

the most natural to accommodate but their friends' the present com- sons of the host, actually bivouacked seemed no limit to rs, either in the early good-nature on of the guests. phrase, was here as at the disposal ty to ride, drive, but all his hours unfettered, even as t, or joined the courteous attention ne that the most too, was found a he most polished languages were in its higher y seen out of the ities and general and a liberality nment; while to character lent an diality that left rs beneath their

g and every one, every fall he got isadventure that ive tastes, gave The ladies pro- ss polished, but lish good fellow

ach guest living elty to the com-

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pany; sometimes two or three new faces would appear at the dinner-table or in the drawing-room, and conjecture was ever at work whether the last arrivals had been yet seen, and who were they who presented themselves at table?

"You will meet two new guests to-day, Count," said the host one day, as we entered the drawing-room before dinner: "a Spanish Bishop and his niece, — a very charming person, and a widow of nineteen! They came over to Ireland about some disputed question of property, — being originally Irish by family, — and are now, I regret to say, about to return to Spain in a few days. Hitherto a severe cold has confined the Bishop to his chamber; and his niece, not being, I fancy, a proficient in any but her native language, had not courage to face a miscellaneous party. They will both, however, favor us to-day; and as you are the only one here who can command the 'true Castilian tongue,' you will take the Countess in to dinner."

I bowed my acknowledgments, not sorry to have the occasion of displaying my Spanish and playing the agreeable to my fair countrywoman.

The drawing-room each day before dinner had no other light than that afforded by a great fire of bog deal, which, although diffusing a rich and ruddy glow over all who sat within the circle around it, left the remainder of the apartment in comparative darkness; and few, except those very intimate, were able to recognize each other in the obscurity. Whether this was a whim of the host, or a pardonable artifice to make the splendor of the well-lighted dinner-table more effective, on the principle of orators, who begin at a whisper to create silence, I know not, but we used to jest over the broken shins and upset spider tables that each day announced the entrance of some guest less familiarized to the geography of the apartment.

On this particular occasion the party was unusually large; possibly a certain curiosity to see the new guests had added to the number, while some of the neighboring families were also present. Various were the new names announced; and at last came the Bishop, with the lady of the house upon his arm, the young widow following with one of the daughters of the house. I could only distinguish a very white head,