

Edmund Yates, in a recent cable letter, tells us it is only a few days since the first copy of a sixpenny edition of "Westward Ho!" appeared on the bookstalls, and 100,000 copies are in circulation, with a growing demand for a like number. "Westward Ho!" is one of Canon Kingsley's most popular books. It is published by the MacMillans in two volumes at ten shillings, or in one volume at six shillings, and these prices have, of course, kept it out of the hands of the masses. Those good people who are constantly bewailing the enormous sale of the sensational novels of the day might learn, from the demand for this cheap edition of a thoroughly good story, that the mass of the people buy the sensational stuff simply because it is cheap, whereas the better class is so expensive as to be utterly beyond their reach.

In a recent cable letter to the *Toronto Mail* "a Member of Parliament" animadverts severely upon the vile publications sold in southern Europe, saying, "The poison which is spread on all the newspaper and book stalls irresistibly suggests that there must be something radically wrong in the moral sense of the people. Publications of the vilest kind with outrageous pictures openly exposed, are thrust before the young at every street corner. Milan cathedral is surrounded by little shops or 'kiosques,' for the sale of these wares." There is, unfortunately, considerable looseness in morals in Canada, but that our people as a whole are morally sound is evidenced by the almost unanimous expressions of approval from press, pulpit and platform, at the steps taken by our Government from time to time to keep the flashy literature of the United States from being imported and sold in Canada.

It is recorded that away back in the fifties, the following notice was printed on the title page of a school-book published under the superintendence of the National Board of Education in Dublin: "Sold by H. Cliff, St. John, Halifax, Canada," the compiler being evidently in blissful ignorance of the fact that

St. John was in one Province of Canada, and Halifax in another. No doubt the benighted Britisher's knowledge of Canada is much better to-day than it was thirty-five years ago, but there is still room for improvement, as a letter from a leading London publishing house was recently received at Hamilton, addressed, "Hamilton, Canada, U. S. A." Come, gentlemen, study up your geography, please; and for your benefit we will premise in passing that Canada never was (and never will be!) a part of the United States of America. Indeed, Canada is becoming of so much importance that the British publishers should issue a new edition of their geographies, after having the pages referring to Canada carefully revised and rewritten by some competent Canadian writer.

A master of the art of novel writing passed away when the great English novelist, Wilkie Collins, died on the 23d September. His principal books have been very popular, both in Great Britain and the United States, and have also been translated into several European languages. Mr. George Maclean Rose, the well known Toronto publisher, was a warm friend of the deceased novelist, and for many years enjoyed the pleasure of personally corresponding with him. Mr. Rose secured the Canadian copyright for several of Mr. Collins' novels; among others, "Fallen Leaves," which appeared serially in the "*Rose-Belford Canadian Monthly*," in 1870, followed by "The Black Robe," in 1880. "Heart and Science" and "The Law and the Lady" are also issued from the Rose press. A new cheap edition of "The Black Robe," issued a few months ago, has had an exceptionally large sale. Edmund Yates, the well-known English writer and a life-long friend of the deceased, says that Collins' own favorite among his many stories was "The Fallen Leaves," but that the public's favorite was "The Woman in White."

Walter Besant, in commenting on international copyright, says, "No merchant adventurer, no manufacturer, no silver-mine pro-