

ing, something unusual seemed to pervade the atmosphere of this Olympian fireside formerly so serene. Mr. Bichut mislaid his spectacles, read his paper up-side-down, answered imaginary bell-calls, took off his skull-cap more



than once and scratched his bald head without exactly being conscious of the fact and teased the cat for the first time in years, to its great surprise. His wife's mood was apparently something like his own and its effect was very perceptible on one so unaccustomed to philosophical reasoning, causing her to use sugar in the soup instead