

THE SOLITARY PASSENGER.

The 10:50 train from White Peak was late that snowy February night. It never was what one would call a painfully prompt train, but to-night it was full fifty minutes behind its usual time, and the telegraph operator had nearly fallen asleep behind the pane of ground glass over which the word "tickets" was inscribed in a half circle, and toward which a most inartistically foreshortened hand was depicted as extending a gilt finger for the enlightenment of the general public.

four miles away. The agent is detained at home by sickness, and I am the telegraph operator, on duty in his absence. The stranger uttered a long, low whistle. "I think," said he, "I must have managed to alight at the jumping-off place of all the world. What's to be done, I wonder?"

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