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AGER.

When Madame Verne's granddaughter Hortense was betrothed to Mondeur Moran, it became necessary to celebrate the occasion by a little family supper. No strangers were to be asked. But when Madame Verne had counsed them all, she found, to her horror, that they numbered thirteen. She bethought her to invite M. Roden, the cure, who had christened little Hortense.

So M. Roden was invited, and all went well until two days before the supper, when an unimportant young cousin bethought him to break a limb, and reduced the party again to thirteen. The time was short, but Madame made the best of it. She invited

Madame made the best of it. She invited the music-teacher, who accepted with delight. Matters were arranged once more, when a message came to Uncle Pierre which demanded his presence elsewhere. Again there were thirteen guests, and but

Again there were thirteen guests, and but half a day remaining. Madame Verne was equal to the emergency. She sent a note to a deaf old gentleman of her acquaintance, begging him to come. And how all was well again. The fourteenth guest was in the house, the rest were arriving. The ladies were adding the finishing touches to their tollettes in the dressing-room, and Hortense, all blushes, was receiving the congratulations of her friends, when suddenly screams were heard to resound through the house.

The maiden aunt, Mademoiselle Rosine, had caught her dress on fire. It was ex-

mbaning. She paused, stooped down, touched the figure upon its shoulder and said: "My poor child, what is the master?"

As she spoke a face beautiful, sweet and not past swenty, was lifted in hera, but there came no answer.

"Are you hurt! Have you fallen down those steep stairs?"

Then a se girt spoke:

"Oh, you look so kind," she said, "see good, perhaps you will advise me, I have come from the country; I sam an orphase! I have no relatives; I came to find a friend who promised me everything; I camet. I know no one here. Yesterday I spent my last sous, I is there anything for me but the river? I know there is not, but you look kind, and I—I sould not help telling you."

"The river, nonsense," said Madame. "You will find your friend, or you can go back to your own home, can you not?"

"No," she said—"ho, I can never go back."

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"This is a betrothed least, madame?"

"Yes, my child."

"Your granddaughter, the beautiful gening lady yonder, is to marry M. Octave Moran?"

"Precisely, in two months."

After this she said nothing more.

The feast west on. At last they were about to leave the table and the old grandfather arose. He had something to say to the young couple. Kind admonitious to him who was about to take her into his likesping; but he ended thus:

"But I give her to you gladly, my dear Octave, for I know you to be an honorable man; and I believe you will give her a heart as pure and fresh and all unwritten as the one she gives to you—a heart worthy of her acceptance."

He paused and looked about the table, but no one was looking at him. As he uttered the last sentence Octave Moran had slowly furned his face as though attracted by some measured influence toward the quatorsione. Their eyes had met and fixed in a strange stare; the other guesta were all staring at them.

Faldenly Octave Moran started to his feet and dashed out of the room.

There were thirteen at table.

Somethlus flashed in the hand of the



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past their deway.

It is black, speaking to a servant, at the same instant, and the door in facts.

Madame Verne, having mounted the airs, was doomed to a disappointment. As storing was its, but he was selfering from an attack of giows. He was in so one of likely helps, instead of leaving them is the happy to live him the work of the control of a quaterisism, who, if he was discongaged, would be happy to live himself out for supporting. As woman, dressed in black, sat upon the brain, precipitated the way on and its ordinated and monahing. She paused, stooped down, to which we work to the storing them had a monahing. She paused, stooped down, to unded the figure upon its shoulder and madaing. She paused, stooped down, to under the figure apon its shoulder and madaing. The paused is black, sat upon the manading of the storing the storing of the storing the storing of the storing the storing the storing of the storing the storing of the storing the storing of the storing the sto

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