

custom 'ouse hoffer. "Is you a hoffer's lady?" said 'ee to me; as I 'ad painted on my boxes "Captain Jinks," thro' 'avin' bought 'em cheap at a hauction in Totinham Court Road, and is name a painted in white a top as was grand like. Says I to 'im, "I ham." "Then," says 'ee to me, "We wont trubble about a hexaminashun," and with that 'ee let me 'ave my things free as was werry satisfactory all along of Brown 'avin' larfed at me for buyin' 'em. Well, so soon as my things was passed, I was started by them men as is hagents, who 'owld out several names of 'otels, as is a noosance, and should be made to stand by their 'busses. Well, as I wur a goin to stay at a friend's 'ouse, I asked a cabby what he would take me 'ome for. "Five dollars," says 'ee; as was that expensive, I got angry, and the fellurs was werry imperent. a-larfin at me; so I seed a man as said 'ee'd take me for a dollar, so I went orf with 'im a-seated on my boxes in a one 'orse cart, a 'oldin' on the sides, and the man a standin. Of all the queer sights as ever I seed, this wur the queerest a comin into town, and I was that nervous, as 'ow I've 'ardly recovered yet. We 'adn't gone far afore we comes to water; says I to the man, "Is this the river you're a-takin' me into?" "No," says 'ee, "it's the street,"—as reminded me of a place I 'ad 'eard of in furrin parts where they go about in boats all along of the town bein built in the water. The water was up to the 'orse's chest, and sometimes nearly it came into the cart, and boats and rafts a goin about just like on the Tems. Well, at last the water got so deep the cart couldn't go no further, and we 'ailed a man at a winder who went into a backyard, as was a lake, and came for me and my boxes on a raft with a thing a top he called a cutter, as frightened me thro' not understandin' these names, and I got in, and was roed to dry land again, and mity thankful to get there, 'avin' seen such sights,—bread a bein' 'anded in at winders to the poor creetur as was 'arf starved; 'ouses chained like ships to keep 'em steady; pigs sittin' on first-floor stairs; people standin' on ladders to get in 'ome, and rafts, and boys on planks a runnin into you as is 'ighly dangerus, thro' the water bein deep; and the imperent fellurs sayin, "Golly 'eer's a sight! 'eer's Mother Noah out for a row!" "aint seen such a hold gurl down South," and such like. "Drat 'em," says I; "a parcel of imperent boys as 'as no respects now-a-days for their betterers."

And now, Sir, I am rested, and intend in a day or two lookin at the sights of the town as seems werry 'andsome, includin' Nelson's Monument, and the Snow Mountain in a place as is called the 'Aymarket, as is werry creditable to the Corporashun for findin' useful employ for the poor workmen in winter, and the doctors and hundertakers in summer.

I ham 'onnerd Sir,

Your obedient Servant to Command.

Mrs. Brown.

HINTS TO YOUNG LADIES ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.

The past ball season having been fruitful of "tender attachments," which are to be followed to their legitimate issue, DIOGENES, ever the friend of youth, beauty and innocence, has determined to give his dear young friends a few hints, which may be useful to them during that interregnum when beauty is, as it were, between the two stools of flirtation and marriage. There are so many little points which those who find themselves in this stage of "Love's Triumph" for the first time, must be unacquainted with, that DIOGENES feels sure his darlings will appreciate any advice he may have to offer them.

In the first place, then, he would warn them that while

avoiding any appearance of shame at that which their mothers have all done before them, they should not rush into the opposite extreme, by telling all their acquaintances that they are "going to hitch up with one of the fellows." Neither should they speak of their bridal dress as their "weddin fixins." When the object—(let us call him Edward)—proposes a walk, you (that is each individual darling) should cheerfully accept; but in your rambles beware of sitting down on "grassy banks," &c. By so doing you are liable to sit on a wasp or ant's nest, when your cries of agony will necessitate inconvenient explanations. Do not address the object as "Neddy;" there are other neddies in the world, and the name might not be thought complimentary. If your small brother exercises his wit at the expense of yourself and Edward, box the young urchin's ears. Avoid looking in at silversmith's windows; it affords an opening to the small brother to talk about "spoons," and this might make Edward blush. When asked how you are, never reply "Bully;" and when congratulated by your friends on the coming event, do not giggle and poke Edward in the ribs. You will be accompanied to the altar, when the proper time arrives, by your mother, or other relative, and will merely have to say the responses in their proper key. When asked "Will you have this man," &c., &c., repeat the answer given in the prayer book, but do not say "Yes, sirree," or "I guess I will;" both are at variance with the accepted form, though correct in meaning. When Edward places the ring upon your finger, you must on no account test it by biting it. The honesty of the maker is your only safeguard. You need not offer the officiating clergyman a dollar when the ceremony is over—Edward will attend to that—and avoid speaking of the former gentleman as the one that "fixed" you. At the breakfast, your health will be proposed, but it is not essential that you respond; if you do so, avoid standing on your chair. There are other directions which DIOGENES may give in a future number. In the meantime careful application of the foregoing will serve to keep you from perpetrating any flagrant *gaucherie*.

NOT ON THE PAPER.

In the last session, it will be remembered, the Contingent Committee of the House of Commons made a report—afterwards adopted by a large majority of the House,—recommending various reductions, abridgements, curtailments, and loppings-off. There was one particular affecting honorable members themselves. Their limitless forays on the stationery department were declared to be at an end, and the disinterested gentlemen voted themselves a fixed and moderate quantity of pens, ink, paper, and pen-knives. But scarcely had they entered on their duties in the present session then they made an attempt to kick off the shoes that pinched their own feet, and to return to their former practices. But the Speaker declined to be hot-pressed, and resolutely refused to don the foolscap. He told them other people had corns as well as themselves, and that on some they had trodden pretty hard. He had no objection to a general alleviation; but he could not consent to a removal of their very slight—almost imaginary—self-inflicted pains, while some of their fellow-sufferers were in grievous trouble, and one, here and there, cripples for life. They growled, but sank abashed.

ORDER THE HEARSE.

There can be very little doubt as to the early dissolution of the Railway Commission. The government has already provided it with a Coffin.