

STORIES ABOUT CARRIAGES.

A STATE CARRIAGE.

The State Carriage is of immense size, and of a most old-fashioned shape. Its sides or pannels are richly painted, and almost every other part of the vehicle is gorgeously gilt. It is drawn by eight beautiful cream-coloured horses, and their harness is of fine morocco leather, handsomely embellished with silver-gilt ornaments. They are driven by postillions, as also by a coachman, whose coats are covered with gold lace. The front, back, and sides have so much glass, that we can see Her Majesty seated within.

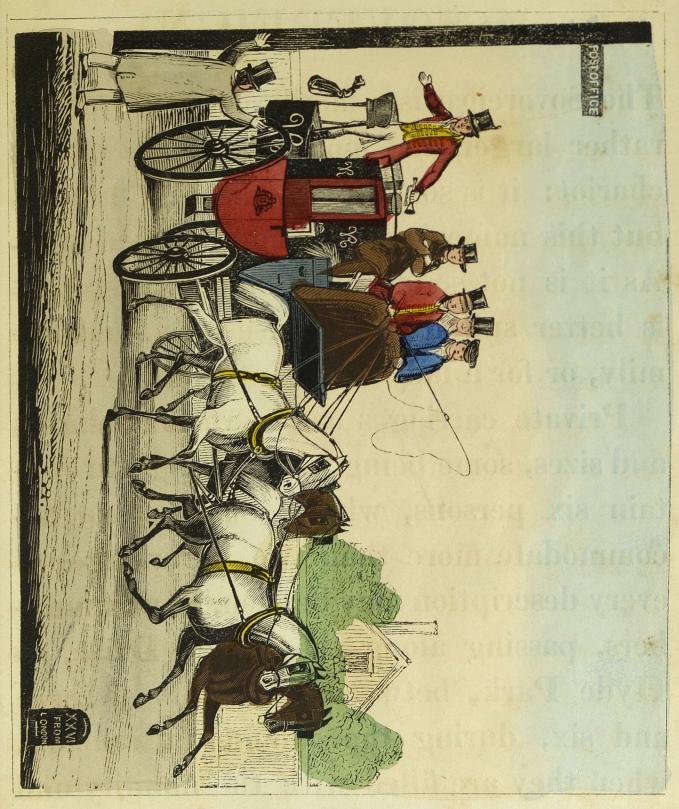
The Queen has many other carriages, but this one is used only on state occasions.

A MAIL COACH.

The Mail Coach conveys the large bags of letters which are sent from the country post-offices to London, and from London into the country; and it is the duty of the guard to deliver the bags to the post-master of each town, as the Mail Coach passes through. The post-master then forwards the letters to the persons to whom they are directed.

Besides the mail-bags, several passengers are conveyed; some inside, and some outside; those on the outside of the coach experience much inconvenience when the weather is either cold or wet.

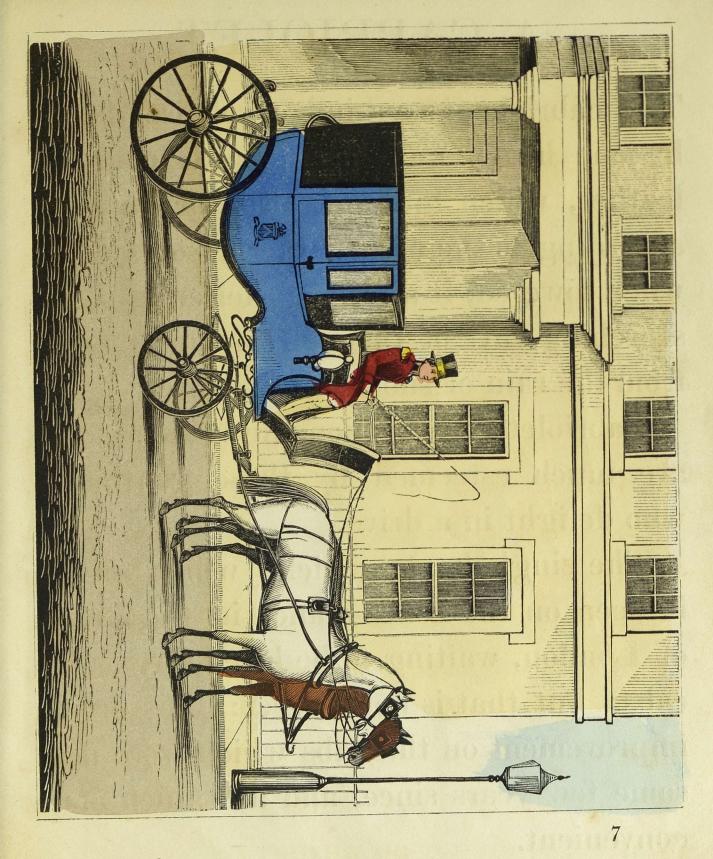
The coachman and guard of a Mail Coach have scarlet coats, and gold-lace bands round their hats.



A SOVEREIGN.

The Sovereign is a family carriage, and is rather larger and more convenient than a chariot: it is sometimes called a Clarence, but this name is not generally used now. As it is not so large as some carriages, it is better suited for the use of a small family, or for a lady and gentleman.

Private carriages are of various shapes and sizes, some being large enough to contain six persons, whilst some cannot accommodate more than two. Carriages of every description may be seen, in vast numbers, passing along the Grand Drive, in Hyde Park, between the hours of three and six, during the summer afternoons, when they are filled with the nobility and gentry, enjoying an airing.



A CABRIOLET.

The cabriolet is a kind of chaise drawn by one horse, and has a hood, made of leather, which may be raised or lowered, according to the wish of the person riding; when lowered, it affords a shelter from the scorching rays of the sun, in summer; or from the rain or snow in the winter.

Cabriolets are fashionable vehicles, and are much esteemed by those gentlemen who delight in a drive.

The single-horse vehicles which are to be seen on the coach-stands in the streets of London, waiting to be hired, are called cabs; but that is not correct: they are an improvement on the cabs which were used some few years since, and are much more convenient.



A PONY-CHAISE.

The Pony-chaise is more lightly built than chaises intended for full-sized horses, and is generally used for taking ladies and children out for an airing.

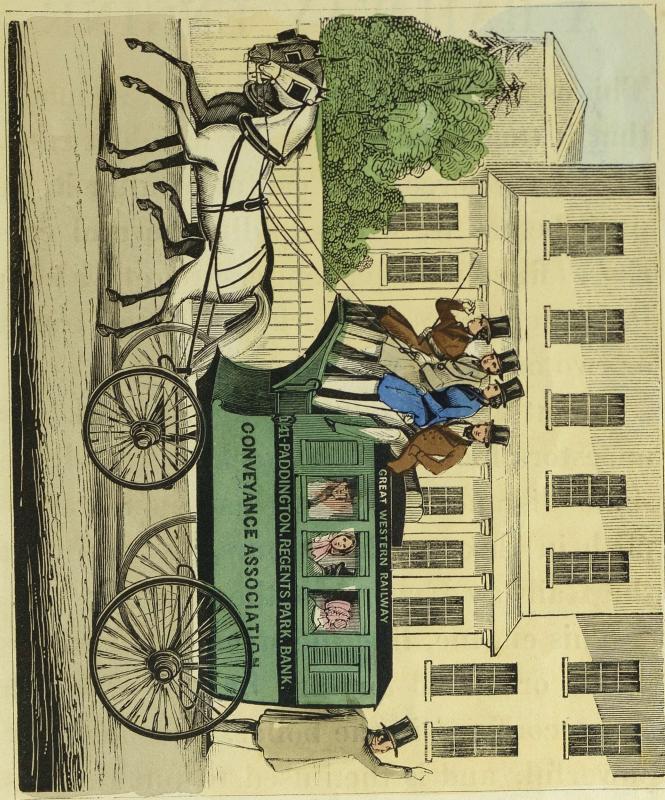
Sometimes two horses are driven in the Pony-Chaise, and sometimes only one is used; and many ladies prefer to drive, while others have postillions to guide their horses. These elegant carriages may be seen, in many different shapes, at the west end of the town, and in Hyde Park, on a summer's day. In the grounds of those beautiful villas, which ornament the country, a short distance from London, the little chaise with a pair of handsome ponies, is not unfrequently seen, with the ladies enjoying a fine morning or evening ride.



AN OMNIBUS.

The Omnibus is a long roomy vehicle, very gaily painted, and will carry thirteen or fourteen persons inside, and four or six outside. The word Omnibus means " for all," by which you may understand that every person may ride in this carriage who has six-pence, which is the usual charge, to pay his fare.

Omnibuses have not been in use many years; but the main streets of London are now thronged with them. They seldom make long journeys, their trips being mostly confined to places on the outskirts of the metropolis: such as Paddington, Chelsea, Clapham, Hackney, Greenwich, &c. The fares being reasonable, these vehicles are in very general use.

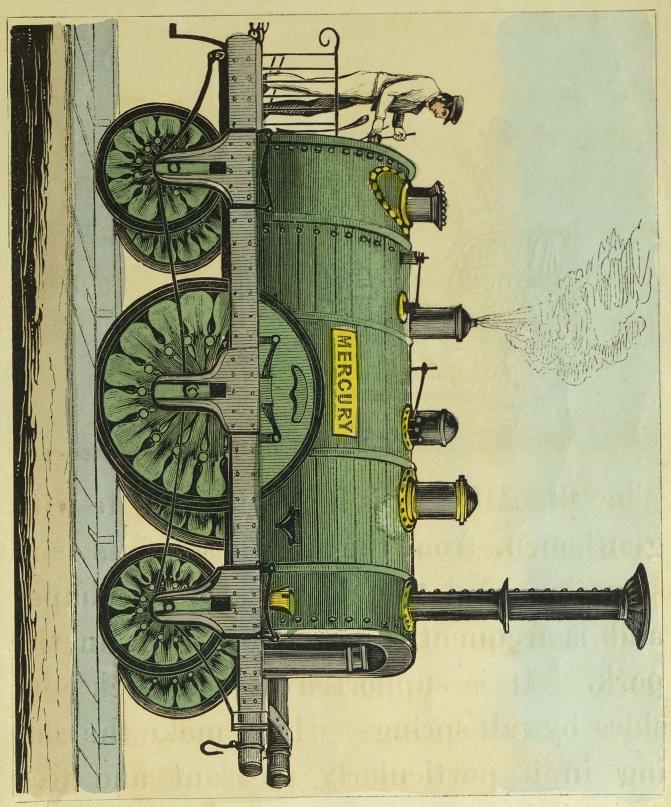


A RAILWAY ENGINE.

This is a powerful steam-engine, so made, that it turns the wheels on which it runs, with great force, and can draw after it, or push before it, with rapidity, several carriages filled with passengers, together with luggage trucks, or perhaps a stage coach or two on carriages called slippers.

About a hundred years ago, it took our ancestors more than a week to travel the same distance which we can now accomplish in three or four hours, by means of the Railway Engine on the railway.

This engine, like the steam-boat, is propelled or forced forward by steam, which being confined in the boiler, becomes very powerful, and is then used to put the machinery in motion.





The TILBURY is a great favourite with gentlemen, from the lightness of its construction, and the elegance of its shape; and is frequently driven by them in the park. It is supported at the back and sides by tall springs, which make the riding in it particularly pleasant and free from shaking.

