# Albany Register.

#### Forty Shillings and Costs.

I had been all day trying to get from Aveniuster to Chelchester by a country line, a London line, and a branch line of railway. In the first place, as the country line only ran three trains a day, passenger and goods together, necessitating weary shuntings at every station, we could hardly be said to have made a good start. In the next place, the strategic arrangement whereby the London line managed invariably to start its trains five minutes before the arrival of the "up" country train, making us wait for two hours at Marlbury Junction, to spite the country company, scarcely tended to rapid progress. In the third place as it always happens to be the aim of a traffic-manager to endeavor to drive passengers on to the main line, and to visit with all possible retributive delays the hostile British public when it will travel on a branch, we could not be considered to have made up for the lost time on the branch. In the fourth place, it didn't help us forward to be compelled to travel one hundred and twenty-seven miles round about in a parabola, in order to reach Chelchester, which, at starting, was only fifty-eight miles from Aveminster. In the fifth and last place, we were not got to Chelchester yet; and it would have been money in my pocket if I never had.

"Swinbro' - Swinbro'. here for Marchmont and Nutchley.

Change here.'

Almost time for a change. I reflected, considering I had been nine hours out on a journey of fifty-eight miles, and was still far off from my destination. Looking out from my window of a first-class compartment. I saw it was a cheerless, drizzling night, and the railway porters were streaming in the misty air as they hurried to and fro past the gleam of the lamps. Remonstrating with the guard respecting our train being an hour late, and the time past eleven at night, he soothed my irritation by telling me gruffly 1 had no business on a branch line if 1 wanted to go anywhere; and if I would go to out-of-the-way places like Chelche ter, I must be very thankful if the company put themselves to the expense of taking me there at all, con-sidering branches didn't pay to work as a rule.

A solitary passenger then entered my carriage, or rather was banged into it by the guard. Another minute, and the guard had banged himself into his van. emitting the growl; "Change here!" Our flery and restive iron stead, no doubt weary with its headlong career of full twelve miles an hour, gave a heroic neigh of triumph, resembling a feeble crow, in emulation of past exploits, in days long before it was condemned to transportation on a branch, and dragged us off into the

bleak night. My companion was a tall, thin, middle-aged man, with a face lean and withered like a shrivelled apple, concluded below the chin by a stiff satin cravat. In a dress, tight-fitting, and ancient and faded black, he looked attogether like a man who had run very much to seed, which perhaps accounted for the luxuriant growth of his arms and legs. Observing his clothes steaming with the damp air, I began to realize it was very chilly. It certainly was.

"Quite a change in the weather," I remarked, "Very cold to-night, is it

"Don't feel the cold myself. Perhaps you would like to to change place with me. There is no draught here. I replied I should be pleased to do so, if not to his inconvenience; and accordingly we changed seats.

It eas cold, and no mistake. I must have taken a chill, for I felt the cold creeping over me in a most unaccount-

Looking at my companion on the opposite seat, on whom the lamp-light now shone full, I saw that his face was not so thin, nor his features so withered, as I had at first supposed; and I must have made a mistake as to his age, for he was by no means so o'd as Thad previously judged. How cold it was to be sure! As 1 continued too look at him, I noticed his aspect changed momently—that he was growing younger; that the wrinkles in his face were filling out and smoothing down; and that he was gradually becoming like some one Ishad seen before. As his cheeks grew round and ruddy, and his hair changed from gray to brown, before my very eyes, I be-came in such a state of nervous agitation, I endeavored to cry out, but could not. I was paralyzed with the cold,-eold that seemed to make my limbs rigid, and numb my vitals; for I saw the man sitting before me was no longer a stranger—no more friend or acquaintance; he had become ME:

I held up my hands to try and shut out the sight, and as I did so, saw that they were withered, and thin, and old. I pressed them of my brow, to see if I were dreaming; but I found it shrivelled, and scamed, and packered. And I knew that this man, this fiend, had stolen my body, and given me his. Maddened with the discovery, I rose to my feet,-his teet,-which swayed

beneath me, and I struck wildly at the vision of myself on the other seat. But I found my arms light as vapor, for they passed over his body, which went through them, giving me the impression of pain. It was a body of shade that had been given me for my own body of flesh and blood, which this wretch had stolen. By some sorcery or other, we had indeed changed places.

"Sorcerer-demon!" I cried out. only to hear myself speaking with his sharp, cracked voice. When I saw myself sitting opposite to me coolly addressing me in my own voice, I could no longer credit my senses, if indeed I had any of them at all left of

my own.
"Dare say you think you are speak-

ing loud now," he said.
I answered by calling the guard as loudly as I could halloo.

"Ah, you might call a good deal louder than that, if the carriage were full of passengers, and they could no more hear you than they could see you." he continued, chuckling, and screwing up my features into a hideously knowing grin, such as I could never have made them assume. "You see, my friend, yours is a body of air, of shadow, insensible, impalpable to all but myself, just as it was to all but you when I entered the carriage. You wish, perhaps, to know who I am? Well, two years ago to-night, I was a passenger by this very up-mill. There was a collision with a stupid downgoods, you see, and the result was that everal passengers were injured. One of them was-well, its no use mincing matters-killed on the spot. Quite so: it was I. Yes, I am what you call a ghost, though we consider the word rather infra dig, amongst ourselves. and have a better term for it. Now have told you what I am, you will like to know what I want? Very good. You shall see.

The ghost in my body then began to feel in my pockets, from which be drew out my meerschaum, loaded it from my ponch, and lighted it with one of my Vesuvians.

"Ah." he proceeded, whiffing the weed rapidly, "you smoke very good stuff, -Golden Leaf and Returns; not a bad mixture, though I prefer a little Latakia with it myself. Not at all a bad body yours, either," he went on, eying the form in which he was sitting, -"not at all a bad body; and it fits me to a T, only a little short in the arms. By the way, I find one of your front teeth a little loose, so don't say I did that, when you come to yourself again; and your nose is a little long for me, but I dare say it blows none the worse for that." I shuddered as I saw him take out my handkerchief. and use it on that cherished organ of

"Yes. I dare say now you feel the cold a little; I did at first; but it's nothing when you are used to it. I find your body very hot,-being heavier than I am accustomed to wear; but it won't be for long. I require it positively for this night only. as you positively for this night only. say in your playbills, and will return it uninjured by the time we get to Chelchester. By the by, let me beg you to be a little careful how you throw your arms about so much as you did just now, for my body is of a more delicate construction than yours; and, being so thin in substance, I am atraid you will scag it under the arm-pits. You will observe, ladies and gentlemen," he went on in lecturer's style, "that if I take a lighted Vesuvian and insert it in the cornea of the patient's eye, he will feel no pain." Saving this, my dreadful companion proceeded to illustrate his remark by making a dive at my shadowy eye with a burning match. I felt no pain as the match burned in my head, cer-

" You will allow, after all you see. that my shape has its advantages," the ghost proceeded; "but it also has its disadvantages. Try the pipe now." I tried to take the pipe; it dropped through my vapory flagers. He placed it in my mouth; I could not hold it, nor get a whiff from it. "Precisely so," said the ghost. "Now, this is just what has brought me here to-night. A great smoker all my life, doing my six pipes a day regularly. I have been definet these two years and during all that time I haven't had a smoke! -not a blessed draw! I miss my 'bacco dreadful. There is provision made for smokers, down with us, you will understand; but we are governed by a Board of Directors, whose incapacity quite equals that of most of your City Boards. There is a stock of bodies kept on purpose for smokers, so that, if you want a pipe, you must go into one of the bodies to enjoy it. But, if you will believe me, the supply is so notoriously insufficient to meet the demand, that there is no chance whatever for a new ghost to get a smoke. When I cutered the Society, all the bodies were out in use, and booked for three years in advance. My name has been down on the books for two years, and there is no likelihood of my getting a body allotted me under another twelvemonth. Fancy two years without a smoke! Why, sir, the incompetence of our Board is positively wooden. I can only explain the reason why we put up with such gross mismanagement in the other world, because we have become so used to it in this. Our constitutions,

however, are being undermined to that extent that the Board has at last been coerced by popular feeling into passing a measure empowering ghosts to render themselves visible to single individuals at a time in order that they may effect an exchange of bodies for short periods, always with the consent of the person in question, for the pur-pose of indulging in a habit which the directors cannot, however, but characterize as pernicious and injurious. Under this new act I obtained your body

"You never had my consent, fiend!" I cried.

"It is vulgar to call names, my friend," the ghost replied, smoothing my mustache with my fingers; "but you are trilling. I asked you to hange places with me, and you agreed, as you must be well aware. But, dear me. here we are at Chelchester; however, I must finish my pipe-think of two years, and not a blessed draw, my

The train was pulling up. My com-panion leaned out of the window,

friend!

putling fast and turious. "Plenty of time to change bodies," he said; "it shall be done in an in-stant as soon as the train stops." And he continued leaning out, and whiffling away great clouds of smoke, till we came to the platform. He hurriedly knocked out the ashes of the tobacco on the door-rail, as the guard cried: "Change here — change here; all change here, if you please."

A sudden glow of warmth seemed to pass over me as I rubbed my eyes. and found to my great delight, my own smooth hands against my very own unwrinkled cheeks. I looked up for my companion-he was gone-I was alone in the carriage.

I was greatly surprised, when I got on the platform, at being asked for my card by a very officious person; still more so, on receiving a magis trate's summons in the morning. The officious person deposed that he was the Secretary of the Anti-tobacco Alliance, and applied for a conviction against the undersigned, under one of the by-laws of the company, for smoking in a railway carriage, the property of the D. E. F. G. Company, contrary to their regulations. He declared to have seen me (only think!)-me leaning out of the carriage as it came into the Chelchester Station, smoking a meerschaum pipe! The guard gave evidence that the carriage certainly smelled very strongly of tobacco on arriving at Chelchester, and that I was the only first class passenger. A meer-schaum pipe, answering the officious person's description, was found on my person. Case was clear. Fined forty shillings and costs. Nay, more: the case of smoking in a railway carriage has been gibbeted at all the stations on the line-where I am hung up as a caution and warning to the British public, in a solemn black frame, with my name and address, and the amount of the penalty enforced, at full length!

It would have been useless to attempt to dispute the case before the magistrates. It is something to have set one's self right with the public.— Chambers' Journal.

HEROIC WIFE.-The wife of Disraeli said to be on the point of death. She is an able, ambitions woman, and has always been her husband's most efficientally. Ofher unflinching zeal in this, there is a curious story extant. Then Disraell was Prime Minister be had a very important speech to make which would perhaps decide the fate of the Ministry. After a restless, troub-ied day of preparation, he entered his carriage with his wife, and accidentally closing the door on her hand, nearly crushed two fingers to the bone. bore the pain quietly, resolved that he should not be diverted from his great aim by any thought or fear concerning her; talked of his speech during his long ride to the house of Parliament. bade him good-by with a smile, and fainted. When he came home tri-nmplant, he learned for the first time of his wife's hurt and heroism.

A charcoal peddler, not far from Hartford, had a Newfoundland dog which he taught to jump into his bas-ket and lie down while he filled in the charcoal. When the peddler carried the basket full into the celler, the pur-chaser looking out of the window and checking the basket was quite satisfied. The dog, well trained, walked out with its master as if nothing had happened. The daughter of this old charcoal peddler has spent several sum-mers at Saratoga, with two large solitaires on her person.

When the first suspension bridge was building in England, a fiddler offered to fiddle it away. Striking one note after another, he eventually hit its vibrating note, or fundamental tone, and threw it into such ex-traordinary vibrations that the bridge builders had to beg him to desist. Only recently a bridge went down under the tread of infantry in France who had not broken step, and 300 were drowned.

Elias Williams of Buffalo, Missouri, blew into the muzzle of his gun to see if it was loaded. Could Mr. Williams communicate with his friends in this world, his spirit would gently whisper,

#### HUMOROUN.

A classic invalid, being asked if he was ill, promptly replied, "Num sic. For what port is a man bound dur-

ing courtship? Bound to Havre. A little girl of eight orten Summers being asked what dust was, replied that "it was mud with the juice squeezed out."

White coats are emblems of mouruing among the Chinese. They will answer the same purpose in the United States in the late full season.

There is nothing like a good definition, as the teacher thought when he explained the meaning of "old as a woman who had been made a very long time.

The Toledo Blade thus replies to an anxions correspondent: Abram-If your father will persist in betting on Greeley, there is but one way to save his estate. Get out a writ of lunacy. Any Court will grant it on a statement of the case.

Here is a good business-like epitaph:
-"Here lies Jane Smith, wite of Thomas Smith, marble cutter. This monument was erected by her husband as a tribute to her memory and a specimen of his work. Monuments of the same style \$250."

A school-boy going out of the play ground without leave, one of his masters called after him and inquired where he was going, "I am going to buy a cents worth of nails." "What do you want a cents worth of nails for?" "For a cent," replied the youngster.

A broom with a heavy handle was sent as a wedding gift to a bride, with the following sentiment:

This trifling gift accept from me, It's use I'd recommend: In sunshine use the bushy part, In storm the other end.

A young man rode ten miles in a railway carriage with a young lady with the intention of popping the quetion, but all he said was, "It is quite moony to-night." "Yes," she replied, "muchly." And there wasn't another word said.

"Uncle Charles," said Jimmy, a six-year old, the other day, "can you tell me why the sm sets in the West at night and rises in the morning?"

"Pshaw," said Uncle Charles, "the first fool you meet can tell you that." "Yes Uncle," replied the sweet boy, "that's why I asked you." At a certain school in Green county,

Iowa, the scholars caught a skunk and put it in the schoolmarm's desk, thinking that she would smell something and give them a holiday. She wasn't one of that kind. She took a spring clothes pin, fastened it on ber nose, went on with the exercises, and let the scholars enjoy the perfume.

DIDN'T GIVE IT UP .- One of our citizens is blessed, or otherwise, with a very stubborn wife. In his case, he finds that when a woman will she will, you may depend on't, and when she won't she won't, and that's an end This peculiar disposition in his wife is no secret among his associates. and one of them meeting him the other

are like a donkey?"

"Like a donkey !" echoed W opening his eyes wide. "No, I

don't. "Do you give it up?"

"Because your better half is stub-bornnesss itself."

"That's not so bad. Ha! Ha! I'll give that to my wife when I go home."
"Mrs. W---," he asked, as he sat
down to supper. "do you know why I am like a donkey?"

He waited a moment expecting his wife to give it up, but she didn't; she looked at him somewhat commisera-

tingly as she answered:
"I suppose it's because von were born so.

W----has abjured the babit of putting connairums to his wife.

KAKES .- There are many kinds of kake—some of one kind, and some not.

The "ho-kake" is particularly adapted to that kind of society who

have nothing but a hoc to bake it on. It is a native of "Westward, ho!" fee kake is good enough to weigh down lemon peels in dog days; also to hold butter that would otherwise travel on the plate; also toothache.

Grease take, otherwise called doughnuts, arias "crulls," is made by holding hunks of doe, by the fingers, in bilin' hot grease. They are very common but unhealthy beverage.

"Pound kake" is my favorite. I always aim to get one that runs eighteen to twenty oz. to the pound-there is more good eating in it for the mon-

Sponge kake is like pound kake, only it is a little different, and don't run so many oz. to the pound, though an unpraktikal eye would think it the cheaper kake.

Oil kake is the squeezins of a oil mill. They are good for cow's milk and fit horses. It is never knoed in a well-regulated dairy, as it makes the hair too slick, and rain having no eftect on the milk.

"Bride's kake." I don't know much about this kake, as I never was a bride. But I suppose they make it very sweet.

PIANOS-ORGANS.

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