

The Broad Highway. By Jeffery Farnol.
Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$1.35.

When this romance was published a few weeks ago in England the high praise accorded it by the English press aroused some expectation preceding its publication here. Now that our curiosity has been satisfied and we have experienced several hours of keen enjoyment in gazing thru the author's eyes upon picturesque scenes in rural England, in listening to the quaint and humorous conversations among the various characters that frequent "the broad highway" leading down from London into Kent, and withal in following the adventures, fortunes and misfortunes of that pedantic hero, Mr. Peter Vibart, we are ready to add our word of commendation and give hearty welcome to Mr. Farnol as a writer of merit, a careful observer of life, and a romancer with humor, imagination and delicacy of feeling. One reads but a little way before he feels the charm of the author's fresh, unaffected, vivid style. Mr. Farnol has a genuine love of nature and a place in his sympathy for all sorts and conditions of men, who drop into his story in a natural, easy-going way which comports well with their peculiarities and manner of life. There are, to be sure, impossible situations, evident anachronisms, and some doubtful sequences, such as rain and "a smother of mud" in the forenoon and a "dust cloud" in the afternoon. The heroine is a somewhat elusive character, appearing only in the second part, and it seems probable that the reader will have as little understanding of her as the hero himself in his most perplexed moments, yet her attractiveness for either reader or hero is not lessened by this sense of mystery that surrounds her personality. The deftness and delicacy with which the author manages the embarrassing relations into which hero and heroine are thrown fully match the daring which proposed such a hazardous situation in the story's plot.