



英语
大书虫
世界经典
名译
典藏书系

羊脂球

Ball of Fat

〔法〕莫泊桑 / 著
张玫玫 耿雨 / 译

英汉
对照

English-
Chinese



人的脆弱和坚强都超乎自己的想象

被誉为

“模音的名篇”

十九世纪下半叶的法国，
战争的洪流播弄着众生的命运，
巴黎的浮华喧嚣着世人的疯狂。

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莫泊桑（1850—1893）是十九世纪末法国优秀的现实主义作家之一，是法国文坛上一颗璀璨的明珠。

莫泊桑出生于法国诺曼底省一个没落的贵族家庭，父亲是个游手好闲的浪荡子，母亲则颇有文学修养。十三岁时莫泊桑在老师、著名巴那斯派诗人路易·布耶的鼓励指导下开始多种体裁的文学写作。19世纪70年代是他文学生涯的重要准备阶段。他在舅舅和母亲的好友——文学大师福楼拜的悉心指导下，打下了坚实的文学基础，同时写了很多诗歌、故事和小剧本。但福楼拜对他要求甚严，认为这些作品尚未成熟，不宜发表，还应多写多练。1880年4月，莫泊桑发表了《羊脂球》，立刻就轰动了文坛，成为法国文坛上一颗令人瞩目的新星。

从此以后，莫泊桑专事写作，主要写小说，兼为报纸撰写评论。直至1893年7月6日逝世，他都是在同病魔的搏斗中写作的。他在短短十多年的作家生涯中留下了相当丰富的文学遗产：三百余篇中短篇小说、六部长篇小说（《一生》《漂亮朋友》《温泉》《皮埃尔和若望》《像死一般坚强》和《我们的心》）、一部诗集、三部游记和为数可观的评论文章。

莫泊桑的文学成就以短篇小说最为突出。法朗士在19世纪末论及莫泊桑的短篇小说时写道：“在同时代的作家中，他创造的典型比任何人都种类齐全，他描写的题材比任何人都丰富多彩。”这一评语无疑是公正的。法朗士给予他的“短篇小说之王”的称誉，也早已为举世所公认。

莫泊桑以明确的否定态度来描写的资产阶级卑俗丑恶的道德风尚。他最出色的

短篇代表作是《羊脂球》。这篇小说以普法战争为背景，通过一群人结伴旅行的前后经过，以一个羞于委身敌寇的妓女作对照，彻底揭露了法国贵族、资产阶级、教权派在大敌当前只顾自身利益、不惜辱没民族尊严的可耻嘴脸，同时也针砭了只唱爱国的高调而毫无作为的资产阶级民主党人，准确地反映了法国社会各阶级在普法战争中的不同态度。作家的爱国主义精神和社会批判思想紧密结合，赋予这部杰作以丰富的思想内涵。

另一名篇《项链》是描写巴黎的小公务员生活的。一个教育部小公务员的妻子，她爱慕虚荣，为了参加一次舞会，从朋友处借来一串钻石项链，结果不幸丢失。为了赔偿，夫妻俩过了十年艰辛的生活，最后得知借来的那串项链原来是假的。通过这一悲剧讽刺了小资产阶级的虚荣心，更谴责了那金钱万能、以贫富分贵贱的资本主义社会制度。

《我的叔叔于勒》通过一对小资产阶级夫妇对至亲兄弟态度的变化，表现出资本主义社会的世态炎凉。情节大起大落，对照鲜明，效果强烈。

《绳子》描写一个诚实的乡下人因受诬陷不能取信于世人，以致郁闷而死的不幸遭遇，反映出资本主义社会只相信尔虞我诈的变态心理。

短篇名著《雨伞》，通过一个主任科员的太太千方百计让保险公司赔偿她烧了一个洞眼的雨伞的“损失”，概括出小资产阶级对蝇头小利的斤斤计较。

莫泊桑是我国读者最熟悉的外国名作家之一。他的较好的作品几乎都译成了中文。这部译作将会进一步增进我们读者对这位杰出的批判现实主义作家的了解，对他精湛高超的短篇小说技巧加以借鉴。

Contents | 目录

- 1 Ball of Fat 羊脂球
- 51 On a Spring Evening 在一个春天的傍晚
- 57 The Story of a Farm Girl 一个农场女佣的故事
- 80 The Necklace 项链
- 91 Simon's Papa 西蒙的爸爸
- 103 Mademoiselle Pearl 珍珠小姐
- 123 My Uncle Jules 我的叔叔于勒
- 133 The False Gems 珠宝
- 142 In Port 海港
- 153 An Affair of State 一场政变
- 166 Mother Savage 萨瓦热大妈
- 176 Happiness 幸福
- 184 Regret 懊悔
- 192 Coco 珂珂
- 198 The Piece of String 绳子
- 207 Madame Parisse 帕里斯太太
- 216 The Madwoman 女疯子
- 220 The Little Cask 小酒桶
- 228 The Coconut-drink Vendor 卖椰汁的小贩
- 233 Bed No. 29 二十九床
- 248 Graveyard Sirens 公墓里的妓女
- 257 Forgiveness 宽恕
- 264 The First Snowfall 初雪
- 275 The Blind Man 瞎子
- 280 The Shepherd's Leap 牧人沟
- 285 The Devil 魔鬼
- 294 The Dancers 小步舞
- 300 The Wooden Shoes 木鞋
- 307 Mademoiselle Fifi 菲菲小姐
- 323 In the Moonlight 月色

-
- 330** A Traveler's Tale 旅途上
- 338** The Prisoners 俘虏
- 351** The Patron 保护人
- 358** A Duel 一场决斗
- 365** The Watchdog 看门狗
- 372** The Umbrella 雨伞
- 383** In the Wood 在树林里
- 390** A True Story 真实的故事
- 397** How He Got the Legion of Honor 勋章到手了
- 405** A Little Walk 散步
- 413** Old Milon 米龙老爹
- 421** A Norman 一个诺曼底人
- 429** The Cake 蛋糕

Ball of Fat

羊脂球

For many days now the rag end of the army had been straggling through the town. They were not troops but a disbanded horde. The beards of the men were long and filthy, their uniforms in tatters, and they advanced at an easy pace without flag or regiment. All seemed worn-out and back-broken, incapable of a thought or a resolution, marching by habit solely and falling from fatigue as soon as they stopped. In short, they were a mobilized pacific people, bending under the weight of the gun; some little squads on the alert, easy to take alarm and prompt in enthusiasm^①, ready to attack or to flee; and in the midst of them some red breeches, the remains of a division broken up in a great battle; some somber artillerymen in line with these varied kinds of foot soldiers, and sometimes the brilliant helmet of a dragoon on foot who followed with difficulty the shortest march of the lines.

Some legions of free shooters, under the heroic names of Avengers of the Defeat, Citizens of the Tomb, Partakers of Death, passed in their turn with the air of bandits.

Their leaders were former cloth or grain merchants, ex-merchants in tallow or soap, warriors of circumstance, elected officers on account of their escutcheons and the length of their mustaches, covered with arms and with braid, speaking in constrained voices, discussing plans of campaign and pretending to carry agonized France alone on their swaggering shoulders but sometimes fearing

一连好几天，溃败的军队的零星队伍从城里穿过。他们根本算不上是什么军队，只是一群散兵游勇。这些人的胡子又长又脏，军服破烂不堪。他们有气无力地走着，没有军旗，也不分团队。所有的人似乎都垂头丧气，疲惫不堪，想不出一个念头，拿不定一个主意，他们只是出于惯性才在行走，只要一停下来便会累得倒下。总之，这些被征入伍的爱好和平的人，他们现在都被枪支压弯了腰；另外一些是机灵的国民别动队员，他们既容易惊慌失措，也容易兴奋狂热，随时准备进攻，或者逃跑；这些队伍中间还有一些穿红裤子的，那是在一次大的战役中被粉碎的某个师的残余；还有一些穿深色军服的炮兵，他们也和各式各样的步兵排在一起，有时也会冒出个别戴着闪闪发亮头盔的龙骑兵，拖着沉重的脚步，跟着步伐比较轻松的步兵一起前进。

接着过去的是一群一群有着英勇称号的游击队员：“战败复仇队”“坟墓公民队”“敢死队”，看起来却像一帮土匪。

游击队的头头从前是布匹商或粮商，他们曾买卖油脂或肥皂，后来顺应时势当了军人，由于富裕或者留着小胡子而被任命为军官。他们挂满武器和饰带，说话声紧张，时常讨论作战计划，以为只有他们虚张声势的肩膀在支撑着垂危的法兰西。不过，他们往往担心自己的战士，这些人十恶不赦，往往起初作战勇敢者，最终会成为抢劫者或是浪荡子。

① enthusiasm *n.* 狂热，积极性，热心

their own soldiers, prison birds, that were often brave at first and later proved to be plunderers and debauchees.

It was said that the Prussians were going to enter Rouen.

The National Guard who for two months had been carefully reconnoitering in the neighboring woods, shooting sometimes their own sentinels and ready for a combat whenever a little wolf stirred in the thicket, had now returned to their firesides. Their arms, their uniforms, all the murderous accouterments with which they had lately struck fear into the national heart for three leagues in every direction, had suddenly disappeared.

The last French soldiers finally came across the Seine to reach the Audemer bridge through Saint-Sever and Bourg-Achard; and, marching behind, on foot, between two officers of ordnance, the General, in despair, unable to do anything with these incongruous tatters, himself lost in the breaking-up of a people accustomed to conquer and disastrously beaten, in spite of his legendary bravery.

A profound calm, a frightful, silent expectancy had spread over the city. Many of the heavy citizens, emasculated by commerce, anxiously awaited the conquerors, trembling lest their roasting spits or kitchen knives be considered arms.

All life seemed stopped; shops were closed, the streets dumb. Sometimes an inhabitant, intimidated by this silence, moved rapidly along next the walls. The agony of waiting made them wish the enemy would come.

In the afternoon of the day which followed the departure of the French troops some uhlans, coming from one knows not where, crossed the town with celerity. Then a little later a black

据说普鲁士军队就要开进鲁昂城。

两个月来，国民自卫军一直在附近森林里小心谨慎地侦察敌人，有时开枪打死自己的哨兵。一只小狼在灌木丛中动一动，他们便立刻准备作战，现在却都跑回自己的家里。武器、军服以及他们当初在方圆三法里之内吓唬人们的一切杀人凶器突然都不见了。

最后一批法国兵总算过了塞纳河，要从圣赛威尔和阿夏镇的方向退往奥德梅桥。走在最后的是绝望的将军，左右由两名副官陪伴，徒步行走。率领这样的乌合之众，他实在是无可奈何，而且这个以勇武著称、战无不胜的民族竟然遭此惨败，他也不免感到茫然失措。

然后是一片沉寂，城市在恐惧之中默默地等待着。许多大腹便便的市民，由于做生意而变得毫无男子气概，他们焦虑不安地等着战胜者，唯恐他们的烤肉铁钎或大菜刀会被当成武器。

生活似乎停止了，店铺都关了门，街道静悄悄的。偶尔有居民被这种静寂吓到，贴着墙边匆匆走过。这种等候期间的焦躁不安竟会使人们希望敌人的到来。

法军撤走后的第二天下午，不知从何处而来的几个长枪骑兵飞快地穿城而过。过了不长时间，从圣卡特琳的山坡上下来了黑乎乎的一大片人，与此同时两股侵略

mass descended the side of St. Catherine, while two other invading bands appeared by the way of Darnetal and Bois-Guillaume. The advance guard of the three bodies joined one another at the same moment in Hotel de Ville square, and by all the neighboring streets the German army continued to arrive, spreading out its battalions, making the pavement resound under their hard, rhythmic step.

Some orders of the commander, in a foreign, guttural voice, reached the houses which seemed dead and deserted, while behind closed shutters eyes were watching these victorious men, masters of the city, of fortunes, of lives, through the "rights of war." The inhabitants, shut up in their rooms, were visited with the kind of excitement that a cataclysm^① or some fatal upheaval of the earth brings to us, against which all force is useless. For the same sensation is produced each time that the established order of things is overturned, when security no longer exists and all that protect the laws of man and of nature find themselves at the mercy of unreasoning, ferocious brutality. The trembling of the earth crushing the houses and burying an entire people; a river overflowing its banks and carrying in its course the drowned peasants, carcasses of beeves and girders snatched from roofs, or a glorious army massacring those trying to defend themselves, leading other prisoners, pillaging in the name of the sword and thanking God to the sound of the cannon; all are alike frightful scourges which disconnect all belief in eternal justice, all the confidence that we have in the protection of Heaven and the reason of man.

Some detachments rapped at each door, then disappeared into the houses. It was occupation after invasion. Then the duty commences for the

军涌向通往达纳塔尔和布瓦纪尧姆的两条公路上。这三支队伍的先遣队在市政府广场会师，接着，德军从附近的每条街巷开过来了，人行道上回响着他们沉重而整齐的步伐。

沿着那些仿佛是无人居住的、死气沉沉的房子，升起了一片陌生的、喉音很重的口令声，就在这时候，在关着的百叶窗后面，有很多双眼睛在窥探着这些战胜者，他们根据“战时法”，可以主宰这座城市，主宰财产，也可主宰人们的生命。居民们躲在房间里吓得胆战心惊，就像遇见了一场剧烈动荡和毁灭性的大地震，不论有多大的力气也毫无用处。每当事物的既定秩序被推翻，人们的安全感不再存在，人类的法律和自然法则保护的一切都听凭一种缺乏理性的、凶残的暴力支配时，人们都会有这种感觉。地震把一方的人民全压在倒塌的房屋下面，江河冲破堤坝，把淹死的农民、牛的尸体和从房顶冲下的屋梁一起卷走。打了胜仗的军队屠杀那些试图自卫的人，带走囚徒，凭着军刀大肆抢劫，以炮声向天主表示感谢。所有这一切都是惊心动魄的灾难，它彻底破坏了我们永恒的正的义的信仰，也使我们无法再去信赖人类的理性和天主的庇佑。

一些小分队挨家敲门，然后进了屋。这就是入侵之后的占领。战败者从此开始尽义务，必须热情招待胜利者。

① cataclysm *n.* 大洪水，大变动，地震

conquered to show themselves gracious toward the conquerors.

After some time, as soon as the first terror disappears, a new calm is established. In many families the Prussian officer eats at the table. He is sometimes well bred and, through politeness, pities France and speaks of his repugnance in taking part in this affair. One is grateful to him for this sentiment; then, one may be, someday or other, in need of his protection. By treating him well one has, perhaps, a less number of men to feed. And why should we wound anyone on whom we are entirely dependent? To act thus would be less bravery than temerity. And temerity is no longer a fault of the commoner of Rouen as it was at the time of the heroic defense when their city became famous. Finally each told himself that the highest judgment of French urbanity required that they be allowed to be polite to the strange soldier in the house, provided they did not show themselves familiar with him in public. Outside they would not make themselves known to each other, but at home they could chat freely, and the German might remain longer each evening warming his feet at their hearth-stones.

The town even took on, little by little, its ordinary aspect. The French scarcely went out, but the Prussian soldiers grumbled in the streets. In short, the officers of the Blue Hussars, who dragged with arrogance their great weapons of death up and down the pavement, seemed to have no more grievous scorn for the simple citizens than the officers or the sportsmen who, the year before, drank in the same cafés.

There was, nevertheless, something in the air, something subtle and unknown, a strange, intolerable atmosphere like a penetrating odor, the odor of invasion. It filled the dwellings and

过了一段时间,最初的恐怖一旦消失,气氛又重新平静下来。在许多家庭里,普鲁士军官都和一家人同桌吃饭。有的军官也很有教养,会出于礼貌替法国惋惜,说自己本不愿意参加这场战争。房主自然要感激他的这种感情。何况说不定某一天,还要仰仗他的保护呢。把他伺候好了,也许自己负责提供给养的人数会减少一些。既然什么都要靠他,又何必伤害他呢?那样做不是勇敢而是鲁莽。鲁昂的公民曾以英勇的保卫战使城市威名远扬,现在却不再有鲁莽的毛病了。最后他们还这样考虑:只要不在公开场合同外国士兵亲近,在自己家里客气一点儿并不为过。这也是他们从法兰西文明礼貌中得出的至高无上的理由。到外面,彼此好像互不相识,可是回到家里,大家都会随意交谈,每天晚上,德军围着炉底石暖脚,待的时间也越来越长了。

城市本身也慢慢恢复了往常的面貌。法国人还不经常出门,可普鲁士兵士却已挤满了街道。而且,穿蓝军装的骑兵军官傲慢地挎着杀人的武器在街道上走来走去,对普通市民表现出的那种蔑视神情,并不比去年那些在这些咖啡馆里饮酒的法国步兵军官厉害。

可是在空气中却增添了一种东西,一种无法捉摸的、生疏的东西,一种令人无法忍受的扩散开来的气氛,那便是侵略的气味。它充斥了各家各户和公共场所,改

the public places, changed the taste of the food, gave the impression of being on a journey, far away, among barbarous^① and dangerous tribes.

The conquerors exacted money, much money. The inhabitants always paid and they were rich enough to do it. But the richer a trading Norman becomes the more he suffers at every outlay, at each part of his fortune that he sees pass from his hands into those of another.

Therefore, two or three leagues below the town, following the course of the river toward Croisset, Dieppedalle or Biessard, mariners and fishermen often picked up the swollen corpse of a German in uniform from the bottom of the river, killed by the blow of a knife, the head crushed with a stone, or perhaps thrown into the water by a push from the high bridge. The slime of the river bed buried these obscure vengeance, savage but legitimate, unknown heroisms, mute attacks more perilous than the battles of broad day and without the echoing sound of glory.

For hatred of the foreigner always arouses some intrepid ones who are ready to die for an idea.

Finally, as soon as the invaders had brought the town quite under subjection with their inflexible discipline, without having been guilty of any of the horrors for which they were famous along their triumphal line of march, people began to take courage, and the need of trade put new heart into the commerce of the country. Some had large interests at Havre, which the French army occupied, and they wished to try and reach this port by going to Dieppe by land and there embarking.

They used their influence with the German soldiers with whom they had an acquaintance, and finally an authorization of departure was

变了饮食的口味, 给人以旅居在遥远、野蛮、可怕的部落中的感觉。

战胜者老是要钱, 并且要得很多。居民们总是如数照付, 他们原也很有钱。不过一个诺曼底省的大商人, 钱越挣得多, 看见自己的财产一点一点地转移到别人手里时, 他对每一笔支出所忍受的苦痛也就越大。

与此同时, 就在城外沿着河流往下两三法里, 靠近克鲁瓦塞、迪耶普达尔或比萨尔的地方, 船民和渔夫经常从水底捞起穿着制服的、浸得肿胀了的德国人的尸体。他们有的是被人一刀砍死的, 有的是被当头一石头砸死的, 或被人从高高的桥上推落水中淹死的。河底的淤泥掩藏着这些暗中进行的野蛮然而却是合法的报复行为。这些不为人知的英雄行为和悄无声息的打击, 比起光天化日之下进行的战斗来更加危险, 却没有得到声名显赫的荣誉。

因为对外敌的仇恨, 总是激励着一些准备为理想献身的大无畏的人。

入侵者们虽然把城市置于他们极为严格的监督之下, 而且听说他们在胜利进军时沿途烧杀抢掠, 但在城里却从未干过这类可怕的事情。人们终于又壮起胆子, 当地的商人心里又想去做生意了。其中有几个在法军占据的勒阿弗尔拥有重要的股份, 他们试图从陆路到迪埃普, 再坐船到那个港口去。

他们利用认识的几名德国士兵的影响, 从总司令那里获得离城特许证。

① barbarous *adj.* 野蛮的, 粗野的, 残暴的

obtained from the general in chief.

Then, a large diligence with four horses having been engaged for this journey, and ten persons having engaged seats in it, it was resolved to set out on Tuesday morning before daylight, in order to escape observation.

For some time before, the frost had been hardening the earth and on Monday, toward three o'clock, great black clouds coming from the north brought the snow which fell without interruption during the evening and all night.

At half-past four in the morning the travelers met in the courtyard of Hotel Normandie, where they were to take the carriage.

They were still full of sleep, and shivering with cold under their wraps. They could only see each other dimly in the obscure light, and the accumulation of heavy winter garments made them all resemble fat curates in long cassocks. Only two of the men were acquainted; a third accosted them and they chatted: "I'm going to take my wife," said one. "I too," said another. "And I," said the third. The first added: "We shall not return to Rouen, and if the Prussians approach Havre, we shall go over to England." All had the same projects, being of the same mind.

As yet the horses were not harnessed. A little lantern, carried by a stable boy, went out one door from time to time, to immediately appear at another. The feet of the horses striking the floor could be heard, although deadened by the straw and litter, and the voice of a man talking to the beasts, sometimes swearing, came from the end of the building. A light tinkling of bells announced that they were taking down the harness; this murmur soon became a clear and continuous rhythm by the movement of the animal, stopping sometimes,

有十名旅客定了座位，由一辆四驾旅行大马车送一趟，决定星期二天亮之前动身，以免招来人围观。

好些天以来，由于天寒地冻，地面变得硬邦邦的。到了星期一下午三点钟光景，从北方吹来大块大块的乌云，大雪在黄昏时分开始下个不停，接着又是整整一夜。

清晨四点半，旅客们聚集在诺曼底旅店的院子里，他们要在那儿上车。

他们都还睡眼惺忪，虽然披着毯子，还是冻得直哆嗦。在昏暗之中，彼此也看不大清楚，这些人身上都穿着层层叠叠的厚冬衣，望过去好像是一群穿着长袍的肥胖神父。只有两个男人互相认识，紧跟着第三个人与他们搭讪，大家聊起天来：“我把我的妻子也带了去。”一个说。“我也一样。”另一个说。“我也如此。”第三个人说。第一个又说：“我们不再回鲁昂来了，如果普鲁士军队到勒阿弗尔，我们就到英国去。”他们都有这种计划，因为他们气质原是相同的。

但一直没有人来套车。一个马夫提着一盏小灯从一个小门里走出来，又钻进了另一个门。大家只能听到马蹄踢地的声音，由于有垫草和杂物，声音并不大。从屋子深处传来一个男子跟牲口说话和叱骂的声音。一阵轻微的铃铛声说明有人在搬动马具，这种轻微的响声很快变成了一种清脆的、持续不断的有节奏的颤动声，伴随着马的动作有时声息全无，有时又突然一阵巨响，同时还伴着铁蹄踩地的沉闷声音。

then breaking into a brusque shake which was accompanied by the dull stamp of a sabot upon the hard earth.

The door suddenly closed. All noise ceased. The frozen citizens were silent; they remained immovable and stiff.

A curtain of uninterrupted white flakes constantly sparkled in its descent to the ground. It effaced forms and powdered everything with a downy moss. And nothing could be heard in the great silence. The town was calm and buried under the wintry frost as this fall of snow, unnamable and floating, a sensation rather than a sound (trembling atoms which only seem to fill all space), came to cover the earth.

The man reappeared with his lantern, pulling at the end of a rope a sad horse which would not come willingly. He placed him against the pole, fastened the traces, walked about a long time adjusting the harness, for he had the use of but one hand, the other carrying the lantern. As he went for the second horse he noticed the travelers, motionless, already white with snow, and said to them "Why not get into the carriage? You will be under cover at least."

They had evidently not thought of it, and they hastened to do so. The three men installed their wives at the back and then followed them. Then the other forms, undecided and veiled, took in their turn the last places without exchanging a word.

The floor was covered with straw, in which the feet ensconced themselves. The ladies at the back having brought little copper foot stoves, with a carbon fire, lighted them and for some time, in low voices, enumerated the advantages of the appliances, repeating things that they had known for a long time.

门突然关上了，所有的声音都没有了。那几位被冻僵了的公民都不说话了，他们一动不动地、直挺挺地待在那里。

连绵不断的白色雪花构成一幅帷幕，一面向地面落下来，一面不停地闪闪发光。它将所有的东西都撒上一层毛茸茸的苔藓，使得它们的外形模糊不清。沉寂中听不到一点儿声音。被严冬掩埋起来的这个城市静悄悄的，除了雪花落地时那种飘浮不定、不可名状的窸窣声外，什么都听不见。不过这与其说是声音还不如说是感觉，（这些又轻又细的屑粒充满了空间），覆盖了整个世界。

马夫提着小灯又出来了，手里牵着一匹垂头丧气不情愿跟着出来的马。他把马拉到车辕跟前，系上缰绳，在马车周围转悠了很久，才把马具套好，因为他得用一只手干活，另一只手提灯。正当他要去牵第二匹马时，他注意到那几位一动不动的旅客，他们身上已盖满白雪，便对他们说：“你们为什么不上车？至少车厢里没有下雪。”

他们显然都没有想到这一点，所以急忙走过去。三个男人先把他们的妻子在里面安顿好，接着也上了车。然后，其他模糊不清的人影上去，在最后几个座位上坐下，彼此一句话也不说。

车厢的地板上铺着稻草，大家的脚都伸在稻草里。车厢后部的太太们带着几个烧炭的小铜脚炉，她们点燃以后低声交谈了一阵，列举这种炉子的好处，重复着一些她们早就知道的事情。

Finally the carriage was harnessed with six horses instead of four, because the traveling was very bad, and a voice called out:

"Is everybody aboard?"

And a voice within answered: "Yes."

They were off. The carriage moved slowly, slowly for a little way. The wheels were imbedded in the snow; the whole body groaned with heavy cracking sounds; the horses glistened, puffed and smoked; and the great whip of the driver snapped without ceasing, hovering about on all sides, knotting and unrolling itself like a thin serpent, lashing brusquely^① some horse on the rebound, which then put forth its most violent effort.

Now the day was imperceptibly dawning. The light flakes, which one of the travelers, a Rouenese by birth, said looked like a shower of cotton, no longer fell. A faint light filtered through the great dull clouds, which rendered more brilliant the white of the fields, where appeared a line of great trees clothed in whiteness or a chimney with a cap of snow.

In the carriage each looked at the others curiously in the sad light of this dawn.

At the back, in the best places, M. Loiseau, wholesale merchant of wine, of Grand-Pont Street, and Mme. Loiseau were sleeping opposite each other. Loiseau had bought out his former patron, who failed in business, and made his fortune. He sold bad wine at a good price to small retailers in the country and passed among his friends and acquaintances as a knavish wag, a true Norman full of deceit and joviality.

His reputation as a sharper was so well established that one evening at the residence of the prefect, M. Tournel, author of some fables and songs, of keen, satirical mind, a local celebrity, having proposed to some ladies, who

马车终于套好了，本应套四匹马，现在却套上六匹马，因为路不好走。这时，有人问道：

“全都上来了吗？”

车里有人应了一声：“全上来了。”

于是启程了。马车行驶得很慢很慢，一小步一小步往前移动，轮子陷在雪中，整个车厢哀鸣，发出低沉的吱吱咯咯的声响。几匹马打着滑，呼呼喘息，浑身冒热气，而车夫的大鞭不停地噼啪作响，四处飞舞，像一条细蛇一样，时而蜷缩，时而伸展，有时突然抽在一匹马身上，又弹回来，马便猛地往前一冲。

这时天已不知不觉地亮起来了。轻盈的雪花——车厢里一个土生土长的鲁昂人把它比作棉花雨——已经不再下了。一道昏暗的光线透过又厚又浓的乌云射下来，白茫茫的田野显得更加耀眼。田野里时而出现一排身裹银装的大树，时而出现一个戴着雪帽的烟囱。

在车厢中，借着这黎明黯淡的光亮，人们互相好奇地打量着。

车厢尽头最好的位子上，坐着大桥街葡萄酒批发商鸟先生，鸟太太坐在他的对面打瞌睡。鸟先生最初给人当伙计，老板的买卖破产后，他就渐渐地发了财。他以低价把低劣的葡萄酒批发给乡间小贩，所以认识他的人及他的朋友都把他视为一个善耍花招的奸商，地道的诡计多端、能说能笑的诺曼底人。

他这种奸商的名声已是十分昭著，因此本地的名人杜尔奈先生——一位文笔敏锐而讽刺、专编寓言和歌谣的名家，一天晚上在省政府的晚会上，看见太太们都有睡意，便向她们提议玩鸟飞的游戏，马上

① brusquely *adv.* 唐突地，粗率地

seemed to be getting a little sleepy, that they make up a game of "Loiseau tricks" the joke traversed the rooms of the prefect, reached those of the town and then, in the months to come, made many a face in the province expand with laughter.

Loiseau was especially known for his love of farce of every kind, for his jokes, good and bad; and no one could ever talk with him without thinking: "He is invaluable, this Loiseau." Of tall figure, his balloon-shaped front was surmounted by a ruddy face surrounded by gray whiskers.

His wife, large, strong and resolute, with a quick, decisive manner, was the order and arithmetic of this house of commerce, while he was the life of it through his joyous activity.

Beside them, Mr. Carré-Lamadon held himself with great dignity, as if belonging to a superior caste; a considerable man, in cottons, proprietor of three mills, officer of the Legion of Honor, and member of the General Council. He had remained, during the Empire, chief of the friendly opposition, famous for making the Emperor pay dearer for rallying to the cause than if he had combated it with blunted arms, according to his own story. Madame Carré-Lamadon, much younger than her husband, was the consolation of officers of good family sent to Rouen in garrison. She sat opposite her husband, very dainty, petite, and pretty, wrapped closely in furs and looking with sad eyes at the interior of the carriage.

Her neighbors, the Count and Countess Hubert de Breville, bore the name of one of the most ancient and noble families of Normandy. The Count, an old gentle-man of good figure, accentuated, by the artifices of his toilette, his resemblance to King Henry IV, who, following a glorious legend of the family, had impregnated

这个玩笑就传遍了省长的各个客厅，后来又传向全城各个客厅，使得全省的人笑了一个月之久还停不下来。

鸟先生爱搞各种恶作剧，爱开文雅和下流的玩笑也是出了名的。因此人们提起他无不认为：“这只鸟真是无价的活宝。”他个子高高的，挺个球状的大肚子，上面顶着一张红赤赤的脸和灰白的胡须。

他的妻子是个高大、强壮、果断的人，一会儿一个主意，掌管着店里的生意，而他则用生气勃勃的举动来活跃店里的气氛。

坐在他们两人身旁的是卡雷-拉马东先生，他很庄重地坐着，似乎属于一个更高的阶层。他在棉纺业中是个了不起的人物，拥有三家纺织厂，曾是荣誉军团的军官，现在是省议会的议员。在整个帝国时期，他一直是一个温和的反对派领袖。用他自己的话来说，要想让皇帝付出更高的代价，与其用迟钝的武器去抗争，还不如依靠一项事业更好。卡雷-拉马东太太比她的丈夫年轻得多，对派驻鲁昂的出身名门的军官们来说一向是个安慰。她坐在丈夫对面，娇小、可爱、漂亮，蜷缩在皮大衣里，用忧伤的目光注视着车厢内部。

她的身旁坐着于贝尔·德·布雷维尔伯爵和伯爵夫人，他们的姓氏是诺曼底省最古老、最高尚的姓氏之一。伯爵是个气度不凡的老绅士，他通过巧妙的打扮，尽力突出他和亨利四世国王的相似之处。根据他们家族中的一个光荣的传说，亨利四世曾使布雷维尔家族的一位太太怀孕在身，

one of the De Breville ladies, whose husband, for this reason, was made a count and governor of the province.

A colleague of Mr. Carré-Lamadon in the General Council, Count Hubert represented the Orléans party in the Department.

The story of his marriage with the daughter of a little captain of a privateer had always remained a mystery. But as the Countess had a grand air, received better than anyone, and passed for having been loved by the son of Louis Philippe, all the nobility did her honor, and her salon remained the first in the country, the only one which preserved the old gallantry, and to which the entrée was difficult. The fortune of the Brevilles amounted, it was said, to five hundred thousand francs in income, all in good securities.

These six persons formed the foundation of the carriage company, the society side, serene and strong, honest, established people, who had both religion and principles.

By a strange chance, all the women were upon the same seat; and the Countess had for neighbors two sisters who picked at long strings of beads and muttered some "Paters" and "Aves." One was old and as pitted with smallpox as if she had received a broadside of grapeshot full in the face. The other, very sad, had a pretty face and a disease of the lungs, which, added to their devoted faith, illumined them and made them appear like martyrs^①.

Opposite these two devotees were a man and a woman who attracted the notice of all. The man, well known, was Cornudet the democrat, the terror of respectable people. For twenty years he had soaked his great red beard in the books of all the democratic cafés. He had consumed with his friends and confreres a

她的丈夫因此被封为伯爵，并当上了省长。

于贝尔伯爵也在省议会，和卡雷-拉马东先生是同僚。他在省里代表着奥尔良派。

他和一个小船主的女儿结婚，这一直是个谜。不过伯爵夫人气派很雍容，待人接物比谁都能干，并且据传她曾被路易·菲力普的某一王子爱过，整个贵族阶级对她都热情相待。她的沙龙在本地也首屈一指，只有它还保持着往昔的文雅，所以要想进入其中相当困难。布雷维尔夫妇的财产加起来据说年收入达五十万法郎，而且都是有保障的证券。

这六个人是这辆车上的基本旅客，他们是社会上有地位、生活安定、有权有势的名人，全是一些信奉宗教、崇尚原则的正人君子。

由于偶然的机缘，这三个女人同坐到一条长凳上来了。伯爵夫人的身旁坐着两个修女，她们一面数着长长的念珠，一面念念有词的嘟囔着《圣父经》和《圣母经》。其中一个年老的满脸都是因天花而生的麻点，仿佛迎面受过一阵霰弹扫射似的。另一个非常忧伤，相貌俊俏，却有着肺病，这更加重了她们的献身信仰，使得她们像殉道者一样熠熠生辉。

这两位修女的对面坐着一男一女，把大家的目光吸引过去。那男的谁都认识，人称民主主义者科尔尼代，是上流社会人士最怕的人。二十年来，他那一把红胡子泡在具有民主作风的所有咖啡馆的啤酒杯中。他和朋友以及同事们吃光了他那当糖果商的父亲给他留下的可观财产，便急

① martyrs *n.* 殉教，殉节，殉难