THE ODD NUMBER: THIRTEEN TALES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649660377

The Odd Number: Thirteen Tales by Guy de Maupassant

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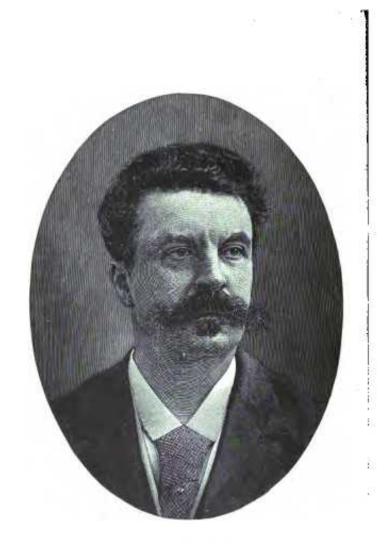
GUY DE MAUPASSANT

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THE ODD NUMBER

Thirteen Tales

Guy de Maupassant

THE TRANSLATION
BY JONATHAN STURGES

AN INTRODUCTION
BY HENRY JAMES

NEW YORK AND LONDON
HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS
1903

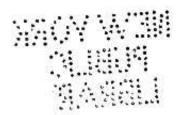
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INTRODUCTION.

GUY DE MAUPASSANT.

It is so embarrassing to speak of the writers of one country to the readers of another that I sometimes wonder at the complacency with which the delicate task is entered upon. These are cases in which the difficult art of criticism becomes doubly difficult, inasmuch as they compel the critic to forfeit what I may call his natural advan-The first of these natural advantages. tages is that those who read him shall help him by taking a great many things for granted; shall allow him his general point of view and his terms-terms which he is not obliged to define. The relation of the American reader to the French writer, for instance, is, on the contrary, so indirect that it gives him who proposes to mediate between