

TRAVELLING BY RAIL.

It is not more than fifty years since Lord Abinger, presiding in the Court of Exchequer, laid down the maxim that if the only means by which a witness could get to court was by train, he might be excused for non-appearance on the ground of the insecurity of such a method of locomotion. In 1843 Louis Phillips was actually dissuaded by his council of ministers from travelling down from Paris to Rouen by rail, as that mode of accomplishing the journey was held "not to be sufficiently safe to admit of its being used by the king." So the monarch proceeded to his chateau at Bizy in a carriage drawn by post horses. It was only Prince Albert's example which induced Her Majesty the Queen to patronize the Great Western line in the infancy of railways. At that period a third-class carriage was an open truck without seats, inferior to the conveyances in which animals are now sent to the London market from the country. Already, on many of our advanced lines, third-class carriages are as much superior to those ancient contrivances as a modern Commodore is superior to an emigrant ship of half a century back. About the only objection that could possibly be urged against the palace car system is that, unlike the single compartment, it may cause draughts to circulate, unless the ventilation is cleverly arranged.

We should like to know if any traveller has been so fortunate in our American cars as never to have been exposed to cold draught from the window of the seat next before him, which the occupant "has a right" to keep open.

AMONG all the excuses for neglecting public worship that of not liking the clergyman, the churchwarden, or somebody else connected with the church, is perhaps the most pitiful. Absenteeism is not a curative. It creates many evils, but we know of none that it cures. Least of all does it appear how staying away from church because a man does not like the clergyman will help his own spiritual state. There never was a time when excuses were not common. We do not like God, or the Church of God, or the worship of God; and as this is, if possible, to be kept secret even from themselves, they look around in all directions for excuses. —Selected.

ONE very cold day a gentleman bought a paper from a ragged little boy. "My poor little fellow," said he, "ain't you very cold?" "I was, sir, before you passed," replied the boy. There is warmth in every act of kindness.

Imitation kneeling is sacrilegious. Kneeling is kneeling—getting down on one's morrow bones—not simply ducking the head or leaning on the pew in front.

It never pays to break a promise made to a child.

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