

weather ; the cry would find a difficulty in reaching us here." It instantly pierced their ears. Madame Grandval imagined that the region below had thrown out all its terrors : she ran *en chemise* from the top to the bottom of the house ; and none in the house dared to close their eyes the remainder of the night.

Seven or eight days after, whilst in conversation with the society which generally surrounded her, when the clock had struck eleven, it was followed by the firing of a gun as it were directly into her windows. Every one heard the report, every one saw the fire, but the window received no injury ; and all concluded that some person had made an attempt upon her life, that he had failed, and that it would be necessary to take precautions for the future. One of her friends flew to M. de Marville, who was lieutenant of police, and his particular friend. They came immediately, and inspected the houses opposite to Clairon's. The street was filled with spies of all kinds, but all their vigilance was ineffectual. Her own house was thoroughly examined ; and yet, notwithstanding every precaution, this noise was heard for three months, the light from the explosion was seen, striking always at the same hour, on the same pane of glass, and no one was ever able to discover whence it proceeded. This fact has been marked down in the registers of the police.

She now began to be accustomed to this extraordinary phenomenon, when one evening, it being very hot, she opened the window, and, with a gentleman then present, went out upon the balcony. The clock struck eleven ; the report went off, and they were both, from the shock, thrown into the apartment, where they were taken up