

"O yes; and for this reason I (1) **did** not **despair**. The (2) **habits** of the minister gave me, (3) **too**, a great advantage. (4) **He** is (5) **frequently** absent (6) **from home** all night. His servants are by no means (7) **numerous**. They (8) **sleep** at a distance from their master's apartment, (9) **and**, being chiefly Neapolitans, are readily made drunk. I have keys, (10) **as you know**, with which I can open any chamber or cabinet in Paris. (11) **For three months** a night has not passed, during the greater part of which I (12) **have not been engaged**, personally, in ransacking the Dxx Hotel. My honor is interested, and, (13) **to mention** a great secret, (14) **the reward** is enormous. So I did not abandon the search (15) **until I had become fully satisfied that the thief is a more astute man than myself**. I fancy that I have investigated every nook and corner of the premises in which (16) **it** is possible that the paper can be concealed."