



Ellen Gray
from her teacher
Miss Peabody

December 17th
1863

HOLINESS;

OR

THE LEGEND OF ST. GEORGE:

A TALE

FROM

SPENCER'S FAERIE QUEENE,

BY A MOTHER.

BOSTON:

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PREFACE.

Charles Lamb's Tales of Shakspeare, and James Cowden Clarke's Tales of Chaucer, suggested writing out the Legends of the Faerie Queene. For Spencer needs translation; his obsolete dialect throwing him out of the reach of children, whom it is so desirable to interest in the elder writers of English literature, and to the youngest of whom a Tale of Chivalry is always delightful.

But the peculiar charm of Spencer is, that a profound philosophy of moral life pervades it, which gradually dawns upon the reader—

“A new morn risen on mid noon;”

And this again and again, at the successive stages of experience: for his stories are an exhaustless mine of thought.

PREFACE.

IV. To aid the developement of the allegory, a few notes are added by the editor, who is not the author of the tale. But it was not intended to explain the allegory fully; this would require as many pages as the Tale itself.

The legends of Temperance, Chastity, Justice, &c. are in manuscript,—a source of delight to such young persons as have access to them. They will come forth at the call of the public.

DECEMBER, 1835.

THE

LEGEND OF ST. GEORGE.

CHAPTER I.

The Patron of true Holinesse
Foul Errour doth defeat;
Hypocrisie him to entrappe
Doth to his home entreate.

IN days of yore, when the spirit of chivalry yet burned in every noble youth, there pricked forth one morning, over the dewy plain, a gentle knight; bound by solemn oath to destroy a horrible dragon, that was ravaging the finest country of antiquity.¹

He was clad in complete armour. His silver shield which was not new, was marked with dints of former battles;² but this knight had never worn arms before, and the noble animal on which he rode, seemed unused to the bit: yet he wore his arms gracefully, and his horse yielded to his manage, as to one skilled in the noble art of horsemanship.³ On his breast he bore a bloody cross, in dear remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom he

GENERAL

OF

ST. GEORGE.

HOLINESS



ELIZABETH
PEABODY