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## Cards Which Counted

IN the columns of the "Railway and Locomotive Engineering" for December, there is an interesting story with a well-known Canadian painter as the principal:

It seems that there was an artist who had occasion to travel, not long ago, on one of our many trunk lines of railway. The artist was a pleasant fellow, but he believed in personal comfort with all his heart. When he got on the train he sought the smoking compartment of the parlour car, with the hope of enjoying himself.

He had an eye for colour, and gazed out of the window on the russet foliage of the woods, the cobalt waters of the cool streams and at the fading glow of the amethyst sky, but he was not happy, for the seat he was in was not to his liking. There is no denying it, that although the seat had been designed with the idea of fitting the human anatomy with great exactness, it had failed of its purpose. The artist took a post card from his pocket and drew a sketch of himself, as he thought he looked, but certainly as he felt, while occupying that seat in the smoking compartment of the parlour car.

When the journey was over, he mailed the post card to a high official of the railway, whom he knew very well, and awaited developments. The high official was much amused at this novel form of protest and enclosed the card to an officer more immediately connected with the active management of the road. This officer was also amused at the card, and realised the germ of truth which the representation of the cramped artist portrayed. He, however, at once detected the fact that the car with smoker seats as shown, belonged to another company, and with a good humoured explanatory line, forwarded the card to the owning company.

The officer of the owning company who got the card, frankly acknowledged the home thrust and smiled at the artistic bit of railery upon the railway. He, however, gave orders that the seats which had thus been pictorially proved inimical to comfort should be taken out of the car when it next went to the shop for general repairs. The artist was in due time informed of this decision, but his attention was called to the fact that the railroad upon which he had travelled,



Do you see that Hump?

was not responsible for the design of the furnishings in a car belonging to another company; though everybody deeply sympathised with him in his dire distress.

The artist thereupon gratefully acknowledged, by another post card, his reception of the welcome news, his attitude of mind being typified by the profound and respectful bow in which he showed regret for his mistake in having "post card-ily" reflected upon that railway for the shape of the

seats which had not been designed by them. It is evident that at the same time a feeling of justifiable satisfaction extended to his very finger tips.

Thus it came to pass that a humorous post card in which a certain temper of mild irony had appeared, was destined to reach the deep-seated cause of discomfort. The artist had clearly shown himself to be no stiff-



"Beg Pardon, I thought you had designed that seat."

necked objector, but one who had accommodated himself to circumstances, and had even bowed his shoulders temporarily to the yoke. He certainly felt constrained to hope that his attitude in the matter would be understood, and he has since had the satisfaction of knowing that it has been thoroughly appreciated. He confidently believes that he will be in good shape when he travels again.

## Lord Mount Stephen

LORD MOUNT STEPHEN, who has been entertaining the Prince and Princess of Wales at Bocket Hall, near Hatfield, has had one of the most romantic careers in the peerage. He was born at Dufftown, in Scotland, in 1829, and began life as a herd-boy. Later on, he became a draper's assistant in Aberdeen, and at the age of twenty-one emigrated to Canada, where he has since become famous in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway. In recognition of his valuable services he was made a baronet in 1886, and five years later was raised to the peerage. Lord Mount Stephen's princely charities are well known, his splendid gift of £200,000 to the King's Hospital Fund having earned for him the gratitude of the whole country. Although Lord Mount Stephen has been twice married, he has no children. Many years ago, however, he adopted a little girl, who is now the wife of Lord Northcote.

Lord Mount Stephen, in spite of his great success, has never forgotten anyone who has helped him along in his career. When he was a shepherd-boy, the minister of the district used to give him many words of encouragement, and endeavour to make his lonely work on the hillside as cheerful as he possibly could. Young George Stephen, as he then was, determined at the time that he would one day reward this kindness, and years afterwards, when he had become a famous man, his thoughts reverted to the consoler of his boyhood's days. To show his gratitude to his old friend he gave him a handsome annuity, besides endowing a fund of many thousand pounds to enable every parishioner on the Speyside to have a minimum income of £100 a year.—M. A. P.



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