

STRANGERS AND WAYFARERS

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Strangers and wayfarers by Sarah Orne Jewett

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SARAH ORNE JEWETT

**STRANGERS AND
WAYFARERS**

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BY

SARAH ORNE JEWETT



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S. W.

*PAINTER OF NEW ENGLAND MEN AND WOMEN
NEW ENGLAND FIELDS AND SHORES*

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STRANGERS AND WAYFARERS.



A WINTER COURTSHIP.

THE passenger and mail transportation between the towns of North Kilby and Sanscrit Pond was carried on by Mr. Jefferson Briley, whose two-seated covered wagon was usually much too large for the demands of business. Both the Sanscrit Pond and North Kilby people were stayers-at-home, and Mr. Briley often made his seven-mile journey in entire solitude, except for the limp leather mail-bag, which he held firmly to the floor of the carriage with his heavily shod left foot. The mail-bag had almost a personality to him, born of long association. Mr. Briley was a meek and timid-looking body, but he held a warlike soul, and encouraged his fancies by reading awful tales of bloodshed and lawlessness in the far West. Mindful of stage robberies and train