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makes his responsibility much greater.

As I stated before, the chief difficulty lies in the multiplicity of demands which are being made upon the agent from different quarters at the same moment.

When the train finally arrives the situation grows doubly trying, for the unfortunate agent is besieged by a lot of belated passengers who are in frantic haste to catch the train standing at the station. It is now that the agent must be most careful. In the first place he is liable to become excited and make improper change; people in their haste are likely to become insolent and savage, and then, unless the agent is capable of maintaining an equanimity of temper, he will make some thoughtless remark which may lead him into difficulties later on.

While the train is loading and unloading passengers and baggage the conductor rushes into the office for his orders. If there happens to be a crossing order the presence of the driver is also required; but whether there should be *special* orders or not, the agent *must* have his own special order written out and signed before the train can leave his station. In addition to this, he must accurately record the time of the arrival and departure of all trains as well as to state the number of cars and record all shunts, etc.

To add to the many cares of the agent, he is expected to care for the numerous parcels, umbrellas, wraps, etc., which passengers consider it their duty to bother him with.

The extreme accuracy with which *everything* must be recorded and accounted for about a railway ticket and telegraph office, combine to make the position of agent a most responsible one.

In addition to the numerous difficulties which I have cited, there seem to be so many needless ones which fall to the lot of the agent through the thoughtlessness or carelessness of the travelling public. So many needless and useless questions are asked, and so many inquiries which *no one* could possibly give a *proper* answer to, are hurled at the luckless agent, and are expected to be politely answered, that it would tax the patience of Job to always rise to the occasion in the proper spirit.

It really seems as though people

lose their consideration and politeness when they approach the ticket agent. They seem to approach him in a manner which says, "I am going to do him if I can;" and let me say right here, if the agent is not on the alert he *will* be "done" *sure*.

Some of my readers may look upon this as a rather exaggerated view of the case; but in reply, I can assure them with confidence that the half has not been told.

There are hundreds of other callings in which men require much of the same tact a ticket agent has to display, but they always have more time to transact their business. The train is not waiting for them, and the telegraph instruments are not calling them; nor do people beset them in the same uncharitable spirit. There are bright sides to, and easy days in, all callings; but full less in that of the ticket agent than any other.

#### Danger Signals.

What is yonder beacon light burning on the railroad track with signals of distress on either side? Why, it is a danger signal; there has been a storm. Rain has been falling during the past day, and the small rivulet on the mountain side has become a raging torrent, dashing down the mountain side carrying logs and debris hither and thither and uprooting small trees, on its way to the ocean.

A laboring man from the factory in a town near by is going home from his work. He takes a short cut by the railroad. Suddenly something attracts his attention. He is near the railroad bridge, and looking down into the seething waters he thinks he sees the timbers move lightly, as if affected by the water. He stops and examines it more closely, and he is at once convinced that the bridge is not safe for the train to pass over. What is he to do? He glances at his watch. He starts quickly. The in-bound night express with its freight of human lives is due in about ten minutes. He has no time to run to the nearest depot. He thinks at once the only thing to do is to arrange a danger signal, and this he does as quickly as possible.

As the train is rapidly approaching the engineer discerns in the distance the signal. He at once knows that something is wrong. The brakes are applied as quickly as

possible, the train brought to a standstill at once, and many human lives are saved thereby.

Now a danger signal has many uses. A doctor comes into the sick room. He notes the patient's look in general, glances at his tongue, feels his pulse—it is running high—sees that the symptoms (weak bridges) indicate fever. He gives medicine (signal to stop the train) at once, to prevent or break it up, and thus averts a severe illness, or perhaps an early death.

A boy goes to work in a grocery store, and being young and fickle he gets into the habit of the "street corner" and bar-room after work (rotten bridges). He does not always get to work at the regular hour, and finally the grocery man gets disgusted and dismisses him. The chances are ten to one that he will be thus tossed about all his life. Now if the merchant had used the danger signal of personal influence, the chances are the boy would have become a respectable, good-principled, steady citizen.

An evangelist is stopping in a certain village. One night as he is going down the principal street he sees coming out of the village tavern a young man whose parents he is well acquainted with. He is in a semi-intoxicated state, "feeling good," as they sometimes term it. He sees the tottering bridge over the drunkard's grave swaying in the stream. He does not notice the young man then, knowing that it would be useless to molest a drunken man. The next time he meets him he talks to him on various subjects, finally upon intemperance. He explains to him, as a friend, the curse and degradation of an intemperate life, the plague of drink, and persuades him to take the pledge. The young fellow is firmly convinced, and ever after leads a temperate life. That man hoisted the signal of personal influence, and saved the young fellow's life.

A young person ceases to attend the social meetings and Sunday School, then he does not get to the morning sermon very regularly (unsafe bridges), presently he does not go at all, and finally misses the kingdom of God entirely, or like Job, escapes "by the skin of his teeth." Now it is the duty of every Christian to wave to such the signal of a kind word of encouragement and pleasant manner. To treat them with indifference and coldness will only drive them farther from the right way. We should thus, through our entire lives, be willing to show the danger signal to those who are ignorant of the approaching calamity, and so

"Do your best for one another,  
Making life a pleasant dream,  
Help a worn and weary brother,  
Pulling hard against the stream."

JIM JUNIA.