

and footstools. The seats are narrow and the backs are straight ; alas, we have bidden a long good-bye to the parlour car, which is only suitable for the shorter day journeys.

A combination carriage is, of course, more convenient from the railway point of view, but travellers must often long to get away during the daytime from the long, stuffy carriage in which they have passed the night, especially as it is most difficult to secure anything like fresh air without the conviction that you are putting some courteous but steam-heated American to real torture.

At Trinidad we first noticed the curious Mexican adobe house (called always "doby").

They remind one of Irish mud huts, but are built of a brick made from the earth and called "adobe."

They are square houses, generally without windows, and apparently without any roof, but, doubtless, this last is lower than the rest of the building and so cannot be seen from the line. A ladder against the wall answers the purpose of a front door, the ingress being from a hole in the top of the roof, whence a second ladder leads down into the hut, so that a visitor enters not head, but heels foremost.

A pleasant German gentleman in the train, hearing