SPARE WELL, SPEND WELL: OR, MONEY, ITS USE AND ABUSE

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Spare Well, Spend Well: Or, Money, Its Use and Abuse by Spare

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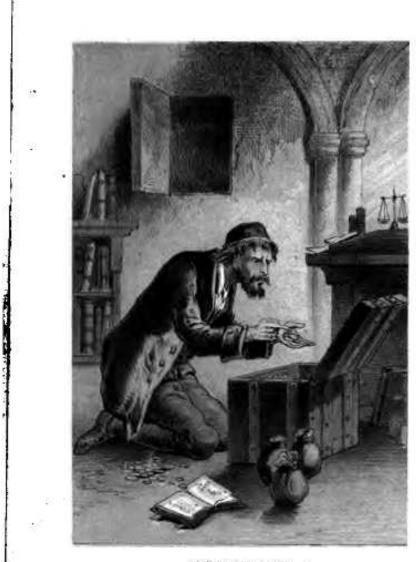
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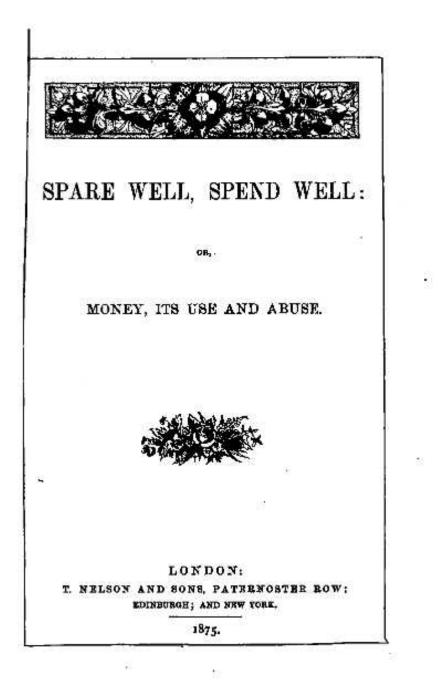
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SPARE WELL, SPEND WELL.

CHAPTER I.

THE NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

HOUGH I, a five franc piece, have been but thirty years in existence, I have seen much, travelled much, and, if I have not felt much (for I am not of a sensitive nature), I have at least made others feel. I have excited desire and regret, avarice and pleasure. I have called forth ambition, disappointed or realized hope. I have sometimes relieved misfortune; but have more frequently satisfied the caprices and fancies of the spoiled children of prosperity. In my ever-chang-

THE NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

ing career I have had periods of great activity; I have passed rapidly from the palace of the great to the dwelling of the artisan, but I have scarcely ever entered the miserable shelter of the poor. At present I am imprisoned in the strong-box of an old miser, and here I must most likely remain till the day of his death, when his greedy heirs will dispute who is to possess me. As this moment may still be far distant, I have taken a fancy to employ my leisure in repeating the varied incidents of my life, from the happy day when, brilliant in youthful splendour, I issued fresh from the mint, to swell the public treasure.*

For several weeks I remained in the Treasury, lost in a crowd of others like myself. Some, fresh and bright like me, had never been soiled by human touch; others, on the contrary, rubbed, worn, dirty, from the mud that one gathers in passing through

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[&]quot;A franc is about tenpence of our money. A five franc piece is sometimes called a crown, but it is not of so much value as an English crown piece." A continue is the hundredth part of a franc.