

RAILWAY IRREGULARITY.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE LEEDS MERCURY.

GENTLEMEN,—Permit me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to call attention to a subject which has for some time back, and now is, putting the public to great inconvenience. I refer to the want of punctuality in the arrival of the trains at the stations on the various lines of railway in this locality; the delays on some of them become so frequent and great as to be a serious disadvantage to many persons travelling upon them. I give an instance in point. On Saturday last, the mail train from Normanton, which, according to the time table, is due at Mirfield at 48 minutes past 11 a.m., did not reach that place till 40 minutes past 12, being 52 minutes behind time. This being the case, and it occurs daily, only not to the same extent, when the train reached North Dean station the branch train from that place to Halifax had left; we had, therefore, to wait another half hour before we could get forward to Halifax, for not only had we to wait for the train to return from Halifax, but also after that had come, for the next down train from Manchester. So that, instead of arriving in Halifax by 20 minutes past 12 o'clock, as we ought to have done, it was 35 minutes past 1.

There is no doubt that some reasons may be assigned to account in a measure for some of the irregularities which are taking place, such as the unfavourable state of the weather, and things of a like kind, which even railway people cannot control; still I am persuaded, from the observations I have made, that they are not so punctual at times as they otherwise might be. I think that, instead of a train being one hour and a quarter behind its time, that the quarter would be quite long enough, in ordinary cases, and even this would be at many times of consequence to a commercial man. I have myself been sadly disconcerted in my business arrangements for a whole day, and put to considerable additional expense, by a train being ten minutes too late, in a case where I was expecting to go by another train, but for which I was too late, by the delay of the previous one on which I had been travelling.

Many of the officials seem to know little, and to care less, about the inconvenience they put people to by such treatment. The complaint is becoming very general, and it is time that those high in authority should be made acquainted with it, (if they are not already,) that they may take the matter up, so as to remedy the grievance, as far as it is in their power to do so.

I am, Gentlemen, yours truly,

Batley, 26th December, 1849.

TRAVELLER.