

(1)The address, however, was uppermost, and, the contents thus (2) **unexposed**, the letter escaped notice. (3) **At this juncture** enters the Minister Dxx. His lynx eye (4) **immediately** perceives the paper, recognizes the handwriting of the address, observes the confusion of (5) **the personage** addressed, and fathoms (6) **her** secret. (7) **After some business transactions**, hurried through in his (8) **ordinary** manner, he produces a letter somewhat similar (9) **to the one** in question, opens it, pretends to read it, (10) **and** then places (11) **it** in close juxtaposition to the other. (12) **Again** he converses, for some fifteen minutes, upon the public affairs. At length, in taking leave, he takes (13) **also** from the table the letter to which he (14) **had** no **claim**. Its rightful owner saw, (15) **but**, of course, dared not call attention to the act, in the presence of the third personage (16) **who stood at her elbow**. The (17) **minister** decamped; leaving his own letter – (18) **one of no importance** - upon the table."