

of Thackeray and Howells to the weird and unnatural of such as Verne or Haggard. Much, no doubt, can be said in favor of a healthy imagination, not alone to the possessor but to others, inasmuch as it alone can give one the power to "put yourself in his place" without which charity would go halting. But imagination in however wild a flight still loves the plausible, and recognizes the natural. To misplace well-known cities or disallow direct and consequent natural phenomena seems but a step removed from ignorance of the same.

That the writer has a brilliant and wonderful imagination is very clear, but it is too great an effort to appreciate a long and varied list of supernatural events without any common agent or connecting thread. On the Indian Ocean as in the heart of Africa, without as within the jurisdiction of this 'impossible She,' the wildly imaginary takes place. Without sequence and without gradation we are led from one awesome and uncanny thing to another and feel conscious of a strain which is never the result of reading a worthy production of imagination. But, aside from the weird part of all, the hotpotting, the revived corpse, the mountains and volcanoes ramified with caves and passages stuccoed with embalmed bodies, after all it is chiefly the moral of the book that we quarrel with most.

In any book that endures, in any book that takes any lasting hold on people, we believe there is some good moral purpose. In 'She' this desirable object is lacking. If there is any moral teaching we are blind to the fact, and after reading we cannot but think '*cui bono*.'

It holds up for our admiration in the hero a fine physical animal, but one who has little force of character otherwise, who is capable in the presence of his dead wife of succumbing to the charms of her murderess, "even there in the presence of the body of the woman who had loved him well enough to die for him, he falls into her rival's destroying arms," while in the preceding moment he had sought to be revenged.

We are expected to be interested in and admire a superhuman woman with very human faults, a person who lies most glibly for most human ends, who murders ruthlessly anyone who crosses her will and, withal, is conscious of the crime. "She had been wicked, too, in her way, but alas such is the frailty of the human heart, her wickedness had not detracted from her charm. Indeed I am by no means certain it did not add to it." There are so many things said and done in this nineteenth century to obscure the line of demarcation between the false and the true, that the haziness in which it now lies makes it unseen and unfound by many. But when a writer simply states in this open way that immorality is an added charm to the attractiveness of his heroine, our sense of the desirability of truth and goodness receives a shock. After all, wonderful as is the genius of the writer, and gifted as he no doubt is with a vivid imagination, no one who is careful for others would place such a book in the hands of youth.

## \* MISCELLANY.\*

### GOVERNMENT AID.

(The following petition explains itself.—Ed.) :—

*To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario :*

The petition of Queen's University Endowment Association.

*Humbly sheweth :*

THAT His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, in his speech at the opening of the Legislature, on the tenth of February last, made special reference to the Universities of the Province, and gave expression to the intention of the Government to submit a measure for extending their usefulness ;

That your petitioners are deeply interested in the maintenance and prosperity of Queen's University, Kingston ;

That Queen's University, under the Royal charter granted by Queen Victoria, in the early years of Her Majesty's reign, provides for and embraces a complete course of literary and scientific education ;

That the founders of Queen's University, at a period in the history of Canada when there was a perfectly free choice of localities, selected Kingston on account of its central and salubrious position ;

That two years ago, on all the constituents of Queen's University being specially and individually consulted, they unanimously determined that Queen's should remain permanently at Kingston carrying on University work ;

That the charter of Queen's is older than any other existing provincial University charter ;

That, for nearly half a century, this institution at Kingston has taught general literature and science to all on equal terms ;

That in an early address of its founders, issued to the public in 1839, the doors of Queen's were opened to all the youth of the country without distinction of creed, or class, or race ; that from the first day of the establishment of Queen's, this broad principle has never been departed from, and that at the present time the Arts, Science and Medical classes alike rank among their students in attendance, Anglicans, Romanists, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians ;

That the whole of Eastern Ontario is deeply concerned in the prosperity of Queen's University ;

That a large and valuable property has been acquired at Kingston ; that new, commodious and permanent buildings have been erected with funds furnished by the citizens of Kingston for the University : that the Municipality of the City of Kingston, together with twelve County Councils, have unanimously passed resolutions in its support ;

That Queen's University counts among its friends the great mass of the population from which the students are chiefly drawn ;

That your petitioners learn with great satisfaction that