

W.C.A. Blew, Brighton and Its Coaches (London, 1894)

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## **The Comforts of a Stage-Coach**

A country friend to visit, I a cit,  
Bespeak my passage in a God-permit.  
Th' impatient coachman warns us to prepare,  
And, long ere sunrise, mounts his daily care, -  
Scarcely awake, in dreaming mood I rise,  
Enter the coach, and ope my wondering eyes  
On two old females of the Falstaff size;  
No choice is left me, so, between the two,  
On each side elbow'd, I am doom'd to stew.  
A nurse, a child, a soldier swelled with pride,  
And a fat landlord, fill the other side.  
Day scarcely dawns, before the rugged road  
From this to that side jolts the motley load,  
One beldame coughs, the other scolds, and stares,  
The landlord snores, child pukes, and soldier swears.  
Of God-permits, if these the comforts be,  
My feet, thank Heaven, still can carry me.

Note: A certain kind of coach was known as a God-permit because on the advertisements there was always attached to the time of arrival the phrase 'God permitting'.

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