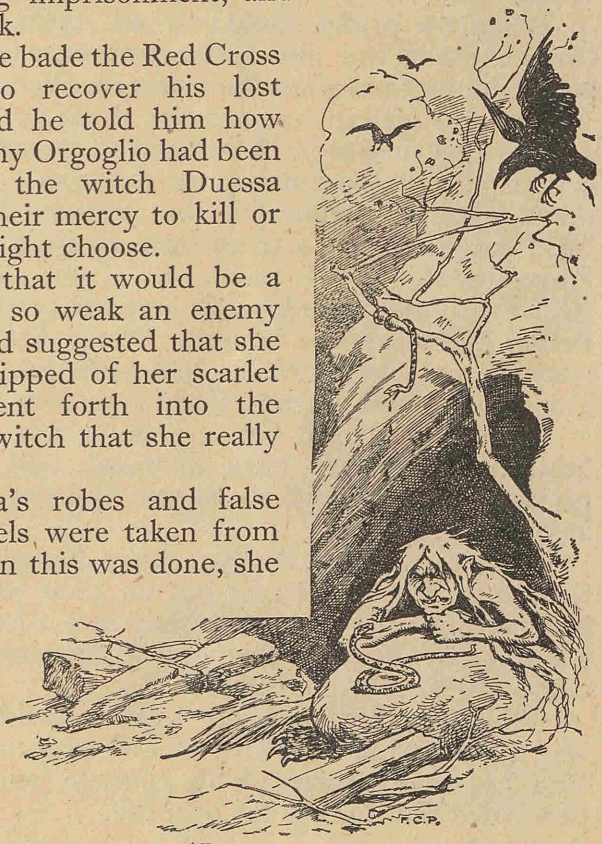
He was hardly to be known as the strong, handsome young knight who had set out with Una from the Court of the Fairy Queen; and when the maiden, who had waited close by, came running up to greet him, her joy was overcome by grief.

The knight himself was too worn out to be able to feel delight either at seeing his lady or at being released from his long imprisonment, and could not even find words to speak.

The prince bade the Red Cross Knight try to recover his lost strength; and he told him how his great enemy Orgoglio had been killed, while the witch Duessa was now at their mercy to kill or not as they might choose.

Una said that it would be a shame to kill so weak an enemy as Duessa, and suggested that she should be stripped of her scarlet robe, and sent forth into the world as the witch that she really was.

So Duessa's robes and false hair and jewels were taken from her; and when this was done, she



was seen to be nothing but an ugly witch. Thus stripped, she ran away and lived in wild lonely regions where she might hide alone.

And now Una and the two knights rested for a while in the deserted castle, where they found all necessary for their comfort.

15.—THE HEALING OF THE KNIGHT

When the prince and Una had rested, and the Red Cross Knight was also feeling stronger, they were no longer content to spend their time in idleness.

Una was feeling very anxious about her aged parents, who all this time were waiting in their brazen tower for her help; and the knight, too, was now eager to rescue them. Prince Arthur felt that they no longer needed him, and was anxious to go forth again in service of the Fairy Queen.

So with many kind words he parted from his friends. Before he bade them farewell, Prince Arthur told them who he was, and how he had been brought up by a Fairy knight and taught by a wise magician.

He gave the Red Cross Knight as a parting gift a beautiful box made of a diamond, and containing a precious ointment, which he said had the power to heal any wound.

So now Una and the Red Cross Knight, attended by the dwarf, once more set out on their journey. They had not gone very far when they met a knight riding at great speed towards them, and glancing behind him constantly as he came, as if in fear.

When he drew near to them, he said that his fear was due to a meeting with an evil man named Despair, who had taken away all his courage, and even almost persuaded him to take his own life.

The knight at once wished to attack this wicked person, and though the other, who gave his name as Trevisan, refused to go near him again, he said he would point out his dwelling-place, which was in a cave not far away.

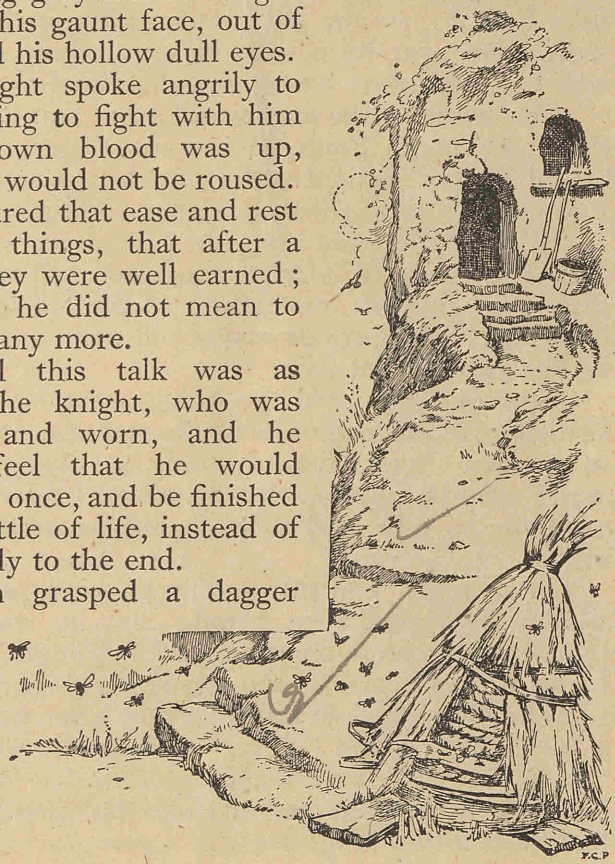
After passing over a most dreary moor, they came to the entrance of the cave. Within, the knight saw the figure of Despair sitting on the ground clad in rags, and with his long grey locks falling on to his shoulders and half hiding his gaunt face, out of which stared his hollow dull eyes.

The knight spoke angrily to him, intending to fight with him while his own blood was up, but Despair would not be roused.

He declared that ease and rest were good things, that after a little toil they were well earned; and he said he did not mean to stir himself any more.

Now all this talk was as poison to the knight, who was still weak and worn, and he began to feel that he would rather die at once, and be finished with the battle of life, instead of fighting nobly to the end.

He even grasped a dagger



which Despair placed in his hand, intending to kill himself with it, but he was saved from this cowardly act by Una.

When she saw the dagger in his hand she rushed to him and in angry words reminded him of the quest he had undertaken. And she begged him to fly with her from Despair; so together they turned their backs upon the cave, leaving Despair angry at the knight's escape.

This proved to Una that her dear knight was not fully healed; so she led him to a house that she knew well, ruled over by a wise lady, in whose care she was sure he would have his strength restored to him.

The name of the lady was Caelia, and tended by her three daughters, Faith, Hope, and Charity, and by the skilful doctor, Patience, the health and strength of the Red Cross Knight slowly returned to him.

Before he left the house of Caelia, he was led by an aged dame named Mercy to a steep hill at some little distance. And on the summit of the hill he saw a little hermitage, where dwelt a wise old man, and with whom he had much quiet talk.

This old man told the knight that he was of royal British birth, instead of being the son of a simple peasant, as the Red Cross Knight himself had always believed he was. And he foretold that he was to become the patron saint of his own native land, and be known to future ages as St. George.

The knight was filled with joy and pride to think that he was of British blood; but he was still much puzzled as to how he came to be brought up far from his own people and as the son of a ploughman.

The old man then told him that when he was a baby, a fairy had snatched him out of his cradle when sleeping. She left one of her own elfin babies in his place, and had borne him away in her arms to Fairyland, where she had hidden him in a furrow of a ploughed field.

There he had been found by the ploughman, who brought him up as his own son and gave him the name of Georgos. With this foster-father he had remained until he grew up, when he had felt he must go to the Court of the Fairy Queen in search of adventure.

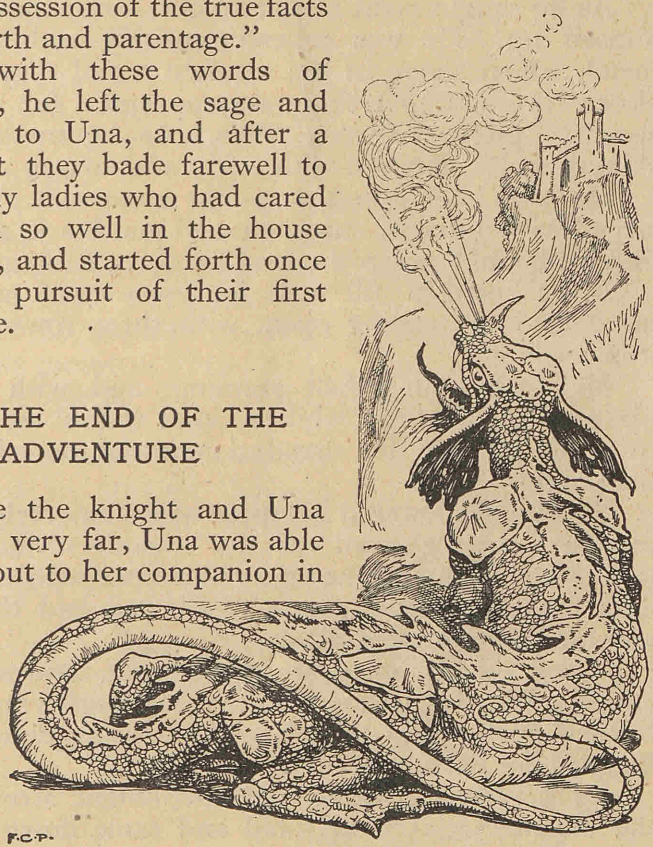
The Red Cross Knight was filled with gratitude to the old sage for all he had told him.

"O holy Sir," he said, "how can I ever requite thee? Thou hast shown me the right path, and put me in possession of the true facts of my birth and parentage."

So, with these words of gratitude, he left the sage and returned to Una, and after a little rest they bade farewell to the kindly ladies who had cared for them so well in the house of Caelia, and started forth once more in pursuit of their first adventure.

16.—THE END OF THE ADVENTURE

Before the knight and Una had gone very far, Una was able to point out to her companion in



the distance the brazen tower which sheltered her parents. By straining their eyes they were able to see a watchman on the top of it, gazing across the landscape to catch the first signs of their approach.

While their eyes were fixed in this direction they heard a loud, hideous roaring, and soon saw the great form of the dragon stretched at full length on the side of a hill. The bright sunshine shone full upon him, and his huge bulk was almost like a hill itself.

As he caught sight of the knight, the monster reared himself up. He was covered entirely with scales of metal, which shone in the sunlight; and they were so closely overlaid that there was no space for sword or spear to pierce between them. As he moved, these shining scales clattered with a frightful sound.

His two huge wings were like great sails. His tail, armed with a deadly sting, was red and black, and when unfolded could sweep the land for three furlongs.

More horrible still were his great cruel talons and his deep jaws, gaping open, with three rows of sharp iron teeth.

Half flying and half running, and with his eyes blazing like two fires, while a cloud of foul smoke came from his mouth, this dreadful monster moved towards the knight.

The knight lowered his spear and ran fiercely at him; but the spear glanced off the smooth surface of the dragon's side though he swerved a little with the shock. The next moment a stroke of his tail laid the knight and his horse in the dust.

They quickly arose, and the knight returned to the attack. But the dragon unfurled his huge wings, raised himself on them in the air, and swooping down on the knight bore both him and his horse aloft.

So fiercely, however, did the knight struggle that the monster relaxed his hold and came down again to

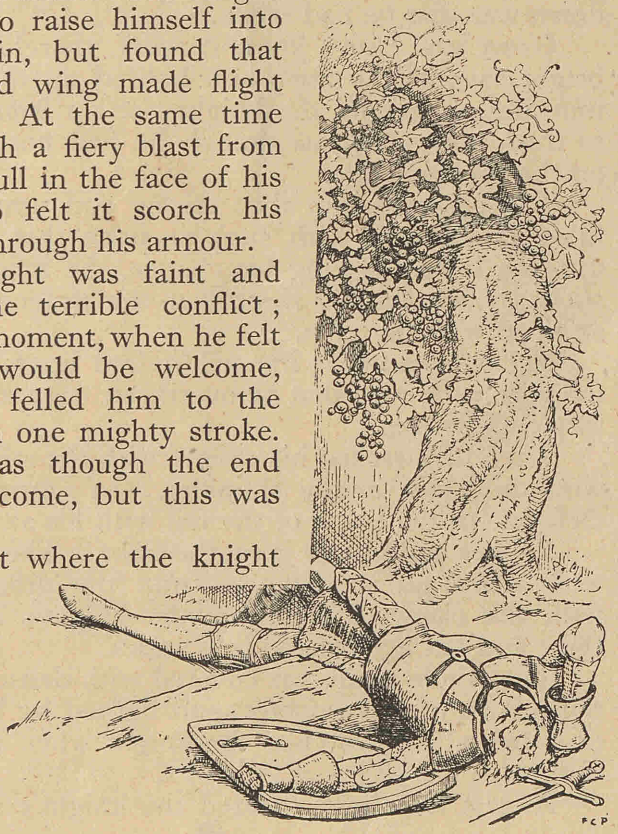
the plain. The knight once more attacked him with his spear, and this time with such force that he gave him a wide wound under the left wing.

The spear-head remained in the wound, while the monster filled the air around with his yells of anger and pain. The knight now seized his sword and hurled blows on the dragon's head, but so stout was the metal round it that these did not even make a dint.

Again and again he struck the beast, but the sharp blade had no effect. The dragon now tried to raise himself into the air again, but found that his wounded wing made flight impossible. At the same time he sent forth a fiery blast from his mouth full in the face of his enemy, who felt it scorch his body even through his armour.

The knight was faint and worn by the terrible conflict; and at this moment, when he felt that death would be welcome, the dragon felled him to the ground with one mighty stroke. It seemed as though the end must have come, but this was not so.

The spot where the knight



was standing was close to a spring, which had most wonderful healing powers. Into this water the knight had fallen when the dragon knocked him down; and there he remained all night gradually recovering his strength, while the dragon thought himself to be the victor.

Poor Una, who had watched the battle from a hill near by, feared the day was lost. She spent the night in prayer for her champion, of whose safety she was in great doubt, as the last she saw before the sun went down was that he had fallen.

Great was Una's joy and relief, therefore, when the bright rays of the risen sun lighted up the scene next morning, to behold the knight rise up from the spring, as fresh and strong as though he had not fought at all on the previous day.

The sight of him thus strong and unwounded also filled the dragon with such surprise that he began to quake a little. Seeing his chance, the knight gave him such a blow on his head that the dragon was almost stunned with the pain.

He began to roar like a hundred lions, and lash his tail with such fury that he overthrew trees and tore rocks in pieces with it.

Then he attacked his enemy with the sting in his tail, wounding him in the shoulder. In return, the knight cleft one of the knots of the tail with his sword.

Fiercer and fiercer grew the fight. The air was filled with roars and bellowings from the dragon, mingled with the clang of metal, as the knight's sword struck right and left against the iron scales.

The whole plain was covered with dense smoke from the mouth of the monster, and lighted by bright flashes of flame which scorched the knight when he drew near him.

At last the dragon seized the knight's shield in one

of his great claws ; but his enemy slashed so fiercely at him that he had to loosen his hold with one claw in order to defend himself. With a swift true stroke the knight severed the other at the joint, though the claw even when thus cut off still kept its grip upon the shield.

At the close of the day the knight's strength once more began to fail. Overcome by weakness he missed his footing and fell backwards, where he lay motionless at the foot of a tree.



Again through the long night did Una watch and pray for her knight, and again with a new joy did she see him arise fresh and vigorous. For the tree under which he fell was the one known as the "tree of life," and was the only one which the dragon had been powerless to destroy.

Instead of being bare like the rest, it was still covered with leaves and fruit. Moreover, it had marvellous healing powers, for a balm trickled from its sides which could heal the most deadly wound.

So as the knight lay at its foot, this wonderful balm bathed him all night, and he arose the next morning, as on the day before, as fresh as if he had never fought.

The dragon meanwhile had obtained no new strength ; and if he had known of the balm, he could not have made use of it, as he could not draw near to the tree.

On the third day the fight began again. The dragon came on as before with great gaping jaws. Then the knight, by a sudden swift attack, plunged his sword right down the throat of the beast with such force that

his life-blood welled up through it. With a mighty groan the monster rolled over on his side quite dead.

Even the knight could hardly believe that he had killed his foe, and stood in fear as the huge mass swayed and heaved over. Una was afraid at first to draw near, hardly daring to believe that the monster was really slain.

But as the dragon continued to lie quite still just as he had rolled over, she first sank for a moment on her knees to give thanks for the victory, and then came forward to thank the knight.

17.—THE MARRIAGE OF UNA

The watchman on the tower had seen the death of the dragon, and had at once hastened to the king and queen with the joyful news. Now the great doors of the castle were thrown open for the first time for many years, and the king and queen came out to thank their deliverer.

Following them were fair children, and young men and lovely maidens, who sang and danced as they came. They threw laurels at the feet of the Red Cross Knight, and on Una's head they placed garlands of gay flowers.

So all was merrymaking and rejoicing. Soon, too, all the people of the country came flocking to the spot as the glad news spread among them. Great was the delight of all to see the huge body of their tormentor.

Even yet, however, fear of the dragon was not quite at an end. Some fancied that a spark of life might still cause evil to those who drew near the dead body; and great was the terror of one woman who saw her infant son calmly playing with the monster's claws.

The knight was now loaded with rich gifts by the king, and to the sounds of trumpets, and with flowers and branches scattered before them, he and Una were led to the palace, where a great feast was prepared.

When the feast was ended, the knight told the story of his adventures since he first started on the quest with Una, up to the slaying of the dragon.

At the end of his story the king said that he had vowed, in return for what the Red Cross Knight had done, to give him his only daughter Una in marriage, and to make him the heir to his kingdom.

Una herself was then sent for, and she appeared radiant and joyful. She had thrown aside her dark robes and the hood which before had partly hidden her face. Now all the beauty of her sweet face was shown, and in her gown of spotless white silk, decorated with silver, she seemed to the eyes of her lover as—

"Fresh and fair as fairest flowers in May."

But just at this glad moment a messenger came hurrying in, and presented the king with an urgent letter.

When the king had glanced at the letter he became much disturbed. It was signed "Fidessa," and the writer said that the knight had been betrothed to her for a long time, and that he was not free to marry any one else.

Una, however, soon put her father's mind at rest, by explaining that Fidessa was but a name assumed by the evil witch Duessa. She also felt sure that the messenger was the wicked Archimago himself, and this indeed he proved to be.

Whereupon the king had him seized by his guard and cast into prison.

Great were the rejoicings throughout the land when the happy day came which united the lovers. Never was bridegroom happier than was the Red Cross Knight when he looked upon the lovely face of his bride.



But he did not forget the solemn promise he had made to the Fairy Queen, that if she gave him the adventure, he would return to her at its close and serve her for six years.

So after a short time spent with Una, he set forth to keep his promise, leaving her with her parents, until the time when he could return and take up his position as her husband and the heir to her father's realm, which he did in due time.

And with his beloved wife he lived happily to the end of his days.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. **The Quest** (page 5).—(1) What kind of adventure did the knights like to have? (2) Against what evil things did they fight? (3) What is a quest? (4) What device was shown on the armour given to Georgos by Una? (5) Tell how a person is knighted. (6) Did the Queen intend that the Red Cross Knight should have only one adventure? (7) Why do you say so? (8) Describe the dwarf and tell of his duties.

2. **The Monster Error** (page 7).—(1) Tell of the four companions and the beginning of their journey. (2) Why did the knight and his companions go into the grove? (3) Why did Una try to prevent the knight from entering the cave? (4) How was he able to see the monster in the dark cave? (5) Find another word meaning "error." (6) How had the knight helped other travellers by killing the monster? (7) How did Una help the knight? (8) What did the dwarf do on this adventure?

3. **The Evil Magician** (page 9).—(1) Give another name for a magician. (2) Describe the magician. (3) What is a "hermit"? (4) Why did Archimago wish to separate the knight from Una? (5) How did he do so? (6) What magic power had Archimago? (7) Describe the "cell" of the hermit. (8) Why had Archimago taken the form of a very old man?"

4. **The Saracen and the Witch** (page 11).—(1) The Saracen was an enemy to all Christians. How would he know that the Red Cross Knight was his enemy? (2) What is meant by being "betrothed"? (3) Tell of the knight's second adventure. (4) What had happened to Fradubio and his lady? (5) Who was Duessa? (6) Was

she related to Fidessa? (7) Why did Fidessa nearly faint with terror? (8) Describe the picture on page 14.

5. **The Palace of Pride** (page 14).—(1) What was shown by the large number of footprints on the road to the palace? (2) Guess why the porter allowed the knight and Duessa to enter. (3) Make a list of the names of the councillors of Lucifera. (4) When did the knight begin to think Duessa was not good? (5) Find out the meaning of "tourney" and of "lists." (6) How did Duessa make mischief? (7) What is shown in the picture on page 16? (8) What is magic armour?

6. **The Tourney** (page 17).—(1) Draw a plan of the lists. (2) Which knight was the stronger? (3) What did Duessa call out? (4) What happened to the Saracen? (5) What do you think caused the cloud to arise? (6) Did the knight suspect Duessa? (7) How did she behave after the fight? (8) How did Lucifera treat the wounded knight?

7. **Duessa's Visit to Night** (page 19).—(1) Who was Night? (2) How was she dressed? (3) How did she drive about? (4) Why was she glad to see Duessa? (5) What did they do together? (6) Where was Sansjoy taken? (7) What did Duessa do next? (8) What surprise awaited her at the palace?

8. **The Capture by the Giant** (page 20).—(1) Why had the knight left the palace? (2) Who told him that the palace was a bad place? (3) Where did Duessa overtake him? (4) What followed when any one drank the water of the stream? (5) Why did Duessa save the knight from the giant? (6) What did she ask the giant to do? (7) Describe the animal attendant of Duessa. (8) Tell how the dwarf was helpful at this time.

9. **Una and the Lion** (page 24).—(1) Was Una angry with the knight? (2) How did she meet with the lion? (3) Why did it not kill her? (4) How did Una get into

the cottage? (5) Why did the women not admit the robber? (6) What is meant by "hurled all sorts of abuse"? (7) Whom did the women meet? (8) What did they tell him?

10. Archimago's Plan (page 27).—(1) Why did Sansloy attack the knight with the shield of the Red Cross? (2) Why was he vexed that he had done so? (3) What had Archimago intended to do? (4) Who really saved Una from the magician? (5) What happened to the lion? (6) Who remained faithful to Una? (7) How many Saracens have, so far, come into the adventures? (8) Had Archimago got the real shield of the Red Cross Knight?

11. Una and the Woodmen (page 29).—(1) Describe Sylvanus from the picture on page 30. (2) Why did the woodmen treat Una kindly? (3) What did they do with her? (4) Was Una ready to stay with them altogether? (5) Who took her away and why? (6) Whom did you expect the aged pilgrim to be? (7) What lie did the old man tell? (8) How does Satyrane drop out of the story?

12. Prince Arthur to the Rescue (page 33).—(1) Tell of Una's meeting with the dwarf. (2) How might the dwarf have prevented Una from fainting? (3) Draw, from the picture on page 37 a helmet with a dragon on top. (4) Why did Prince Arthur keep his shield covered? (5) Why cannot you see the lady's head on his breastplate in the picture? (6) Why did not Una tell him at once what was wrong? (7) What is meant by "be of good cheer"? (8) Which part of the helmet on page 37 could be drawn down over the face?

13. The Defeat of Orgoglio (page 36).—(1) Tell about the horn carried by the squire of Prince Arthur. (2) What happened to the head of the giant's club? (3) How did Duessa prevent the squire from helping his master? (4) How was Prince Arthur thrown? (5) How was he saved? (6) Why was nothing left of the giant? (7) What

did Duessa do when the giant vanished? (8) Who captured her?

14. **The Release of the Knight** (page 39).—(1) Describe the old man Ignaro. (2) Tell what happened at the iron door. (3) Whom did the prince find beyond the door? (4) What did the poor prisoner look like? (5) Was he pleased to meet Una? (6) Why? (7) Who is shown in the picture on page 41? (8) Why was the witch not put to death?

15. **The Healing of the Knight** (page 42).—(1) Describe Prince Arthur's parting gift to the Red Cross Knight. (2) What was Trevisan's story? (3) Describe Despair. (4) What did he say to the knight? (5) What effect had these words upon him? (6) Who saved him? (7) Name all the people who nursed him back to health. (8) What wonderful story did the old wise man tell?

16. **The End of the Adventure** (page 45).—(1) Describe the dragon near the brazen tower. (2) How did the dragon throw the knight? (3) What did the dragon do next? (4) Where did the knight fall? (5) What did the water of the spring do to him? (6) What happened to the knight at the end of the second day? (7) How did the "tree of life" help the knight? (8) How did Una help her knight to beat the dragon at last?

17. **The Marriage of Una** (page 50).—(1) Tell what happened in the castle as soon as the dragon was killed. (2) What did the king give the knight as his reward? (3) What was in Duessa's letter? (4) Who was her messenger and what happened to him? (5) What was the promise that the knight kept? (6) Whom would he meet again at the Queen's court? (7) How would he spend his six years of service? (8) Who wrote this famous story? (See Title Page.)

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This is very good work.

477

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