

53. He must be a fool, said the ostler. I think he is deaf, replied a stable boy ; but at all events, we must take care of his horse, we shall be responsible for it.

54. Our traveller now entered the house, and the landlady told him as the other had done, that it was impossible to lodge him.

55. He cried loud enough to stun her : No compliments, no ceremony, I beg, Ma'am ; your accommodations will be very good ; I am easily satisfied, and it is quite useless for you to speak, for I am so deaf that I cannot hear a cannon.

56. He then took a chair and seated himself by the fire, as if he had been at home. Finding no means of getting rid of him, the landlord and his wife determined to let him pass the night on the chair, as the beds were all engaged.

57. Shortly after, passing through the next room, he saw the dinner served, and immediately taking a chair, he placed himself at the table ; it was in vain they bawled to him as loud as possible, that it was a private party, and that they would not receive a stranger ; he appeared to think that they wished to give him the top of the table, and thanking them for their politeness he said he was very comfortable where he was seated.

58. Finding they could not make him understand, they let him remain ; and after eating a hearty dinner, he threw a two franc piece on the table to pay for his repast ; but the landlady pushed it away with disdain, saying : what ! do you suppose that two francs will pay for such a dinner as you have eaten.

59. Oh ! I beg your pardon, Ma'am, replied he, I insist on paying for my own dinner ; I thank these gentlemen for their politeness, but I will not suffer them to pay for me.

60. Then looking at his watch, he went out of the room, wishing them all good night, and soon found his way to a bed room.

61. The company after having laughed heartily at his apparent stupidity, sent a servant to see where he was gone.