

ACT ONE

Scene 6 : Robert Stephenson Catches a Cold

(ENTER ROBERT STEPHENSON. LANDLADY COMES IN WITH BOWL OF HOT WATER FOR HIS FEET, HIS DRESSING GOWN AND BEDDING. SHE MAKES UP THE BED. SHE LEAVES THE TROLLEY NEXT TO THE BED.)

STEPHENSON: (WITH A COLD) After extortionate compensation had been paid to the landowners to remove their opposition, the new Bill became law on **8th** May **1833** authorising me to construct the London and Birmingham Railway Line. Before I'd finished, I'd walked the distance between London and Birmingham twenty times.

(TAKES OFF COAT. PUTS ON DRESSING GOWN) The weather in the Wolverton area is past endurance. Having been thoroughly drenched for the last few days, I am nearby laid up at the Cock Inn, Stony Stratford.

(TAKES OFF SHOES AND SOCKS. BATHES FEET.)