



Caricature of the first journey by automobile, by George Cruickshank (1792-1878).

REPRODUCTIONS OF PRINTS, DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS OF INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

I—The First Journey by Automobile¹

By E. C. WATSON

IN historical studies good caricatures are often of real value as well as of considerable interest. From them the student may learn what questions, ideas, events, and incidents occupied public attention, and what was the popular reaction to them. From them the historian may judge of the true inwardness of a situation, be it political, social or scientific. Good caricatures reflect and comment upon life as it was actually lived, and portray not only what the persons caricatured "were like to look at, but also what manner of men they were."

About 1830 great interest in steam carriages developed in England. This was due in large measure to the work of Sir Goldsworthy Gurney (1793-1875), whose steam coach, patented in 1827, is accurately portrayed in the rare and little known caricature by George Cruickshank (1792-1878), which is here reproduced. In 1829 the coach of Gurney accomplished, with a number of stops, the trip from London to Bath, the first journey of any length to be made by an automobile. The feat

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and something of the popular reaction to it is preserved for us in this amusing contemporary print.

Other caricatures of this kind, as well as serious prints of the steam coaches of Gurney, Church, Hancock, and others, will appear later in this series of historical reproductions, and further details of the coaches themselves and of the early history of mechanical road vehicles will accompany them.

A. J. STAMM VISITS CAMPUS

Dr. A. J. Stamm, '21, chief chemist, Forest Products Laboratories, Madison, Wisconsin, spoke before a group of West Coast lumbermen at Seaside, Oregon, in January. Dr. Stamm subsequently visited Los Angeles in connection with business and personal matters.

Dr. and Mrs. Stamm have two daughters, 11 and 7, and one son, 3 years old.

Dr. Stamm regretted that lack of time made it impossible to see many of his friends in the West. He asked Bob Hare, '21, Dick Stencil, '21, and Ray Ager, '22, with whom he visited briefly, to extend his greetings to his other friends.