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SECRET

Superstitions on odd numbers
The idea of virtue in odd numbers is very ancient. Virgil mentions it in his eighth Eclogue, and the poets of the charms then practiced are recorded. The whole subject is a curious one, and which makes an interesting work if all the opinions in regard to it were given. Country people hold it an indispensable rule to use an odd number of eggs in setting a hen. For example, permit me to enquire of you, at the third time, and request you to enquire a third time. I hope good luck lies in odd numbers. Away—go. They say there is divinity in odd numbers, either in their very character or death. It is a very common belief; at the present day, in this country, that the number thirteen is ominous. I have seen thirty persons meet in a room, one of whom was within a yard of death. This superstition is supposed to have arisen from the nuptial supper.
