

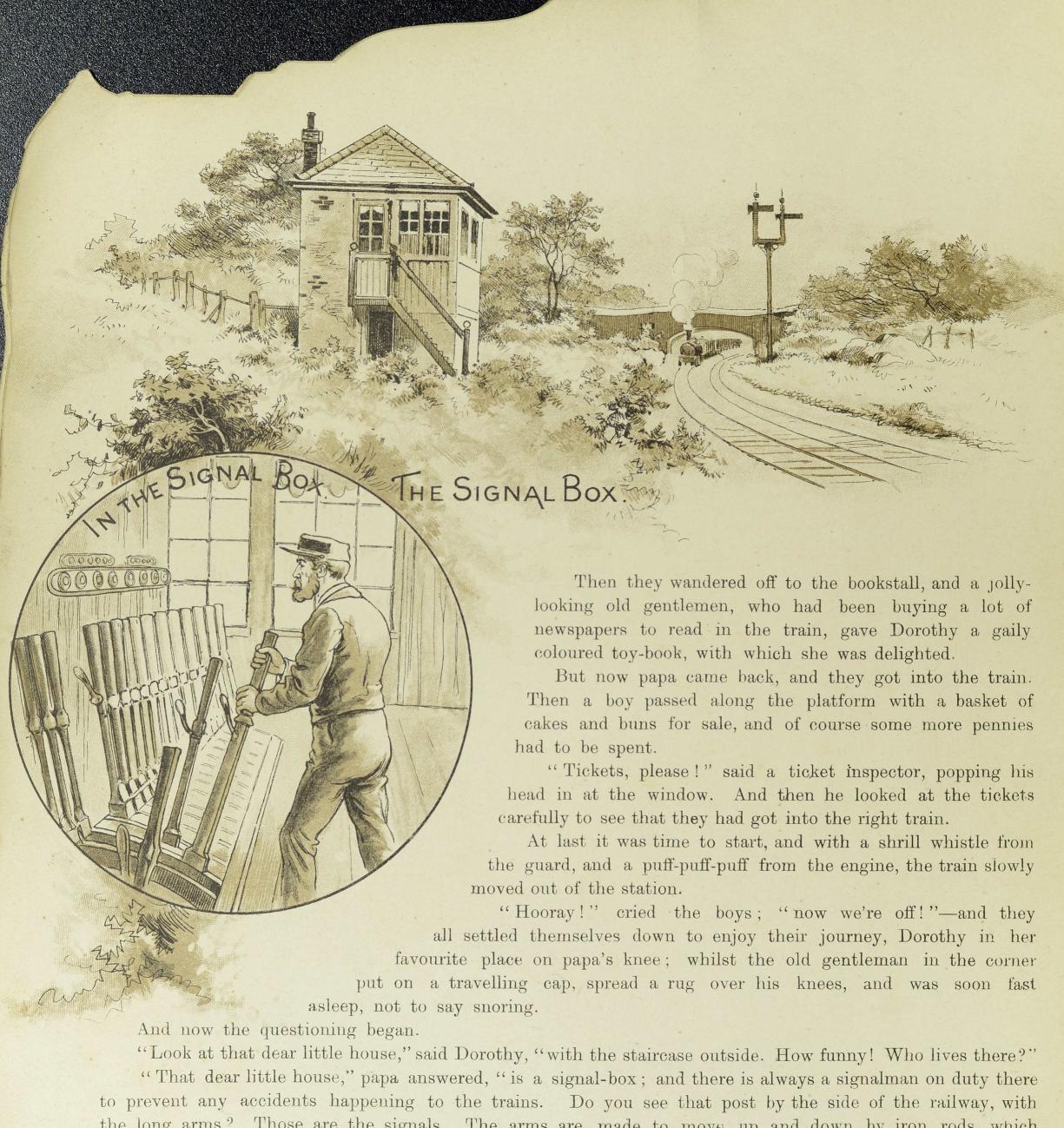








THE TOY BOOK.



"That dear little house," said Dorothy, "with the staircase outside. How funny! Who lives there?"

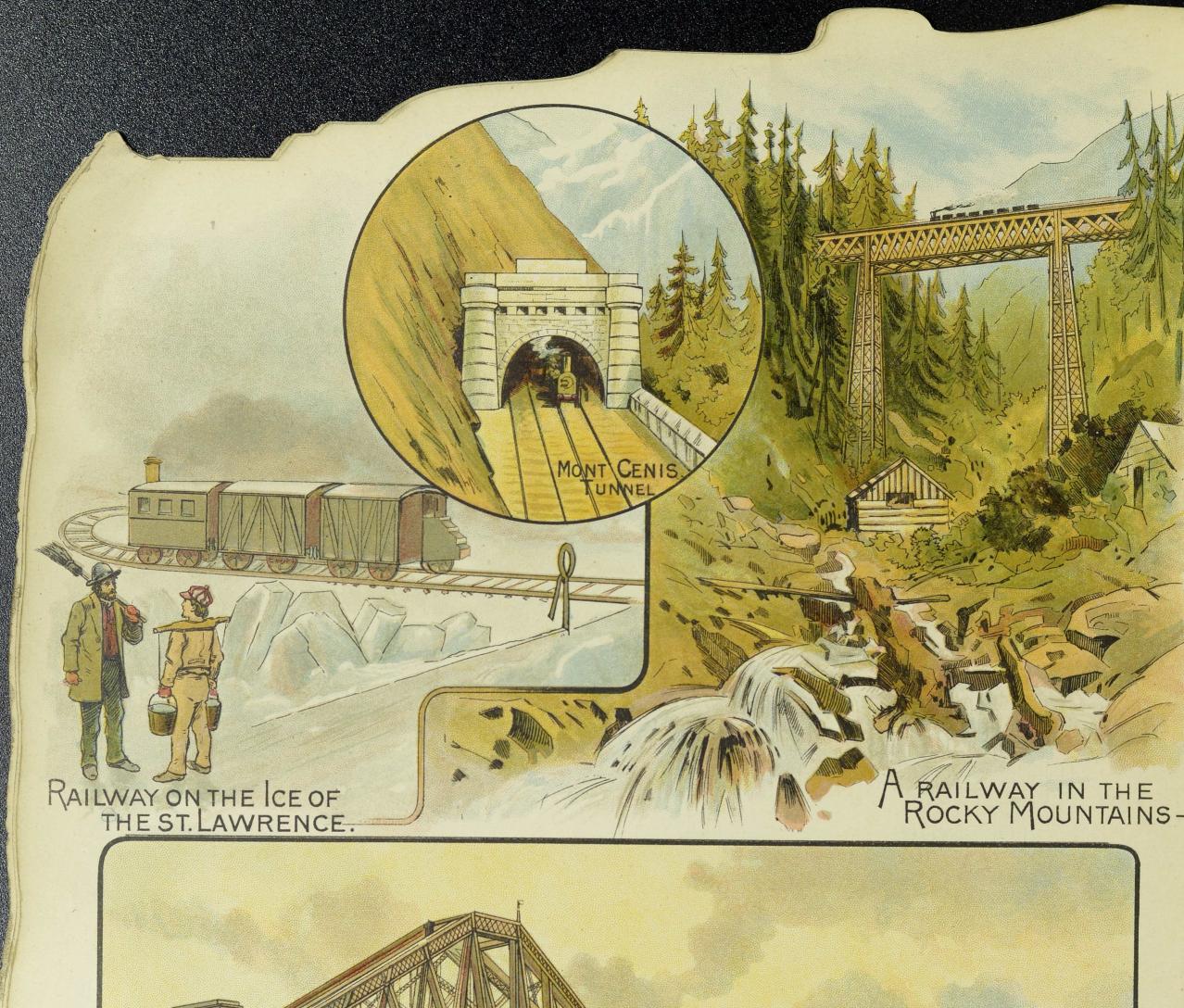
"That dear little house," papa answered, "is a signal-box; and there is always a signalman on duty there
to prevent any accidents happening to the trains. Do you see that post by the side of the railway, with
the long arms? Those are the signals. The arms are made to move up and down by iron rods, which
run from the signal-box, and are worked by the man there who pulls the handles of long levers. The
driver of the train looks at the signal-post, and knows by the position of the long arms whether the line is clear,
or whether there is another train in front of him, and so he either goes on or stops his train."

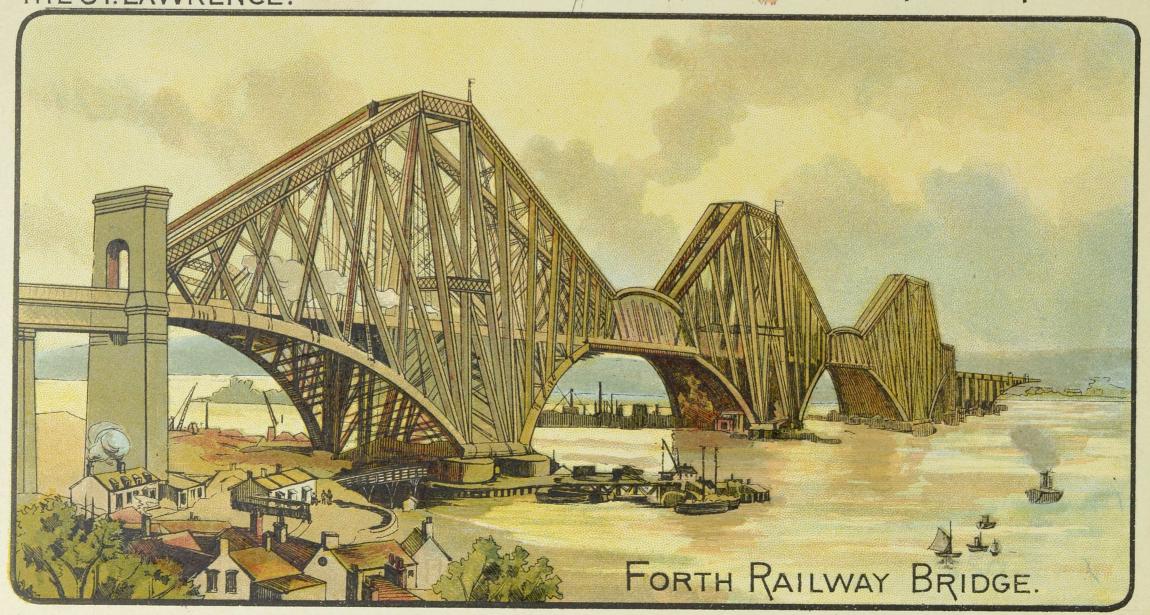
And then papa was led on to talk about railways generally, and he told them a great deal about the wonderful works which had been accomplished in the making of some railways—how tennels were bored through













great mountains, and bridges of great length carried at giddy heights across mountain ravines, or the mouths of large rivers.

He told them about the Mont Cenis Tunnel, which is pierced right through one of the high peaks of the Alps, 2,000 feet high, connecting the French railways with those of Italy. It is 8½ miles long, and was ten years in the making. He told them about the railway bridges amongst the great mountain ranges of North America; and then coming nearer home, he told them of the Forth Bridge, only lately finished. In this bridge the railway line is 160 feet above the water, so that great ships can sail underneath it, whilst the total height is equal to that of St. Paul's Cathedral.

And, finally, he made Dorothy open her eyes very wide by asking her how she would like "to travel on a railway laid on the water?"

"Why, papa," she said, "you couldn't do it. You would go to the bottom, railway and all."

"He means in a steamboat," said Edith.

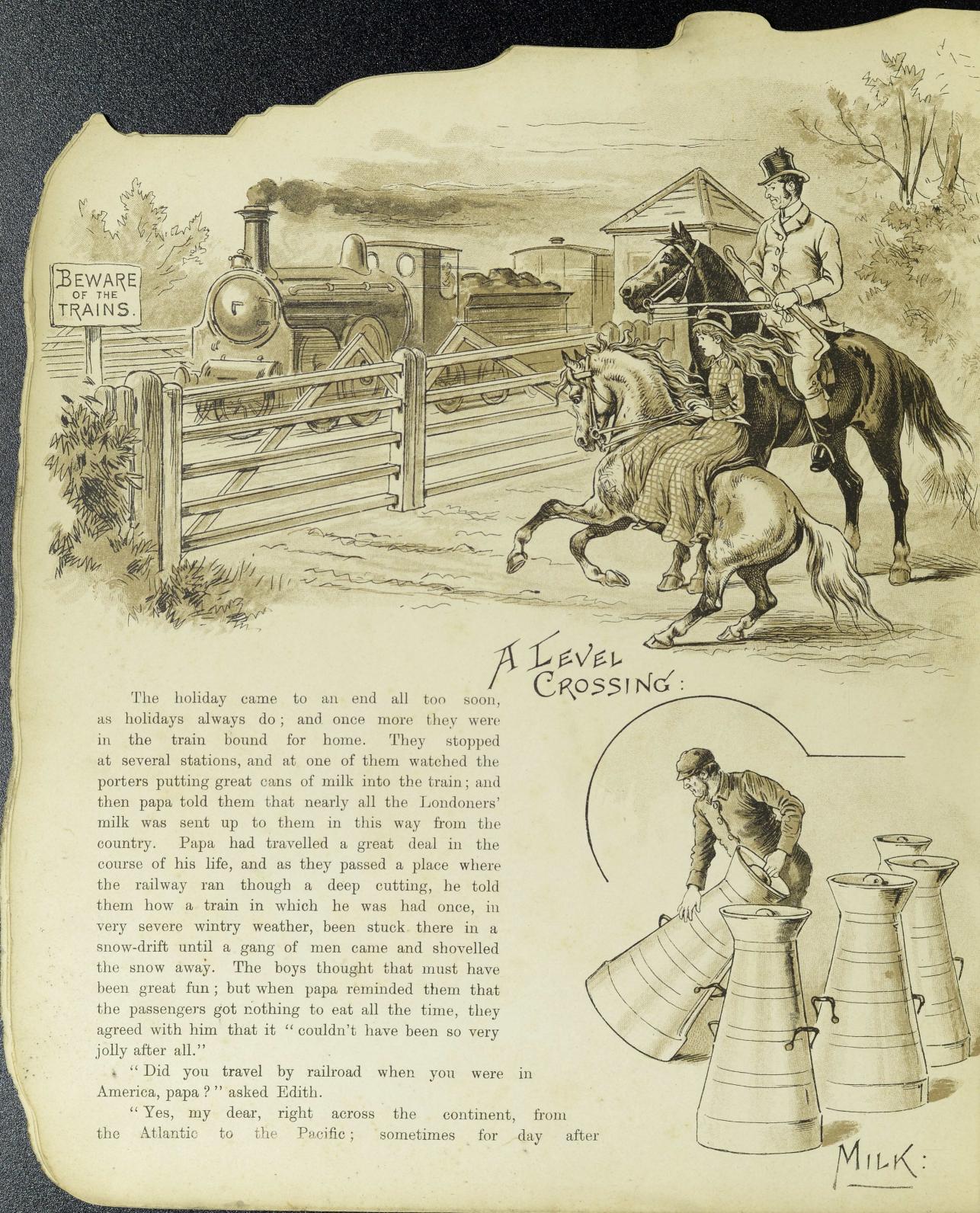
"No, I mean just a common railway," persisted papa; "and you can do it," he continued, with his eyes twinkling, "if you get your water well frozen first. And that is how they manage to have a railway on

very thick indeed by months of continued frost."

By this time they were getting near the end of their journey, and the children began to look for their first peep at the sea. Soon the train rattled into the station, the porter secured a cab for them, and whilst they drove off to their lodgings, the guard waved his flag, and the train went on to another station. And now the children began to have a very merry time, I can tell you. But I have not room to describe all they did: how they played on the sands, and paddled in the sea, and sailed boats, and had rides in goat-chaises and on donkeys' backs, and how they had long walks through country lanes, and romped in the hay-fields, and hunted after lilies, and were frightened by a great bullock. In one of their walks they came upon the railway again, at a point where the roadway ran right across the metals. Mamma told them that this was called a "level crossing." There were great gates across the road, and these were closed as a train was coming. A little girl on a pony was waiting till the train had gone by, and the pony did not seem to like the great snorting engine at all.

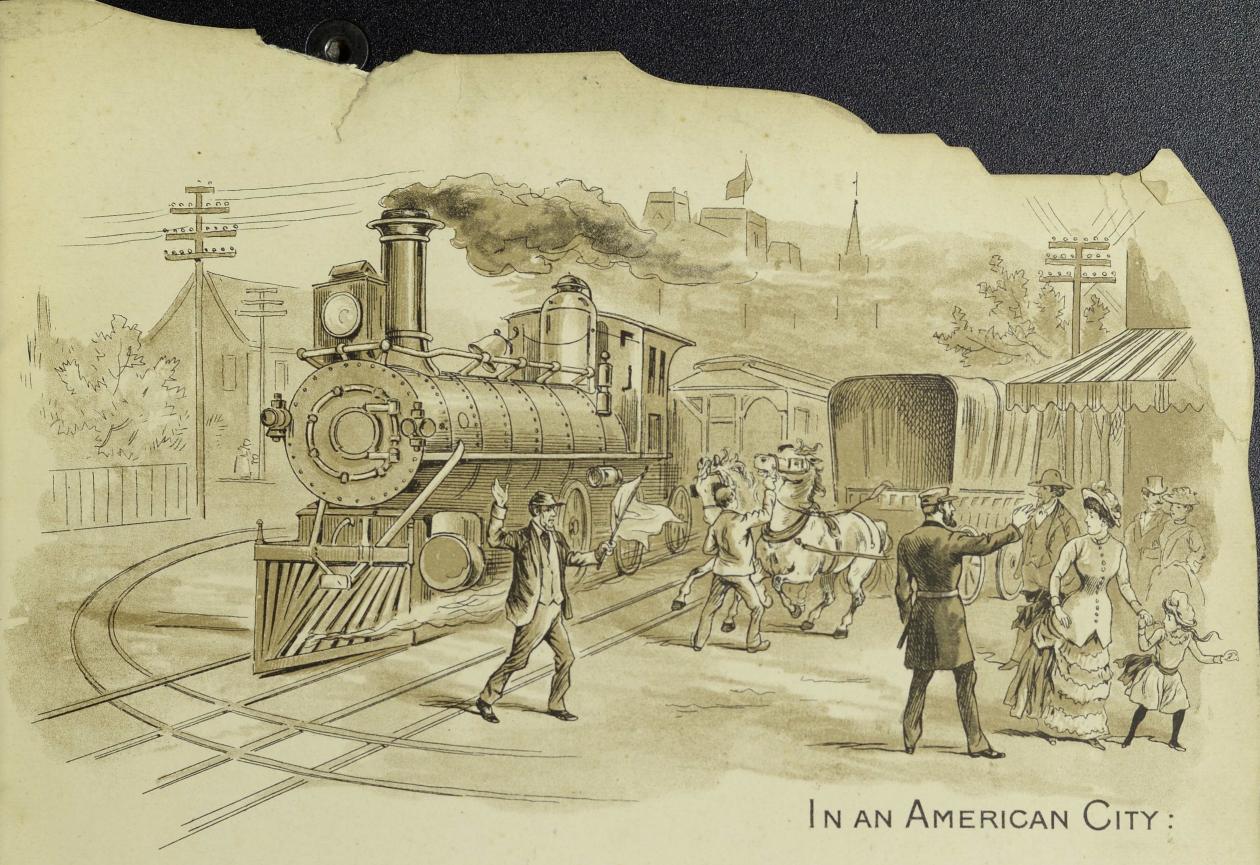
the great River St. Lawrence, in North America, where the ice is frozen











day across the prairies, with nothing in sight but one unbroken sea of tall grass bending and swaying in the breeze. The engines look very different to our English ones, and are fitted with what is called

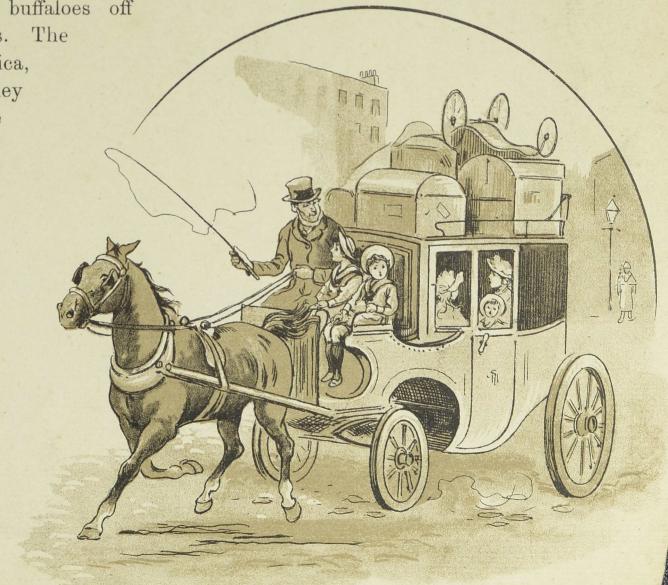
a 'cow-catcher,' to throw stray cattle or buffaloes off the line, which is not carefully fenced in as with us. The railroads run such tremendous distances in America, that they have to construct them cheaply where they can, and this is why they run right through the cities like tramcars and omnibuses, instead of going round them, or over bridges."

The children thought that could not be very nice, and agreed that they liked the English plan best.

But now here was London once more, and very soon they were rattling home again in a four-wheeler, Tom and Jack perched on the box.

And we also have got to the end of our journey, and hope that our little readers will all enjoy themselves next time they go in

THE RAILWAY TRAIN.



(SA). Lu fol JOHNSON, ALF J.

RAILWAY TRAIN [189-?] 37/3/053 588 33/

