

balked of his purpose in coming, he remarked, as he watched her beautiful fingers moving to and fro, that that was a beautiful piece of work she was engaged on: "but, allow me," he added, attempting a gallantry foreign to his nature, "to lay it to one side," and, seizing her hands, he made a pretence of using force.

She lifted her eyes in amazement, and a cold tremor passed over her at his touch. His lordship felt her shrinking from his touch, and another ugly gleam appeared in his eyes; but he was not without a certain amount of courage and persistency, especially when the opposite sex constituted his opposition.

"I saw some beautiful and rare lilies whilst passing through the park," he remarked. "Would you go with me and see them?"

Thus directly challenged, her sense of politeness would not permit her to refuse, and she reluctantly arose, but persisted in keeping ahead of him until the sequestered spot where the lilies grew was reached.

"I presume those are they that you referred to," said she, at the same time stepping to an adjoining bed, and plucking a rose, that she began to fasten to her own breast.

"That rose is the language of love, is it not?" said he, again seizing her small hand.

Now, it is needless to say that his lordship was not much of a love-maker. He had wearied his brain many hours that morning in planning this conversation, and the general plan of campaign against the citadel of Lady Eloise's affections. But somehow the enemy's tactics were so different from what he had anticipated that his forces were thrown into entire confusion.

Her icy behaviour chilled him through and through. So, when he had arrived at this crisis he could only stammer, "Ah! er! um! your father, the Earl, intends you, ah! for me, Lady Eloise."

"Oh! indeed," she replied, drawing herself up, "I presume you are imbued with the same charitable purpose?"

"Oh! ah! my Lady, you know how deeply and truly I love you," he stammered.

"I'm sure you must, you've known so much of me," she replied. "Come, let us return to my father."

So saying she hurried ahead of him to where her parents were sitting, and said: "His lordship thinks he must go now."

"What! Not so soon," said the Earl.

"Yes: I've other engagements, you know," said Lord Dolphin, not yet having recovered from his confusion.

After receiving and accepting the cordial invitation of the Earl to become a frequent visitor at Payne Hall, he mounted his horse and rode down the avenue.

"Swamped, by G—" roared his lordship after he had got some distance away.

Startled by the loudness of his own voice, he turned around to learn if the sound would carry to Payne Hall.

"So that's your game, is it, my lady? But I'll have you yet, you'll see."

Another oath, "and then we'll see who'll do the snubbing: d—n her," he hissed through his clenched teeth, "to humiliate me so:" then he roared again, "ha! ha! ha!" His lordship was not without a sense of humor, even when the joke was at his own expense; and when he reflected what a sorry figure he had cut whilst making love to Lady Eloise, he roared again with laughter.

Then the blood would mantle his cheeks as he recalled the bitter humiliation he had been subjected to, and bitter were his curses.

"I'll have her yet," he declared, with a great oath: "and then we shall see who will be humiliated"

Then, as it again flashed across his mind how his friends would have laughed had they witnessed his love-making, he roared with laughter at