

the northbound express at Acambaro, as a breakfast we had encountered a few days before in that city did not incline our hearts to stay over night there. Now Ahasuerus and I never did a particularly shrewd thing without fatal results, and on this occasion our usual fortune lay in wait for us. We had a hot box; we were shunted on to a side track, where we lay for hours; we sat all day in a hot, stuffy caboose; and we had the satisfaction of seeing the distrusted passenger train rush past us on its way to make the desired connection, which it did for the first time in three months. However, we did not propose to be cast down by trifles, so we turned to exasperating fortune a smiling face, and insincerely congratulated ourselves upon the admirable opportunity given us to see Acambaro. In support of this position we ambled aimlessly up and down in the deep sand, and then came wearily back, and ate an unwashed supper with unwashed hands, while the household, with many maneuvers and much bustle, prepared our room for the night. The room at last assigned us was Number 9. Besides ourselves it had various other claimants. It belonged to a conductor who "run on Number Four," and an engineer who "run on Eleven," besides a train dispatcher and a Mexican commercial traveler who openly and violently accused us of stealing his "grip." These several

claimants, at intervals during the night, made their claims known by kicks and blows upon our portal, and by loud and emphatic cries of "Open the door," "Come out of that, won't you?" "What are you doing with my grip?" and other embarrassing remarks. We might have thought ourselves in the house of a tailor, and that every one of him had come home late.

These individuals had hardly ceased the recital of their wrongs when it was time to get up and catch the morning train, so we stumbled sleepily down to our rolls and coffee. I never think now of those early risings without a bone-aching, swimming sensation. If the time ever comes when Mexico is sufficiently civilized to introduce night trains, the lot of the traveler will certainly be less woeful.