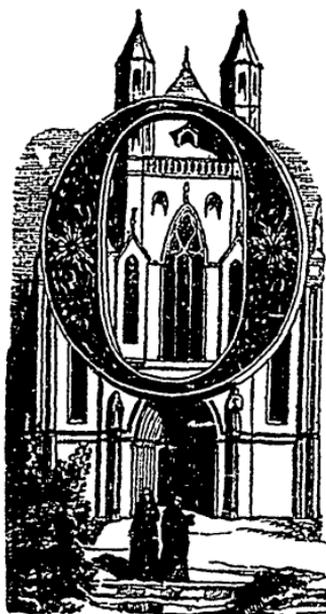


[Written for the Maple Leaf.

THE FIRST TRIP BY RAILROAD.

BY A CONTRIBUTOR.



H! Marion, how I wish I had told Cecil I could not do it.

"You must not say that dear Helen, or look so despondingly; pray let Mr. Seymour see you can control your fears when needful; you know how serious he looked, (I had almost said sternly) when you said yesterday you never *could* travel by railroad."

"I know it, Marion, and will indeed try and behave bravely, however frightened I may feel; for neither the grave look or tone were lost upon me, when he said, 'I trust if it were necessary for you to travel by railroad you would have the good sense to do so without hesitation; fear, unless kept in subjection, unfits us for our duties in life, though I make much allowance for your natural timidity, I trust to see you overcome it.'"

Marion laughed. "Yes, I overheard that grave unlover-like lecture, and thought how good you were to take it so humbly."

"Indeed, dear Marion, I only felt how truly he loved me, in saying that which might have offended. True love shrinks not from speaking truth 'o the object beloved, and it was that which made me accede so readily to his wish, that we should travel by train to London to-day; but see, it is actually ten o'clock; one more hour and the carriage will be here, and arm in arm the sisters hurried down stairs."

Our readers will perceive by the foregoing dialogue, that Helen was betrothed to Mr. Seymour; he was that morning to meet them at Handsell by the 12' o'clock train. Their union was to take place the following month, and the sisters had been paying a farewell visit to friends who had treasured and loved them from their earliest childhood. Two young