

indicates a sound state of wind and limb, and an ability on their part to perform a fair day's journey, without more than the necessary and usual exhaustion, or discomfort to themselves. Were the community generally to act on this rule, paying at the same time due attention to the appearance and dress of the driver, methinks the class of horses and drivers would be materially improved, and the public at the same time, better served. On the present occasion, however, I had no time for any expression of my doubts as to the propriety of departing from the general rule above expressed, for I found my friend all ready and apparently somewhat impatiently looking for my arrival.

"Oh! here you are, are ye?—Merry Christmas to you!" said he. "I thought you would never come. In with you, all right—prog and all—stave ahead, Jarvey—Give it 'em in style. T'whit—t'whit—that's the way on Christmas day. That's a team, Sir, beats all, drove me forty miles before twelve last Sunday, bare ground half the way—started after breakfast—Go it, Jess! none of your whisking there; that's your sort—give it to her. Now for it, right ahead!"

My friend Mr. Thomas Dickenson, whose expressions I have endeavoured feebly to portray, is the second son of a respectable Physician in the lang toon of Kirkaldy, in the County of Fife, Scotland, who found it for his advantage on his arrival in this country on the 15th day of July, 1843, after many unsuccessful efforts to secure a larger salary, to enter himself as book-keeper in a respectable hardware establishment, in St. Paul street, at the annual income of a hundred pounds currency—which with occasional remittances from his mother, suffices with her good advice, to keep his disbursements nearly on a par with his expenditure. To a temperament somewhat excitable, and a predisposition to indulgence in those diversions and exploits, which are usually included under the generic term of "*Larking*," Thomas united a feeling and generous heart, an understanding cultivated beyond what is usually to be met with in young persons engaged in similar pursuits, and a personal appearance indicative at once of his character such as I have described it, and of that vigorous health which casts a glow upon the face and gives elasticity to the whole frame. I am bound to add that upon some occasions my friend is not, in practice, an adherent to the rules of strict temperance, as understood by the large class of benevolent individuals whose efforts have effected so much for the well being of the human family. On some occasions he allows himself to be seduced into indulgences

which cannot on any established system of recognized morality be safely defended, or consistently adopted in practice; especially in as far as regards that practice of indiscriminate and successive potations, usually denominated "mixing liquors." Should this meet his eye, I trust he will take the friendly caution I have already so frequently offered, and not expose himself to the animadversions of persons not so much disposed as is the writer of these humble sketches, to judge leniently of youthful indiscretions; and fervently to look forward to the period when the specific quantity of wild oats will be fairly and forever committed to the bosom of the earth.

Our route led through the flourishing suburbs of St. Antoine, so called in all probability from the respectable ecclesiastic of that name. We passed rapidly up the said street without meeting with anything worthy of particular notice, unless I may mention those particular whisks of the tail which are generally indicative of a horse's temper, and which, on the occasion alluded to, the leader, Jess, as she was endearingly termed by my friend, was certainly dealing out with an ominous rapidity. As we approached the corner where the respectable individual of German extraction keeps a grocery establishment, our leader made a sudden and unlooked-for turn up the street to the right, and before we could collect ourselves so as to preserve the equilibrium of the vehicle, we were upset,—I mean the vehicle was upset, and we, the passengers, not including the driver, thrown to a considerable distance, where, I am obliged to say, we both fell in a very undignified position. Here again, a less determined spirit would have paused, and refused again to commit his safety to a beast who had shewn herself so treacherous. But, if I hesitated, it was but for a moment, and I resolved to face all dangers; and finding the cushions fairly replaced by the activity of the conductor or driver, who seemed to reckon for little the peril we had lately undergone, and who laughed, as I am inclined to believe, at the hesitating air with which I regarded Jess, I took my seat, my friend Thomas sitting on the right and I on the left. He had embraced the opportunity afforded by the recent and alarming accident to light a cigar, notwithstanding the earliness of the hour; and with a constitutional light-heartedness, seemed to regard the upset, to use his own phrase, "as no killing thing." The thought entered my mind, that if we, or either of us, had been dashed against the lamp-post, what might have been the result! I trust, however, that my mind is too well regulated to allow present comfort to be seriously interfered