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Subject: The Works of Edgar Allan Poe, Volume 2 Author: Edgar Allan Poe Date: April 16, 2020 [Etext #2148] [Most recent update: October 16, 2020] Language: English Character set encoding: UTF-8 UTF-8 START THIS GUTENBERG EBOOK PROJECT WORKS BY EDGAR ALLAN POE, VOL. 2*** Produced by David Widger [Redactor's Note-Some of the last captions are by Poe and some have been added by Griswold. In this drive, the notes are at the end.] Nil sapientiae odiosius acumine nimio. Seneca. In Paris, just after a strong evening in the fall of 18-, I was enjoying the double elegance of meditation and a meerschaum, in company with my friend C. Auguste Dupin, in his small back library, or book-closet, au troisieme, number 33, Rue Dunot, Faubourg St Germain. For an hour at least we maintained a profound silence; while each, to any ordinary observers, can seem intently and exclusively occupied with the curly eddies of smoke that oppress the atmosphere of the chamber. For myself, however, I was mentally discussing certain topics that had formed problems for conversation between us at an earlier period of the evening: I mean the Rue tathull, and the mystery of Marie Rogg3t's murder. I look at it, so as something of a coincidence, when the door to our apartment was thrown open and admitted to our former acquaintance, Monsieur G-, the Crown Prince of the Paris police. We gave him a warm welcome; for almost half of the entertainment liked to despise that man, and we had not seen him for many years. We were sitting in the dark, and Dupin now arises with the purpose of lighting a lamp, but sitting down again, without doing so, when G. says he has called to consult us, or rather to consult my friend, about some official business that has had so many trouble occasions. If it is any point that requires reflection, observe Dupin, as he forebore to enkindle the wick, we will test it with better purpose in the dark. It's one of your quirky concepts, says Head, who has a fashionable call every odd thing that is beyond his understanding, and thus lives between an absolute legion of oddities. Very true, Mr. Dupin, when he provides his visitors with a pipe, and rolls towards him a comfortable chair. And what is the difficulty now? I asked. There's nothing more in the way of assassination, I hope? Oh, no; there is nothing of that nature. The fact is, trading is very simple indeed, and I make no doubt that we can manage it well enough ourselves; but then I thought Dupin wanted to hear the details of it, because it was so too weird. Simple and quirky, Dupin said. Why, yes; and not exactly that, either. The fact is, we're all a good deal confused because the case is so simple, but it still confuses us completely. Maybe it's the simplicity of the thing that puts you at fault, my friend. What nonsense you talk! answer the sootho, laugh sincerely. Maybe the mystery is a little too Mr. Dupin. Oh, my God! who has ever heard of such an idea? A little too self-evident. Ha! Ha! Ha-ha! Ha! Ha-ho! Lake! Ho! roared our visitation, I, amused, oh, Dupin, you'll be my death yet! And what, after all, is the problem on hand? I asked. Why, I'll tell you, answered the Crown Prince, as he gave a long, steady and contemplative puff, and settled himself in his chair. I'll tell you in a few words; but, before I begin, let me warn you that this is the biggest secret case, and that I will most likely lose the position that I am holding, knowing that I have confided it to anyone. Proceed, Mr. I. or not, Mr. Dupin. Now, now; I have received personal information, from a very high esteem, that a certain document of ultimate importance, has been purloined from the royal apartment. The purloined individual it is known; this goes beyond a doubt; He was seen to take it. It is well known, that it is still in his possession. How is this known? ask Dupin. It is clearly infered, the Crown Prince replies, from the nature of the material, and from the appearance of certain results that will at the same time arise from the fact that it comes out of possession of the robber; that is, from using it as he must finally design to use it. Let's be a little clearer, I say. Well, I can venture so far to say that the paper gives its owner a certain power in a given quarter where such power is extremely valuable. The crown prince enjoyed the cant of diplomacy. However I do not fully understand, Mr. Dupin. Not? Yes; the disclosure of documents to the third person, who will not be named, will bring questions about the honor of a character of the highest station; and this fact gives document keeper an ascetic for illustrious figures whose honor and peace are at stake. But this promotion, I alternately, will depend on the robber's knowledge of the loser's knowledge of the bandit. Who dares- Thieves, Mr. G. is Secretary D-, who dares everything, who does not become as well as those who become a man. The method of theft is no less daring. The document in question-a letter, to be frankly-received by the robbed character while alone in the royal boudoir. In the process of seeing it, she is suddenly interrupted by the entrance of another noble character from the person who is especially eager to hide it. After a hasty and vain attempt to push it in a drawer, she was forced to put it, open as it was, on a table. The address, however, is top, and the contents are therefore not exposed, the letter exits the message. At this point on Secretary D-, his lynx eyes immediately sense the paper, recognize the handwriting of the address, observe the confusion of the solved character, and understand her secret. After some business dealings, rushing through in his usual way, he creates a letter somewhat similar to one of the questions, opens it, pretends to read it, and then puts it in near the other. Again he chatted, for about fifteen minutes, when public matters. Finally, on leave, he also took from the letter board that he had no claim for. Its right-hand owner saw, but, of course, did not dare to call attention to the action, in the presence of the third character standing at her elbow. Ministers decamped; leave your own letter--an in critical letter--on the table. Here, then, Dupin tells me, you have exactly what you ask to make ascending complete-knowledge of bandits about the bandit's knowledge of losers. Yes, the Crown Prince replied; and the power thus gained has, over the past few months, been wielded, for political purposes, to a very dangerous extent. The robbed character is more thoroughly convinced, every day, of the need to reclaim her letter. But this, of course, cannot be done publicly. In good, desperately headed, she committed the matter to me. Dupin says: More than anyone, amid a perfect whirlwind of smoke, no one could be more sagacious than, I suppose, to be desired, or even imagined. You flattered me, answered the Zoonism; but maybe some such comments may have been entertaining. Apparently, I say, as you observe, that the letter is still owned by the minister; for it is this possession, and not any employment of the letter, which best gives power. With the job, the power will leave. That's right, Mr. G., and after this conviction, I continued. My first care was to make a thorough search of the minister's hotel; and here my main embarrassment lies in the necessity of finding without his knowledge. In addition to everything, I was warned of the danger that would be the result of giving him reason to doubt our design. But, I say, you're pretty au fait in surveys. The Paris police have done this often before. O yes; and for this reason I was not desperate. The minister's habits gave me, too, a big advantage. He was often absent from home all night. His servants are by no means very much. They sleep at a distance from their master's apartment, and, mostly Naples, easily get drunk. I have the key, as you know, that I can open any room or cabinet in Paris. For three months a night did not pass, in much of which I was not involved, personally, in ransacking D- Hotels. My honor is of interest, and, to mention a big secret, the rewards are enormous. So I didn't give up the search until I became completely satisfied that the thief was a sharper man than myself. I preferred that I investigated every corner of the facility, which could be paper that could be concealed. But is it impossible, I suggest, that although the letter may be owned by the minister, as it certainly is, he may have concealed it elsewhere rather than on his premises? This is virtually impossible, says Dupin. The current special status of the matter in court, especially the conspiracies in which D- is known to be involved, will make the immediate availability of the material - its sensitivity is produced at a time of notice - an almost equally important point with its possession. Is its susucum produced? I. That is to say, destroyed, Mr. Dupin. That's right, I observe; clear paper is then on the premises. As for a being when people's ministers, we might consider that as out of the question. Absolutely, the crown prince said. He was twice waylaid, as if by footpads, and his people rigorously searched under my own examination. You may have spared yourself this trouble, Mr. Dupin. D-, I guess, is not entirely a fool, and, if not, must have predicted these waylayings, as a matter of course. Not quite a fool, G., but then he was a poet, which I took to be the only one removed from a fool. True, Mr. Dupin, after a long and thoughtful whiff from his meerschaum, though I was guilty of certain doggrel myself. Let's say you detail, I say the specifics of your search. Why the fact is, we spent our time, and we searched everywhere. I have long experience in these matters. I took the whole building, every room; spend the nights of the week for each person. We checked, first, the furniture of each apartment. We opened every possible drawer; and I guess you know that, with a properly trained police officer, such a thing as a secret drawer is impossible. Any man is a doll who allows a 'secret' drawer to get rid of him in a search of his kind. Everything is very clear. There is a certain large number - space - taken into force in each cabinet. Then we have the correct rule. The fifth part of a line can't get rid of us. After the cupboard we take the chair. The cushions we probe with nice long needles that you have seen me use. From the tables we remove the tops. Why is that? Sometimes the top part of the table, or other similarly arranged furniture, is removed by the person who wants to hide an article; then the legs are excavated, the article settles in the cavity, and the head replaces. The bottom and top of bedposts are used in the same way. But can not detect the cavity by listening? I asked. Doesn't mean, if, when the article is submitted, a wadding enough cotton is placed around it. Besides, in our case, we are obliged to proceed without noise. But you can not have removed - you can not get to pieces all posts of furniture in which it will be possible to make a deposit the way you mentioned. A letter can be compressed into a thin spiral roll, which does not differ much in shape or quantity from a large knitting needle, and in this form it can be inserted into the vibration of a chair, for example. Didn't you take to pieces all the seats? Certainly not; but we did better- we check the vibration of every chair in the hotel, and, indeed, the couplings of every description of the furniture, with the help of the strongest microscope. There have been a few of the recent disturbance, we should not detect it immediately. A single gimlet-dust nut, for example, will be as clear as an apple. Any disturbance in the glue - any abnormal gaps in the joints - will be enough to ensure detection. I guess you look in the mirror, between the tables and the panels, and you probe the bed and bed clothes, as well as curtains and carpets. That's of course; and when we have finished all the beads of furniture in this way, then we inspect the house itself. We divide its entire surface into compartments, which we number, so that no one can ignore; we then scrutinize each inch of square inch individually throughout the facility, including both immediately adjacent houses, with a microscope, as before. Two adjacent houses! I cried out; You must have been in a lot of trouble. We had; but the rewards offered are extraordinary! Do you include grounds on the houses? All bases are tiled with bricks. They gave us relatively little trouble. We examined the moss between the bricks, and found it undisturbed. Do you look between the papers of D, of course, and into the library's books? Sure; we have opened every package and parcel; we not only open each book, but we turn over each leaf in each volume, not contenting ourselves with a just shake, according to the fashion of some of our police officers. We also measure the thickness of each book cover, with the most accurate admeasurement measures, and apply to each of the most evasive monitoring of the microscope. If any recent constraints had been interfered with, it would have been utterly impossible that the reality should have escaped observation. About five or six episodes, only from the hands of the adhesive, we carefully probe, vertically, with needles. Do you explore the floors below the carpet? There's no doubt about it. We remove all carpets, and inspect the tables with a microscope. And the paper on the wall? Well. Looking at the cellar? We did. Then I say, you have made a misconception, and the letter is not on the basis, as you for that. I'm afraid you're right there, Mr. Crown Prince. And now, Dupin, what would you recommend? To carry out a thorough re-search of the premises. It was completely unnecessary, replied G-. I'm not sure that I breathe more than I'm letter is not at the hotel. I have no better advice to give you, Mr. Dupin. Do you have, of course, an accurate description of the letter? Oh yes! --And here the Crown Prince, the production of a memorandum of memory, read a small internal statement aloud, and especially about the external appearance of the missing document. Shortly after the end of the review of this description, he made his departure, completely depressed in spirit than I had ever known good gentlemen before. For about a month afterwards, he paid us a visit, and saw us occupied very almost before. He A pipe and a chair and enter some normal conversation. At length I say, Yes, but G-, what's the letter purloined? I guess you have finally made up your mind that there is no such thing as overreaching ministers? Confuse him, say I--yes; However, I did the re-examination as Dupin suggested-- but it all lost its labor, as I knew it. How much is the reward offered, you said? ask Dupin. Why, a great deal--a very free reward--I don't like to say exactly how much; but one thing I will say, that I will not mind giving my personal check for fifty thousand francs to anyone who can get me that letter. The fact is, it is becoming increasingly important every day; and the rewards have been doubled recently. However, if it is defeated, I can do nothing more than what I did. Dupin says: Why, yes, Dupin says, amid the foaming of his meerschaum, I really think, G-, you didn't try your best--to the maximum in this matter. You can do a little more, I think, huh? How?--in what way? Why-puff, puff-can-puff, puff-use advice in this matter, eh?-puff, puff, puff. Do you remember the story they told about Abernethy? No, I don't. Hanging Abernethy! To be sure! Hang him and welcome. But, once upon a time, a certain rich miser formed the design of spunging upon this Abernethy for a medical opinion. Standing up, for this purpose, a normal conversation in a private company, he alludes to his case with the doctor, as that of an individual imagined. 'We would assume,' said the miser, 'that his symptoms are so and so; Now, doctor, what did you instruct him to drink?' 'Let's! Abernethy said, 'why, give advice, to be sure.' But, the Presuw says, a little discomposed, 'I perfectly willing to take advice, and pay for it. I would actually give fifty thousand francs to anyone who would support me in this matter. In that case, Dupin replied, opened a drawer, and produced a check book, you can also fill me up a check for the amount mentioned. Once you have signed it, I will give you the letter. I was amazed. The crown prince appeared completely thunderous. For a few minutes, he remained non-wordless and estateless, looking incredulously at my friend with his mouth open, and eyes that seemed to start from their sockets; then, seemingly recovering himself in some measures, he seized a pen, and after several pauses and empty stares, finally filled and signed a check for fifty thousand francs, and brought it across the table to Dupin. The following examine it carefully and send it in his book bag; Then unlock an escritoire, take from it a letter and give it to the Crown Prince. This function captures it in a perfect pain of pleasure, opens it with a shaky hand, casts a quick look into its contents, and then, shuffled and struggled to the door, rushed at unceremoniously lengths from the room and from the house, without having to utter a symyn sound since Dupin had asked him to fill in Check. When he went, my friend entered some explanations. The Paris police, he said, are extremely possible in their way. They are persistent, skilful, cunning, and thoroughly proficient in knowledge that their tasks seem mostly in demand. So when G- detailed to us his method of searching facilities at the D-Hotel, I felt full confidence in him to have carried out a satisfactory investigation- so far as his labor expanded. So far as his labor expands? I. says: Yes, Mr. Dupin. The measures adopted are not only the best of their kind, but taken for absolute perfection. If the letter is sent within the scope of their search, these people, in addition to a question, have found it. I just laughed--but he seemed pretty serious in everything he said. The measures, then, he continued, were good in their kind, and well implemented. Their defects located in them are not applicable to cases, and to men. A certain set of very ingenious resources is, with the Procrustean, a kind of Procrustean bed, which he is forced to adjust his design. But he was permanently wrong by being too deep or too shallow, for the matter in hand; and many students are a better reason than him. I know of an around eight-year-old, whose success in guessing in the game of 'even and odd' attracts universal admiration. This game is simple, and is played with marbles. A player holds in his hands some of these toys, and the needs of others whether that number is even or odd. If the guess is right, the guesser wins one; if he's wrong, he'll lose one. The boy I alluded to won all the marbles of the school. Of course he had some guessing principles; and this lies in the only observation and admeasurement of the astuteness of his opponent. For example, a simpleton arrant is his opponent, and, holding his closed hand, asks, 'are they even or odd?' Our students replied, 'odd,' and took; but when the second challenge, he won, because then he said to himself, 'the simpleton had them even in the first test, and his cunning amount was just enough to make him have them odd when the second; Therefore, I will guess odd;'--he guessed oddly, and won. Now, with a simpleton a degree on the first, he was able to reason so: 'This fellow saw that in the first case I guess odd, and, in the second, he would propose to himself, when the first pulse, a simple variant from even to odd, as well as simpleton first; but then a second thought will show that this is too simple a variant, and eventually he will decide to put it even as before. Therefore, I will guess even;'--he guessed evenly, and won. Now this method of reasoning in the student, whom his PhD student called 'lucky,'-what, in its final analysis, is it? It is merely, I say, an intellectual determination of the reasoner with your craft. That is, Mr. Dupin; and, when asking the boy by what means he has made the thorough determination in which his success consists, I I the answer is as follows: 'When I want to learn how wise, or how stupid, or how good, or how evil is any one, or what is his thoughts at the moment, I fashion the expression of my face, as accurately as possible , in accordance with his expression, and then wait to see what thoughts or feelings arise in my mind or heart, as if to match or correspond to expressions.' This reaction of the school boy lies at the bottom of all the fake profundity that has been attributed to Rochefoucault, La Bougve, Machiavelli, and Campanella. And the determination, I say, of the person's intellect reasoning with his opponent, depends, if I understand you aright, based on the accuracy with which the opponent's intellect is admeasured. As for its actual value, it depends on this, dupin replies, and the Crown Prince and his team fail so often, first, by default of this identity, and, secondly, by ill-admeasurement, or rather through non-admeasurement, of the wisdom they are engaged in. They only consider their own ideas of ingenuity; and, in search of anything hidden, ads point to the mode in which they were able to hide it. They are right in this - that their own ingenuity is a faithful representation of mass; but when the cunning of personal crime is diverse in character from their own, the criminals fools them, of course. This always happens when it's on its own, and very often when it's below. They have no change in principle in their investigation; at best, when prompted by some unusual emergency--by some extraordinary reward--they expand or exaggerate their old methods of practice, without touching their principles. What, for example, in this case of D-, was made to change the principle of action? All that is boring, and exploration, and sounding, and scrutiny with microscopes and dividing the surface of the building into square inches of registration is nothing but an exaggeration of applying a principle or set of search principles, which is based on a set of concepts related to human ingenuity, which the Zoonal, in the long routine of his mission, got used to? Don't you see he took it for granted that everyone proceeded to conceal a letter, --incorrectly in a bored gimlet hole in a chair-leg, but, at least, in some out-of-the-way hole or suggested corner of the same teni tenog of thought that would urge a man to deposit a letter in a bored gimlet-hole in a chair-leg? Nor do you see, that such nooks and crannies for concealment are adjusted only for normal occasions, and will only be adopted by ordinary wisdom; for, in any case concealment, a disposal of concealed articles--a handling of it in this way recherché,-is, in the first case, there and assumptions; and therefore its discovery depends entirely on acumen, but entirely on the care, patience, and determination of the seekers; and where where is important either, what amounts to the same thing in the policy eye, when the reward is intensive,-the qualities in question have never been known to fail. Now you will understand what I mean in suggesting that, had the purloined letter been hidden anywhere within the concill of the Crown Prince's exam--in other words, had its concealment principles understood in the principles of the Crown Prince--its findings would have been a matter entirely beyond question. This function, however, has been

