

OUR TABLE.

JOHN THE BOLD; OR THE WHITE HOODS AND FLAYERS—BY W. H. CARPENTER.

This is a tale of the olden times. It is very short, but well and beautifully told. The technicalities of the chivalric age appear to be quite familiar to the author. There is, however, unfortunately but little in it to interest the reader.

It professes to be an Historical Novel, but circumscribed within the narrowest limits, being confined principally to a Parisian riot, and the assassination of the Duke of Orleans at the investigation of John, Duke of Burgundy, surnamed the Bold.

The characters are well and graphically described, and admirably sustained. Their manners, habits and mode of speaking are given to the life. But the author has made so little use of his ample and varied materials, rich in romance, that it looks like an abridgment of some larger work.

Notwithstanding our doubtful and qualified approval of the work, we hesitate not to recommend it to the favorable notice of our readers, with a promise of pleasure and profit in its perusal.

THE BEAUTIFUL WIDOW—BY T. S. ARTHUR.

This is, without exception, the most stupid Novel we ever read, and we certainly have acquired a claim to our readers' gratitude, if, by wading through such an accumulation of trash, we shall have saved them from a similar infliction.

Its style is bad, its machinery is worse. The tale itself does not contain a single interesting circumstance, and it is told in bad English and in bad taste; and, what is worse than all, its moral tendency is hardly correct, so that it will not be a matter of surprise to our readers if we declare that it is "too impossible," to use an *emphatic* expression of the author, to say one word in its favor.

THE HISTORY OF CANADA; FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES—BY JANET ROY.

It is certainly a great relief to be able to turn from such trash as we have just been noticing, to something not only interesting but useful.

A History of Canada has long been considered

as a great *desideratum* in our Provincial Literature, nor has this want been supplied by the little unpretending work before us. Not but that it is, as far as it goes, a very useful and instructive compendium of the History of this important portion of the Colonial Empire of Great Britain, and every way well calculated to accomplish the object the author seems to have in view.

It is, in short, a very excellent School Book, and the marginal questions may be considered as its best recommendation, inasmuch as they can hardly fail to impart, to the diligent and attentive pupil, a thorough practical knowledge of its important and instructive contents.

The great want we complain of, however, still remains unsupplied, and the work before us, much as we may feel disposed to recommend it, and we do most unhesitatingly recommend it to all schools and to every family, is but a meagre and scanty substitute for some elaborate and comprehensive account of the country, especially of its early history.

This, we need not use a single argument to maintain, is still a very great *desideratum*. It is truly a wide and an open field for the exercise and exhibition of Colonial talent and enterprise.

The early history of this country especially, is much more interesting than people in general are aware of. Ask any one, for instance, what "La Chine" has to do with "China," from which far off country it derives its name, and he could not tell you. And then again there is another field of wild and boundless romance, hitherto all but untouched. We allude to the history of the Indian Tribes—their wars—their treaties—their subjugation to the intruders upon their primeval domain—their corruption—the diminution of their numbers—their conversion to Christianity, and their partial civilization.

We trust some one competent to the task will take the hint, and set to work in good earnest.

THE GRANDFATHER—BY MISS ELLEN PICKERING.

This pretty story, and it is a pretty story, is from the pen of the amiable author of "Nan Darrell," and several other works, all equally calculated, with the one before us, to sustain for her writings a character of no common order.