

to pass over the reader's face as he accepts each comical situation. Ministers ought to cultivate a vein of humor, not to enable them to say funny things in the pulpit or even on the platform, but to hinder them saying and doing things ridiculous. The lack of the sense of the ridiculous makes a man, and especially a public man, liable to all sorts of mirth-provoking absurdities, which are all the more absurd if he be naturally as grave as an owl. To those who are deficient in this sense Stockton's stories may be commended, for they are always pure, and, as a rule, of a kindly tone.

Louise de la Ramée, otherwise Ouida, has written a book that Mr. Chapman sells for a dollar and a-quarter. It has 240 pages, ten plates, and an illustrated cloth cover, and its publishers are Messrs. L. C. Page and Company, of Boston. The title of the book is "Muriella or Le Selve." I do not admire Ouida's novels as far as their moral tone is concerned, but this one is perfectly harmless. *Le Selve* is a large estate in Italy belonging to the Gandolfo family, the representative of which gave the post of steward over its extensive domain to one who had been a friend of his in earlier days. This steward, known simply as Cyrille, was a fair Esthonian, and had been an officer of the Russian Imperial Guard. Degraded, and thereafter imprisoned, for attempting to educate his people, he had escaped from prison, and in exile gladly accepted the post that banished him from the busy world. He tried to improve the land under his care, and above all the people, who were everything that is filthy and bad. The housekeeper of the great house where he dwelt was but his half-hearted friend, and all else, sub-stewards, servants, wood-men, tenants, and squatters, were his declared enemies, with the exception of a young woman, Muriella Stravolta, whose two uncles were desperate villains. Cyrille had left behind him in Russia his betrothed, the Princess Marie, whom he never expected to see again, and in passing conversation with Muriella, unburdened his secret to her. Knowing all, the beautiful Italian yet loved the steward with the love of faithful service, prayed for his welfare,