

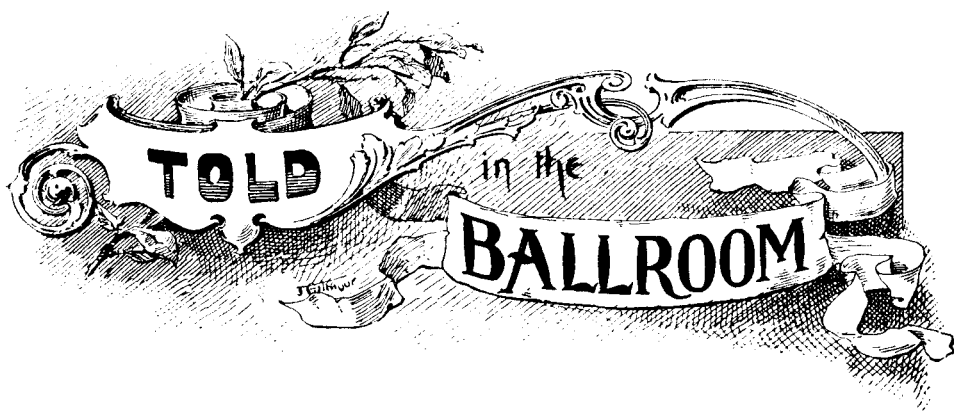


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HE music certainly was good; it was more than good, it was exquisite. Those who knew said it was, and those who didn't know assented to the statement whenever they heard it

with a pleased smile, and assented to it, not merely because everybody always does assent to everything in a ball room, but because they were really enjoying it, or thought they were, which after all is much the same thing. The strings were splendid, the clarionettes were faultless, the flutes were perfect and the effect—ah the effect! “It was doosed clevah, bah Jawve!” as Forning of the Commerce was heard to remark, and Mr. Forning had lately married one of the rich Miss Dalrymples, and there could be no doubt in the world he knew all about it.

How it rose and fell and rose again, and then paused, almost ceasing, but never quite ceasing. At times it seemed almost lost amid the low rythmical murmur of dainty feet as they whispered the

secret of their grace to the polished floor, but yet it was never wholly lost, for again it would lift itself above every other sound, and bursting it's fetters swell out upon the air, wild, strong, and exultant.

If music had form and motion, one would be led to say that it swayed from side to side slowly, and still more slowly, pausing every now and again, and hovering in the air with nothing but the low throbbing of the strings, and then as the shrill notes of the flutes bore themselves upward it flitted away like some tiny golden humming bird, that pauses for a moment in the warm air to sip the fragrance from a sunlit flower, and then speeds away again across flowers and fences to the fields beyond.

The festoons and decorations were beautiful and the floor was in perfect condition. “Just like glawse, you know.” At least I have the authority of Mr. Smythe for the statement, and nobody ever questioned Mr. Smythe's authority on any point of this nature, and as no point of a different nature in which Mr.