

structive art of novel writing, he bade fair to achieve high honours in his field of literature. We shall be much surprised, however, if his fame does not suffer, and the entrance of his works into respectable society is not limited by that coarseness and *abandon* in plot and narrative which the present work gives evidence of. It may be advanced that it is the legitimate work of a novelist to portray society as it exists, and that the questionable life young English baronets lead in fashionable circles become fair material for the pen of the romancist. If we do not dissent from this, we must, at least, take exception to the free and easy handling of such subjects, and the "matter of course" acceptance of such a state of society by the personages brought forward by our author as those one expects to influence and advise with a more wholesome morality.

But Mr. Reade does not transgress in this particular for the first time. We have in "Griffith Gaunt," and others of his works, similar violations of decency and propriety; and it is unfortunate that in modern novels we find so much to outrage in this respect. In the "Ouida" novels, and even in the author of Guy Livingstone, particularly in "Anteros," and in many other writers of the day, we have that playing with profligacy and that flippant toying with imprudence that would indicate our retrograding to the morality of the fiction of the last century. It is of little moment in this matter that love and fidelity get their reward, and that out of the chaos of passion and intrigue come the conquering forces of right, purity and goodness. Such productions betray in the writer depraved tastes and unhealthy instincts; and, moreover, dull the sensibilities, and prove a terrible temptation to the young reader.

The publishers have done their work well, and are to be commended for the enterprise which prompted their arranging with the author for an exclusive native edition of this work, though, of course, they contracted for the novel without any knowledge of its blemish in the matter we have censured. Mechanically, the volume has all the artistic allurements of the Printer's and the Binder's art, and is most creditable to Canadian workmanship.

CONDENSED NOVELS. By Bret Harte. Toronto: *Canadian News and Publishing Co.*

In these "Sensation Novels Condensed" we have a pleasant contribution to humorous literature, in the shape of travesties on the novels of well-known authors. The style of composition, plot,

and mannerisms peculiar to each writer are cleverly mimicked; and the volume reveals Mr. Harte in a role which, if not original, is at least amusing. The novelists caricatured are Disraeli, Lever, Bulwer Lytton, Victor Hugo, Marryat, Dickens, Wilkie Collins, and others, and the reader will find a piquancy and entertainment in the volume, which will be relished in these 'dog days.'

LITTLE MEN; LIFE AT PLUMFIELD WITH JO'S BOYS. By Miss Louisa M. Alcott. Toronto: *Canadian News and Publishing Co.*

"Little Men" will not diminish the reputation established by this authoress in prior works, "Little Women," to which this work is a sequel, "An Old Fashioned Girl," &c., &c. With a thorough appreciation of the young characters and life with which the work deals, and a hearty enthusiasm in the novel philanthropy of Plumfield, Miss Alcott has written a work which will be as enduring as Mrs. Barbauld's "Evenings at Home," or any of Mrs. Sherwood's most treasured stories. There is so much freshness and naturalness, and so much of the spirit of childhood in the pages of "Little Men," as well as so much sound philosophy, that it is impossible to withhold the expression of a hearty admiration for, and a warm commendation of the work.

THE COMING RACE: OR THE NEW UTOPIA. Toronto: *Adam, Stevenson & Co.*

To read a page of this extraordinary work is to follow it to the end:—for nothing like it, in imaginative power, in engrossing interest, and in the deceptiveness of the assumed reality of the narrative, has appeared since "Gulliver's Travels" came from Swift's pen. The 'race' the author introduces us to is a marvellously gifted one, inhabiting a subterranean region; which the narrator discovers while exploring in one of the mining districts of England; and the story of what comes under his observation among a people so wonderfully endowed, together with the writer's observations and reflections, which are full of meaning, and extremely pungent, constitute the material of the book. The society of "Vril-land" is a creation of the most ingenious description; and no one should omit to make the acquaintance of this extraordinary people.

PINK AND WHITE TYRANNY: A Society Novel. By Mrs. H. B. Stowe. Toronto: *Canadian News Co.*

This is a tale of fashionable life in New York circles, written with a caustic pen, and intended to impale the frivolities of the society that gathers