

PIC
AP
4
365
fol.

THE YOUNG LADIES' JOURNAL AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE



"THEY AVOID ME—THEY ARE HIDING," LADY ESMER MURMURED

NOT LOVED, YET WEDDED.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "GWYN."

CHAPTER XXV.

JEALOUSY'S BITTER FRUIT.

GERARD saw the visitors to their carriage, then, mounting his horse, raised his hat to Esmer, standing on the drawing-room balcony, and rode away with them.

No. 685.—VOL. XIV.

"He is going with her," muttered his cousin, through her small, white teeth. "He does love her—he does; and she him. Never mind; wait until I am Countess of Lethrington, I will not then take it so passively. Oh!" with a burst of fury, "that I could bow that proud head with shame before her friends at daring to love a man engaged to another."

That idea got possession of the girl's jealous mind, ever craving to nurse a wrong, if only imaginary, until it would have almost delighted

her to have found Gerard on his knees to Lucille, if she could only have brought society to witness the scene, and humbled her rival.

So the weeks passed, and the last evening but one before Gerard's marriage arrived. On it Lord Vavasour, the Earl's godfather, gave a grand fancy-dress ball in his and his cousin's honour.

The idea had filled Esmer with rapture. For hours had she studied the book of costumes with