



高中學生
課外補充讀物

英文短篇名作選讀

沙文淵譯著

大眾書局印行

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英文短篇名作選讀

*EASY
READING SELECTIONS
IN*



ROBERT J. DIXSON

沙文海 註譯



大衆書局印行



英文短篇名作選讀

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譯 者 序

這本書裡的九個短篇名作，係美國語言學家狄克遜 (Robert J. Dixon) 所精選。由淺入深，由短而長，實為有志研究英語者的理想讀物。每篇的後面都附有很多作為練習會話的問題，短的故事有四十至六十題，較長的最多達一百二十題，可以給學者極充分的練習的機會。此外並分別提出每個故事中特別的成語多條，供讀者練習造句之用。讀者有此英漢對照本一卷在手，可以很容易地暢閱業已經過時代的考驗的英文名作，雖屬九鼎一臠，但已足可作為誘引讀者進而瀏覽英美名作的一個很好的開始了。如採用為教本，老師更可以而加強單字成語用法之講解，句法結構之剖析，及會話練習等，以收事半功倍之效。

“聖誕構物”和“最後的一片葉子”的作者奧·亨利 (O. Henry, 1862—1910) 為美國名短篇小說家，原名為 William Sydney Porter。生於北卡羅來納斯州的格稜茲柏羅。一九〇二年定居於紐約，專心於寫作。他的小說極多，以幽默見稱，風行一時，極為讀者所愛好。一九一七年出版的全集計有十四冊之多。一九三七年出版的“奧·亨利全集”厚達一千六百餘頁。

“被竊的信”的作者愛得加·坡 (Edgar Allan Poe, 1809—49) 生於波士頓，父母為走碼頭的伶人。一八一一年變成孤兒，由維琴尼亞州的一位密商約翰·愛倫所收養。他隨養父前往英國，於一八一五年至一八二〇年間在英國入學。返國後因事與養父決裂。曾入維琴尼亞大學，未幾輟學，投入陸軍任上士，並曾一度肄業於西點軍校。離開軍校後在波的摩，利治曼、紐約、費城等地以賣文為生。坡是一位天才詩人，曾出版過三部詩集；“泰默林”(Tamerlane, 1827)， “愛阿拉夫”(Ah Aaraaf, 1829)， “詩集”(Poems, 1831)。他的短篇小說更是攝入心弦。

“屈拉維爾先生的初獵”和“饑餓的人飽啖一餐”的作者理查·哈丁·戴維斯 (Richard Harding Davis, 1864—1916) 生於菲列得爾非亞，為美國名戰地記者，劇作家與小說家。所著小說以“蓋拉夫爾”(Gallegher and Other Stories, 1891)， “王畢寶”(Van Bibber and Others, 1892) “幸運的兵士”(Soldiers of Fortune, 1897)， “藍森的愚行”(Ranson's Folly, 1902) 等書最為出名。戲劇作品有二十四種，最為傑出的“有獨裁者”(The Dictator, 1904, 1906)， “文化小姐”(Miss

Civilization, 1905, 1906) 等。在新聞方面的報導名作有“一個戰地記者的筆記”(Notes of a War Correspondent, 1910) 等。

“大衛·史溫”和“大石面”的作者納森尼爾·霍桑(Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1804—64) 生於麻省賽冷，父親是一位航海家，三歲時就不幸喪父，從此一生潦倒，艱辛備嘗。一八三七年他的短篇小說集“舊事重提”(Twice-Told Tales) 問世，奠定了霍桑在文壇上不朽的聲譽與地位。十九世紀初葉美國大作家中能與華盛頓·愛爾文的散文相提並論的，當首推霍桑。長篇小說有“紅字記”(The Scarlet Letter, 1850) “七角樓”(The House of the Seven Gables, 1851)，“布萊斯得農場的浪漫史”(The Blithedale Romance, 1852)，及“大理石牧神”(The Marble Faun, 1860) 等。

“紅髮人協會”的作者亞瑟·科南·道爾爵士(Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1859—1930) 為英國名偵探小說作家。他本來是學醫的，畢業於愛丁堡大學，也曾經當過八年多的醫生，後來轉而從事小說寫作。他最出名的作品就是“雪洛克·賀爾姆斯的奇事”(Adventures of Sherlock Holmes) 和“雪洛克·賀爾姆斯回憶錄”(Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes) 二書，把雪洛克·賀爾姆斯先生的精明幹練寫得出神入化。

“呂柏大夢”的作者華盛頓愛爾文(Washington Irving, 1783—1859) 是美國第一位享有國際聲譽的作家。生於紐約州，為一信奉長老會的商人的幼子，極得家人之寵愛，曾旅行歐洲多年。他的代表作為“見聞錄”(The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent, 1819—20)，出版後轟動一時，洛陽紙貴。此外尚有“布利斯不利治大廳”(Bracebridge Hall, 1822)，“一個旅行者的故事集”(Tales of a Traveller, 1824)，“哥倫布傳”(Biosraphy of Columbus, 1823)，“格蘭那達之征服史”(A Chronicle of the Conquest of Granada, 1829)，“奧汗布拉”(Alhambra, 1832)，及“華盛頓傳”(Life of Washington, 1855—1859) 等。有人說，“他的天才的筆把一件東西都變成了金子，他的溫和的性情將它的光輝映在他的字裡行間”。

最後須要說明的，本書所選各篇，原文過於艱深之處已經酌加節略。又譯者以工作繁忙，疏漏之處，或在所難免，尚望海內外宏達不吝賜教為幸。

沙 文 淵 五十年八月

英文短篇名作選讀

Easy Reading Selections in English

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THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT

聖誕禮物

O. Henry

奧·亨利

PART I

One dollar and eighty-seven cents That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies which Della had saved one at a time. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

While Della is crying in this way let us take a look at the home in which she lives. It is a small furnished ¹apartment at eight dollars a week, and it is a very poor one. Everywhere there are signs of ²poverty.

Della finished crying, got up, and began to ³powder her face. She stood by the window and looked out with little interest at a gray cat walking along a gray fence in a gray ⁴backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim, her husband, a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't ⁵go far. ⁶Expenses had been greater than she expected. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. She had ⁷spent many happy hours planning for something nice for him,

一元八角七分。就這麼多錢了。並且其中的六角都是分幣。這是黛拉一分一分地積蓄起來的。黛拉曾經數過三次。一元八角七分。而第二天就是聖誕節了。

讓我們且在黛拉這樣哭泣着的時候，來看一看她所住的屋子吧。這是一間每週八元租金而附有傢俱的公寓房間。一間很蹩腳的房間。裡面到處都是貧窮的標誌。

黛拉不再哭了，她站了起來，開始把她的面孔搽上香粉。她站在窗前，冷漠地向外面望着灰色的後院裡沿着一條灰色的圍牆走過去的一隻灰色的貓。明天就是聖誕節了，而她祇有一元八角七分可以用了去買一件禮物給她的丈夫詹姆。她幾個月來儘量地節省每一分錢，結果才積蓄到這末多。每週二十塊錢並不是一個大數目。開支比她所預料的來得大。總是這樣。祇有一元八角七分去買一件禮物給詹姆。她曾經花了許多小時，高高興興地計劃着

1. 公寓房間。2. 貧窮。3. 搽粉。4. 後院。5. 價值大。6. 開支。

something fine and *rare,⁷ something worthy of the honor of being owned by Jim.

There was a narrow mirror between the windows of the room. Suddenly Della turned from the window and stood before the mirror. Her eyes suddenly began to shine brilliantly, although her face turned a little pale. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two *possessions⁸ in which Jim and Della took great pride. One was Jim's gold watch, that had *previously⁹ been his father's and, before that, his grand-father's. The other was Della's beautiful hair, which now fell about her shoulders like a beautiful *cascade¹⁰ of water. It reached below her knees. Quickly, now, she combed it again and arranged it properly. She hesitated for a moment and tears appeared in her eyes.

She put on her old brown coat, She put on her old brown hat. With her eyes shining, she *flew¹¹ out of the room and down the stairs to the street.

She walked some distance and finally stopped at a shop with a sign which read: "Madame Sofronio, Hair Goods of All kinds." Della ran up the stairs to the second floor where the shop was *located.¹² She was breathing heavily.

買這麼一件很好的東西給他，一件優美珍奇，一件配得上詹姆的東西。

有一面狹長的鏡子在房間裡窗子的中間。黛拉突然從窗子那兒轉過來站在鏡子的前面。她的眼睛突然開始發出燦爛的光芒，雖然她的面孔變得有一點蒼白。她很快地把她的秀髮拉了下來，讓它一直下垂。

啊，詹姆和黛拉有兩樣非常引以自豪的東西。一樣是詹姆的金錶，以前是他的父親的，再以前則是他的祖父的。另一樣是黛拉的美麗的秀髮，現在披落在地的兩肩的周圍，像一股美麗的小瀑布。它一直垂到她的膝下。她現在又很快地梳理着它，把它整理好。她猶豫了一會兒，兩眼顯出淚水。

她穿上她那件舊的褐色的外衣。她帶上她那頂舊的褐色的帽子。兩眼發亮，她飛快地走出房間，走下樓梯到了街上。

她走了一段路，最後在一個牌子上寫着“蘇佛郎妮夫人，各種頭髮”的商店前停了下來。黛拉跑到那家商店所在的二樓去。她沈重地呼吸着。

7. 珍奇。8. 所有物。9. 以前。10. 小瀑布。11. 飛跑。12. 位於。

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take your hat off and let me have a look at it."

Della removed¹³ her hat and let fall her beautiful hair.

"Twenty dollars," said Madame, feeling the hair with her experienced hand.

"Give it to me quickly," said Della.

PART II

The next two hours flew by¹⁴ quickly. She was busy looking everywhere in the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and for no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores and she had been everywhere. It was a platinum¹⁵ watch chain, a beautiful one, worthy of the Watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be for Jim. It was like him, good taste¹⁶ and quality. The description applied to both. It cost twenty-one dollars. Della hurried home with the eighty-seven cents which remained.

When Della arrived home she was less excited, and gradually she became more reasonable.¹⁷ She began to comb and arrange her hair, now cut very short, in the best way she could.

"你願意買我的頭髮嗎?" 黛拉問。

"我是買頭髮的," 夫人說。"把帽子脫掉讓我看它"。

黛拉脫去帽子, 讓她的美麗的秀髮披落下來。

"二十塊錢," 夫人說, 用她那隻有經驗的手摸摸頭髮。

"快點把錢給我吧," 黛拉說。

二

以後的兩小時飛快地過去了。她忙着在商店裡到處找尋着詹姆的禮物。

她終於找到了。這當然是特別為詹姆定製的了。各家商店裡沒有另外一個像它的, 而她是什麼地方都去過。這是一條白金錶鍊, 很好看, 正配得上那隻錶。她一看到它就知道它一定是給詹姆的了。它很像他, 樣子好品質高。這描寫對兩者都適用。它費了二十一元。黛拉匆匆忙忙地回家, 帶着剩下的八角七分錢。

黛拉到家時比較沒有那樣興奮了, 她逐漸變得較為懂事了。她開始以可能的最好的方式, 梳理她現在已經剪得很短了的頭

13. 脫去。14. 飛逝。15. 白金。16. 樣子。17. 明白道理的。

She took her *curling iron¹⁸ and began to curl her hair carefully. Then she looked at herself in the mirror *critically.¹⁹ "If Jim, doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he looks at me a second time, he'll say that I look like a child. But what could I do with only a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

At seven o'clock the coffee was made and the dinner almost ready.

Jim was never late. Della held the chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door. Then she heard his step on the stairs and for a moment she *turned²⁰ white.

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two, and he had all the problems of having a family. He needed a new *overcoat,²¹ and he was without gloves.

Jim's eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was suddenly an expression in them that she could not *read,²² and it frightened her. He simply looked at her with a strange expression.

Della jumped off the table and went toward him.

"Jim, darling," she said "don't look at me in that way. I had my hair cut off and I sold it because I wanted to give you a Christmas present. My hair will grow again — you don't

髮。她拿起她的捲髮鉗開始把她的頭髮弄鬆曲了。

然後她用鑑定的眼光對着鏡子看着她自己。"如果詹姆在第二次望着我之前不臭罵我一頓的話,"她自言自語道,"他會說我看起來像一個小孩子。然而我祇有一塊八角七分又怎麼辦呢?"

到了七點鐘咖啡已經燒好,而晚餐已經準備得差不多了。

詹姆從來不遲到。黛拉手裡拿着錢鍊坐在靠近門的那個角落裡。然後她聽到他在樓梯上的腳步聲,而她一時面色變白。

門打開了,詹姆走了進來隨即又把它關上。他看起來很瘦削嚴肅。可憐的人兒,他祇不過才二十二歲,而他已經就有維持一個家庭的一切問題了。他需要一件新的外套,而且他也沒有帶手套。

詹姆的兩眼盯着黛拉,突然他眼睛裡有了一種她看不懂的一種神色,這使得她害怕。他的確以一種很奇怪的神情望着她。

黛拉跳了離開桌子,向着他走過去。

"詹姆,親愛的,"她說,"別那樣望着我。我把我的頭髮剪掉了,我把它賣掉因為我要送一樣聖誕節禮物給你。我的頭髮

18. 捲髮鉗。19. 用鑑定眼光。20. 變成。21. 外套。22. 了解,覺察。

"mind,²³ do you? I simply had to do it. My hair grows very fast. Say Merry Christmas to me, Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice—what a beautiful gift I bought for you."

PART III

"You have cut off your hair," Jim said, as though he could not possibly understand.

"I cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well? I am the same person without my hair."

Jim looked around the room curiously.

"You say that your hair is gone?" he said, with an air²⁴ almost of foolishness.

"It is not necessary to look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you—sold and gone. It's Christmas evening, darling. So be good to me—because I sold my hair for you."

Jim seemed suddenly to wake up. He kissed Della. Then he took a *package²⁵ out of his pocket and threw it upon the table.

"Don't make any mistake, Della," he said, "about me. Nothing that could ever happen would ever make me think less of you."

✱ Her white fingers quickly *undid²⁶ the package. And then a cry of joy—and next a quick feminine change to

會再長起來的——你不介意是嗎？我實在不得不這樣做。我的頭髮長得很快。對我說聖誕好，詹姆，讓我們快樂。你不知道我為你買了好多，多美麗的一樣禮物。”

三

“你把你的頭髮剪掉了”詹姆說，就像是他不可能瞭解似的。

“我把它剪下來賣掉了，”黛拉說。“你還一樣的喜歡我嗎？我沒有了頭髮還是同樣的一個人的。”

詹姆好奇地向着房間裡四邊望了一望。

“你說你的頭髮沒有了嗎？”他說，帶着一種差不多愚蠢的神情。

“不必去找它了，”黛拉說。“它被賣掉了——已經沒有了。這是聖誕夜啊，親愛的。因而請你不要怪我——因為我是爲了你才賣我的頭髮的啊。”

詹姆似乎突然醒悟。他吻着黛拉。然後他從自己口袋裡拿出一個小包，把它丟在桌子上。

“請你不要誤解了我，黛拉，”他說，“沒有任何可能發生的事情會使我比較不尊敬你的。

“她的雪白的手指很快地拆開那個小包，然後是一聲快樂的歡呼——後來又很快的變成女性的淚水

23. 介意。24. 神情。25. 小包。26. 拆開。

tears and crying.

For there lay the combs, the set of combs, side and back, that Della had *admired²⁷ for such a long time in a Broadway *store window.²⁸ They were beautiful combs—just the color to go with her beautiful hair. And now they were hers, but the hair in which she was to wear them was gone.

But at last she was able to smile through her tears and say, "My hair grows so fast, Jim."

And then Della jumped up like a little cat and cried, "Oh, Oh!"

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present, the new chain for his watch. She held it out to him *anxiously²⁹ in her hand.

"Isn't it a fine one, Jim? I *hunted³⁰ all over town to find it. You'll have to look at your watch a hundred times a day now to find out the time. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

Instead of obeying, Jim lay down on the *couch³¹ and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

"Della," said he, "let's put our Christmas presents away and keep them *awhile.³² They are too nice to use at present. I sold my watch in order to get the money to buy your combs. And now perhaps you can get dinner ready."

和哭泣了。

因爲放在那兒的是一套梳子，側面和背部，黛拉已經很久就在百老匯路櫥的一家窗裡賞識着它們，它們是很漂亮的梳子——顏色正和她美麗的秀色相配。而現在它們是她的了，可是她要去佩帶它們的頭髮都已經沒有啦。

然而她終於能够忍着淚微笑了起來說，“我的頭髮長得很快，詹姆。”

然後黛拉像一隻小貓似的跳了起來，高聲的喊着，“啊，啊！”

詹姆還沒有看到他的美麗的禮物，那佩着他的新錶鍊。她急切地把它放在她的手裡拿了出來給他看。

“這不是一條很好的錶鍊嗎，詹姆？我在市面上到處尋找着它。你現在每天將要向着你的錶望過一百次看看時間了。把你的錶給我。我要看看它配上這鍊子的樣子。”

詹姆不但沒有服從，他反而在長椅上躺了下來，把他的雙手擱在頭的後面微笑着。

“黛拉，”他說，“讓我們把我們的聖誕禮物暫時收藏起來吧。目前它們是太好了，不能够去用。我爲了要得到買你的梳子的錢而把我的錶賣掉了。現在也許你可以準備開晚飯了。”

27. 羨慕。28. 商店櫥窗。29. 急切地。30. 尋找。31. 長椅。32. 暫時。

Exercises Based on

THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT

PART I

A—Answer These Questions :

1. Had Della saved much or little money for Jim's present? 2. Was the money which she had saved all in pennies, nickels or quarters? 3. What holiday was approaching? 4. What are the most important holidays in the United States? 5. What are the most important holidays in your native country? 6. Which day of the year is Independence Day in the United States? 7. On which day of the week does Thanksgiving day always fall? 8. Why had Della been able to save very little money for Jim's present? 9. Who was Jim? 10. Was Jim's salary large or small? 11. In general, would you consider Della economical or extravagant? 12. What were the two possessions in which Della and Jim took great pride? 13. Why were they so proud of Della's hair? 14. To whom had Jim's watch belonged previously? 15. What kind of watch have you, a pocket watch or a wrist watch? 16. Does your watch ordinarily run slow or fast? 17. How often do you wind your watch? 18. To what shop did Della go after deciding to sell her hair? 19. Was this shop located on the first or the second floor? 20. How many floors are there in the school building in which you study English?

B. Give sentences with the following:

to take a look

to get up

to look out

to go far

to let something fall

to take pride in

for a moment

to put on

to run slow

in general

PART II

A—Answer These Questions

1. What present did Della finally choose for Jim? 2. Was

the present made of gold, silver or platinum? 3. Is platinum scarce or plentiful? 4. Of what material is your watch made? 5. Are gold watches generally more expensive or less expensive than watches made of silver. 6. Was the chain which Della bought for Jim a cheap one or an expensive one? 7. Which keep better time, cheap watches or expensive watches? 8. Which have a finer mechanism, cheap watches or expensive watches? 9. Was Della calm or excited when she arrived home with Jim's present? 10. Was her hair now short or long? 11. Do most women today wear their hair short or long? 12. What did Della begin to do with her curling iron? 13. Do you have curly or straight hair? 14. What is the difference between curly hair and wavy hair? 15. Why did Della turn white when she heard Jim's step on the stairs? 16. Does the fact that Jim was poorly dressed indicate that they were rich or poor? 17. Was Jim young or old? 18. Did he earn much or little? 19. What reason did Della give Jim for cutting off her hair? 20. Had Della cut her hair off in order to buy Jim a birthday present or a Christmas present?

B. Give sentences with the following:

to fly by
to look for
at last
no one else
as soon as

to look at
to look like
to turn white
to step in (out)
to jump off

PART III

A—Answer These Questions

1. Was Jim pleased or displeased when he saw Della with short hair? 2. What had happened to Della's hair? 3. On what night of the year did all this happen? 4. What do people usually do on New Year's Eve in the United States? 5. What special customs, if any, are followed in your country on New Year's Eve? 6. What do you usually do on Christmas day in your country? 7. Where did you spend last Christmas?

day? 8. What Christmas present had Jim bought for Della? 9. Did Della laugh or cry when she undid the package? 10. Where had Della seen the combs previously? 11. Why was Della now unable to wear the combs? 12. Why did the fact that Della's hair grew fast give her some consolation? 13. What present did Della now give Jim? 14. Was the present which Della gave Jim useful or useless to him? 15. Why was the present useless to him? 16. Do you consider it useful or useful to study foreign languages? 17. What foreign language besides English have you studied? 18. In your opinion, how long does it take to learn to speak a foreign language well? 19. Do you find this story interesting or dull? 20. Do the characters of this story seem to you real or unreal?

B. Give sentences with the following:

to cut off

just as well

to look around

to look for

to wake up

to take out

to go with

to be able (unable)

to jump up

to find out.

THE STOLEN LETTER

Edgar Allen Poe

PART I

At Paris, just after dark one evening in the autumn of 18--, I was enjoying the *company¹ of an old friend, C. Auguste Dupin, in his small library. The door of the room was opened suddenly and an old *acquaintance,² Monsieur G, head of the Paris police, entered.

We were glad to see him, for we had not seen him for several years. Monsieur G. said that he had come to *consult³ us, or rather to ask the opinion of my friend Dupin, about some official business which was *causing⁴ him a great deal of trouble.

"I will tell you in a few words what it is," he said, "but before I begin let me tell you that this is a matter of the greatest *secrecy⁵ and I might lose my position if it became known that I had told someone about it."

"Proceed," said I.

"Well, I have received *confidential⁶ information⁶ that a *document⁷ of great importance has been stolen from the *royal apartments.⁸ The thief is Minister D--. The person from whom the letter was stolen needs the letter *badly.⁹ But, of

被竊的信

愛得加·愛倫·坡

在巴黎，一八——年秋天一個天剛黑後的晚上，我正和老友 C·奧格斯特·杜平歡聚在他的小圖書室裡。突然房門打開，一位老朋友 G 先生進來了，他是巴黎警察局長。

我們很高興和他見面，因為我們已經好幾年沒有看到他了。G 先生說他來跟我們商量，或者不如說是就拿一件使得他極為煩惱的事情來徵求我的朋友杜平先生的意見。

"我將用幾句話來告訴你們這是怎麼樣的一件事，"他說，"可是在我開始前，讓我先告訴你們這是一件非常機密的事，而如果大家知道了曾經將它告訴過什麼人的話，我可能就要被撤職的。"

"你開始說嘛，"我說。

"啊，我曾經接到秘密的情報，說是一件非常重要的文件已經被人從大公館裡偷去。那個賊就是 D……部長，失掉這封信的人非常需要這封信。但是，他當然不能公開地進行

1. 伴侶。2. 朋友。3. 請教。4. 引起。5. 秘密。6. 秘密情報。7. 文件。8. 大公館。9. 非常。

course, he cannot proceed openly. And he has asked me "to take care of¹⁰ the problem."

"My first act," he went on, "was to make a careful inspection of the minister's apartment. Of course, I had to do this secretly and without his knowledge because we do not want the minister to know that we "suspect¹¹ him. Fortunately, the daily habits of the minister helped me greatly. He is frequently absent from home at night. He has only a few servants and they do not sleep in his apartment. I have keys, as you know, with which I can open any door in Paris. For three months, a night has not passed in which I have not been busy "personally¹² searching his apartment. It is now a question of my honor and my reputation. In addition, to mention a great secret, the reward is "enormous.¹³ Therefore I did not discontinue the search until I was completely satisfied that the thief is a more clever man than I am. I am sure that I have examined every corner of the apartment in which it is possible that the paper can be hidden."

"But is it not possible," I suggested, "that although the minister has the letter, he has hidden it somewhere outside the apartment?"

"Oh, no!" said the police officer. "Twice he has been stopped on the

囉。因而他請我留意這個問題。"

"我首先，"他繼續說，"把這位部長的寓所作一番仔細的調查，當然，我必須秘密進行，不讓他知道，因為我們不要這位部長知道我們懷疑他很幸運地，這位部長的日常生活習慣給我很大的幫助。他夜裡常常不在家。他祇有幾個僕人，並且他們不住在他的寓所裡。如你所知道的，我有鑰匙可以打開巴黎所有的門。三個月來，我沒有一夜不忙着親自去搜查他的房子。這件事現在關係我的榮譽和聲名。再者，提到一件很大的秘密，酬金也是非常大的。因此我沒有中斷搜查，直到我完全深信這個賊是比我更機敏的一個人。我確信我已經檢查過這寓所每一個可能在裡面收藏着這文件的角落了。"

"然而不是也可能，"我提出，"雖然這位部長得到了這封信，他却把它藏在寓所外面的什麼地方嗎？"

"啊，不！"這位警官說。"有兩次他曾經被我

10. 留意。11. 懷疑。12. 親自。13. 巨大。