



WORLD FAMOUS FICTIONS

普的短篇小說
TALES BY EDGAR ALLAN POE

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傳 略

普(Edgar Allan Poe)是美國人以一八〇九年生於波士頓。他的父母都是跑碼頭的戲子，他的父母死後，無家可歸。一八一一年有一個當菸葉商的蘇格蘭人名約翰阿蘭(John Allan)收他為義子，所以他又姓阿蘭普。這家人姑息他，他就變作一個不能受約束的孩子。一八一五年義父帶他到英國讀書；一八二六年他入維基尼阿(Virginia)大學，他的義父不以他的行為為然，他就出了大學。一八二九年他入美國陸軍；一八三〇年他入陸軍大學，明年出學。一八三三年他撰了一篇短篇小說，得了一百圓獎賞。一八三五年他當一個報館的副主筆。一八三六年他與他的表妹結婚。此後他都是在報館撰文。他是一個文學批評家，一個詩人，又是一個小說家。他的批評嚴厲透闢，只有他的文學批評是創生於美國的。他的詩歌雖瑕瑜互見，卻有極雅馴的著作，非任何其他美國詩人所能及。他又是短篇小說的創造人。他的短篇小說，據他自己說(約在一八四四年)有七十二篇，今選譯三篇。他的小說最能令讀者恐怖，大約是他的心境使然。他伉儷最篤。他的夫人因為唱歌炸了血管，他為此悲痛欲絕。其後她的血管又炸過幾次。他的夫人越病他越愛她。他因為一面盼望她能活，一面又恐怕她必死，使他更愁苦。他自己本來就是一個神經衰弱的人，因此就得了神經病——得了瘋病。他說他不

瘋的時候更愁苦。他於是飲酒吃鴉片，藉此解愁。他說他的仇人說他是飲酒飲到變作一個瘋子，他們只該說他是因為瘋了才飲酒的。他的夫人死於一八四七年，他的身體變作更衰弱，一八四九年他自己也死了，其實他是窮愁到凍餓而死的，野蠻的美國人卻諱莫如深，不肯說實話，方且忽略他，故意的誤會他，幸而英國人法國人救護他的名譽，到了今日，公論推他是美國的最偉大的富於天才的文學家。民國二十二年癸酉霜降日伍光建記。

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THE TELL-TALE HEART

True!—nervous¹—very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why *will* you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses—not destroyed—not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute.² I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily—how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted³ me day and night. Object there was none. Passion⁴ there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees—very gradually—I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

Now this is the point. You fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. But you should have seen *me*. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded—with what caution—with what foresight—with what dissimulation⁵ I went to

¹nervous 神經嬌嫩; 神經有病; 易受激動; 身體或文章雄健.
²acute 銳利; 尖利. ³haunted 纏住不走. ⁴Passion 憤怒. ⁵dis-
simulation 瞞騙.

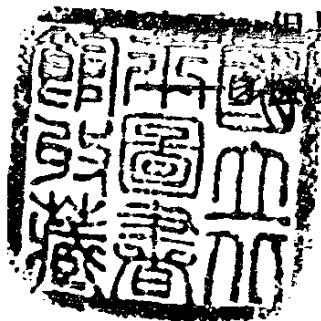
普的短篇小說

會揭露祕密的心臟

我從前與現在誠然是神經矯嫩——極其可怕的脆薄；但是你爲什麼要說我是個瘋子？這樣的神經病磨礪我的感覺——既不是毀了我的感覺——亦不是使我的感覺變作遲鈍。在全數官覺裏頭，我的聽官尤爲銳利。天上與地下的聲音，我全聽見。我聽見地獄裏的許多聲音。你怎麼能夠說我是瘋了？你聽呀！你看我能夠怎樣清楚的（原文作健康——譯者註）——怎樣鎮靜的把全篇故事告訴你。

我不能說這個意思初時是怎樣會進我的腦海的；但是一經概念這個意思，這個意思就日夜都纏住我。我卻並無目的。我又並不懷忿怒。我愛這個老人。他始終並不曾對不起我。他始終不曾侮辱我。我不想他的金錢。我想是他的眼睛，是他的眼睛！他有一隻禿鷲的眼——有一隻暗藍眼，其上有一層膜。無論什麼時候，他的眼一看我，我的血就變涼了；所以逐漸——很逐漸的——我就打定主意，要這個老人的命，從此永遠看不見那隻眼。

要點就在此。你卻誤以爲我是瘋了。瘋子不曉得什麼，但是從前你該看看我。你該看我進行得多麼聰明——小心——多麼有先見——用什麼瞞騙手段！在



work! I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before I killed him. And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it—oh so gently! And then, when I had made an opening sufficient for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, so that no light shone out, and then I thrust in my head. Oh, you would have laughed to see how cunningly I thrust it in! I moved it slowly—very, very slowly, so that I might not disturb the old man's sleep. It took me an hour to place my whole head within the opening so far that I could see him as he lay upon his bed. Ha!—would a madman have been so wise as this? And then, when my head was well in the room, I undid the lantern cautiously—oh, so cautiously—cautiously (for the hinges creaked)—I undid it just so much that a single thin ray fell upon the vulture eye. And this I did for seven long nights—every night just at midnight—but I found the eye always closed; and so it was impossible to do the work; for it was not the old man who vexed¹ me, but his Evil Eye. And every morning, when the day broke, I went boldly into the chamber, and spoke courageously to him, calling him by name in a hearty² tone, and inquiring how he had passed the night. So you see he would have been a very profound old man, indeed, to suspect that very night, just at twelve, I looked in upon him while he slept.

Upon the eighth night I was more than usually cautious in opening the door. A watch's minute hand moves more quickly than did mine. Never before that night, had I *felt* the extent of my own powers—of my sagacity. I could scarcely contain my feelings of triumph.³ To think that

¹vexed 使人難受; 使人不安. ²hearty 親熱. ³triumph 得意; 得意.

我快要殺這個老頭子之前的一個禮拜，我同他最要好，是向來所未有過的。每天晚上，約在夜半的時候，我轉他的門門，開了門——輕輕的開門！等到我慢慢的開門，足容我的頭伸進去的時候，我放進一個黑燈，是四圍全遮嚴的，不容光線出來的，隨後我才伸頭進去。呀！你假使看見我，你會笑我多麼巧妙的伸進頭去！我動我的頭動得慢——動得很慢很慢的，使我不必驚動老頭子睡覺。我要費一點鐘工夫，才把我的全個頭伸入門縫，只伸到我能看見他睡在他的牀上為止。哈！——一個瘋子會如我這樣明智的麼？等到我的頭很伸入屋裏的時候，我就很小心的打開我的燈，很小心很小心的打開（因為釘鉸響）——我只打開一點點，只許單獨一條薄光線落在那隻禿鶩眼上。我照了七個長夜——每晚都是大約在夜半——但是我看見那隻眼總是閉的；所以不能動手；使我難受的，並不是這個老人，不過是他的惡眼。每天早上當天破曉的時候，我大膽走入他的臥室，大膽同他說話，用親熱腔調喊他的名，還問候他昨晚可睡得好。假使他疑我每天晚上約在夜半，當他睡着的時候我進來看他，你就可以曉得他當然是一個城府極深的老人。

到了第八天晚上，我比向來更小心開門。我的手動得很慢，一個表的指分針比我的手動得更快。在今天晚上之前，我一向未曾覺得我自己的能力——我自己的敏捷的程度。我幾乎按不住我的得意。只要想到我在那裏，逐漸

there I was, opening the door, little by little, and he not even to dream of my secret deeds or thoughts. I fairly chuckled¹ at the idea; and perhaps he heard me; for he moved on the bed suddenly, as if startled.² Now you may think that I drew back—but no. His room was as black as pitch with the thick darkness (for the shutters were close fastened, through fear of robbers), and so I knew that he could not see the opening of the door, and I kept pushing it on steadily, steadily.

I had my head in, and was about to open the lantern, when my thumb slipped upon the tin fastening, and the old man sprang up in bed, crying out—"Who's there?"

I kept quite still and said nothing. For a whole hour I did not move a muscle, and in the meantime I did not hear him lie down. He was still sitting up in the bed listening;—just as I have done, night after night, hearkening to the death watches in the wall.

Presently I heard a slight groan, and I knew it was the groan of mortal terror. It was not a groan of pain or grief—oh, no!—it was the low stifled sound that arises from the bottom of the soul when overcharged with awe. I knew the sound well. Many a night, just at midnight, when all the world slept, it has welled³ up from my own bosom, deepening, with its dreadful echo, the terrors that distracted me. I say I knew it well. I knew what the old man felt, and pitied him, although I chuckled at heart. I knew that he had been lying awake ever since the first slight noise, when he had turned in the bed. His fears had been ever since growing upon him. He had been trying to fancy them causeless, but could not. He had

¹ chuckled 嘻; 掩嘴笑; 偷笑. ² startled 受驚. ³ welled up 冒出; 噴出.

逐漸的開門，他還夢想不到我的祕密動作，或思想；我想到這裏幾乎要掩嘴笑；還許他聽見我；因為他好像受了驚，忽然在牀上動。我說到這裏，你也許以為我往後退——我卻並不退後。（他因為怕有盜賊，把窗戶緊緊的關閉），所以他的屋裏是墨漆黑的，所以我曉得他不能看見門開，我不停的慢慢慢慢的推門。

我已經伸進頭去，正在要打開我的燈，不料我的大拇指在錫製的釘鉸閃了一下，老頭子在牀上跳起來，喊道——『誰在那裏？』

我不動不響。足有一整點鐘我不會動我的筋骸，當下我並不會聽見他躺下。他還坐在牀上留心細聽；——同我一樣，一夜復一夜的，細聽牆上的無聲響的聲音。

過了一會我聽見微微的呻吟聲，我曉得是精食恐怖的呻吟。這不是痛苦的或憂愁的呻吟——呀，不是的！——這是低微的被壓下去的聲音，當人被驚怖所塞滿時，從靈魂的深處發出來的。我很曉得這樣的聲音。當全世界都睡着了的時，有幾個晚上，正在夜的半的時，這樣的聲音從我自己的心裏冒出來，連同其可怕的迴響，使其令我迷惑的恐怖變作很深。我說我深曉得這種聲音。我雖然曉得這個老頭子的感覺，我雖然可憐他，我的心裏卻在那裏偷笑。我曉得他自從聽見初次的微響以來，他就在牀上躺着不能睡。他從此以後就逐漸怕我。他曾嘗試思維這都是無理由的害怕，卻做不到。他曾對自己說道，——

been saying to himself—"It is nothing but the wind in the chimney—it is only a mouse crossing the floor," or "it is merely a cricket which has made a single chirp." Yes, he had been trying to comfort himself with these suppositions: but he had found all in vain. *All in vain*, because Death, in approaching him had stalked¹ with his black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim. And it was the mournful influence of the unperceived shadow that caused him to feel—although he neither saw nor heard—to *feel* the presence of my head within the room.

When I had waited a long time, very patiently, without hearing him lie down, I resolved to open a little—a very, very little crevice in the lantern. So I opened it—you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily—until, at length a simple dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye.

It was open—wide, wide open—and I grew furious as I gazed upon it. I saw it with perfect distinctness—all a dull blue, with a hideous veil over it that chilled the very marrow in my bones; but I could see nothing else of the old man's face or person: for I had directed the ray as if by instinct, precisely upon the damned spot.

And have I not told you that what you mistake for madness is but over acuteness of the senses?—now, I say, there came to my ears a low, dull, quick sound, such as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I knew *that* sound well, too. It was the beating of the old man's heart. It increased my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage.

But even yet I refrained and kept still. I scarcely breathed. I held the lantern motionless. I tried how

¹ Stalked 偷偷的走.

『這非別的，不過是牆爐的風聲，——不過是一隻小老鼠在地板上走過，不然，不過是一隻蟋蟀，只叫了一聲。』是呀，他正在那裏嘗試用這幾樣的猜度以自慰：但是他見得全屬無用。全屬無用；因為當「死」走近他的時候，「死」的黑影偷偷的先走，籠罩住這個犧牲。原是他所不覺得的影子的淒慘潛力使他覺得（雖然他的眼不會見，他的耳不會聞）我的頭在屋裏。

等到我等了許久，很耐煩的等，並不聽見他躺下，我就決意打開我的燈，露一條很小很小的縫。我就是這樣打開——你不能想像我是怎樣偷偷的打開——等到後來，有單簡的一線淡光，如同蛛絲一般，從燈縫射出來，落在那隻禿鷲眼上。

那隻禿鷲眼是睜開的——睜得很大——我看見這隻眼，我就變作狂怒。我看見那隻眼看得極清楚——是一片暗藍色，其上有一層可怕難看的膜，使我的骨髓都變冷了；但是我看不見老人的面或老人的身：因為我好像由於本能的，把燈光很準的，照在個那受天譴的地點。

我不是曾經告訴你，說你所誤以為瘋狂病，不過是感覺尖利麼？——我說現在我的兩耳聽見一種低而啞的快聲，好像是一個表裏在棉花裏頭的聲音。我也深曉得這種聲音。這是老人心臟跳動（亦作脈搏——譯者註）的聲音。我聽了使我更加狂怒如同鼓聲激動軍人奮勇一般。

但是我還不動手，站着不動。我幾乎不呼吸。我抓住燈，不動。我接連嘗試怎樣能夠手不顫，動的把燈光照在

steadily¹ I could maintain the ray upon the eye. Meantime the hellish tattoo² of the heart increased. It grew quicker and quicker, and louder and louder every instant. The old man's terror *must* have been extreme! It grew louder, I say, louder every moment!—do you mark me well? I have told you that I am nervous: so I am. And now at the dead hour of the night,³ amid the dreadful silence of that old house, so strange a noise as this excited me to uncontrollable terror. Yet, for some minutes longer I refrained and stood still. But the beating grew louder, louder! I thought the heart must burst. And now a new anxiety seized me—the sound would be heard by a neighbor! The old man's hour had come! With a loud yell, I threw open the lantern and leaped into the room. He shrieked once—once only. In an instant I dragged him to the floor, and pulled the heavy bed over him. I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done. But, for many minutes, the heart beat on with a muffled⁴ sound. This, however, did not vex me; it would not be heard through the wall. At length it ceased. The old man was dead. I removed the bed and examined the corpse. Yes, he was stone, stone dead. I placed my hand upon the heart and held it there many minutes. There was no pulsation. He was stone dead. His eye would trouble me no more. . . .

When I had made an end of these labors, it was four o'clock—still dark as midnight. As the bell sounded the hour, there came a knocking at the street door. I went down to open it with a light heart,—for what had I *now* to fear? There entered three men, who introduced themselves, with perfect suavity,⁵ as officers of the police. A

¹steadily 手定不顛動. ²tattoo 撲通撲通的聲響. ³dead hour of the night 夜深. ⁴muffled 有東西遮蔽住. ⁵suavity 客氣.

眼上。當下心臟的可怕的跳動增加。時時刻刻變作更快更響。那個老人的恐怖必定到了極端！我說，心臟跳動的聲音越變越響！——你注意我這句話麼？我曾告訴你我的神經嬌嫩。我其實是這樣。這時候正是夜深，我正在沉埋於這所舊房子的可怕的寂靜中，這樣怪異的聲音，激動我變作不能節制的恐怖。但是再有幾分鐘，我還不動手，還站着不動。但是脈搏變作更響，越變越響！我想那個心臟必定炸裂。到了這個時候，一種新的着急抓住我——我恐怕隣居會聽見這樣聲音！老人的死期到了！我大喊一聲，打開我的燈，跳入屋裏。他喊了一次——只喊了一次。我立刻拖他到地板上，拉那張重的牀壓住他。隨後我看見這件事體已經做到這個地步，我就很高興的微笑。但是有好幾分鐘，那個心臟還在那裏帶着遮蔽住的聲音跳動。這卻並不使我不安；因為隔牆是聽不見的。後來跳動聲音停止了。老人是死了。我挪開那張牀，細驗屍體。他是的確死了。我把手放在心臟上，放在那裏好幾分鐘。心臟並不跳動了。他是實實在在的死了。他的眼不會再使我見了害怕。

（他先把屍首斬作幾塊就藏在地板下，藏得很巧妙的，毫無痕跡——譯者註）

等到我把這許多事體辦完之後，是四點鐘——還是同夜半那樣黑。正打四點鐘的時候，有人敲街門。我心裏很安然的，走下去開門，——因為我現在還有什麼可怕的？有三個人走進來，十分客氣的，自稱為警員。他們說有

shriek had been heard by a neighbor during the night; suspicion of foul play¹ had been aroused; information had been lodged at the police office, and they (the officers) had been deputed to search the premises.

I smiled,—for *what* had I to fear? I bade the gentlemen welcome. The shriek, I said, was my own in a dream. The old man, I mentioned, was absent in the country. I took my visitors all over the house. I bade them search—search *well*. I lead them, at length, to *his* chamber. I showed them his treasures, secure, undisturbed. In the enthusiasm of my confidence, I brought chairs into the room, and desired them *here* to rest from their fatigues, while I myself, in the wild audacity of my perfect triumph, placed my own seat upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim.

The officers were satisfied. My *manner* had convinced them. I was singularly at ease. They sat, and while I answered cheerily, they chatted of familiar things. But, ere long, I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone. My head ached, and I fancied a ringing in my ears: but still they sat and still chatted. The ringing became more distinct:—it continued and became more distinct: I talked more freely to get rid of the feeling: but it continued and gained definiteness—until, at length, I found that the noise was *not* within my ears.

No doubt I now grew *very* pale,—but I talked more fluently, and with a heightened voice. Yet the sound increased—and what could I do? It was a *low, dull, quick, sound—much such a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton*. I gasped for breath—and yet the officers heard

¹ foul play 犯法的事; 害人的事.

一個隣居晚上聽見一聲叫喊；疑心出了犯法的事；告到警察局，他們奉派來搜查這所房子。

我微笑，——因為我有什麼可怕的？我請他們進來。我說，那一聲叫喊，是我自己在夢中叫喊。我說老頭子下鄉去了，不在家。我領我的客人們到處看過。我請他們搜——請他們好好的搜。後來我領他們到他的臥室。我把他的金銀財寶給他們看，都放得安安穩穩，無人動過。我深信他們不會曉得，我就很熱心的從他處搬幾把椅子進來，請他們就在這個屋子裏休息，當下我自己曉得我完全得勝，我就忘其所以，放膽把我自己的椅子放在收藏屍身的地點上。

警員們滿意。我的態度，使他們深信。我是異常的放心。他們坐下，當我很高興的答復時，他們閒談尋常的事。但是不久我覺得我自己逐漸變作臉無血色，想他們走。我覺得頭痛，我幻想我耳鳴：他們還坐在那裏，還在那裏閒談。耳鳴變作更清楚：——兩耳接連的鳴，變作更清楚：我更自由的談話，意在驅除這樣的感覺：但是兩耳不停的鳴，越鳴越清楚——等到後來，我覺得這樣的響聲不是在我的耳朵裏。

我的臉現在變作很灰白，這是無疑的了；——但是我說話說得更流利，說話的聲音更高。但是我所聽見的響聲變作更響——這時候我能作什麼？我所聽見的是低而啞的很快的響聲——很像裹在棉花裏頭的一個表的聲音。（讀者須參觀前文——譯者註）我張開大口呼吸——但

it not. I talked more quickly—more vehemently; but the noise steadily increased. I arose and argued about trifles, in a high key and with violent gesticulations; but the noise steadily increased. Why *would* they not be gone? I paced the floor to and fro with heavy strides, as if excited to fury by the observation of the men—but the noise steadily increased. Oh God! what *could* I do? I foamed—I raved—I swore! I swung the chair upon which I had been sitting, and grated it upon the boards, but the noise arose over all and continually increased. It grew louder—louder—*louder!* And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled. Was it possible they heard not? Almighty God!—no, no! They heard!—they suspected!—they *knew!*—they were making a mockery of my horror!—this I thought, and this I think. But anything was better than this agony! Anything was more tolerable than this derision! I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die! and now—again!—hark! louder! louder! louder! *louder!*

“Villains!” I shrieked, “dissemble no more! I admit the deed!—tear up the planks! here, here!—it is the beating of his hideous heart!”

THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM

Impia tortorum longos hic turba furores
Sanguinis innocui, non satiata, aluit.
Sospite nunc patria, fracto nunc funeris antro,
Mors ubi dira fuit vita salusque patent.

(Quatrain composed for the gates of a market to be erected upon the site of the Jacobin Club House at Paris.)

I was sick—sick unto death with that long agony; and when they at length unbound me, I was permitted to

三個警官卻聽不見。我說話說得更快——說得更熱烈；但是那種響聲不停的增加。我站起來，用很高的聲音與很激烈的狀態，辯論不相干的事；但是響聲還是不停的增加。他們爲什麼不走？我用很重的脚步走去，好像被這三個人的觀察所激惱——但是響聲不停的加大。上帝呀！我能作什麼？我嘴裏噴沫——我發狂——我詛罵！我搖動我所坐的椅子，用椅子磨擦地板，磨得格格有聲，還是不相干，響聲接連變作更大，蓋過全數其他聲音。響聲越變越大——越變越大！那三個人仍然閒談得很高興，還微笑。難道他們聽不見那響聲麼？上帝呀！——不是的，不是的！他們聽見——他們疑心——他們曉得！——他們看見我恐怖，在那裏嘲笑我！剛才我是這樣想，現在我還是這樣想。但是無論什麼痛苦，都比這樣的痛苦好！無論什麼都比這樣的嘲笑好受！我不能再忍受這樣詐僞的微笑！我覺得我必得大喊，不然就得死！現在更有聲響——聽呀！更響！更響！更響！更響！

我喊道，『奴才們！不要再裝假啦！我供認這件事！——挖起地板！在這裏挖；在這裏挖！——這是他的可怕的心臟的跳動響聲！』

深坑與鐘擺

我病了——我受了日久的極端痛苦，病到要死；後來他們鬆了我的綁，許我坐下，我覺得我的官覺捨我而去。

ait, I felt that my senses were leaving me. The sentence—the dread sentence of death—was the last of distinct accentuation which reached my ears. After that, the sound of the inquisitorial voices seemed merged in one dreamy indeterminate hum. It conveyed to my soul the idea of *revolution*—perhaps from its association in fancy with the burr of a millwheel. This only for a brief period; for presently I heard no more. Yet, for a while, I saw; but with how terrible an exaggeration!¹ I saw the lips of the black-robed judges. They appeared to me white—whiter than the sheet upon which I trace these words—and thin even to grotesqueness;² thin with the intensity of their expression of firmness—of immovable resolution—of stern contempt of human torture. I saw that the decrees of what to me was Fate, were still issuing from those lips. I saw them writhe with a deadly locution.³ I saw them fashion the syllables of my name; and I shuddered because no sound succeeded. I saw, too, for a few moments of delirious⁴ horror, the soft and nearly imperceptible waving of the sable draperies which enwrapped the walls of the apartment. And then my vision fell upon the seven tall candles upon the table. At first they wore the aspect of charity, and seemed white slender angels who would save me; but then, all at once, there came a most deadly nausea over my spirit, and I felt every fibre in my frame thrill as if I had touched the wire of a galvanic battery, while the angel forms became meaningless spectres, with heads of flame, and I saw that from them there would be no help. And then there stole into my fancy, like a rich musical note, the

¹exaggeration, 張大失真; 誇張過實. ²grotesqueness 奇形怪狀; 不成樣子. ³locution 說話. ⁴delirious 糊塗; 精神錯亂; 不省人事.

啦。我兩耳所聽見的最後的清楚聲音就是判辭——可怕的處死的判辭。此後我所聽見的審判異端的裁判員的聲音，好像混成一片，如在夢中的不清不楚的閶閶聲音。這種聲音使我心裏得着革命的意想——也許是由於這樣的聲音在我的想像中使我聯想到機翰的聲音。不過在很短的時間是這樣；因為不久我聽不見聲音了。但是有一會子工夫，我卻會看見；但是我所看見的是多麼可怕的一種張大失真的事！我看見穿黑袍子的裁判官們的嘴唇。從我看來，他們的嘴唇是白的——白過我在其上寫這幾句話的紙——薄到不成樣子；同他們的剛決——同他們的不能搖動的果斷——同他們的嚴厲的不顧人身所受的酷刑的極嚴重的神色相比，就變作那樣薄。我看見他們的兩唇還在那裏噴出我的罪名，自我看來，這樣的判辭就是要置我於死。我看見他們的嘴唇動，說致人於死的說話。我看見他們的嘴唇在那裏開闔伸縮要說我的名姓；因為無聲音相繼，我就發抖。當我在片刻間害怕到糊塗的時候，我還看見軟而幾乎看不見的蒙牆的黑色壁衣，在那裏搖動。後來我看掉上的七枝高蠟燭。初時這幾根蠟燭戴着慈善的面目，好像是會打救我的白而小的安琪兒；不料我心裏忽然覺得一陣可以致死的惡心，我就覺得好像我觸着電池的電線，通身無一纖維不發抖，同時那些安琪兒形像，全變作無意義的惡鬼，拿火光作頭，我就曉得他們不會救我。於是有思想偷入我的幻想裏頭，如同一種濃厚的樂音

thought of what sweet rest there must be in the grave. The thought came gently and stealthily, and it seemed long before it attained full appreciation; but just as my spirit came at length properly to feel and entertain it, the figures of the judges vanished, as if magically, from before me; the tall candles sank into nothingness; their flames went out utterly; the blackness of darkness supervened; all sensations appeared swallowed up in a mad rushing descent as of the soul into Hades.¹ Then silence, and stillness, and night were the universe.

I had swooned; but still will not say that all of consciousness was lost. What of it there remained I will not attempt to define, or even to describe; yet all was not lost. In the deepest slumber—no! In delirium—no! In a swoon—no! In death—no! even in the grave all is *not* lost. Else there is no immortality for man. Arousing from the most profound of slumbers, we break the gossamer web of *some* dream. Yet in a second afterward (so frail² may that web have been) we remember not that we have dreamed. In the return to life from the swoon there are two stages; first, that of the sense of mental or spiritual;³ secondly, that of the sense of physical,⁴ existence. It seems probable that if, upon reaching the second stage, we could recall the impressions of the first, we should find these impressions eloquent in memories of the gulf beyond. And that grief is—what? How at least shall we distinguish its shadows from those of the tomb? But if the impressions of what I have termed the first stage, are not, at will, recalled, yet, after long interval, do they not come unbidden, while we marvel whence they come? He who has never swooned, is

¹Hades 地府; 死人所歸的地方. ²frail 脆弱. ³spiritual 精神的; 心靈的. ⁴physical, 體魄的.

一樣，使我想到在墳墓裏頭必定有可樂的安息。這個思想是慢慢的與偷偷的走入我的幻想中，我像經過許久才能夠完全領略；但是等到後來我的精神剛會正式的覺得與存養着這樣思想的時候，那幾個裁判官的形影好像是演魔術一般，就不見了；高蠟燭沉沒了；燭光全滅了；只看見一片黑暗彌漫；無論什麼感覺都好像被一陣下墜，如同靈魂墮入地府一般所吞沒了。隨後就是一片靜寂，一片長夜。

我已經暈倒了；我卻不說我的知覺是全失了。我既不嘗試劃清界限，亦不實寫，我還有剩下未失的什麼知覺；只曉得我的知覺並非全失。我是酣睡麼——不是的！我是精神錯亂麼——不是的！我是暈倒麼——不是的！我是死了麼——不是的！即使是埋在墳裏，也不是無論什麼都全失了。不然的話，人類就無所謂長生不死。我們從最深沉的酣睡醒來，我們就打破某種夢境的蛛絲網。但是一秒鐘之後（這樣的網是很脆薄的）我們就忘記了我們做過夢。我們從暈倒復活的時候，原有兩個程站；第一站，得回精神上的知覺；第二站，得回體魄的知覺。據我看來，很許是當我們到了第二站的時候，我們假使能夠記得第一站的印像，我們就會見得這許多印像，很能使我們記得那邊空處的事。那邊的空處是什麼？至少我們也要曉得我們怎樣辨別什麼是該空處的影子，什麼是墳墓的影子？但若我所謂第一站的諸多印像是不能由我們自主的追憶，然而過了許久之後，這許多印像不是會不求其來而自來，我們卻在那裏驚奇，是從那裏來的？凡是向來未嘗暈過去不省

not he who finds strange palaces and wildly familiar faces in coals that glow; is not he who beholds floating in mid-air the sad visions that the many may not view; is not he who ponders over the perfume of some novel flower—is not he whose brain grows bewildered with the meaning of some musical cadence which has never before arrested his attention. . . .

So far, I had not opened my eyes. I felt that I lay upon my back, unbound. I reached out my hand, and it fell heavily upon something damp and hard. There I suffered it to remain for many minutes, while I strove to imagine where and *what* I could be. I longed, yet dared not to employ my vision. I dreaded the first glance at objects around me. It was not that I feared to look upon things horrible, but that I grew aghast lest there should be *nothing* to see. At length, with a wild desperation at heart, I quickly unclosed my eyes. My worst thoughts, then, were confirmed. The blackness of eternal night encompassed me. I struggled for breath. The intensity of the darkness seemed to oppress and stifle me. The atmosphere was intolerably close. I still lay quietly, and made effort to exercise my reason. I brought to mind the inquisitorial proceedings, and attempted from that point to deduce¹ my real condition. The sentence had passed; and it appeared to me that a very long interval of time had since elapsed. Yet not for a moment did I suppose myself actually dead. Such a supposition, notwithstanding what we read in fiction, is altogether inconsistent with real existence;—but where and in what state was I? The condemned to death, I knew, perished usually at the *autos-da-fé*,² and one of

¹ deduce 外推; 由已知推未知. ² autos-da-fé 審判異端法庭的判辭.

人事的人，是不會在發光的煤中看見奇異的宮殿，與狂亂的見慣的面目；不會看見許多人所不看見的空中的悽慘境致；不會尋繹一朵新花的香味——這種人的腦海遇着從前一向所絕不注意的音樂，後來聽了會被其意義所迷惑的。（作者善寫他的幻見——譯者註）

計到這個時候為止，我還未睜開我的眼。我覺得鬆了綁，面向上的躺着。我伸手，我的手很重的墜下來，墜在濕而硬的東西上。我隨着我的手放在那裏幾分鐘，我一面努力想像，我在什麼地方，我是個什麼。我久已想用眼觀看，我卻不敢。我怕初次睜眼所看見左右前後的事物。我並非怕看見可怕的事物，我所恐怖的是無物可觀看。後來我心裏帶着一種狂亂的拚命，我就快快睜開兩眼。到了這個時候就證實我所最恐怖的思想。永久長夜的黑暗包圍我。我爲呼吸而掙扎。極深沉的黑暗好像逼壓我，且使我喘不出氣。空氣是受不了那樣的悶。我還是安安靜靜的躺下，努力運用我的理性。我追憶審判異端的法庭的進行辦法，且從這點外抽我的實在情形。判我的罪名是已經判定了；從我看來可像是已經過了許久。我卻並無一刻臆度我自己是實在死了。無論我們在小說裏頭讀過這樣的事，其實這樣的臆度完全與實在的閱歷不符；——但是我要曉得我現時在那裏，我所處的是什麼情形？我曉得這樣的法庭一

these had been held on the very night of the day of my trial. Had I been remanded to my dungeon, to await the next sacrifice, which would not take place for many months? This I at once saw could not be. Victims had been in immediate demand. Moreover, my dungeon, as well as all the condemned cells at Toledo, had stone floors, and light was not altogether excluded.

A fearful idea now suddenly drove the blood in torrents upon my heart, and for a brief period, I once more relapsed into insensibility. Upon recovering, I at once started to my feet, trembling convulsively in every fibre. I thrust my arms wildly above and around me in all directions. I felt nothing; yet dreaded to move a step, lest I should be impeded by the walls of a *tomb*. Perspiration burst from every pore, and stood in cold big beads upon my forehead. The agony of suspense¹ grew at length intolerable, and I cautiously moved forward, with my arms extended, and my eyes straining from their sockets, in the hope of catching some faint ray of light. I proceeded for many paces; but still all was blackness and vacancy. I breathed more freely. It seemed evident that mine was not, at least, the most hideous of fates.

And now, as I still continued to step cautiously onward, there came thronging upon my recollection a thousand vague rumors of the horrors of Toledo. Of the dungeons there had been strange things narrated—fables I had always deemed them—but yet strange, and too ghastly to repeat, save in a whisper. Was I left to perish of starvation in this subterranean world of darkness; or what fate, perhaps even more fearful, awaited me? That the result would

¹suspense 不知後事如何的着急.

定了罪，罪人居多就處死，我受審的當天晚上有人受了死刑。難道他們送我回監牢，聽候下次的犧牲麼？下次要過幾個月才執行。我立刻曉得這是不能的。他們立刻要許多犧牲。況且我的監牢，及在妥力度（Toledo）的全數死囚的監牢，都是有石地板的，並不是完全無光的。

一個可怕的意想現在忽然一陣一陣的逐我的血到我的心臟，在一個短時間，我又暈倒不省人事。我一醒過來，立刻跳起來，渾身發抖。我如瘋如狂的向上下左右前後伸我的手。我不覺得有什麼東西；我卻不敢動一步，恐怕我會被一個墳的牆所阻。我的毛管無一不噴出汗來，額上有許多大而冷的汗珠子。這樣我不知後事如何的痛苦，越久越利害，後來使我忍受不了，我就很小心的向前挪步，兩臂伸出，努力使我的兩眼從眼眶突出，盼望看見暗淡的光。我向前走好幾步；還是空的，還是黑的。我呼吸得較為自由。這就表現我的惡運至少也不是最可怕的。

我現時仍然接連小心向前踏步，我就想起紛至沓來的妥力度的令人驚怖的事體的一千種的空泛謠言。我聽人說過監牢裏的諸多怪事——我常當這樣的故事全是謠言——這些謠言是奇怪的，又太過可怕，我們不可大聲說，只可附耳低聲的說。他們把我監在地下的黑暗世界，難道是要餓死我麼；不然，是什麼更惡的命運在那裏等

be death, and a death of more than customary bitterness, I knew too well the character of my judges to doubt. The mode and the hour were all that occupied or distracted me.

My outstretched hands at length encountered some solid obstruction. It was a wall, seemingly of stone masonry—very smooth, slimy, and cold. I followed it up; stepping with all the careful distrust with which certain antique narratives had inspired¹ me. This process, however, afforded me no means of ascertaining the dimensions of my dungeon; as I might make its circuit, and return to the point whence I set out, without being aware of the fact so perfectly uniform seemed the wall. I therefore sought the knife which had been in my pocket, when led into the inquisitorial chamber; but it was gone; my clothes had been exchanged for a wrapper of coarse serge. I had thought of forcing the blade in some minute crevice of the masonry, so as to identify² my point of departure. The difficulty, nevertheless, was but trivial; although, in the disorder of my fancy, it seemed at first insuperable. I tore a part of the hem from the robe and placed the fragment at full length, and at right angles to the wall. In groping my way around the prison, I could not fail to encounter this rag upon completing the circuit. So, at least I thought: but I had not counted upon the extent of the dungeon, or upon my own weakness. The ground was moist and slippery. I staggered onward for some time, when I stumbled and fell. My excessive fatigue induced me to remain prostrate; and sleep soon overtook me as I lay.

Upon awaking, and stretching forth an arm, I found beside me a loaf and a pitcher with water. I was too much

¹inspired 激發. ²identify 表明是一樣或證實是一樣.

我？我深知我的裁判官們的性情，我就很曉得結果必定是處死，還要比尋常的死，死得更痛苦。使我想着，或使我惶恐的，就是怎麼樣死法，什麼時候死。

我所伸出的兩手後來碰着硬的東西。碰着的是牆，好像是石牆——很光，很黏，很冷的。我用手扶着牆四面的走；我讀過古時的記載，就使我很小心很疑惑的走。這樣的辦法，卻使我無法曉得我的監牢的大小；因為我只管走了一周，走回到我最初出發的地點，我卻不能曉得就是這個地點；因為四圍的牆好像是完全一律，無所分別的。所以我就要找當我被領入法庭時在我衣袋裏頭的刀子；原來刀子是沒有了，他們脫了我的衣服，換上一件粗嘍吱袍子。我原想用力把刀尖戳入石牆的小縫，作一個起點的記號當我心忙意亂的時候，這樣的為難雖然好像是不能推倒的，其實不算是很為難的。我於是撕下一部分的衣邊，把這條衣邊放得直直的，與石牆作一直角。當我瞎摸，繞牢行走的時候，我走完一周，不能不碰着這條碎布。至少我是這樣想：不料我不會計及這所牢的大小，或不會計及我自己的氣力衰弱。地下又濕又滑。我勉強努力向前走了一會子，我就跌倒在地。我過於疲倦，使我倒在地下不起來；不久我就睡着了。

當我睡醒的時候，我伸直一隻手，我摸着身邊有一個麵包有一瓶水。我太乏了，不會反省這件事，急於吃喝過。

exhausted to reflect upon this circumstance, but ate and drank with avidity. Shortly afterward, I resumed my tour around the prison, and with much toil, came at last upon the fragment of the serge. Up to the period when I fell had counted fifty-two paces, and upon resuming my walk, I had counted forty-eight more;—when I arrived at the rag. There were in all, then, a hundred paces; and, admitting two paces to the yard, I presumed the dungeon to be fifty yards in circuit. I had met, however, with many angles in the wall, and thus I could form no guess at the shape of the vault; for vault I could not help supposing it to be.

I had little object—certainly no hope—in these researches; but a vague curiosity prompted me to continue them. Quitting the wall, I resolved to cross the area of the enclosure. At first I proceeded with extreme caution, for the floor, although seemingly of solid material, was treacherous¹ with slime. At length, however, I took courage, and did not hesitate to step firmly; endeavoring to cross in as direct a line as possible. I had advanced some ten or twelve paces in this manner, when the remnant of the torn hem of my robe became entangled between my legs. I stepped on it, and fell violently on my face.

In the confusion attending my fall, I did not immediately apprehend a somewhat startling circumstance, which yet, in a few seconds afterward, and while I still lay prostrate, arrested my attention. It was this—my chin rested upon the floor of the prison, but my lips and the upper portion of my head, although seemingly at a less elevation than the chin, touched nothing. At the same time my forehead

¹treacherous 會令人跌倒的。

了——會子，我重新繞牢走，走得很辛苦，後來居然碰着那條碎布。計到我倒地的時候爲止，我會計過我走了五十二步，當我再走的時候，我計過又走了四十八步；——就走到那條碎布。兩共是一百步；我拿兩步作一碼計，我就猜度這個監牢周圍是五十碼長。但是我摸着牆上有好幾個角，所以我猜不着這個地牢的形狀；因爲我不能不猜這是個地牢。

我這樣的研究並無多少目的——確無什麼希望；不過是一種空泛的好奇，使我接連研究。我不循牆走啦，我決計在牢裏的地面上橫走。初時我是極其小心的前進，因爲地面雖然好像是堅硬物料造成的，卻是濕而軟的，一不小心就要跌倒。後來我壯着膽，毫不遲疑的踏實脚步走；努力盡我的所能，走一條直線。我就是這樣走了十步或十二步，我從袍上撕下來的碎布，絆我的兩腳。我在上面走，跌倒在地，跌得很利害，面向地，背朝天。

當我跌倒很慌亂的時候，我並不曾立刻曉得有一件令人驚訝的事，但是過了幾秒鐘之後，當我還是躺在地下的時候，卻令我注意。令我注意的事如下——我的下頷靠着監牢的地板，但是我的兩脣和我的頭的上部，雖然好像比我的下頷低，卻並不靠着什麼東西。同時我的額好像泡

seemed bathed in a clammy vapor, and the peculiar smell of decayed fungus arose to my nostrils. I put forward my arm, and shuddered to find that I had fallen at the very brink of a circular pit, whose extent, of course, I had no means of ascertaining at the moment. Groping about the masonry just below the margin, I succeeded in dislodging a small fragment, and let it fall into the abyss. For many seconds I hearkened to its reverberations as it dashed against the sides of the chasm in its descent; at length there was a sullen plunge into water, succeeded by loud echoes. At the same moment there came a sound resembling the quick opening, and as rapid closing of a door overhead, while a faint gleam of light flashed suddenly through the gloom, and as suddenly faded away.

I saw clearly the doom which had been prepared for me, and congratulated myself upon the timely accident by which I had escaped. Another step before my fall, and the world had seen me no more. And the death just avoided was of that very character which I had regarded as fabulous and frivolous in the tales respecting the Inquisition.¹ To the victims of its tyranny, there was the choice of death with its direct physical agonies, or death with its most hideous moral horrors. I had been reserved for the latter. By long suffering my nerves had been unstrung, until I trembled at the sound of my own voice, and had become in every respect a fitting subject for the species of torture which awaited me.

Shaking in every limb, I groped my way back to the wall; resolving there to perish rather than risk the terrors of the wells, of which my imagination now pictured many

¹ Inquisition 審判異端的法庭.

在濕冷的水氣裏，我的鼻子嗅着腐敗的菌類的特別氣味。我伸出我的手，才曉得我跌在一個圓坑的邊上，我就發抖，當時我自然無法曉得這個圓坑有多少大。我在坑邊下瞎摸石作，居然拆下一小碎塊，摔在坑裏。我有好幾秒鐘細聽碎石下墜的碰着坑邊所發生的迴響；後來聽見碎石入水的陰沉聲音，繼以很大聲的迴響。同時我聽見一種聲音好像是頭上開門及關門都是很快的聲音，同時有一片暗淡的光忽然在這黑暗地方閃了一閃，又忽然滅了。

我才明白他們預備害我的辦法，我方且慶幸我及時跌倒，使我免了一死。我若向前再走一步，我就墜入深坑，世界就不復見我這個人了。我讀過許多審判異端的法庭的處死故事，我從前以為是造謠言，以為是不足信，不料是真的，我所倖免的一死，就是其一。受酷刑的犧牲們，可以選擇怎樣送命的方法，或擇身體受最痛苦的死，或擇精神受最可怕的恐怖的死。留給我受的，就是第二種的死。我受苦日久，我的腦筋變薄弱了（原文作放鬆——譯者註），等到後來我聽見我自己的聲音就會發抖，無論從什麼方面看來我已經變作適合於受留以有待的那種酷刑。

我一面手脚發抖，慢慢的瞎摸走回石牆；我決計在牆邊等死，也不冒墜入深坑的可怕的危險，我的想像想到牢

in various positions about the dungeon. In other conditions of mind I might have had courage to end my misery at once by a plunge into one of these abysses; but now I was the veriest of cowards. Neither could I forget what I had read of these pits—that the *sudden* extinction of life formed no part of their most horrible plan.

Agitation of spirit kept me awake for many long hours; but at length I again slumbered. Upon arousing, I found by my side, as before, a loaf and a pitcher of water. A burning thirst consumed me, and I emptied the vessel at a draught. It must have been drugged;¹ for scarcely had I drunk, before I became irresistibly drowsy. A deep sleep fell upon me—a sleep like that of death. How long it lasted of course, I know not; but when, once again, I unclosed my eyes, the objects around me were visible. By a wild sulphurous lustre, the origin of which I could not at first determine, I was enabled to see the extent and aspect of the prison.

In its size I had been greatly mistaken. The whole circuit of its walls did not exceed twenty-five yards. For some minutes this fact occasioned me a world of vain trouble; vain indeed! for what could be of less importance, under the terrible circumstances which environed me, than the mere dimensions of my dungeon? But my soul took a wild interest in trifles, and I busied myself in endeavors to account for² the error I had committed in my measurement. The truth at length flashed upon me. In my first attempt at exploration I had counted fifty-two paces, up to the period when I fell; I must then have been within a pace or two of the fragment of serge; in fact, I had nearly

¹ drugged 放藥; 放毒. ² to account for 解說.

裏有好幾個深坑，分布各處。假使此時我的心境不是這樣，我就許有膽子跳入一個深坑，立刻使我的愁慘告終；但是現在我是一個真儒夫。況且我不能忘記我所讀過的關於這樣深坑的故事——書上說過，他們致人於死的方法是極可怕的，他們要人慢慢死，不要人忽然就死了。

我的精神受了驚擾，我有許久都不能睡；後來我又睡着了。當我睡醒的時候，我又在我身邊摸着一個麵包一瓶水，同前次一樣。我的渴火如焚，我一氣把水喝完了。這瓶水裏頭必定放了藥；因為我才飲完，就變作不能抵抗的困倦。我就酣睡——睡到同死一般。我自然不曉得我睡了多久；但是當我又醒的時候，我能看見四圍的物件。一片紛亂的硫磺光使我能夠看見這個牢有多麼大，是什麼形狀，我初時卻不能決定這樣的光是從那裏來的。

我很猜錯了牢的大小。石牆的全周不過二十五碼。這件事實，在幾分鐘內，使我發生很多的無謂的煩難；實在是無謂！因為我既被許多可怕的环境所困，我的監牢的大小，能夠有什麼關係？但是我的靈魂非常的注意於不相干的事，我就忙於努力要解說我的測量為什麼錯了。我後來忽然明白了。當我第一次測勘的時候，我計到我跌倒的時候為止，是走了五十二步；我必定是離那條碎布不過是一兩步；其實我已經幾乎走了地牢的一周。隨後我睡着

performed the circuit of the vault. I then slept, and upon awaking, I must have returned upon my steps—thus supposing the circuit nearly double what it actually was. My confusion of mind prevented me from observing that I began my tour with the wall to the left, and ended it with the wall to the right.

I had been deceived, too, in respect to the shape of the enclosure. In feeling my way I had found many angles, and thus deduced an idea of great irregularity; so potent is the effect of total darkness upon one arousing from lethargy or sleep! The angles were simply those of a few slight depressions, or niches, at odd intervals. The general shape of the prison was square. What I had taken for masonry seemed now to be iron, or some other metal, in huge plates, whose sutures or joints occasioned the depression. The entire surface of this metallic enclosure was rudely daubed in all the hideous and repulsive devices to which the charnel superstition of the monks has given rise. The figures of fiends in aspects of menace, with skeleton forms, and other more really fearful images, overspread and disfigured the walls. I observed that the outlines of these monstrosities were sufficiently distinct, but that the colors seemed faded and blurred, as if from the effects of a damp atmosphere. I now noticed the floor, too, which was of stone. In the center yawned the circular pit from whose jaws I had escaped; but it was the only one in the dungeon.

All this I saw indistinctly and by much effort; for my personal condition had been greatly changed during slumber. I now lay upon my back, and at full length, on a species of low framework of wood. To this I was securely bound by a long strap resembling a surcingle. It passed in

了，當我醒後，必定會回頭走——所以會臆度周圍比實數加倍。我心亂，使我不會留意我起首周行的時候牆在我的左邊，走完的時候，牆在我右。

牢的形象，我又猜錯了。當我摸着走的時候，我碰着好幾個角，所以使我推得牢形是不整齊的；倦極或酣睡之後醒來，只看見一片完全的黑暗，這樣的效果是很有力的呀！那許多角其實不過是在相離或遠或近的幾個稍微凹入的地方，或壁龕。地牢的大概形象是四方的。我初時以為是石牆，現在看來好像是鐵壁，不然就是其他金類製的，是大塊金類的板造成的，凹入的地方就是合縫或鬪筩的地方。這個鐵筩的全面畫滿許多可怕的及令人不敢看的形狀，這是和尚們遵信骷髏或枯骨所想出來的。牆上畫的是惡鬼作嚇人的狀態，有許多骷髏，還有其他更為實在可怕的形狀。我看見這些奇形怪狀的輪廓是清楚的，顏色不是變暗淡，就是剝落了，這好像是潮濕的結果。現在我才看出地板是石的。中間就是圓的深坑，在那裏張開大口，我倖免被其所吞噬；但是牢裏只有這一個深坑。

我很費事才看見這許多東西，卻看得不清楚；因為當我睡熟的時候，我的身體大改變了。我現在直直的仰面躺下，躺在一種低的木架上。他們用一條像馬肚帶的長皮條把我很結實的綁在架上。這條皮帶在我身上及四肢繞

many convolutions about my limbs and body, leaving at liberty only my head, and my left arm to such extent that I could, by dint of much exertion, supply myself with food from an earthen dish which lay by my side on the floor. I saw, to my horror, that the pitcher had been removed. I say to my horror; for I was consumed with intolerable thirst. This thirst it appeared to be the design of my persecutors to stimulate: for the food in the dish was meat pungently seasoned.

Looking upward, I surveyed the ceiling of my prison. It was some thirty or forty feet overhead, and constructed much as the side walls. In one of its panels a very singular figure riveted my whole attention. It was the painted figure of Time as he is commonly represented, save that, in lieu of a scythe, he held what, at a casual glance, I supposed to be the pictured image of a huge pendulum such as we see on antique clocks. There was something, however, in the appearance of this machine which caused me to regard it more attentively. While I gazed directly upward at it (for its position was immediately over my own) I fancied that I saw it in motion. In an instant afterward the fancy was confirmed. Its sweep was brief, and of course slow. I watched it for some minutes, somewhat in fear, but more in wonder. Wearied at length with observing its dull movement, I turned my eyes upon the other objects in the cell.

A slight noise attracted my notice, and, looking to the floor, I saw several enormous rats traversing it. They had issued from the well, which lay just within view to my right. Even then, while I gazed, they came up in troops, hurriedly, with ravenous eyes, allured by the scent of the

了幾周，只剩我的頭不綁，只剩我的左手不綁，使我能夠用力伸手自取食物，這是裝在一個陶製碟子上，放在我身邊的地板上。我一看那瓶水拿走了，我很恐怖。我說我恐怖；因為我被受不了的渴火所焚燒。好像是使我受酷刑的人們有意使我發渴的；因為碟子裏的食物是鹹辣的肉。

我抬頭看，測量我的監牢的天花板。牢頂有三四十尺高，很與邊牆的造法相同。在一塊護板上畫了一個極其奇怪的人形，使我全副精神注意在這個東西。所畫的是平常代表時間的神，並不手執鎌刀，卻執另外一種東西，我隨便一看，猜是一個大鐘擺的畫像，有如舊鐘上的鐘擺。但是這架機器有點特別，使我更注意細看。當我直接向上看的時候（因為這件東西剛好在我的頭上）我幻想這個東西在那裏動。一會子之後，我幻想證實了。這件東西所擺過的地方是短的，自然是擺得慢的。我細看幾分鐘，多少有點害怕，卻帶着更多的詫異。後來我看這樣的無趣味的擺動看到疲倦了，我掉過我的兩眼看牢裏的其他物件。

一陣輕微的響聲使我注意，我向地板一看，看見幾隻非常大的老鼠在地下走過。他們是從在我的右手我剛好看見的深坑跑出來的。當我一面看的時候，他們成羣的匆

meat. From this it required much effort and attention to scare them away.

It might have been half an hour, perhaps even an hour (for I could take but imperfect note of time) before I again cast my eyes upward. What I then saw confounded and amazed me. The sweep of the pendulum had increased in extent by nearly a yard. As a natural consequence, its velocity was also much greater. But what mainly disturbed me was the idea that it had perceptibly¹ *descended*. I now observed—with what horror it is needless to say—that its nether extremity was formed of a crescent of glittering steel, about a foot in length from horn to horn; the horns upward, and the under edge evidently as keen as that of a razor. Like a razor also, it seemed massy and heavy, tapering from the edge into a solid and broad structure above. It was appended to a weighty rod of brass, and the whole *hissed* as it swung through the air.

I could no longer doubt the doom prepared for me by monkish ingenuity in torture. My cognizance of the pit had become known to the inquisitorial agents—*the pit* whose horrors had been destined for so bold a recusant as myself—*the pit*, typical of hell, and regarded by rumor as the Ultima Thule² of all their punishments. The plunge into this pit I had avoided by the merest of accidents, and I knew that surprise, or entrapment into torment, formed an important portion of all the grotesquerie of these dungeon deaths. Having failed to fall, it was no part of the demon plan to hurl me into the abyss; and thus (there being no alternative) a different and a milder destruction

¹perceptibly 顯明的; 可見的. ²Ultima Thule 人跡所不到的極遠地方.

匆走上來，被肉味所引，無不帶着很飢餓的眼。我要費許多力，還要處處留意，才把他們驚走了。

大約過了半點鐘，也許是過了一點鐘（因為我只能約略計算時間）我才舉目又往上看。我這時候所看見的情形，使我慌亂及迷惑。原來那鐘擺的擺度已經增加到幾乎一碼了。自然的結果就是速率大增。但是最驚駭我的，還是鐘擺顯然是向下墜。我現在看見鐘擺的下端是一片如新月形的閃光的鋼刀（我不必說我看見了很害怕），從新月的這一角到那一角約有一尺長；在上的兩角及下邊，都顯然是很鋒利的，如同剃刀一樣。其大與重，也像剃刀，從邊上起往上斜，越斜越大，到了上邊變成一件結實而寬廣的東西。這是掛在一條重銅棍上的，全件東西在空中搖擺時還嘶嘶有聲。

我現在深信和尚們很聰明的製造酷刑，使我受苦。法庭人員曉得我知道那個深坑——使人驚怖的深坑，原是為如同我這樣大膽的一個不服彼教的人而設的——謠傳以為這個代表地獄的深坑，是他們全數酷刑的極點。我不過是偶然倖免墜入深坑的，我曉得出其不意的走入，或被陷走入受痛苦的地方，原是希奇古怪的死在牢裏的一重要部分。我既不會墜入深坑，他們的毒計不復要推我入坑；所以才用另外一種與較為和平的酷刑等候我（因為別

awaited me. Milder! I half smiled in my agony as I thought of such application of such a term.

What boots it to tell of the long, long hours of horror more than mortal, during which I counted the rushing vibrations of the steel! Inch by inch—line by line—with a descent only appreciable at intervals that seemed ages—down and still down it came! Days passed—it might have been that many days passed—ere it swept so closely over me as to fan me with its acrid¹ breath. The odor of the sharp steel forced itself into my nostrils. I prayed—I wearied heaven with my prayer for its more speedy descent. I grew frantically mad, and struggled to force myself upward against the sweep of the fearful scimitar. And then I fell suddenly calm, and lay smiling at the glittering death, as a child at some rare bauble.

There was another interval of utter insensibility; it was brief; for, upon again lapsing into life there had been no perceptible descent in the pendulum. But it might have been long; for I knew there were demons who took note of my swoon, and who could have arrested the vibration at pleasure. Upon my recovery, too, I felt very—oh, inexpressibly sick and weak, as if through long inanition.² Even amid the agonies of that period, the human nature craved food. With painful effort I outstretched my left arm as far as my bonds permitted, and took possession of the small remnant which had been spared me by the rats. As I put a portion of it within my lips, there rushed to my mind a half formed thought of joy—of hope. Yet what business had *I* with hope? It was, as I say, a half formed thought—man has many such which are never completed.

¹ acrid 觸鼻的苦味. ² inanition 不食.

無他法)。我說較爲和平呀!當我想到用這樣的一個字眼時,我的心裏正在痛苦的時候,我還不免半笑。

我用不着說我所受非人所能受的很長久的驚怖,那時候我在那裏數那把鋼刀的搖擺次數!這把鋼刀逐寸的,逐線的向下墜,隔了一會子工夫才覺得鋼刀下來,這一會子工夫好像就是多少年代——鋼刀往下墜,仍然往下墜。過了許多天——很許是過了好幾天——這個東西離我很近,在我頭上搖擺,一陣一陣的觸鼻苦味扇我的臉。利鋼的氣味吹入我的鼻子。(說得可怕,作者以此擅長——譯者註)我祈禱——我以祈禱麻煩上天,求上天使這把利刀快快墜下來。我變作瘋狂,用力強逼我自己向上衝,與那把可怕的彎形利刀相碰。隨後我忽然倒下來,變作鎮靜,躺在地下對着那把閃光殺人的利刀微笑,如同一個小孩子看着難得的耍貨一般。

還有一會子我變作完全不省人事;這一會子是短的;因爲當我甦醒的時候,那個鐘擺並未曾下墜多少。但是也許這一會子是很長的;因爲我曉得有幾個惡鬼看見我暈倒,他們能夠任意停止鐘擺。當我醒過來的時候,我還覺得很——覺得說不出來的那樣病痛與衰弱,好像是經過許久不食的。在這樣的時期裏頭,雖然飽受痛苦,人性還是嗜食的。我很痛苦的用力伸出我的左手,伸到我的束縛所能容的程度,取老鼠所食剩的一點東西吃。當我放一部分的食物在我的兩唇之內的時候,我的心裏忽然來了一種只有一半成就的歡樂思想——有希望的思想。但是我與希望還有什麼相干?我說是只有一半成就的思想——世人有許多這樣始終未完成的思想。我覺得是歡樂的思

I felt that it was of joy—of hope; but I felt also that it had perished in its formation. In vain I struggled to perfect—to regain it. Long suffering had nearly annihilated all my ordinary powers of mind. I was an imbecile—an idiot.

The vibration of the pendulum was at right angles to my length. I saw that the crescent was designed to cross the region of the heart. It would fray the serge of my robe—it would return and repeat its operations—again—and again. Notwithstanding its terrifically wide sweep (some thirty feet or more) and the hissing vigor of its descent, sufficient to sunder these very walls of iron, still the fraying of my robe would be all that, for several minutes, it would accomplish. And at this thought I paused. I dared not go farther than this reflection. I dwelt upon it with a pertinacity of attention—as if, in so dwelling, I could arrest *here* the descent of the steel. I forced myself to ponder upon the sound of the crescent as it should pass across the garment—upon the peculiar thrilling sensation which the friction of cloth produces on the nerves. I pondered upon all this frivolity until my teeth were on edge.

Down—steadily down it crept. I took a frenzied pleasure in contrasting its downward with its lateral velocity. To the right—to the left—far and wide—with the shriek of a damned spirit; to my heart with the stealthy pace of the tiger! I alternately laughed and howled as the one or the other idea grew predominant.

Down—certainly, relentlessly down! It vibrated within three inches of my bosom! I struggled violently, furiously, to free my left arm. This was free only from the elbow to the hand. I could reach the latter, from the platter beside me, to my mouth, with great effort, but no farther. Could I have broken the fastenings above the elbow, I would have

想——是有希望的思想；但是我又覺得當這樣的思想正在成就的時候，已經毀滅了。我努力要完成，要追回這樣的思想，也是枉然。受苦日久，幾乎已經毀滅全數我的平常思想力。我變作一個靈性薄弱的人——變作一個癡人。

鐘擺的擺動與我的身長作直角形。我看見那把利刀要橫割我的心部（說得更可怕——譯者註）這把鋼刀要磨擦我的嗶吱袍子——磨擦過了又回頭再磨——磨了又磨。這把鋼刀的擺度雖然是很可怕的寬（有三十多尺）下墜的勢力，雖然嘶嘶有聲，足以把鐵壁切開，但是在幾分鐘裏頭，鋼刀所能做到的，不過是磨損我的袍子。我想到這裏就止住了。我不敢再往下想。我毫不放鬆的用心想這一層——好像我這樣想就能夠在這裏阻止鋼刀下墜。我強逼我自己冥想，當鋼刀在袍子上搖擺的時候的刀子的聲音——冥想磨擦嗶吱時使腦筋發生的特別的透骨的感覺。我冥想全數這些無關重要的事，想到我的牙齒發抖。

鋼刀不停的往下爬。我以下墜的速率比較旁行的速率，我是歡樂如狂的作這樣的比較。我是個受了天譴的人，嘴裏只管喊擺向左啦！——擺向右啦，——離得很遠啦；一隻老虎偷偷的走到我的心部啦！我輪流的大笑與大喊，樂的意思多就大笑，怕的意思多就大喊。

鋼刀向下墜——確是毫不留情的往下墜！現在搖擺不過離我的胸口三寸！我用狂力掙扎，使我的左手可以自由。我的左臂只是從肘至手是自由的。我雖很用力亦只能取我身邊的盤子送到我的口，再遠就不能了。假使我能夠解開自肘以上的束縛，我就可以捉住那個鐘擺，嘗試阻止

seized and attempted to arrest the pendulum. I might as well have attempted to arrest an avalanche!

Down—still unceasingly—still inevitably down! I gasped and struggled at each vibration. I shrunk convulsively at its every sweep. My eyes followed its outward or upward whirls with the eagerness of the most unmeaning despair; they closed themselves spasmodically at the descent, although death would have been a relief, oh! how unspeakable! Still I quivered in every nerve to think how slight a sinking of the machinery would precipitate that keen, glistening axe upon my bosom. It was *hope* that prompted the nerve to quiver—the frame to shrink. It was *hope*—the *hope* that triumphs on the rack—that whispers to the death-condemned even in the dungeons of the Inquisition.

I saw that some ten or twelve vibrations would bring the steel in actual contact with my robe, and with this observation there suddenly came over my spirit all the keen, collected calmness of despair. For the first time during many hours—or perhaps days—I *thought*. It now occurred to me that the bandage, or surcingle, which enveloped me, was *unique*. I was tied by no separate cord. The first stroke of the razor-like crescent athwart any portion of the band, would so detach it that it might be unwound from my person by means of my left hand. But how fearful, in that case, the proximity of the steel! The result of the slightest struggle how deadly! Was it likely, moreover, that the minions of the torturer had not foreseen and provided for this possibility! Was it probable that the bandage crossed my bosom in the track of the pendulum? Dreading to find my faint, and, as it seemed, my last hope frustrated, I so far elevated my head as to

其搖擺。我倒不如嘗試阻止一座冰山！

鋼刀下墜——仍然不停的下墜——仍然是不能免的下墜！每擺一次，我就張口，我就掙扎。每擺一次，我是渾身發抖的縮成一團。我的兩眼跟着鋼刀的向外或向上的擺動，帶着最無意識的絕望着急，看他擺；鋼刀下來我就發抖的閉上兩眼，嗨、這是說不出來的痛苦，還不如死了，反得了解放！我卻仍然抖動每條腦筋，在那裏想，這部機器只要稍微往下墜，就會催促那把鋒利閃光的斧子，墜在我的胸口。原是希望使腦筋發抖——使骨骼縮成一團。原是希望打勝酷刑——原是希望附耳對在審判異端法庭的監牢裏的死囚說話。

我見得再擺十次或十二次，就要把鋼刀墜到我的袍上，忽然有絕望的全數鋒利的與淡定的鎮靜，與我這樣的觀察同來。在好幾點鐘裏頭——或許在好幾天裏頭——到了這個時候，我是第一次運用思想。現在我才曉得束縛我的帶子或馬肚帶，只有單獨一條。那把如剃刀那樣的新月形鋼刀，只要第一刀橫過綁我的帶子的任何部分，就會割斷了，我用左手就可以解縛。但是鋼刀與我的身體很相近這是多麼可恐怖呀！我只要稍微掙扎，就是送死，又是多麼可怕呀！況且施酷刑的走狗們，難道不預料到這一層，預作準備嗎！在我胸口繞過的帶子，必定是那把擺刀所經過的地方麼？我恐怕我的薄弱的希望，又好像是最後的希望，不能達到目的，我就抬起頭來，看清楚我的胸部

obtain a distinct view of my breast. The surcingle enveloped my limbs and body close in all directions—*save in the path of the destroying crescent. . . .*

For many hours the immediate vicinity of the low framework upon which I lay, had been literally swarming with rats. They were wild, bold, ravenous; their red eyes glaring upon me as if they waited but for motionlessness on my part to make me their prey. "To what food," I thought, "have they been accustomed in the well?"

They had devoured, in spite of all my efforts to prevent them, all but a small remnant of the contents of the dish. I had fallen into an habitual see-saw, or wave of the hand about the platter: and, at length, the unconscious uniformity of the movement deprived it of effect. In their voracity the vermin frequently fastened their sharp fangs in my fingers. With the particles of the oily and spicy viand which now remained, I thoroughly rubbed the bandage wherever I could reach it; then, raising my hand from the floor, I lay breathlessly still.

At first the ravenous animals were startled and terrified at the change—at the cessation of movement. They shrank alarmedly back; many sought the well. But this was only for a moment. I had not counted in vain upon their voracity. Observing that I remained without motion, one or two of the boldest leaped upon the framework, and smelt at the surcingle. This seemed the signal for a general rush. Forth from the well they hurried in fresh troops. They clung to the wood—they overran it, and leaped in hundreds upon my person. The measured movement of the pendulum disturbed them not at all. Avoiding its strokes they busied themselves with the anointed bandage. They pressed—they swarmed upon me in ever

的地位。那條馬肚帶，細我的四肢及身體，都是細得很緊的——只有殺人刀所過的地方是鬆的。

（他於是嘗試執行——譯者註）

在我所躺的低架子的左右前後，在好幾點鐘裏頭，堆滿了老鼠。這許多老鼠是很野的，大膽的，又是貪食無厭的；他們的紅眼冒着火看我，好像只要等到我不動，就要來吃我。我想道，『他們在深坑裏，習慣吃什麼東西？』

我用盡我的氣力要阻止他們，也阻止不了他們吃了盤裏的東西，只剩一小部分未吃。我在盤子的左右，擺手驅逐他們，成了習慣：後來這樣不由自主的一律擺手，失了效力。老鼠們貪食，往往用他們的利齒咬我的手指。我把剩下的有油而香的食物的小碎塊，磨透我的手所能到的束縛；隨即從地板舉我的手，我仍然屏息躺在那裏不動。那些老鼠們初時看見這樣的改變——看見我不動了，就驚怕。他們很驚恐的縮回去；有許多走回深坑裏。但是這不過是俄頃的事。我計算到他們貪食，並未算錯。他們看見我不動，有一兩隻最大膽的老鼠跳上架子，嗅那條馬肚帶。這就好像是一個暗號，叫他們都衝上來。於是有許多老鼠重新結隊跑出來。他們圍住木架不走——他們在木架上走，有幾百隻在我身上跳。鐘擺的有序的擺動，殊不驚擾他們。他們躲避鋼刀，都聚在敷了油的帶子上。他們成隊的擠着我——他們聚在我身上，越聚越多。他們在

accumulating heaps. They writhed upon my throat; their cold lips sought my own; I was half stifled by their thronging pressure; disgust, for which the world has no name, swelled my bosom, and chilled, with a heavy clamminess, my heart. Yet one minute, and I felt that the struggle would be over. Plainly I perceived the loosening of the bandage. I knew that in more than one place it must be already severed. With a more than human resolution I lay *still*.

Nor had I erred in my calculations—nor had I endured in vain. I at length felt that I was *free*. The surcingle hung in ribands from my body. But the stroke of the pendulum already pressed upon my bosom. It had divided the serge of the robe. It had cut through the linen beneath. Twice again it swung, and a sharp sense of pain shot through every nerve. But the moment of escape had arrived. At a wave of my hand my deliverers hurried tumultuously away. With a steady movement—cautious, sidelong, shrinking, and slow—I slid from the embrace of the bandage and beyond the reach of the scimitar. For the moment, at least, *I was free*.

Free!—and in the grasp of the Inquisition! I had scarcely stepped from my wooden bed of horror upon the stone floor of the prison, when the motion of the hellish machine ceased and I beheld it drawn up, by some invisible force, through the ceiling. This was a lesson which I took desperately to heart. My every motion was undoubtedly watched. Free!—I had but escaped death in one form of agony, to be delivered unto worse than death in some other. With that thought I rolled my eyes nervously around on the barriers of iron that hemmed me in. Something unusual—some change which, at first, I could not

我的喉嚨外扭；他們的冷唇要親我的唇；他們擠在一堆壓我，使我只能喘一半的氣；我所覺得的憎惡，世界上還沒得名字稱謂，使我的胸膛漲滿，而且帶着一種稠的黏濕感覺，冰冷我的心。但是再過一分鐘，我就覺得掙扎要完了。我清清楚楚的覺得我的束縛是鬆了。我曉得被老鼠咬斷的地方不止一處。我用一種超出人力的剛決，仍然躺下。

我的計算並不會錯——我忍受許多痛苦，亦不為無功。後來我覺得我是自由了。綁我的帶子一段一段的掛在我身上。但是鐘擺已經墜到我的胸口上。已經割斷袍子的嗶吱。已經割穿袍子底下的內衣。鐘擺又擺過兩次了，有一陣很尖利的疼痛感覺，透過每條腦筋。（又是越說越可怕——譯者註）但是免死的時候到了。我一擺手，救我性命的老鼠們吵吵鬧鬧的快快跑了。我鎮靜小心，慢慢的在一邊動，縮着身子，我就溜出帶子的束縛之外，鋼刀夠不着我。至少在這一剎那間，我是自由的。

自由呀！——我還在審判異端的法庭的掌握中！我剛從我的可怕的木架子牀下來，在監牢的石地板上踏腳，那時候這件地獄的刑具不動了，我就看見有無形的力，穿過天花板，拉了上去。我心裏拚命的記着這件示教的事。我的一舉一動原來都有人窺看。自由嗎！——我不過逃出這一種的痛苦死法，又走入其他比死還要痛苦的酷刑。我帶着這樣的思想很害怕的滾我的兩眼，四圍看看包圍我的鐵壁。監牢裏頭顯然是有非常的改變發生，——初時我不

appreciate distinctly—it was obvious, had taken place in the apartment. For many minutes of a dreamy and trembling abstraction,¹ I busied myself in vain, unconnected conjecture. During this period, I became aware, for the first time, of the origin of the sulphurous light which illumined the cell. It proceeded from a fissure, about half an inch in width, extending entirely around the prison at the base of the walls, which thus appeared, and were, completely separated from the floor. I endeavored, but of course in vain, to look through the aperture.

As I arose from the attempt, the mystery of the alteration in the chamber broke at once upon my understanding. I have observed that, although outlines of the figures upon the walls were sufficiently distinct, yet the colors seemed blurred and indefinite. These colors had now assumed, and were momentarily assuming, a startling and most intense brilliancy, that gave to the spectral and fiendish portraitures an aspect that might have thrilled even firmer nerves than my own. Demon eyes, of a wild and ghastly vivacity, glared upon me in a thousand directions, where none had been visible before, and gleamed with the lurid lustre of a fire that I could not force my imagination to regard as unreal.

Unreal!—Even while I breathed there came to my nostrils the breath of the vapor of heated iron! A suffocating odor pervaded the prison! A deeper glow settled each moment in the eyes that glared at my agonies! A richer tint of crimson diffused itself over the pictured horrors of blood. I panted! I gasped for breath! There could be no doubt of the design of my tormentors—oh! Most unrelenting!

¹ abstraction 冥想; 聚精會神的想。

能領略得清楚。我在好幾分鐘的如同夢境的與發抖的冥想裏頭，我忙於作無連貫的猜度，卻猜度不着什麼。我在這個時間，初次曉得照着監牢的如同硫磺的光，是從那裏來的。原來是從一條窄縫進來的，這條窄縫約有一寸寬，在牆腳下繞牢一周，所以好像也是，其實是，與地板完全分離的。我努力要從這條縫往外看，自然是看不見。

我嘗試無效，就站起來，我立刻明白牢裏忽然改變的神秘。我已經說過，牆上的人物的輪廓，雖然是頗清楚的，顏色卻是剝落的，不清楚的。現在這些顏色忽然變作驚人的及最濃的光，俄頃又不見了，使牆上所畫的鬼怪得了一種面目，即使是腦筋比我更結實的人看了也要發抖。從前看不見有什麼東西的地方，現在有兇悍如鬼的活現的惡魔眼，從一千個方向，瞪着我，還閃出令人恐怖的火光，我不能強逼我的想像當是不真實的。（簡直是一幅地獄變相圖——譯者註）

不真實呀！——當我呼吸的時候，我的鼻子嗅着燒紅鐵片的氣味！一片令人喘不出氣的惡味灌滿牢裏！一陣更深的閃光，時時刻刻聚在瞪着看我受苦的魔鬼眼。一片更濃厚的紅光，瀰漫於所畫的可怕的血。我喘氣！我張口呼吸！哎唷！——這是無疑驚擾是我的人們的計劃！哎唷，他

oh! most demoniac of men! I shrank from the glowing metal to the center of the cell. Amid the thought of the fiery destruction that impended, the idea of the coolness of the well came over my soul like balm. I rushed to its deadly brink. I threw my straining vision below. The glare from the enkindled roof illumined its inmost recesses. Yet, for a wild moment, did my spirit refuse to comprehend the meaning of what I saw. At length it forced—it wrestled its way into my soul—it burned itself in upon my shuddering reason.—Oh! for a voice to speak!—oh! horror!—oh! any horror but this! With a shriek, I rushed from the margin, and buried my face in my hands—weeping bitterly.

The heat rapidly increased, and once again I looked up, shuddering as with a fit of the ague. There had been a second change in the cell—and now the change was obviously in the *form*. As before, it was in vain that I, at first, endeavored to appreciate or understand what was taking place. But not long was I felt in doubt. The Inquisitorial vengeance had been hurried by my two-fold escape, and there was to be no more dallying¹ with the King of Terrors. The room had been square. I saw that two of its iron angles were now acute—two, consequently, obtuse. The fearful difference quickly increased with a low rumbling or moaning sound. In an instant the apartment had shifted its form into that of a lozenge. But the alteration stopped not here—I neither hoped nor desired it to stop. I could have clasped the red walls to my bosom as a garment of eternal peace. “Death,” I said, “any death but that of the pit!” Fool! might I have not known that *into the pit* it was the

¹dallying 遊疑.

們是最殘忍的人，是最兇惡如魔鬼的人。我躲閃燒紅的鐵壁，走到牢的中心。當我想着我快要被火燒死的時候，我卻想到深井是涼的，我一想到這一層，就如同得了甘露（原文作樹木所流出的芬香而能治病的樹膠——譯者註）一般。我就跑到會淹死人的坑邊。我用盡我的目力往下看。從燒紅的牢頂所發的光，照見坑裏的最深的地方。但是當我很慌亂的俄頃間，我的知性不肯使我明白我所看見的情景。後來我的知性——我的知性闖入我的靈魂裏頭——在我的發抖的悟性裏頭，焚燒其自身。哎唷！我要說話也說不出來——！哎唷！可怕呀！——哎唷，我寧願受別的恐怖，也不願受這樣的恐怖！我大喊一聲，從井邊跑開，兩手握着我的臉——痛哭。（加倍寫深坑的可怕——譯者註）

熱氣增加得很快，我又向上看，如同發瘡那樣發抖。牢裏第二次改變啦——這次的改變，顯然是形像改變。我是同上次一樣，初次努力要領略或曉得是發現什麼。我的疑惑卻並不久。我既躲過兩層危險，審判異端的法庭急於要報復，恐怖王不再在那裏游疑啦。這所監牢原是四方的。我看見兩個鐵角現在變作銳角——那兩角自然就變作鈍角。這樣可怕的差別增加得很快，改變的時候，還帶着一種低微的隆隆聲，或呻吟聲。這個監牢忽然變作斜方形。但是改變並不停止——我既不希望停止，亦不願其停止。我原可以披燒紅的鐵壁在身上，當是從此永恆平安的衣服。我說道，『死呀，無論怎樣死都可以，我卻不願死在深坑裏！』傻子呀！我為什麼不會曉得，他們燒紅鐵壁，原

object of the burning iron to urge me? Could I resist its glow? or, if even that, could I withstand its pressure! And now, flatter and flatter grew the lozenge, with a rapidity that left me no time for contemplation. Its center, and of course, its greatest width, came just over the yawning gulf. I shrank back—but the closing walls pressed me resistlessly onward. At length for my seared and writhing body there was no longer an inch of foothold on the firm floor of the prison. I struggled no more, but the agony of my soul found vent in one loud, long, and final scream of despair. I felt that I tottered upon the brink—I averted my eyes—

There was a discordant hum of human voices! There was a loud blast as of many trumpets! There was a harsh grating as of a thousand thunders! The fiery walls rushed back! An outstretched arm caught my own as I fell, fainting, into the abyss. It was that of General Lasalle. The French army had entered Toledo. The Inquisition was in the hands of its enemies.

THE PURLOINED LETTER

Nil sapientiae odiosius acumine nimio.

Seneca

We gave him a hearty welcome; for there was nearly half as much of the entertaining as of the contemptible about the man, and we had not seen him for several years. We had been sitting in the dark, and Dupin now arose for the purpose of lighting a lamp, but sat down again, without doing so, upon G.'s saying that he had called to consult us,

爲的是要逼我跳入深坑？我能夠抵抗燒紅的鐵壁麼？假使我能夠，我還能夠受得了鐵壁的壓力麼？現在這個斜方形越變越窄，變得極快，使我沒得時間考慮。斜方形的中心點，及其最長的地方，剛好在張開大口的深坑上。我縮回去——但是向裏擠的鐵壁逼我上前，我抵抗不了。後來在監牢的堅硬地板上，無一寸立足地，能容我的燒焦的及扭動的身體，（到了山窮水盡地方啦——譯者註）我不在掙扎了，但是我的靈魂的痛苦，由一片響而長的叫喊，及最後的絕望的叫喊，發洩出來。我覺得我踉踉跄跄的走到坑邊——我掉過我的兩眼，不敢看——

我聽見一陣嘈雜轟轟的人聲！還聽見一陣很響的許多喇叭聲！聽見一陣如同一千雷響的難聽的聲音！燒紅的鐵壁向後退！當我正在暈倒，就要跌入深坑的時候，有一隻伸長的手，捉住我的手。原來是拉沙爾（Lasalle）將軍的手。法蘭西軍隊入了妥力度城。審判異端的法庭落在其仇敵們手上了。

失竊的信

（我在巴黎，有一天晚上坐在我的朋友杜平（Dupin）的小書房裏，我正在冥想剛才所談的兩件命案，房門打開，我們的老朋友巴黎警察長吉（G—）先生走進來——譯者註）

我們熱烈歡迎他；我們不看見他有好幾年了，這個人原是可鄙的，卻是頗有趣的。我們本來坐在黑暗裏，杜平現在起來要點燈，卻又坐下，並未昏點，因為吉先生說他

or rather to ask the opinion of my friend, about some official business which had occasioned a great deal of trouble.

"If it is any point requiring reflection," observed Dupin, as he forbore to enkindle the wick, "we shall examine it to better purpose in the dark."

"That is another of your odd notions," said the Prefect, who had a fashion of calling everything "odd" that was beyond his comprehension.¹ and thus lived amid an absolute legion of "oddities."

"Very true," said Dupin, as he supplied his visitor with a pipe, and rolled towards him a comfortable chair.

"And what is the difficulty now?" I asked. "Nothing more in the assassination way, I hope?"

"Oh no; nothing of that nature. The fact is, the business is *very* simple indeed, and I make no doubt that we can manage it sufficiently well ourselves; but then I thought Dupin would like to hear the details² of it, because it is so excessively *odd*."

"Simple and odd," said Dupin.

"Why, yes; and not exactly that, either. The fact is, we have all been a good deal puzzled because the affair *is* so simple, and yet baffles³ us altogether."

"Perhaps it is the very simplicity of the thing which puts you at fault," said my friend.

"What nonsense you *do* talk!" replied the Prefect, laughing heartily.

"Perhaps the mystery is a little *too* plain," said Dupin.

"Oh, good heavens! who ever heard of such an idea?"

"A little *too* self-evident."

¹ comprehension 明白; 曉得. ² details 詳細情形. ³ baffles 使人無從措手.

特爲來有事同我們商量，其實是來請教我的朋友，因爲有一件公事，使他很爲難。

杜平就不點燈，說道，『倘若這件事是要反省的，我們不如在黑暗裏考察。』

警察長說道，『這又是你的一種怪見解，』這個人凡是他所不能明白的都叫作『怪』，所以他在絕對全是『怪』事裏頭生活。

杜平給客人一支烟筒，滾一把舒服椅子過去，請他坐，說道，『很是的。』

我問道，『現在是什麼爲難呀？我希望不是又出了暗殺案子。』

『不是的；不是那一路的案子。其實這件事是極單簡的，我相信我們自己也能夠辦得很妥的；不過我想杜平會喜歡聽聽這件事體的詳情，因爲這個案子是太奇怪啦。』

杜平說道，『既單簡，又奇怪。』

『是呀；卻並不是準確的奇怪。因爲這件事是很單簡的，卻使我們不能破案，我們很疑惑。』

我的朋友說道，『也許是事體是十分單簡所以使你們走差了路。』

警察長儘情大笑，說道，『你說的是什麼胡話！』

杜平說道，『也許這件案子的神祕有點太過淺白。』

『嗨！誰會聽過這樣的一種見解？』

『也許是有點太過顯然不證自明。』

“Ha! ha! ha!—ha! ha! ha!—ho! ho! ho!”—roared our visitor, profoundly amused, “oh, Dupin, you will be the death of me yet!”

“And what, after all, is the matter on hand?” I asked.

“Why, I will tell you,” replied the Prefect, as he gave a long, steady, and contemplative puff, and settled himself in his chair. “I will tell you in a few words; but, before I begin, let me caution you that this is an affair demanding the greatest secrecy, and that I should most probably lose the position I now hold, were it known that I confided it to any one.”

“Proceed,” said I.

“Or not,” said Dupin.

“Well, then; I have received personal information, from a very high quarter, that a certain document of the last importance, has been purloined from the royal apartments. The individual who purloined it is known; this beyond a doubt; he was seen to take it. It is known, also, that it still remains in his possession.”

“How is this known?” asked Dupin.

“It is clearly inferred,” replied the Prefect, “from the nature of the document, and from the non-appearance of certain results which would at once arise from its passing *out* of the robber’s possession;—that is to say, from his employing it as he must design in the end to employ it.”

“Be a little more explicit,¹” I said.

“Well, I may venture so far as to say that the paper gives its holder a certain power in a certain quarter where such power is immensely valuable.” The Prefect was fond of the cant of diplomacy.

¹ explicit 明白說出.

我們的客人樂到了不得，『哈，哈，哈，呵，呵，呵，』的大笑——且說道，『杜平，你還要使我笑到要死！』

我問道，『眼前所說的，究竟是怎麼一會事？』

警察長用很長一口氣，不慌不忙的，一面還冥想着，吸了一口烟，在他的椅子上坐定，答道，『待我來告訴你們。我只用幾句話就告訴你們；但是我先要警告你們，這事件要嚴守秘密，假使有人曉得我把秘密告訴你們，很許我會失丟我現在的差使。』

我說道，『請你說。』

杜平說道，『或不說。』

『好，我告訴你們；有一個地位很高的人親自告訴我，有一件最要緊的公文，在帝王的宮殿被人偷了。曉得是誰偷的；這是確實無可疑的；是看見他偷的。並且還曉得這件公文還在他那裏。』

杜平問道，『這是怎麼會曉得的？』

警察長答道，『我們從這件公文的性質曉得的，這件公文若不在賊人那裏，立刻就會發生種種效果——這就是說，他到底必定有個用意，利用這件公文，他若一用，就會有種種效果，現在卻並未發生那種效果，我們就曉得公文還在他那裏。』

我說道，『請你說明白些。』

『好呀，我姑且放膽說，這件公文，使那個得到手的人，在某處得着某種勢力，在某處就變作極其可寶貴的。』這個警察長喜歡用辦外交的套話。

"Still I do not quite understand," said Dupin.

"No? Well; the disclosure of the document to a third person, who shall be nameless, would bring in question the honor of a personage of most exalted station; and this fact gives the holder of the document an ascendancy over the illustrious personage whose honor and peace are so jeopardized."

"But this ascendancy," I interposed, "would depend upon the robber's knowledge of the loser's knowledge of the robber. Who would dare—"

"The thief," said G——, "is the Minister D——, who dares all things, those unbecoming as well as those becoming a man. The method of the theft was not less ingenious than bold. The document in question—a letter, to be frank—had been received by the personage robbed while alone in the royal *boudoir*. During its perusal she was suddenly interrupted by the entrance of the other exalted personage from whom especially it was her wish to conceal it. After a hurried and vain endeavor to thrust it in a drawer, she was forced to place it, open as it was, upon a table. The address, however, was uppermost, and, the contents thus unexposed, the letter escaped notice. At this juncture enters the Minister D——. His lynx eye immediately perceives the paper, recognizes the handwriting of the address, observes the confusion of the personage addressed, and fathoms¹ her secret. After some business transactions, hurried through in his ordinary manner, he produces a letter somewhat similar to the one in question, opens it, pretends to read it, and then places it in close juxtaposition to the other. Again he converses, for

¹fathoms 窺見; 窺探.

杜平說道，『我還是不甚明白。』

『還是不明白麼？也罷；若對第三人揭露這件公文（我姑不舉其名），就會使一個在最高地位的人的體面發生疑問；這就使得着這件公文的人，有權操縱這個貴人，他的體面及安寧，因此就有了危險。』

我打叉說道，『但是這樣的操縱權，要靠竊賊曉得失主曉得是竊賊偷的。誰敢——。』

吉先生說道，『竊賊就是狄（D）大臣，他無論什麼事都是敢作敢為的——好的壞的都敢作。他偷公文的法子，不獨是很巧妙的，還是很大膽的。我說的這件公文，我不妨坦白告訴你，其實是一封信——失主是在宮內的深閨裏，獨自一人收得這封信。她正在讀這封信的時候，另一個高貴的人忽然走進來打叉，她卻尤其要隱瞞，不願這個人曉得。她匆匆的要把這封信摔在一個抽屜裏，可惜來不及，只好把這封已經拆開的信，放在棹上。好在收信人的姓名住址在上，信裏的話並未露出，無人看見。正在這個當口，狄大臣進來。他的尖利眼，立刻看見那封信，認得姓名住址的筆跡，看見收信人的慌亂，窺見她的祕密。他照常匆匆的辦了幾件公事之後，就拿出一封信來，同桌上的信相彷彿，他打開，裝作讀信，隨即把這封信放在桌上的

some fifteen minutes, upon the public affairs. At length, in taking leave, he takes also from the table the letter to which he had no claim. Its rightful owner saw, but, of course, dared not call attention to the act, in the presence of the third personage who stood at her elbow. The minister decamped;¹ leaving his own letter—one of no importance—upon the table.”

“Here, then,” said Dupin to me, “you have precisely what you demand to make the ascendancy complete—the robber’s knowledge of the loser’s knowledge of the robber.”

“Yes,” replied the Prefect; “and the power thus attained has, for some months past, been wielded, for political purposes, to a very dangerous extent. The personage robbed is more thoroughly convinced, every day, of the necessity of reclaiming her letter. But this, of course, cannot be done openly. In fine,² driven to despair, she has committed the matter to me.”

“Than whom,” said Dupin, amid a perfect whirl-wind of smoke, “no more sagacious agent could, I suppose, be desired, or even imagined.”

“You flatter me,” replied the Prefect; “but it is possible that some such opinion may have been entertained.”

“It is clear,” said I, “as you observe, that the letter is still in possession of the minister; since it is this possession, and not any employment of the letter, which bestows the power. With the employment the power departs.”

“True,” said G——; “and upon this conviction I proceeded. My first care was to make thorough search of the minister’s hotel; and here my chief embarrassment lay in

¹decamped 走了. ²In fine 到底; 總而言之.

信旁。他隨即又談園事，談了有十五分鐘。後來他告辭，卻從桌上把那封不是給他的信拿走了。那個正經的收信人當着那第三個人站在她身邊，自然不敢說那個大臣拿錯了。大臣走了出去；留下他自己的信在桌上，卻是一封無關緊要的信。』（敘事有精神而周密——譯者註）

杜平對我說道，『你所問怎麼就使大臣的操縱權完全，都在這幾句話裏頭了——偷信人曉得失信人曉得是偷信人偷的。』

警察長答道，『是呀，偷信人得了這樣的勢力，前幾個月就利用這種勢力，以達他的政治目的，利用到會發生危險的程度。失了這封信的人，無日不深信必定要找回她的信。但是不能彰明較著做這件事。她被逼到絕望，到底只好把這件事交給我辦。』

杜平在一片如旋風一般的濃烟中，說道，『我看，她所能托付的，或她所能想像的，只有你一個人，沒得更比你聰敏的了。』

警察長答道，『你恭維我；但是她很許存過這樣的意思。』

我說道，『我顯然見得誠如你所說，這封信還在大臣手上；既是因為拿住這封信，卻不用這封信，所以使他有了勢力。一用這封信，勢力就完了。』

吉先生說道，『誠然是這樣；我是根據這樣的深信進行的。我的第一件事，就是透澈的搜大臣的住宅；我的最

the necessity of searching without his knowledge. Beyond all things, I have been warned of the danger which would result from giving him reason to suspect our design."

"But," said I, "you are quite *au fait*¹ in these investigations. The Parisian police have done this thing often before."

"O yes; and for this reason I did not despair. The habit of the minister gave me, too, a great advantage. He is frequently absent from home all night. His servants are by no means numerous. They sleep at a distance from their master's apartment, and, being chiefly Neapolitans, are readily made drunk. I have keys, as you know, with which I can open any chamber or cabinet in Paris. For three months a night has not passed, during the greater part of which I have not been engaged, personally, in ransacking the D—— Hôtel. My honor is interested, and, to mention a great secret, the reward is enormous. So I did not abandon the search until I had become fully satisfied that the thief is a more astute man than myself. I fancy that I have investigated every nook and corner of the premises in which it is possible that the paper can be concealed."

"But is it not possible," I suggested, "that although the letter may be in possession of the minister, as it unquestionably is, he may have concealed it elsewhere than upon his own premises?"

"This is barely possible," said Dupin. "The present peculiar condition of affairs at court, and especially of those intrigues in which D—— is known to be involved, would render the instant availability of the document—its susceptibility of being produced at a moment's notice—a point of nearly equal importance with its possession"

¹ *au fait* 在行; 諳練.

爲難的事，就是只管搜他的住宅，卻不給他曉得。最要緊的就是我得了警告，若是給他理由疑心我的計劃，就會發生危險。』

我說道，『但是你辦這樣偵察的事，是很在行的。巴黎的警察，從前辦過好幾次了。』

『是呀；因此我並未絕望。況且大臣的習慣，給我以很大的利益。他居多是整夜不在家的。他所用的僕人並不多。他們睡覺的地方，離他們主人的房子很遠，況且居多都是那不勒斯人，是很容易被人醉倒的。你是曉得的，無論巴黎什麼房舍或什麼密室櫥櫃，我都有鎖匙能夠開。有三個月來，幾乎無一天晚上，我不親身遍搜狄大臣住宅的。這件事體，與我的面子有關係，我不妨告訴你一件大秘密，酬勞是非常重的。所以我要等到我完全滿意曉得偷信人比我還要麻利，我才肯罷手，不然，我是不肯罷手不搜的。我想我已經搜過大臣住宅的無論那一個角落了，凡是可隱藏這封信的地方，我都搜到了。』

我提議道，『很許大臣雖然拿着這封信，他卻藏在別處，不藏在他自己宅子裏，是不是？』

杜平說道，『這是不甚能夠的。以宮庭現在的特別情形而論，尤其是我們所曉得狄大臣所在的陰謀祕計的旋渦中，一遇必要的時候，就得立刻把信拿出來，所以拿到這封信雖然是很要緊的，立刻能夠交出來，也是幾乎一樣要緊的。』

"Its susceptibility of being produced?" said I.

"That is to say, of being *destroyed*," said Dupin.

"True," I observed; "the paper is clearly then upon the premises. As for its being upon the person of the minister, we may consider that as out of the question."

"Entirely," said the Prefect. "He had been twice way-laid, as if footpads, and his person rigorously searched under my own inspection."

"You might have spared yourself this trouble," said Dupin. "D——, I presume, is not altogether a fool, and, if not, must have anticipated these waylayings, as a matter of course."

"Not *altogether* a fool," said G——, "but then he's a poet, which I take to be only one remove from a fool."

"True," said Dupin, after a long and thoughtful whiff from his meerschaum, "although I have been guilty of certain doggerel myself."

"Suppose you detail," said I, "the particulars of your search."

"Why the fact is, we took our time, and we searched *every where*. I have had long experience in these affairs. I took the entire building, room by room; devoting the nights of a whole week to each. We examined, first, the furniture of each apartment. We opened every possible drawer; and I presume you know that, to a properly trained police agent, such a thing as a *secret* drawer is impossible. Any man is a dolt who permits a 'secret' drawer to escape him in a search of this kind. The thing is so plain. There is a certain amount of bulk—of space—to be accounted for in every cabinet. Then we have accurate rules. The fiftieth, part of a line could not escape us. After the cabinets we

我說道，『你說要能夠交出來麼？』

杜平說道，『這就是說要能夠毀滅了這封信。』

我說道，『既是這樣，這封信顯然是在他家裏。至於在他身上這一層，我們可以說是不會有的事。』

警察長說道，『確是這樣。曾經有過兩次，有過裝作剪徑的人，在路上行劫他，還是我自己親身很嚴密的，搜過他的身。』

杜平說道，『你其實可以不必費這樣的事。我猜狄大臣不完全是個傻子，既不是傻子，必定自然預料會有人剪徑的。』

吉警長說道，『他雖然不完全是一個傻子，他卻是一個詩人，我看詩人與傻子相差不過一間。』（作者自己是個大詩人，何以這樣挖苦詩人——譯者註）

杜平很想了一會，噴出一陣烟，說道，『我雖然也犯過作打油詩的罪過，我卻贊成你這句話。』

我說道，『你何妨詳細說一遍你是怎樣搜信的。』

『我們用許多工夫無處不搜到。對於這種事體我有過長久的閱歷。我是整所的搜，逐一所屋子搜；每間屋子，天天晚上搜，搜一星期。我們先搜每間屋子的家具。我們凡是抽屜都打開；我預料你曉得，凡是一個受過正式教練的警員，不曉得什麼叫做祕密抽屜。凡是這樣搜查的時候，若讓一個祕密抽屜倖免搜查，這個人就是一個蠢人。事體是很淺白的。在每個密室及櫥櫃，隨處都要搜到。我們有很準確的方法。細微到一條線的五十分之一，也不能倖免

took the chairs. The cushions we probed with the fine long needles you have seen me employ. From the tables we removed the tops."

"Why so?"

"Sometimes the top of a table, or other similarly arranged piece of furniture, is removed by the person wishing to conceal an article; then the leg is excavated, the article deposited within the cavity, and the top replaced. The bottoms and tops of bedposts are employed in the same way."

"But could not the cavity be detected by sounding?" I asked.

"By no means, if, when the article is deposited, a sufficient wadding of cotton be placed around it. Besides, in our case, we were obliged to proceed without noise."

"But you could not have removed—you could not have taken to pieces *all* articles of furniture in which it would have been possible to make a deposit in the manner you mention. A letter may be compressed into a thin spiral roll, not differing much in shape or bulk from a large knitting-needle, and in this form it might be inserted into the rung of a chair, for example. You did not take to pieces all the chairs?"

"Certainly not; but we did better—we examined the rungs of every chair in the hotel, and, indeed, the jointings of every description of furniture, by the aid of a most powerful microscope. Had there been any traces of recent disturbance we should not have failed to detect it instantly. A single grain of gimlet-dust, for example, would have been as obvious as an apple. Any disorder in the gluing—any unusual gaping in the joints—would have sufficed to insure detection."

我們的搜查。搜過櫥櫃，就搜椅子。我們用長針探椅墊，你會見我用過。我們連桌面都拆卸下來。』

『這是爲什麼？』

『要隱藏東西的人，有時把桌面卸下來，或把同樣布置的家具拆卸；隨後卸下椅腳，把東西藏在空處，隨後把桌面安上。床柱的頂與腳也拿來藏東西用。』

我問道，『難道不能敲空處，聽聲辨出來麼？』

『倘若放好東西之後，四圍用棉花墊滿空處，是聽不出來的。況且我們這次進行搜尋，是不可以有聲響的。』

『據你所說，既有種種方法可以隱藏東西，你就不能把所有的家具都全數拆卸下來搜。譬如說，一封信可以擠成一條薄的螺旋捲子，其大小及形式，與一條大的織針無異，就可以插入支椅腿的橫棍裏頭。你會把全數椅子都拆卸麼？』

『誠然不會全拆；但是我們有更妙的方法——我們用一架最有力的顯微鏡看宅裏的每把椅子的橫條，每件家具的筭頭。假使有任何新近才拆卸過的痕跡，我們會立刻看出來。譬如一粒或錐或鑽的木屑，會顯出來同一個蘋果那麼大。若是膠黏處有什麼擾動——筭頭有什麼非常的分離——都足以使我們看破。』

"I presume you looked to the mirrors, between the boards and the plates, and you probed the beds and the bed-clothes, as well as the curtains and carpets."

"That of course; and when we had absolutely completed every particle of the furniture in this way, then we examined the house itself. We divided its entire surface into compartments, which we numbered, so that none might be missed; then we scrutinized each individual square inch throughout the premises, including the two houses immediately adjoining, with the microscope, as before."

"The two houses adjoining!" I exclaimed; "you must have had a great deal of trouble."

"We had; but the reward offered is prodigious."

"You included the *grounds* about the houses?"

"All the grounds are paved with brick. They gave us comparatively little trouble. We examined the moss between the bricks, and found it undisturbed."

"You looked among D——'s papers, of course, and into the books of the library?"

"Certainly; we opened every package and parcel; we not only opened every book, but we turned over every leaf in each volume, not contenting ourselves with a mere shake, according to the fashion of some of our police officers. We also measured the thickness of every book-cover, with the most accurate admeasurement, and applied to each the most jealous¹ scrutiny of the microscope. Had any of the bindings been recently meddled with, it would have been utterly impossible that the fact should have escaped observation. Some five or six volumes, just from the hands of the binder, we carefully probed, longitudinally, with the needles."

¹jealous 細心觀察; 妒忌.

『我猜你查看過鏡子，查看過鏡片及視板，你又用針探過床及被褥，與帷帳及地毯。』

『這是自然呀；我們既這樣絕對完全查看過家具的各部分，就查看宅子本身。我們把全個面積分開若干部分，每部分都有號數，以免遺漏；隨後我們逐一查看，全查遍了，相連的兩所房子也查過了，都是如從前一樣，用顯微鏡查驗的。』

我喊道，『你把昆連的兩所房子都查看到了，你必定費了大事了。』

『我們很費事；但是酬勞卻是非常的重。』

『你連房子的院地都查看過麼？』

『院地全是磚鋪的。這倒不使我們多費事。我們查看磚縫的綠苔，看得並不會受過擾動。』

『你自然看到狄大臣的文件，和他藏書室裏的書籍？』

『一定呀；我們把無論什麼包封包裹，都打開看過；我們不獨每本書都打開看，每頁都翻開看過，我們與有些警官們不同，他們只打開抖抖，就滿意了。我們還量過每本書皮有多麼厚，量得極準確的，還要很細心的用顯微鏡看過。假使有一本書的裝釘是新近擾動過的，我們是絕不會不看出來的。有五六本書是新近才裝釘的，我們都用針在直處小心探過。』

"You explored the floors beneath the carpets?"

"Beyond doubt. We removed every carpet, and examined the boards with the microscope."

"And the paper on the walls?"

"Yes,"

"You looked into the cellars?"

"We did."

"Then," I said, "you have been making a miscalculation, and the letter is *not* upon the premises, as you suppose."

"I fear you are right there," said the Prefect. "And now, Dupin, what would you advise me to do?"

"To make a thorough re-search of the premises."

"That is absolutely needless," replied G——, "I am not more sure that I breathe than I am that the letter is not at the Hôtel."

"I have no better advice to give you," said Dupin. "You have, of course, an accurate description of the letter?"

"Oh yes."—And here the Prefect, producing a memorandum-book, proceeded to read aloud a minute account of the internal, and especially of the external appearance of the missing document. Soon after finishing the perusal of this description, he took his departure, more entirely depressed in spirits than I had ever known the good gentleman before.

In about a month afterwards he paid us another visit, and found us occupied very nearly as before. He took a pipe and a chair and entered into some ordinary conversation. At length I said,—

"Well, but G——, what of the purloined letter? I presume you have at last made up your mind that there is no such thing as overreaching the Minister?"

『你會查看地毯下的地板麼？』

『這是自然呀。我們把每塊地毯都挪開，用顯微鏡看木板。』

『你查看過牆上所糊的紙麼？』

『查看過。』

『你們查看過地窖麼？』

『我們查看過。』

我說道，『既是這樣，你是算錯了，那封信並非如同你所料，不在他的宅子裏。』

警長說道，『我恐怕你說着了。杜平，你有什麼條陳給我？』

『你重新透透澈澈的再查。』

吉警長答道，『這是絕對用不着的。我曉得我現在活在世上，還不如我曉得那封信並不在宅子裏那樣切實。』

杜平說道，『我無更好的條陳給你。你自然很準確的曉得那封信的形狀，是不是？』

警長說道，『我曉得。』——他於是掏出一本記事冊來，就大聲讀那件被竊公文的裏面詳細形狀，尤其是外面的形式。他讀完不久之後，就走了，他整個的變作很垂頭喪氣，是我從前所未見過的。（這一篇文章寫警長辦案，那樣勞苦費事，以反襯下文——譯者注）

過了約一個月後，他又來探望我們，看見我們很像前次一樣在那裏吸烟閒談。他拿烟筒吸烟，坐下來，談些平常的話。後來我說道，——

『好呀！吉警長，那封被偷的信怎麼樣了？我預料你到底打定主意，你的手段關不過這位大臣，是不是？』

“Confound him, say I—yes; I made the reexamination, however, as Dupin suggested—but it was all labor lost, as I knew it would be.”

“How much was the reward offered, did you say?” asked Dupin.

“Why, a very great deal—a *very* liberal reward—I don’t like to say how much, precisely; but one thing I *will* say, that I wouldn’t mind giving my individual check for fifty thousand francs to any one who could obtain me that letter. The fact is, it is becoming of more and more importance every day; and the reward has been lately doubled. If it were trebled, however, I could do no more than I have done.”

“Why, yes,” said Dupin, drawlingly, between the whiffs of his meerschaum, “I really—think, G——, you have not exerted yourself—to the utmost in this matter. You might—do a little more, I think, eh?”

“How?—in what way?”

“Why—puff, puff—you might—puff, puff—employ counsel in the matter, eh?—puff, puff, puff. Do you remember the story they tell of Abernethy?”

“No; hang Abernethy!”

“To be sure! hang him and welcome. But, once upon a time, a certain rich miser conceived the design of spunging¹ upon this Abernethy for a medical opinion. Getting up, for this purpose, an ordinary conversation in a private company, he insinuated² his case to the physician, as that of an imaginary individual.”

“‘We will suppose,’ said the miser, ‘that his symptoms are such and such; now, doctor, what would *you* have directed him to take?’

¹ spunging, 卽 sponging 吸收; 騙; 上海俗話揩油. ² insinuated 用巧法敷衍人使人歡喜; 示意.

『是呀，我說了一句詛罵他的話；我卻照着杜平的條陳，再搜一遍（這一句包含許多勞苦事——譯者註）——白費了許多事，我曉得是白費事的。』（杜平也曉得——譯者註）

杜平問道『你說酬勞是多少錢呀？』

『很多的錢——是很重的賞——我不必願說準確數目是多少；我卻要說一句話，無論什麼人，能夠找着那封信，我肯自己給他一張五萬佛郎的支票。事體是越久變作越要緊了；新近才倍加酬勞。假使出到三倍的重賞，我已經儘我的能力辦，不能再多出力了。』

杜平吸烟，一吸一噴，一面拖長聲音間間斷斷的說道，『吉警長，是呀，我其實——以為——你不曾努力——不會用盡你的心力。我想——你還可以——稍微再用一點心，是不是？』

『怎麼？——怎樣用法？』

『你還問什麼——撲，（噴烟聲——譯者註。下做此）——撲——對於這件事，你原可以——撲，撲——請教人出主意，是不是？撲，撲，撲。你記得阿卑尼提（Abernethy）的故事麼？』

『我不曉得；不如把阿卑尼提吊死吧！』

『可不是！吊死他，我是歡迎的。但是有一次有一個有錢而捨不得花錢的某君想了一個好主意，要一毛不拔，騙這個阿卑尼提白給他一個醫方。他因為要達這樣的目的，於是在一個私人聚會裏頭，特造一種平常的會談，把他自己的病情，告訴這個醫生，假作有一個人犯了這種病。』

『這個捨不得花錢的人說道，「譬如說，這麼一個人的病狀是這般這般；醫師，你吩咐他吃些什麼？」』

“Take!” said Abernethy, ‘why, take *advice*, to be sure.’”

“But,” said the Prefect, a little discomposed, “I am *perfectly* willing to take advice, and to pay for it. I would *really* give fifty thousand francs to any one who would aid me in the matter.”

“In that case,” replied Dupin, opening a drawer, and producing a check-book, “you may as well fill me up a check for the amount mentioned. When you have signed it, I will hand you the letter.”

I was astounded. The Prefect appeared absolutely thunder-stricken. For some minutes he remained speechless and motionless, looking incredulously at my friend with open mouth, and eyes that seemed starting from their sockets; then, apparently recovering himself in some measure, he seized a pen, and after several pauses and vacant stares, finally filled up and signed a check for fifty thousand francs, and handed it across the table to Dupin. The latter examined it carefully and deposited it in his pocket-book; then, unlocking an *escritoire*, took thence a letter and gave it to the Prefect. This functionary grasped it in a perfect agony of joy, opened it with a trembling hand, cast a rapid glance at its contents, and then, scrambling and struggling to the door, rushed at length unceremoniously from the room and from the house, without having uttered a syllable since Dupin had requested him to fill up the check.

When he had gone, my friend entered into some explanations.

“The Parisian police,” he said, “are exceedingly able in their way. They are persevering, ingenious, cunning, and thoroughly versed in the knowledge which their duties seem chiefly to demand. Thus, when G——detailed to us his mode of searching the premises at the Hôtel D——,

『阿卑尼提說道，「吃什麼！當然是領教的好。」』（上一個解作吃；下一個 take 解作領，即是請教醫生——譯者註）

警長有點不安，說道，『我是很願意領教，並且願意花錢領教。只要有人肯幫我忙，我實在是願意給這個人五萬佛郎』

杜平打開一個抽屜，拿出一本支票本子，答道，『既是這樣，你不如照着你所說的數目，填一張支票給我。你一簽了字，我就把那封信給你。（說得這樣容易，反襯上文那樣費事爲難，妙極——譯者註）

我驚奇到了不得。警長好像是絕對的受了雷擊一般。他有幾分鐘說不出話，也動不得，張着大嘴，瞪着兩眼，兩眼好像快要跳出眶子來，看着我的朋友，表示他不肯相信；隨後他好像多少恢復原狀，一手執筆，停了幾次，眼望空處幾次，後來填了一張五萬佛郎的支票，簽了字，遞過來給杜平。杜平細心看過支票，放在他的袖珍冊子裏；隨後用鎖匙開了一個寫字桌的抽屜，取出一封信來，交與警長。警長歡喜到了不得，抓住這封信，手抖抖的打開，兩眼很快的看看信上的話，奪路向房門走，隨即不告而去，衝出房子，衝出大門，自從杜平請他填支票以至他出大門，並不曾發一言。

我的朋友等他走過之後，就解說他的辦法給我聽。

他說道，『巴黎的警察，自有他們的能辦事的才幹。他們堅忍，聰明，詭詐，很透澈的曉得他們職務的需要。所以當吉警長把他們在狄大臣宅子搜查的情狀告訴我們的時

I felt entire confidence in his having made a satisfactory investigation—so far as his labors extended.”

“So far as his labors extended?” said I.

“Yes,” said Dupin. “The measures adopted were not only the best of their kind, but carried out to absolute perfection. Had the letter been deposited within the range of their search, these fellows would, beyond a question, have found it.”

I merely laughed—but he seemed quite serious in all that he said.

“The measures, then,” he continued, “were good in their kind, and well executed; their defect lay in their being inapplicable to the case, and to the man. A certain set of highly ingenious resources are, with the Prefect, a sort of Procrustean bed,¹ to which he forcibly adapts his designs. But he perpetually errs by being too deep or too shallow, for the matter in hand; and many a schoolboy is a better reasoner than he. I knew one about eight years of age, whose success at guessing in the game of ‘even and odd’ attracted universal admiration. This game is simple, and is played with marbles. One player holds in his hand a number of these toys, and demands of another whether that number is even or odd. If the guess is right, the guesser wins one; if wrong, he loses one. The boy to whom I allude won all the marbles of the school. Of course he had some principle of guessing; and this lay in mere observation and admeasurement of the astuteness of his opponents. For example, an arrant simpleton is his opponent, and, holding up his closed hand, asks, ‘are they even or odd?’ Our schoolboy replies, ‘odd,’

¹ Procrustean bed 希臘強盜的床.

候——我就完全相信他曾做到一種令人滿意的搜查——這是指他的努力所及的程度而言。』

我說道，『他的努力所及的程度麼？』

杜平說道，『是的。他所用的辦法，不獨是這樣辦法中的最好的，他們並且辦得絕對的完備。假使那封信是放在他們的搜查所及的地方，他們必定搜得出來，這是無可疑的。』

我聽了不過大笑——他說這番話，卻好像是很認真的。

他接連說道，『在這種辦法裏頭，他們的辦法是好的，並且執行得好；這樣辦法的不完備，在乎不適用於這件案子，又不適用於偷信的大臣。警長的極聰明的方法，不過是一種希臘強盜的床（這個強盜只有一張床，捉了人來放在床上，身長的斬了他的頭或他的腳，身短的把他牽長，以湊他的床——譯者註）他強逼他的計劃，以湊合這個案子。但是他有時把事體看得太深，有時反看得太淺，所以常常錯誤；他不善推理，有許多小學生推理，比他推得好。我知道有一個孩子不過八歲，他猜雙單猜得很準，人人都稱讚他。這樣玩意是單簡的，是用石子猜的。這一個人手執若干枚石子，要那一個人猜是雙或是單。猜中的贏一子，猜錯的輸一子。我所說的那個小孩，把學校裏的石子全贏過來。他自然有他的猜法；他的猜法不過是觀察與量度對方的詭譎。譬如說，對方簡直是一個老實頭，舉高他的緊握的手，問道，「是雙或是單？」我們的小學生答

and loses; but upon the second trial he wins, for he then says to himself, 'the simpleton had them even upon the first trial, and his amount of cunning is just sufficient to make him have them odd upon the second; I will therefore guess odd;'—he guesses odd, and wins. Now, with a simpleton a degree above the first, he would have reasoned thus: 'This fellow finds that in the first instance I guessed odd, and, in the second, he will propose to himself upon the first impulse, a simple variation from even to odd, as did the first simpleton; but then a second thought will suggest that this is too simple a variation, and finally he will decide upon putting it even as before. I will therefore guess even;'—he guesses even, and wins. Now this mode of reasoning in the schoolboy, whom his fellows termed 'lucky,'—what, in its last analysis, is it?"

"It is merely," I said, "an identification of the reasoner's intellect with that of his opponent."

"It is," said Dupin; "and, upon inquiring of the boy by what means he effected the *thorough* identification in which his success consisted, I received answer as follows: 'When I wish to find out how wise, or how stupid, or how good, or how wicked is any one, or what are his thoughts at the moment, I fashion the expression of my face, as accurately as possible, in accordance with the expression of his, and then wait to see what thoughts or sentiments arise in my mind or heart, as if to match or correspond with the expression.' This response of the schoolboy lies at the bottom of all the spurious profundity which has been attributed to Rochefoucauld, to La Bougive, to Machiavelli, and to Campanella."

"And the identification," I said, "of the reasoner's intellect with that of his opponent, depends, if I understand

道，「單」，輸了；但是第二次猜，他卻贏了，因為他對自己說道，「這個老實頭第一次抓的是雙，他的詭譎程度，只足以使他第二次抓單的；所以我猜單；」——他果然猜單，贏了。他若遇着一個老實頭比第一個稍高些，這個小學生就盤算道：「這個人見我第一次猜單，第二次他受了初次的衝動，就會想到一種單簡的變化，從雙變到單，如同第一個老實頭一樣；但是他再一想，就會使他想到這樣的變化未免太單簡，最後他就決計同前次一樣抓雙數。所以我猜雙；」——他猜雙，果然贏了。這個小學生的這樣推理，他的同學們稱爲，「倖中」——到了最後的解剖，究竟是什麼？」

我說道，「這不過是使推理人的用心同對方的一樣。」

杜平說道，「是的；我問那個小孩子，他用什麼方法才能夠透澈的曉得對方的心理，他原是靠這樣贏對方的，我所得的答語如下：「我要曉得一個人是多麼聰明，或多麼愚蠢，或多麼好，或多麼壞，或要曉得當下他的思想是什麼，我就擺佈我的面色，盡其可能，要與他的面色準確的相同，隨後我就等候，看我的腦裏或心裏發生什麼思想或感情，好像是要同我的面色相稱。」在這個小學生的答語裏頭，就包含全數虛假的城府，世人都說洛士佛科 (Rochefoucauld)，拉布吉 (La Bougive)，馬基雅弗里 (Machiavelli)，康帕內拉 (Campanella)，城府甚深，其實都是假的，看小學生的答語便知。」

我說道，「倘若我明白你的說話，以推理人的心猜着

you aright, upon the accuracy with which the opponent's intellect is admeasured."

"For its practical value it depends upon this," replied Dupin; "and the Prefect and his cohort fail so frequently, first, by default of this identification, and, secondly, by ill-admeasurement, or rather through non-admeasurement, of the intellect with which they are engaged. They consider only their *own* ideas of ingenuity; and, in searching for anything hidden, advert only to the modes in which *they* would have hidden it. They are right in this much—that their own ingenuity is a faithful representative of that of *the mass*; but when the cunning of the individual felon is diverse in character from their own, the felon foils them, of course. This always happens when it is above their own, and very usually when it is below. They have no variation of principle in their investigations; at best, when urged by some unusual emergency—by some extraordinary reward—they extend or exaggerate their old modes of *practice*, without touching their principles. What, for example, in this case of D——, has been done to vary the principle of action? What is all this boring, and probing and sounding, and scrutinizing with the microscope and dividing the surface of the building into registered square inches—what is it all but an exaggeration of *the application* of the one principle or set of principles of search, which are based upon the one set of notions regarding human ingenuity, to which the Prefect, in the long routine of his duty, has been accustomed? Do you not see he has taken it for granted that *all* men proceed to conceal a letter,—not exactly in a gimlet-hole bored in a chair-leg—but, at least, in *some* out-of-the-way hole or corner suggested by the same

他的對頭的心，全靠他量度他的對頭的心，量度得準確。」

杜平答道，「因為其實用的價值，全在乎此；警長與他的部下屢次失敗，第一層由於猜不着，第二層由於量度不好，或由於並未量度對方的心理。他們只考慮他們自己的心思巧妙，當他們搜尋密藏的東西時候，他們只想到他們自知密藏東西的方法。他們也有對的地方，——他們自己的聰明，就是衆人的聰明的忠實代表；但是一到一個犯罪的人的詭譎，與他們的詭譎不同，這個人自然打倒他們。只要這個人的詭譎高過他們，或往往低過他們，他們總要失敗的。他們考查案件，並不改變他們的宗旨；最多不過是當被異常的緊急情形所逼時，或被異常重大的賞格所逼時，他們推廣或擴大他們的老辦法，卻並不改變他們的宗旨。例如狄大臣這件事，——他們曾變化他們的辦法的宗旨麼？他們爲什麼要用鑽子，用探條，聽聲音，用顯微鏡察看，還要把大臣宅子的地面分作若干方寸，如記號數？——這都不過是推廣利用一個搜查的規則，或一套規則，這許多規則都是利用關於世人的詭譎的一套見解，這個警長執行他的職務日久，就習慣用這樣的成法。難道你看不出來，他以爲世人偷了一封信，必定想法密藏——雖然不一定在椅子腿上鑽一窟窿，以藏這封信——至少也要藏在人所想不到的窟窿裏或角落裏，這樣的思想，與使

tenor of thought which would urge a man to secrete a letter in a gimlet-hole bored in a chair-leg? And do you not see also, that such *recherché*¹ nooks for concealment are adapted only for ordinary occasions, and would be adopted only by ordinary intellects; for in all cases of concealment, a disposal of the article concealed—a disposal of it in this *recherché* manner,—is, in the very first instance, presumable and presumed; and thus its discovery depends, not at all upon the acumen, but altogether upon the mere care, patience, and determination of the seekers; and where the case is of importance—or, what amounts to the same thing in the policial eyes, when the reward is of magnitude,—the qualities in question have *never* been known to fail. You will now understand what I mean in suggesting that, had the purloined letter been hidden any where within the limits of the Prefect's examination—in other words, had the principle of its concealment been comprehended within the principles of the Prefect—its discovery would have been a matter altogether beyond question. This functionary, however, has been thoroughly mystified; and the remote source of his defeat lies in the supposition that the Minister is a fool, because he has acquired renown as a poet. All fools are poets; this the Prefect *feels*; and he is merely guilty of a *non distributio Medii*² in thence inferring that all poets are fools.”

“But is this really the poet?” I asked. “There are two brothers, I know; and both have attained reputation in letters. The Minister I believe has written learnedly on

¹ *recherché* 很小心想出來的。 ² *non distributio Medii* 不能掉轉來說(邏輯名詞)。

人藏信在椅子腿裏的窟窿一樣，他並不證明理由，就以爲世人必定這樣辦法？難道你看不出來，這樣很費心思想出來的密藏的地方，不過是遇着平常事體所用的；亦只有知識平常的人用的；因爲凡有祕密收藏的事，搜查人首先預料偷物人必定收藏，必定很費心思祕密藏起來；所以要搜出這樣東西，並不全靠搜查人們的思想尖利，只靠他們小心，耐煩，與決定；但是遇着要緊案子——其實從警員的眼光看來，就是重賞的案子，——善用這個問題所需的幾種的屬性，是絕不會搜查不出來的。我曾說過，假使所偷的信是藏在警長所搜查到的地方的範圍裏頭——換而言之，即謂假使收藏方法是在警長所曉得的方法裏頭，是必定會搜着的，你現在就會明白我這幾句話。誰知這個警長卻完全迷惑了；他所以失敗的遠因，就是因爲他臆度這個大臣以能詩名，所以必定是一個傻子。這個警長覺得，凡是傻子都是詩人；他從此就推論到凡是詩人都是傻子，他不過是犯了不能掉轉來說的毛病。』

我就問道，『他真是一個詩人麼？我曉他有一個兄弟；兩兄弟都有文名。我曉得這個大臣著過一部很有學識的

the Differential Calculus. He is a mathematician, and no poet."

"You are mistaken; I know him well; he is both. As poet *and* mathematician, he would reason well; as mere mathematician, he could not have reasoned at all, and thus would have been at the mercy of the Prefect."

"You surprise me," I said, "by these opinions, which have been contradicted by the voice of the world. You do not mean to set at naught the well-digested idea of centuries. The mathematical reason has long been regarded as *the reason par excellence*." . . .

"You have a quarrel on hand, I see," said I, "with some of the algebraists of Paris; but proceed."

"I dispute the availability, and thus the value, of that reason which is cultivated in any especial form other than the abstractly logical. I dispute, in particular, the reason educed by mathematical study. The mathematics are the science of form and quantity; mathematical reasoning is merely logic applied to observation upon form and quantity. The great error lies in supposing that even the truths of what is called *pure algebra*, are abstract or general truths. And this error is so egregious that I am confounded at the universality with which it has been received. Mathematical axioms are *not* axioms of general truth. What is true of *relation*—of form and quantity—is often grossly false in regard to morals, for example. In this latter science it is very usually *untrue* that the aggregated parts are equal to the whole. In chemistry also the axiom fails. In the consideration of motive it fails; for two motives, each of a given value, have not, necessarily, a value when united, equal to the sum of their values apart. There are numerous other mathematical

微分學。他是一個算學家，不是一個詩人。』

『你錯了；我深知他；他既是一個算學家，又是一個詩人。既是這樣，他是善於推理的；他若只是一個算學家，他是絕不能推理的，就會在警長的掌握中。』（這幾句話很奇關——譯者註）

我說道，『你的這種見解使我驚異，世人的見解正與你的見解相反。你的意思並不是不願千百年來想過深透的見解。學者久已當算學的推理為盡善至美的推理。』

（他於是力駁法國算學家不應稱代數學為解析學——譯者註）

我說道，『我曉得你同巴黎的代數學家爭辯；但是我請你往下說。』

『我只相信抽象邏輯的推理，此外無論研究任何其他特殊形式的推理，我以為無用，無價值，我是要駁的。我尤其要駁從算學研究所引伸（亦作外抽——譯者註）的推理。各種算學都是形學及量學；算學的推理不過是推用邏輯於觀察形與量。學者臆度所謂純粹代數學的道理為抽象的或普通的道理，就是大錯。這樣的錯誤蔓延得很廣，我很驚怪這樣的錯誤變作這樣普遍。算學的幾條公理，並不是普通的真理。例如形與量的關係的真理，反用於道德，往往大錯。以道德學而言，積合其分，則等於全，居多是不對的。以化學言，這條公理也是不對的。以此考慮動機，亦要失敗的；因為兩個動機各有其價值，這兩個動機合攏起來，不一定等於其兩個價值的總數。此外尚有許多

truths which are only truths within the limits of *relation*. But the mathematician argues, from his *finite truths*, through habit, as if they were of an absolutely general applicability—as the world indeed imagines them to be. Bryant, in his very learned ‘Mythology,’ mentions an analogous source of error, when he says that ‘although the Pagan fables are not believed, yet we forget ourselves continually, and make inferences from them as existing realities.’ With the algebraists, however, who are Pagans themselves, the ‘Pagan fables’ *are* believed, and the inferences are made, not so much through lapse of memory, as through an unaccountable addling of the brains. . . .

“I mean to say,” continued Dupin, while I merely laughed at his last observations, “that if the Minister had been no more than a mathematician, the Prefect would have been under no necessity of giving me this check. I knew him, however, as both mathematician and poet, and my measures were adapted to his capacity, with reference to the circumstances by which he was surrounded. I knew him as a courtier, too, and as a bold *intrigant*. Such a man, I considered, could not fail to be aware of the ordinary policial modes of action. He could not have failed to anticipate—and events have proved that he did not fail to anticipate—the waylayings to which he was subjected. He must have foreseen, I reflected, the secret investigations of his premises. His frequent absences from home at night, which were hailed by the Prefect as certain aids to his success, I regarded only as *ruses*, to afford opportunity for thorough search to the police, and thus the sooner to impress them with the conviction to which G——, in fact, did finally arrive—the conviction that the letter was not upon the premises.

其他算學的真理，都不過是在「關係」的範圍內是對的。不料算學家由於習慣從這樣有範圍的真理推論，好像這樣的真理是絕對普遍適用的——世人誠然誤以為是絕對普遍適用的。布賴安特（Bryant）在他的很有學識的「神話學」裏頭，說過錯誤的一種相似的來源，他說，「我們雖然不信非基督教人的寓言，我們卻接連的忘記了，反從寓言上推理，以為是實有其事。」代數學家原是非基督教人，卻相信非基督教的寓言，他們反從代數學推理，這卻不甚是因為他們忘記了，好像居多是由於一種不可解的頭腦不清楚。（你對代數學家說你的理由，使他明白你的意思之後，你得趕快走開，不然的話，他是很會揮拳把你打倒的。——譯者註）

我聽了杜平末後這句話，只付諸一笑，他卻接連說道，『我的意思是說，假使這個大臣不過是一個算學家，警長就用不着給我這張支票。我卻曉得這位大臣既是一個算學家又是一個詩人，所以我所用的辦法要適合於他的知識，要慮到他所處的環境。我又曉得他是一個巧宦，且曉得他是一個大膽的陰謀家。我考慮到如他這樣的一個人不能不曉得平常警員的辦法。他不能不預料（結果曾證實他果然預料）有人躲在路上，搜他的身。我反省到，他必定預料有人秘密搜查他的住宅。他有好幾天晚上不回家，警長很高興，以為是可以助他成功，我卻以為不過是這位大臣的詭計，以便警察有機會澈底搜查，使他們早日相信那封信並不在他的住宅裏——吉先生最後果然相信並不

I felt, also, that the whole train of thought, which I was at some pains in detailing to you just now, concerning the invariable principle of policial action in searches for articles concealed—I felt that this whole train of thought would necessarily pass through the mind of the Minister. It would imperatively lead him to despise all the ordinary *nooks* of concealment. *He* could not, I reflected, be so weak as not to see that the most intricate and remote recess of his hotel would be as open as his commonest closets to the eyes, to the probes, to the gimlets, and to the microscopes of the Prefect. I saw, in fine, that he would be driven, as a matter of course, to *simplicity*, if not deliberately induced to it as a matter of choice. You will remember, perhaps, how desperately the Prefect laughed when I suggested, upon our first interview, that it was just possible this mystery troubled him so much on account of its being so *very* self-evident.”

“Yes,” said I, “I remember his merriment well. I really thought he would have fallen into convulsions.”

“The material world,” continued Dupin, “abounds with very strict analogies to the immaterial; and thus some color of truth has been given to the rhetorical dogma, that metaphor, or simile, may be made to strengthen an argument, as well as to embellish a description. The principle of the *vis inertiae*, for example, seems to be identical in physics and metaphysics. It is not more true in the former, that a large body is with more difficulty set in motion than a smaller one, and that its subsequent *momentum* is commensurate with this difficulty, than it is, in the latter, that intellects of the vaster capacity,

在那裏，我還覺得剛才我很用心詳細告訴你的全串思想，與警察搜查藏物的不易的宗旨有關的——我還覺得這全串的思想必定會在那位大臣的心中經過。這就會逼他看不起全數平常祕藏物件的深祕地方。我曾反省，他不能那樣缺乏聰明，有如想不到他的第宅的最深祕的地方，都會被警長的兩眼，探條，鑽子，及顯微鏡所搜查到，猶如最平常的櫥櫃一樣。總而言之，我曾看到他若不是被費事的計算所誘而用單簡辦法，他自然會被逼而用單簡辦法。也許你還記得，當他初次來見我的時候，我曾提醒他說，因為這件神祕事原是很淺白的，所以就許反使他覺得這樣為難，警長聽了大笑。』

我說道，『我很記得他大笑。我真想到他會大笑到發抖。』

杜平接連說道，『有質的世界，有許多事體，與無質的世界，極其謹嚴的相類；所以只要給辭令的武斷以多少真理的色彩，這樣的比喻或類似，就可用以鞏固一篇理論，且可用以裝飾一篇實寫。例如頑固力的原理，在物理學裏頭，在玄學裏頭，是一樣的。物理學的一條原理說，推動一件大東西，難過推動一件小東西，其後來所得的力距（或力量——譯者註）與所用的推動力為正比；玄學亦有這

while more forcible, more constant, and more eventful in their movements than those of inferior grade, are yet the less readily moved, and more embarrassed and full of hesitation in the first few steps of their progress. Again: have you ever noticed which of the street signs, over the shop doors, are the most attractive of attention?"

"I have never given the matter a thought," I said.

"There is a game of puzzles," he resumed, "which is played upon a map. One party playing requires another to find a given word—the name of town, river, state or empire—any word, in short, upon the motley and perplexed surface of the chart. A novice in the game generally seeks to embarrass his opponents by giving them the most minutely lettered names; but the adept selects such words as stretch, in large characters, from one end of the chart to the other. These, like the over-largely lettered signs and placards of the street, escape observation by dint of being excessively obvious; and here the physical oversight is precisely analogous with the moral inapprehension by which the intellect suffers to pass unnoticed those considerations which are too obtrusively and too palpably self-evident. But this is a point, it appears, somewhat above or beneath the understanding of the Prefect. He never once thought it probable, or possible, that the Minister had deposited the letter immediately beneath the nose of the whole world, by way of best preventing any portion of that world from perceiving it.

"But the more I reflected upon the daring, dashing, and discriminating ingenuity of D——; upon the fact that the document must always have been *at hand*, if he intended to use it to good purpose; and upon the decisive

樣的一條原理，說較為宏大的知性，其動作較為有力，較為永恆，所發生的效果又較多，非下級的知性所能比，但是當這樣高級知性進行的時候，其最初幾步卻不甚容易進行，阻礙較多，又有許多遲疑。我再問你；你向來注意過放在店鋪門上的街名麼，那一種最令人注意？』

我說道，『我向來未曾留意這件事。』

他說道，『有一種謎，是在地圖上玩的。甲要乙在地圖上找一個市鎮名，河名，國名，或帝國名——單簡說來，就是要在顏色雜亂及字畫交加的地圖上找地名。初上手的人，居多要對方找一個筆畫極細的地名；一個行家卻不然，他選筆畫較粗，字體較大，分布得很長，從地圖這一端起，到那一端止的地名。這就如同字體與招牌太大的街名相同，因為太過顯而易見，反令人不注意；這樣的眼目不留意，確與知性不留意相類，凡是太過逼人注意的，與太過切近，幾乎可以用手觸的，不證自明的事物，知性就會錯過，不加考慮。但是這樣一個要點，好像是警長所想不到，或看不起。他絕不想到那位大臣很許，或很會，把那封信放在全個世界的鼻子下，這是最好的辦法，阻止那一部分的世界，不使看見那封信。（我們中國有言人能明見萬里，而往往失於眉睫——譯者註）

『我越省及狄大臣的大膽的，悍然不顧的，及善於觀察的聰明；我越省及他若是意在利用那封信，必定放在易

evidence, obtained by the Prefect, that it was not hidden within the limits of that dignitary's ordinary search—the more satisfied I became that, to conceal this letter, the Minister had resorted to the comprehensive and sagacious expedient of not attempting to conceal it at all.

“Full of these ideas, I prepared myself with a pair of green spectacles, and called one fine morning, quite by accident, at the Ministerial hotel. I found D—— at home, yawning, lounging, and dawdling, as usual, and pretending to be in the last extremity of *ennui*. He is, perhaps, the most really energetic human being now alive—but that is only when nobody sees him.

“To be even with him, I complained of my weak eyes, and lamented the necessity of the spectacles, under cover of which I cautiously and thoroughly surveyed the apartment, while seemingly intent only upon the conversation of my host.

“I paid special attention to a large writing-table near which he sat, and upon which lay confusedly, some miscellaneous letters and other papers, with one or two musical instruments and a few books. Here, however, after a long and very deliberate scrutiny, I saw nothing to excite particular suspicion.

“At length my eyes, in going the circuit of the room, fell upon a trumpery filagree card-rack of paste-board, that hung dangling by a dirty blue ribbon, from a little brass knob just beneath the middle of the mantel-piece. In this rack, which had three or four compartments, were five or six visiting cards and a solitary letter. This last was much soiled and crumpled. It was torn nearly in two, across the middle—as if a design, in the first instance, to tear it entirely up as worthless, had been altered, or

於取用的地方；我又越省及警長的確切無疑的憑據，證實那封信並不在那位大臣的平常所能搜查到的地方的範圍裏頭，——我就覺得這位大臣因為要密藏這封信，反用範圍極大而巧妙的方法，簡直不去密密收藏那封信，我越反省到這一層，我越覺得滿意。

『我的肚子既滿裝着這許多意思，有一天，我就戴上一副綠色眼鏡，偶然走去大臣的宅子，拜訪他。我看見狄大臣在家裏打呵欠，在那裏走走站站，無所事事，裝作極其厭悶的神氣。其實他很許是最好活動的人——當無人看見他時，確是這樣。

『我也要裝模作樣，我就說我的兩眼怕光，歎息我必得用眼鏡，我既有眼鏡遮護，我就很小心很透澈的，察看這個房間，一面卻裝出只注意於與大臣談話。

我特別留心察看在他身邊的一張寫字的大桌子，桌面縱橫紛亂的堆着各式各樣的信及其他文件，還有一兩件樂器與幾本書。我很詳細很費事察看了許久，卻不見有什麼使我特別懷疑的東西。

『後來我的兩眼四圍的看看見一個紙糊的(filagree?)精緻而無價值的信插，用一條髒的藍帶，掛在爐台中間底下的一個小銅鈕上。這個信插分開三四隔，放了五六個名片及單獨一封信。這封信卻是很不乾淨又是很團縲了的。幾乎在中間撕作兩截——好像是有意弄成這樣的，初時好像以為這封信無用，要整個的撕了，後來改了意思，或

stayed, in the second. It had a large black seal, bearing the D—— cipher *very* conspicuously, and was addressed, in a diminutive female hand, to D——, the minister, himself. It was thrust carelessly, and even, as it seemed, contemptuously, into one of the upper divisions of the rack.

“No sooner had I glanced at this letter, than I concluded it to be that of which I was in search. To be sure, it was, to all appearance, radically different from the one of which the Prefect had read us so minute a description. Here the seal was large and black, with the D—— cipher; there it was small and red, with the ducal arms of the S—— family. Here, the address, to the Minister, was diminutive and feminine; there the superscription, to a certain royal personage, was markedly bold and decided; the size alone formed a point of correspondence. But, then, the *radicalness* of these differences, which was excessive; the dirt; the soiled and torn condition of the paper, so inconsistent with the *true* methodical habits of D——, and so suggestive of a design to delude the beholder into an idea of the worthlessness of the document; these things, together with the hyperobtrusive situation of this document, full in the view of every visitor, and thus exactly in accordance with the conclusions to which I had previously arrived; these things, I say, were strongly corroborative of suspicion, in one who came with the intention to suspect.

“I protracted my visit as long as possible, and, while I maintained a most animated discussion with the Minister, on a topic which I knew well had never failed to interest and excite him, I kept my attention really riveted upon the letter. In this examination, I committed to memory

不果撕。信上有一個大黑印，印的是狄——字，印得極顯明，信面有女人所寫的小字，寫的是狄大臣的自己名姓。這封信是殊不經意的插在信架的上一層一隔裏頭，還好像是看不起這封信，隨便插在那裏的。

『我一瞥見這封信，我就曉得這是我所欲搜得的信。從外表看來，這封信誠然與警長所詳細讀給我們的絕不相同。這封信的印是大而黑的，印的是狄——字樣；警長所說的是小而紅，印的是斯——氏的公爵徽章。這封信的封面是寫給大臣的，是女人所寫的細字；警長所說的信是寫給某親貴的，字畫是粗豪有決斷的；只有信的大小是相符的。但根本上的不同，未免太過些；這封信骯髒；這封信的不乾淨及撕過的情形，與狄大臣的實在有條理的習慣，太不相符，這就表示他有意欺人，意在使看見這封信的人，誤以為是無價值的信件；這幾層情形，與把信放在極其顯著的地方，凡是來訪的人都能看見，與我從前所得的結論，準確的相符；我就說，這許多情形，很有力的贊成我的疑團，我來訪他，原是有意疑心這封信在這裏的。

『我盡我的可能，拖長我的拜訪，逗留不去，我一面同大臣支持着一種極有精神的討論，我深知這樣的討論，絕不會不使他注意，又絕不會不激動他的，其實我是注意於那封信。當我查察的時候，我心裏記着信的外表，及在信

its external appearance and arrangement in the rack, and also fell, at length, upon a discovery which set at rest whatever trivial doubt I might have entertained. In scrutinizing the edges of the paper, I observed them to be more *chafed* than seemed necessary. They presented the *broken* appearance which is manifested when a stiff paper, having been once folded and pressed with a folder, is refolded in a reversed direction, in the same creases or edges which had formed the original fold. This discovery was sufficient. It was clear to me that the letter had been turned, as a glove, inside out, re-directed, and re-sealed, I bade the Minister good morning, and took my departure at once, leaving a gold snuff-box upon the table.

“The next morning I called for the snuff-box, when we resumed, quite eagerly, the conversation of the preceding day. While thus engaged, however, a loud report, as if of a pistol, was heard immediately beneath the windows of the hotel, and was succeeded by a series of fearful screams, and the shoutings of a mob. D—— rushed to a casement, threw it open, and looked out. In the meantime, I stepped to the card-rack, took the letter, put it in my pocket, and replaced it by a fac-simile (so far as regards externals) which I had carefully prepared at my lodgings; imitating the D—— cipher, very readily, by means of a seal formed of bread.

“The disturbance in the street had been occasioned by the frantic behavior of a man with a musket. He had fired it among a crowd of women and children. It proved however, to have been without ball, and the fellow was suffered to go his way as a lunatic or a drunkard. When he had gone, D—— came from the window, whither I

插的某處；後來我揭露一件事，消滅了我所可以存留的無論什麼小疑團。當我細心察看紙邊的時候，我看見紙邊不該那樣擦損太過。擦損的情形，就像一張硬紙摺疊與壓過之後，掉過方向仍在，同此邊上再摺疊。我看破這一層就夠了。我看得很清楚，他把信封翻出來，把裏面變作外面，如同我們翻手套一樣，重新寫姓名住址，重新加印，我就與大臣告辭，立刻走出來，留下一個金鼻烟壺在桌上。

『翌日我去探他，取我的鼻烟壺，我們又很認真的接續昨天的談話。我們正在討論的時候，聽見大響一聲，好像是手槍聲，從第宅的窗下發出，繼以接連幾次的可怕叫喊，還有一堆閒人的大聲叫喊。狄大臣立刻走去開窗，往外看。當下我走到紙糊的信插，取那封信，放在我的衣袋裏另放一封外表相像的信，這是我在寓所小心學製的；用麵包作印，很容易摹倣狄大臣的印章。

『大街上的騷擾，是一個手執一槍的人的瘋狂行爲鬧出來的。他在一羣婦孺隊裏放槍。所放的是空槍，並無子彈，衆人當他是一個瘋子或一個醉漢，就放他走了。他走過之後，狄大臣從窗子走來，我一得着那封信，我也走到

had followed him immediately upon securing the object in view. Soon afterwards I bade him farewell. The pretended lunatic was a man in my own pay."

"But what purpose had you," I asked, "in replacing the letter by a *fac-simile*? Would it not have been better, at the first visit, to have seized it openly, and departed?"

"D——," replied Dupin, "is a desperate man, and a man of nerve. His hotel, too, is not without attendants devoted to his interests. Had I made the wild attempt you suggest, I might never have left the Ministerial presence alive. The good people of Paris might have heard of me no more. But I had an object apart from these considerations. You know my political prepossessions. In this matter, I act as a partisan of the lady concerned. For eighteen months the Minister has had her in his power. She has now him in hers; since, being unaware that the letter is not in his possession, he will proceed with his exactions as if it was. Thus will he inevitably commit himself, at once, to his political destruction. His downfall, too, will not be more precipitate than awkward. It is all very well to talk about the *facilis descensus Averni*;¹ but in all kinds of climbing, as Catalani said of singing, it is far more easy to get up than to come down. In the present instance I have no sympathy—at least no pity—for him who descends. He is that *mons'trum horrendum*² an unprincipled man of genius. . . .

¹ *facilis descensus Averni* 下地獄易。 ² *monstrum horrendum* 可怕的怪物。

窗子。不久之後，我就同他告辭。那個裝瘋的人，原是我花錢雇來的。』

我問道，『你爲什麼放一封同樣的信，以替代你所取去的信？你爲什麼當第一次拜訪的時候，不公然把那封信搶來就走？』

杜平答道，『狄大臣是一個肯拚命的人，又是一個有膽的人。況且他的第宅並非無與他同利害的侍從。假使我照着你的條陳，硬奪那封信，我就許死在他的面前，不復能生還。巴黎的良民，就許再不聽見我這個人。但是撇開這幾種考慮不計外，我還有一個目的。你曉得我是有政黨成見的。我辦這件事，我的所作所爲，如同我是那位貴夫人的黨友一般。她在那個大臣的掌握中，有十八個月啦。現在這個大臣卻反在她的掌握中啦；因爲他並不曉得那封信已經不在他自己手裏，他將進行一切，好像那封信仍然在他手中一樣。這樣一來，他就免不了立刻害了自己，他在政黨上就是毀了自己。等到他倒的時候，不獨倒得很快，而且倒得很難堪的。世人只管說上台難下台易，說得好聽；卡塔拉尼對於歌唱也曾說過，無論那樣的爬高，還是爬高易，爬下難。以現在這件事而論，我對於爬下來的人並不表同情——至少我也不可憐他。因爲他是可怕的怪物，他是一個無道德的聰明人。』

（他說他放在信封裏頭的是一張空白紙，寫了兩句引來的詩，狄大臣認得他的筆跡，一看見就曉得是他把信搜去的，以雪從前他上過狄大臣的當的恥辱——譯者註）



(一二五七三)

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