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A RAILROAD ADVENTURE.

On a cold, dark, winter's morning, just as the train was starting from — station, an individual, unencumbered with any other luggage than a very small carpet-bag, bustled up, rather than was conducted to the carriage, in which he found a seat. What with unmuffling his chin from the coat collar which shrouded it, and depositing the above-mentioned carpet-bag, to his own satisfaction, under the seat, the train had fairly started before he could look round at his travelling companions. They were, for the most part, of a very ordinary description; and, apparently, rather cross and fidgety than otherwise, probably from the dispirited effect of having risen in the middle of the night—i. e., by candle light. Opposite to our hero was seated a female figure. As she rode in a "first-class" carriage, it was according to rule to infer that she was a lady; and the expression of her countenance, as well as every gesture, sanctioned the inference, though just the point have been decided by her dress, it would have admitted of some dispute. Her look was of common materials, and shabby; and her bonnet was unbecoming, which was worse than shabby. Nothing happened particularly to mark the journey. The most important occurrences which might have been noticed, were the avidity with which two gentlemen discussed politics, being happily of the same way of thinking; the temporary popularity gained by an old lady who about mid-day drew forth, and offered for general consumption, certain delicate edibles and lady-like cordials; and the childish distress of her little granddaughter at the long dark tunnels. This, under different circumstances, might have annoyed the politicians; but in the height of their present good humour, they vied with each other in assuaging the child's tears by cares-

ses and droll stories; and the only taciturn travellers were our hero and his *vis-a-vis*.—Once, the former made a movement as if to take out his watch, but started, surprised and annoyed at something, and certainly no watch was forthcoming. Alas! the young lady did not possess a watch, or, I am sure, she would have told him the time; and she was the only one who noticed the movement.

Arrived at the Grand Junction, where "many lines met," the passengers quickly alighted, and the greater part disposed of themselves, in one way or other, in an incredibly short space of time. The young lady, however, was evidently disappointed and perplexed, having expected that a servant would be there to receive her; and the gentleman without a watch, who followed her into the office in which he had asked permission to wait, became suddenly in a state of painful perturbation. The truth was, that in haste or excitement of mind, he not only left his watch behind him, but had lost his purse! After a moment's hesitation, he advanced towards the person who received the fares for the line of road, on which our traveller had about thirty miles still to proceed, and evidently with some repugnance, mentioned the predicament in which he was placed.

"My mission is most urgent!" he exclaimed, "having been called to attend most probably the death-bed of a relative whom I have not seen for the last dozen years. I had my purse when I paid my fare hither in London; and in my haste, for the train started earlier than I expected, I must have dropped it, instead of slipping it into my pocket. If you will allow me to give you my name and address, and will suffer me to go as far as —, you may rely on my sending the money to you immediately after I arrive. It is of the first importance that I should not be detained here, which otherwise must be the case till I can