

June 1972

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Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 9, no.10, June 1972

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New Book from COLBY COLLEGE PRESS

THE UNCOLLECTED SHORT STORIES
OF SARAH ORNE JEWETT

Edited, with an Introduction,
By RICHARD CARY

During four decades of active authorship, Sarah Orne Jewett published in magazines and newspapers approximately 150 stories, 88 of which she collected in ten volumes issued between 1878 and 1899. Of the remaining stories, 44 are reprinted in this volume. Three of these, unindexed anywhere, are restored to the canon. Fourteen other stories, written expressly for children, are listed in the *Chronology*.

Thus, all of Miss Jewett's important work in the short story hitherto scattered among more than a score of often obscure publications is made accessible under one cover — equivalent to five published in Miss Jewett's time. No fewer than 17 of these 44 stories may be equated with those on Miss Jewett's optimum level of achievement, representing her finer vein of psychological sympathy, nativist perception, and developed suppleness of style. In these largely provincial reports she marks the significance of the ordinary and educes from it extraordinary fables of the world.

For its invaluable insights into her background, aspirations, and emergence as a creative writer, Miss Jewett's longest autobiographical essay, "Looking Back on Girlhood," is presented as a preface to the stories. Of particular interest is the first of her genre stories, "The Girl With the Cannon Dresses," in which may be noted most of the local-color elements that Miss Jewett gradually mastered during the next quarter-century and brought to a crest in *The Country of the Pointed Firs*.

Professor Richard Cary, who has collected these stories and provided an analytical introduction, has also published two editions of Miss Jewett's letters, a critical biography, and an anthology comprising *Deephaven* and eight of her best sketches and short stories.

408 pp.

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