

dents and hair-breadth escapes of two manly but rather awkward and very foolhardy young fellows, the guide-book character of the volume deprives it of much interest in the eyes of a Canadian, and the adventures rather pall upon the imagination than refresh it, while some of them set forth our law-abiding Canadian people in a very unfavourable light. The lads have no very distinctive character, so that there is no such thing as soul in the narrative ; besides, they are not Old Country boys at all, for they use "guess" and "anyway" and "right here" and "no, sirree" in their conversation as if the States had claimed them from the day of their birth. People who take the story seriously would think more than twice about letting their sons, however strong and plucky, take a journey in the wake of Mr. Oxley's heroes, to meet highwaymen and tramps, hostile Indians and drunken ranchers, with savage dogs, infuriated bulls, bears, and playfully destructive cattle, where mountains and precipices are alike unfriendly, and every piece of water is a foe, from the broad Atlantic and Montmorency Falls onwards to the Fraser River. Mr. Oxley might have done better with such a theme, but there may be boys who can relish this mechanical guide book and chapter of accidents.

The nineteenth volume of Heinemann's Colonial Library of Popular Fiction published in London for the Colonies and India, at the price of one dollar, is Mary E. Wilkins' *Jane Field*. It has 261 pages, and is well printed on good paper. A somewhat sordid story of New England life, it is yet a story with a moral. Jane Field is a typical unlovely, lank New England widow who is supported by the exertions of her school-teaching daughter Lois. The health of the daughter breaks down at the very time that the father-in-law of Jane's recently deceased sister Esther dies, bequeathing his possessions to his son's widow in ignorance of her death. The sisters having been much alike, Jane is tempted to personate Esther, and succeeds for a time in holding the property greatly to her daughter's grief. Between a thunder storm and a shock of threatened