

SIR ROWLAND AND THE RAIL.

"An Englishman, Mr. Raphael Brandon, suggests that railway passengers shall be transported at a uniform rate of fare, as letters are now sent for a uniform rate of postage."

"Mr. Brandon proposes to consider a passenger as a letter, and to send him from one end of England to another, without regard to distance, for a certain fixed rate."—*Exchange*.

A great idea, Mr. Raphael Brandon! A uniform rate of fare for railway passengers—the penny-post system adapted to live traffic, every man to be considered as a letter, addressed, stamped, put in the box or car, mailed and forwarded to his destination, whether it be three or three hundred miles off, for the moderate impost of a three-penny stamp—and, with all this, a handsome margin for the poor shareholder! Verily, Mr. B., with the artistic name, thou art a great man, and DIOGENES, ever ready to assist struggling merit, has much pleasure in suggesting the following regulations, which may be used in working this new scheme:—

RATES OF POSTAGE OR FARE.

On a passenger not more than 5lb. -----	5c.
" " more than 5lb., but not over 112lb. --	10c.
" " " " 112lb., " " 168lb. ---	15c.
" " " " 168lb., " " 224lb. --	20c.

And so on,—5 cents being charged for every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Light Comedians taken at newspaper rates,—Heavy Fathers charged double. Passengers will find it convenient to place their address,—which must be in red letters on a white board,—(to be delivered up at the end of the journey,) on a prominent part of their person, so that it may be easily accessible to the stamping clerk, who will travel on each train.

All loafers about stations, or passengers who do not take themselves off to their destination, will be considered as undelivered or "dead," and will be sent to the Dead Passenger Office, when they will be opened, in order that they may, when necessary, be returned to their friends.

Postmasters are required to have on hand a sufficient supply of stamped *travelling suits* or envelopes for the convenience of the public.

Persons in search of employment, such as ex-Generals, Clerks, Governesses and Dry-goods Boys, will be forwarded as patterns or samples on the following conditions:

The patterns or samples must not be of any intrinsic value; nor must the quantity or dimensions of any passenger sent as a sample under this head be so great, that it could have, on this ground, an intrinsic value.

They must in all cases be sent in covers or garments open at the ends, so as to be easy of examination. Females, however, who cannot be sent in open covers, may be enclosed in bags of linen or other material, simply tied at the neck,—or, provided that the bags be transparent, they may be entirely closed.

The rule which prohibited the transmission through the post, as patterns, of Ritualistic Parsons, Canting Hypocrites, Carpet-Baggers and such like articles is rescinded, and they are now allowed to be forwarded, provided they be packed and guarded in so secure a manner as not to injure the contents of the mail bags or the persons of officers on board. Passengers bearing about their persons valuable jewellery, should in all cases register themselves, or when forwarded by their friends should be remitted as a money-order.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

A passenger once addressed and mailed, must be forwarded according to his direction. On no application, however urgent, can he be delivered back into his own custody or that of his friends.

A party delivered to the wrong person should be returned,

—the person writing on the outside "opened by me through mistake."

Passengers mailing themselves without any address, or failing to give a satisfactory account of themselves, will be sent to the Dead Passenger Office, conducted on the principle of the Beauport Lunatic Asylum.

The transmission of Brawlers, Demagogues, Scatter-brained Agitators, City Councillors, and other Public Nuisances, is strictly prohibited, and all packets containing them should be sent to the Executioner General.

A Postmaster is not legally bound to furnish change. Small Boys applying for tickets or presenting their persons to be stamped, are liable to be questioned.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC.

When a number of ladies in Crinoline or "Grecian Bends," travel, they may be looked upon as Circulars, and tied up in a bundle with the addresses all in one direction.

"COME RIDDLE MY RIDDLE."

THE following is one of fifteen like questions that Mr. Bethune, Q.C., had lately the inhumanity to propose to twelve good men and true:—

"Was the said draft accepted by the defendants, that the said Yarwood might make similar purchases with the proceeds thereof, and that they should therefore be enabled to make profit, as well by such acceptance as by the sale of grain purchased by the proceeds thereof; or was the said draft so accepted by them without any such understanding and purely for the accommodation of the said Yarwood (and in order to free defendant's wheat, which had been pledged by said Yarwood without defendant's consent, and the money obtained by such pledge,) and on the understanding and agreement that said Yarwood would meet and pay the same at maturity, or provide funds for its payment, and that no claim might be made against defendant in respect of the same?"

Certainly! What could have been clearer?

Yet DIOGENES confesses to have felt an intense admiration for the dozen martyrs who almost succeeded in unravelling its pleonasm, incongruities, repetitions, grammatical errors, and general inexactitude.

Does the learned Queen's Counsel remember that language is supposed to be a means of expressing ideas? Or is he a disciple of Voltaire in assuming that its best use is to conceal thoughts? His question has certainly beginning and ending, and yet—strange anomaly—the reader in reading it is unable to arrive at any conclusion.

DIOGENES is informed by a learned judge—a *puny* authority perhaps—that one of the jurors, after reading this legal labyrinth, attempted to commit *felo de se*, and was only restrained on being convinced that it was impossible for any *fellow to see* through such a maze of conflicting phrases. —[Awful.—ED. D.]

Truly the Law is a profound study.

DIOGENES, in seeking to unravel this legal muddle, has been forcibly reminded of a mock speech that Canning, with much apparent seriousness, attributed to Erskine. Is it possible that Mr. B. got all askew by taking *his cue* [worse and worse.—ED. D.] from the following extract:—

"Admitting the exigency, under all its relations, as it appeared to him to rest, and the then circumstances of the times with all their bearings and dependencies branching out into an infinity of collateral considerations, and involving in each a variety of objects political, physical, and moral; and these again under their distinct and separate heads, ramifying into endless subdivisions, which it was foreign to his purpose to consider, Mr. Erskine concluded by recapitulating in a strain of agonizing and impressive eloquence the several moral prominent heads of his speech."

AN APOLOGY FOR A MAN.

THERE is a well-known *litterateur* in Montreal, who is of full age, but Liliputian dimensions. He accounts satisfactorily for his infinitesimal size by declaring that, when he was a mere baby, *his parents never made much of him!*