

An Invitation. When in the home the day is warm, and the sun is shining before the door, come out to the grassy lawn.

THIRD CLASS. A good many years have passed since, on a hot day in the month of June, I was taking the 7 o'clock express from York to Newcastle.

The train stood ready to start, but since there were few passengers or they did not like leaving the cheerful warmth of waiting and refreshment until the last moment, for I passed the platform in gloomy solitude, trying to decide the then momentous question, whether to travel third class and please the governor, or first class and please myself.

My father was a large share-holder and took an active interest in the working of the line. He was not satisfied with the first class, and he had a large amount of the principal was capable of making it.

Since the third-class carriage was comfortable as you can, and far greater numbers will travel," was one of his maxims.

"I had the solitary first and second seats that will make the affair pay, Bob, my lad," said he, addressing me, "but the hundreds and thousands of people who travel on the line never lose an opportunity of going third class, and then you will be able to suggest improvement."

As I usually followed his advice; but on this night I felt sorely tempted to make an exception to the rule. I remembered, however, with an uneasy conscience, that I was bound to please the old gentleman just now, if possible. He might have a talent for making money, but his son had been largely endowed with the gift of spending it, and I knew well that in a few days I should be obliged again to appear in my father's study, with my father, and with the air of a martyr, I walked up to the front of the nearest carriage.

"These corner seats all taken?" I asked of two ladies who were the sole occupants of the carriage. "All but that," said the older one, "and I will be glad to have you sit here. I have a small satchel and some wraps into the seat."

"You are not going third on a night like this?" said the younger one, "I have a small satchel and some wraps into the seat."

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"There is no need, thank you," replied the young lady, quickly.

"No, thank you," replied the older one. "I was but reflecting on the unpleasant position we should be placed in as two unprotected ladies. My daughter, too, has not been well for some time."

"Of course I offered my protection, and secretly felt glad at the prospect of spending several hours in the company of my daughter."

"There is a long cutting not far off," I remarked, presently. "If we get through that we shall reach Newcastle two or three hours later; but if not, we are doomed."

"I finished speaking when we came to the guard before the carriage door."

"We shall be obliged to stay here for the night, Mr. Lawson?" he said; "there is regular block. Lucky job there are some cottages near."

"Send to engage at least one room for me and my friends," requested I. "This young lady is not well, and would be very glad to go to bed, I dare say, if such a luxury as a bed can be procured."

"All right, sir," said he, louching his cap, and giving me a knowing wink as I tipped him.

"I am positively informed," said the inspector, "that the party I want to find look this train at York; and I have a warrant for his apprehension."

"I felt I trembled violently as we passed the men."

"Well, you see he is not here," replied the guard. "You have seen all the passengers."

"All but those," said the stranger, pointing toward us.

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