

Muscatine, Iowa,

190

A Literary Nightmare.

Will the reader please to cast his eye
over the following verses, & see if he can
discover anything harmful in them?

Conductor, when you receive a fare
Punch in the presence of the passengars!

A blue trip slip for an 8-cent fare,

A buff trip slip for a six cent fare,

A pink trip slip for a three cent fare,

Punch in the presence of the passengars!

Chorus

Punch, brothers! punch with care!

Punch in presence of the passengars!

I came across these jingling rhymes
in a newspaper, a little while ago, &
read them a couple of times. They
took instant & entire possession of me. All
through breakfast they went waltzing
in my brain, & when at last I folded
up my napkin, I could not tell
whether I had eaten anything or not.
I had carefully laid out my days work
the day before - a thrilling tragedy