

## Flotsam and Jetsam.

### *THE TALE OF A BEAVER;*

OR,

BEAVER *vs.* THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

(*vs.* A. R. 476.)

A Beaver who travelled upon a railway  
When asked for his ticket thus simply did say :  
"I really have lost it—produce it I can't,  
And pay once again for a ticket I sha'n't."  
The conductor was wroth at that Beaver's tale,  
Its veracity he began to assail,  
And, glaring upon this ticketless Beaver,  
He said : "I'm afraid you're but a deceiver ;  
Your ticket give up, or the train I will stop,  
And out of it quickly I'll soon make you hop."  
But Beaver, quite beaver-like, stuck to his tale,  
And before that conductor he would not quail.  
So without more ado the train it was stopped,  
And from it the Beaver most rudely was dropped.

Now this Beaver was grieved and vexed to the heart,  
For you know that his tail is his sensitive part ;  
Yet his tale was rejected, his person as well,  
So his bosom did heave, and with rage it did swell,  
And a suit he did bring against the railway  
For serving him in such an outrageous way,  
And damages heavy he claimed to assuage  
His grief-stricken feelings and soothe his great rage.  
The courts, when they heard of his pitiful tale,  
Thought the Beaver abused, and his suit should prevail ;  
And to the defendants did solemnly say :  
"When a Beaver's his ticket doth lose on the way,  
His tale you can't treat with such disrespect,  
Nor on its veracity rudely reflect.  
For bouncing this Beaver out on the road  
In damages heavy you'll have to unload,  
And we'll have you to know that it is not true  
That a Beaver must keep his ticket on view  
For inspection by any such duffers as you.  
When once it is paid for, that quite ends the matter ;  
If you kick him out and his body you batter  
Because to your view he declines to display  
The ticket he says he has lost by the way,  
You must for the job heavy damages pay,  
And this is the law—because that's what we say."

MORAL.

The moral of this story I pray you now to learn :  
An Elephant should never the tale of Beaver spurn.