WHEN KNIGHTHOOD WAS IN FLOWER Or, The Love Story of Charles Brandon and Mary Tudor, the King's Sister, Happening In the Reign of His August Majesty King Henry the Eighth br. and Rewritten and Randered Into Modern English From Sk Bdwin By EDWIN CASKODEN [CHARLES MAJOR] Copyright, 1886 and 1991, by the Boven-Marrill Company

room and had learned the dance from

Brandon and was able to teach it also.

though I lacked practice to make my

step perfect. The princess had needed no practice, but had danced beautiful-

ly from the first, her strong young limbs and supple body taking as nat-

urally to anything requiring grace of

When I went up and asked

"I thank you, Edwin, but there are

than I, and you had better teach them

"But I want to teach you. When I

"You did go to several others before

wish to teach them, I will go to them.'

you thought of coming to me," answer-

d Jane, pretending to be piqued. Now,

that was the unkindest thing I ever

knew a girl to do-refuse me what she

knew I so wanted and then put the re-

fusal on the pretended ground that I

did not care much about it. I so told

her, and she saw she had carried things

too far and that I was growing angry

false though somewhat flattering ex-

earnest. She then made another

"I could not bear to go through that

could see-that is, with you, Edwin." "Edwin!" Oh, so soft and sweet! The

little jade! To think that she could

hoodwink me so easily and talk me into

Edwin!" I saw through it all quickly

a good humor with her soft, purring

enough and left her without another

word. In a few minutes she went into

an adjoining room where I knew she

was alone. The door was open, and the music could be heard there, so 1

"My lady, there is no one to see us

here. I can teach you now, if you

She saw she was cornered, and re-

plied, with a toss of her saucy little

Now, this was more than I could en-

(Continued.)

"I would have come to your help, but I knew you were amply able to take care of yourself. I was sure you would worst the duke in some way. It was better than a mummery, and I was glad to see it. I do not like him."

movement as a cygnet to water. This, thought I, is my opportunity to The king did not open these private balls, as he was supposed at least not to be their patron, and the queen, who teach Jane the new dance. I wanted to go to her first but was afraid or was considerably older than Henry, for some reason did not, and took sevwas averse to such things. So the prineral other ladies as they came. After cess opened her own balls, dancing for I had shown the step to them I sought few minutes, with the floor entirely out my sweetheart. Jane was not a prude, but I honestly believe she was the most provoking girl that ever lived. to herself and partner. It was the honor of the evening to open the ball with her, and quite curious to see how men I never had succeeded in holding her hand even the smallest part of an input themselves in her way and stood so as to be easily observed and, per-chance, chosen. Brandon after leaving Mary had drifted into a corner of the stant, and yet I was sure she liked me very much-almost sure she loved me. She feared I might unhinge it and carroom back of a group of people and was talking to Wolsey—who was al-ways very friendly to him—and to Masry it away, or something of that sort, I suppose. her to let me teach her the new dance, ter Cavendish, a quaint, quiet, easy litshe said: tle man, full of learning and kindness, and a warm friend to the Princess others who are more anxious to learn Mary.

It was time to open the ball, and from my place in the musicians' gallery I could see Mary moving about among the guests, evidently looking for a partner, while the men resorted to some very transparent and amusing expedients to attract her attention. The princess, however, took none of the bidders, and soon, I noticed, she espied Brandon standing in the corner with his back toward her.

Something told me she was going to ask him to open the dance, and I regretted it, because I knew it would set every nobleman in the house against him, they being very jealous of the "lowborn favorites," as they called the untitled friends of royalty. Sure enough, I was right. Mary at once began to make her way over to the cor-ner, and I heard her say, "Master Brandon, will you dance with me?" It was done prettily. The whole girl changed as soon as she found herself in

front of him. In place of the old time confidence, strongly tinged with arro gance, she was almost shy, and blushed and stammered with quick coming breath, like a burgher maid before her new found gallant. At once the courtlers made way for her, and out she walked, leading Brandon by the hand. Upon her lips and in her eyes was a rare, triumphant smile, as if to say: "Look at this handsome new trophy of my how and spear."

I was surprised and alarmed when head, "But what if I do not wish?" Mary chose Brandon, but when I turned to the musicians to direct their play dure with patience, so I answered, "My imagine, if you can, my surprise when young lady, you shall ask me before I the leader said.

man is more beautiful in La Galliard

ing at once. Mary thereupon turned

that they stop before we are through?"

"Master, are our musicians weary

The queen answered for me in a high

voiced Spanish accent: "I ordered the music stopped. I will not permit such an indecent exhibition to go on longer."

Fire sprang to Mary's eyes and she

exclaimed: "If your majesty does not

like the way we do and dance at my

balls, you can retire as soon as you

ee fit. Your face is a kill-mirth any-

way." It never took long to rouse her

The queen turned to Henry, who was

thus insulted in your very presence?"

Will your majesty permit me to be

"You got yourself into it. Get out of

It as best you can. I have often told

you to let her alone. She has sharp

claws." The king was really tired of

Catherine's sour frown before he mar-

ried her. It was her dower of Spanish

gold that brought her a second Tudor

"Shall I not have what music and

"That you shall, sister mine; that

you shall," answered the king. "Go on, master, and if the girl likes to dance

that way, in God's name let her have

her wish. It will never hurt her. We

will learn it ourself, and will wear the

dance there was a great demand for instruction. The king asked Brandon

to teach him the steps, which he soon learned to perform with a grace per

haps equaled by no living creature

bring quick and good results.

er than a fat brown bear. The lac

were at first a little shy and incline

to stand at arm's length, but Mary had

set the fashion and the others soon

followed. I had taken a fiddler to my

After Mary had finished the opening

ances I want at my own balls?" asked

laughing, and angrily demanded:

low teach him "honor and ruff" and ur fortune is made. He has had me Jews and Lombards in of late to teach him new games at cards, but yours is worth all of them." Then, mewhat bastily and irrelevantly, "I did not dance the new dance with any other gentleman, but I suppose you did not notice it," and she was gone before he could thank her.

CHAPTER VI.

THE princess knew her royal brother ceive quicker reward for inventing an amusement or a gaudy costume for the king than by winning him a battle. Later in life the highroad to his favor was in ridding im of his wife and helping him to a new one, a dangerous way, though, as Wolsey found, to his sorrow, when he sank his glory in poor Anne Boleyn.

Brandon took the hint and managed to let it be known to his play loving king that he knew the latest French games. The French Duc de Longue ville had for some time been an hor ed prisoner at the English court, held as a hostage from Lovis XII., but De Longueville was a blockhead, who could not keep his little black eyes off our fair ladies, who hated him, long enough to tell the deuce of spades from the ace of hearts. So Brandon was taken from his duties, such as they were and placed at the card table. This was fortunate at first, for, being the best player, the king always chose him as his partner, and, as in every other game, the king always won. If he lost, there would soon be no game, and the man who won from him too frequently was in danger at any mo-ment of being rated guilty of the very ighest sort of treason. I think many a man's fall under Henpy VIII. was owing to the fact that he did not always allow the king to win in some trivial matter of game or joust. Under these conditions everybody was anx-ious to be the king's partner. It is true he frequently forgot to divide his winnings, but his partner had this advantage at least-there was no danger of losing. That being the case, Brandon's seat opposite the king was very likely to excite envy, and the time soon came, Henry having learned the play, when Brandon had to face some one else, and the seat was too costly for a man without a treasury. It took but a few days to put Brandon hors de combat finandance before so large a company. I should not object so much if no one else cially, and he would have been in a bad plight had not Wolsey come to his relief. After that he played and paid the king in his own coin.

> This great game of "honor and ruff" occupied Henry's mind day and night during a fortnight. He feasted upon it to satiety, as he did with everything else, never having learned not to cloy his appetite by overfeeding. So we saw little of Brandon while the king's fever lasted, and Mary said she wished she had remained silent about the cards. You see, she could enjoy this new plaything as well as her brother. but the king, of course, must be satisfied first. They both had enough eventually, Henry in one way, Mary in another

One day the fancy struck the king that he would rebuild a certain chapel at Windsor, so he took a number of the

ever gladdened the heart of a ros

"Yes," answered Jane, with a vigor-ous little nod of her head and a peal of "Then drop back with me," I reholog The princess looked at us with a half

smile, half frown, and remarked, "Now you doubtless consider yourselves very williant and witty." "Yes," returned Jane maliciously, nodding her head in emphatic assent, as the princess and Branden rode on

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before us.

"I hope she is satisfied now," said Jane sotte voce to me. "So you want me to ride with you?" I replied.

"Yes," nodded Jane. "Why?" I asked. "Because I want you to," was the

enlightening response. "Then why did you not dance with me the other evening? "Because I did not want to."

"Short, but comprehensive," thought I, "but a sufficient reason for a maid-

I said nothing, however, and after a time Jane spoke: "The dance was one thing and riding with you is another. I did not wish to dance with you, but I do wish to ride with you. You are the only gentleman to whom I would have said what I did about my girth being loose. As to the new dance, I do not care to learn it, because I would not dance it with any man but you, and not even with you-yet." This made me glad, and coming from coy, modest

Jane meant a great deal. It meant that she cared for me and would some day be mine, but it also meant that she would take her own time and her own sweet way in being won. This was comforting, if not satisfying, and loosened my tongue. "Jane, you know my heart is full of love for you"-

"Will the universe crumble?" she cried, with the most provoking little laugh. Now, that sentence was my rock ahead whenever I tried to give Jane some idea of the state of my affections. It was a part of the speech which I had prepared and delivered to Mary in Jane's hearing, as you already know. I had said to the princess, "The universe will crumble and the heavens roll up as a scroll ere my love shall alter or pale." It was a high sounding sentence, but it was not true, as I was forced to admit, almost with the same breath that spoke it. Jane had heard it and had stored it away in that memory of hers, so tenacious in holding to everything it should forget. It is won-derful what a fund of useless information some persons accumulate and cling to with a persistent determination worthy of a better cause. I thought Jane never would forget that unfortunate,

abominable sentence spoken so gran-diloquently to Mary. I wonder what she would have thought had she known that I had said substantially the same thing to a dozen others. I never should have won her in that case. She does not know it yet and never shall if I can prevent.

So Jane halted my effort to pour out my heart, as she always did. "There is something that greatly troubles me," she said.

'What is it?" I asked in some con-

"My mistress," she answered, nodding in the direction of the two riding ahead of us. "I never saw her so much interested in any one as she is in your friend. Master Brandon. Not that

men had done, but that Mary should love Brandon and he remain heart vhole was an unlooked for event, one that would hardly have been predicted by the shrewdest prophet.

What Lady Jane said troubled me greatly, as it was but the confirmation f my own fears. Her opportunity to good thing, and no one should enter the siren country without it. Skips, too, are good, with masts to tie oneself to and sails and rudder and a gust of now was far better than mine, but I had seen enough to set me thinking. Brandon, I believe, saw nothing of wind to waft one quickly past the is-Mary's growing partiality at all. He could not help but find her wonderful land. In fact, one cannot take too ly attractive and interesting, and permany precautions when in those enhaps it needed only the thought that chanted waters. Matters began to look dark to me. Love had dawned in Mary's breast, she might love him to kindle a flame in his own breast. But at the time of our that was sure, and for the first time, ride to Windsor Charles Brandon was with all its fierce sweetness; not that not in love with Mary Tudor, however near it he may unconsciously have been. it had reached its noon, or anything like it. In truth, it might, I hoped, die But another's trouble could not dim the sunlight in my own heart, and that in the dawning, for my lady was as caride to Windsor was the happiest day pricious as a May day, but it was love of my life up to that time. Even Jane threw off the little cloud our forebod and made opportunities to meet himings had gathered and chafted and aughed like the creature of joy and not openly, at any rate; not with Bran-

gladness she was. don's knowledge, nor with any connivance on his part, but apparently caring Ahead of us were the princess and Brandon. Every now and then her voice came back to us in a stave of a song, and her laughter, rich and low, wafted on the wings of the soft south seeking him, but her straightforward wind, made the glad birds hush to catch its silvery note. at concealment very pathetic.

We all rode merrily on to Windsor: and when we arrived it was curious to see the great nobles, Buckingham, both the Howards, Seymour and a doz-



en others stand back for plain Charles Brandon to dismount the fairest maiden and the most renowned princess in Christendom. It was done most gracefully. She was but a trifle to his strong arms, and he lifted her to the sod as gently as if she were a child. The nobles envied Brandon his evident favor with this unattainable Mary and hated him accordingly, but they kept their thoughts to themselves for two reasons: First, they knew not to what legree the king's favor, already marked, with the help of the princess might carry him, and, second, they did not care to have a misunderstanding with the man who had cut out Adam Judson's eyes.

was the one thing to do-that is, re-We remained at Windsor four or five main away from a fire that could give days, during which time the king made no genial warmth, but was sure to several knights. Brandon would probburn him to the quick. I saw this only ably have been one of them, as every-body expected, had not Buckingham too plainly, but never a word of it was related to Henry the episode of the loose girth and adroitly poisened his mind as to Mary's partiality. At this the king began to cast a jealous eye on Brandon. His sister was his chief dip lomatic resource, and when she loved or married it should be for Henry's benefit, regardless of all else. Brandon and the Lady Mary saw a great deal of each other during this little stay at Windsor, as she always had some plan to bring about a me eting. and, although very delightful to him, it cost him much in royal favor. He could not trace this effect to its-proper cause, and it troubled him. I con have told him the reason in two w but I feared to put into his mind the thought that the princess might learn to love him. As to the king, he would not have cared if Brandon or every other man, for that matter, should go stark mad for love of his sister, but when she began to show a prefere he grew interested, and it was apt er or later to go hard with the fortunate one. When we went back to Greenwich, Brandon was sent on a day abead.

is not the king's sister of quality suf fear to Hm. He new saw his dange ear to him. He new saw his danger and struggled to keep himself beyond the spell of her perilous glances and siren song. This modern Ulysses made a masterful effort, but, alas, had no ships to carry him away and no wax with which to fill his ears. Wax is a Acient to suit you? Perhaps you must have the queen or the Blessed Virgin? Tell me now?" And she looked up at im, half in banter, half in doubt. "My duties"- began Brandon "Oh, bother your dution! Tell me

the truth." "I will, if you let me," returned Brandon, who had no intention whatever of doing anything of the sort. 'My duties now occupy my time in the

18

"That will not do," interrupted Mary, who knew enough of a guardsman's duty to be sure it was not onerous. "You might as well come to it and tell the truth; that you do not like our society." And she gave him a vicious little glance without a shadow of a

"In God's name, Lady Mary, that is not it," answered Brandon, who was on the rack. "Please do not think it. I cannot bear to have you say such a thing when it is so far from the real

"Then tell me the real truth."

-love as plain as the sun at rising

little what he or any one else might

see. Love lying in her heart had made

her a little more shy than formerly in

way of taking whatever she wanted

made her transperent little attempts

As for Brandon, the shaft had en-

the good Lord, in so far as he could,

to answer his prayer and lead him not

into temptation. As soon as he saw, the truth he avoided Mary as much as

As I said, we had spent several even-

turn of the head, a glance of the eyes,

the lifting of a hand or the poise of the

body speaks with a tongue of elo-

quence, and such was Mary. Her eyes

would glow with a soft fire when they rested upon him, and her whole person

told all too plainly what, in truth, it seemed she did not care to hide. When

others were present, she would restrain herself somewhat, but with only Jane

and myself she could hardly maintain

a seemly reserve. During all this time Brandon remained cool and really

seemed unconscious of his wonderfu

attraction for her. It is hard to under-

stand why he did not see it, but I real-

ly believe he did not. Although he

was quite at ease in her presence, too

strangely enough, sometimes told him in a fit of short lived, quickly repented

anger that always set him laughing.

yet there was never a word or gesture

After these last two meetings, al-

though the invitations came frequent-ly, none was accepted. Brandon had

contrived to have his duties, ostensibly

at least, occupy his evenings and did honestly what his judgment told him

much so, Mary sometimes the

that could hint of undue famil

Dossible

She sought Brandon upon all occasio

"I cannot; I cannot. I beg of you not to ask. Leave me, or let me leave you! I refuse to answer further." The latter half of this sentence was uttered latter half or this sentence was utcore doggedly and sounded sullen and ill humored, although of course it was not so intended. He had been so perilously near speaking words which would probably have lighted, to their destrucon-to his certainly-the smoldering tered his heart, too, poor fellow, as surely as love had dawned in Mary's. flames within their breast that it He knew the hopeless misery such a passion would bring him, and helped frightened him, and the manner in which he spoke was but a tone giving atterance to the pain in his heart. Mary took it as it sounded and in pa-

feigned surprise exclaimed angrily; "Leave you? Do I hear aright? never thought that I, the daughter and sister of 'a king, would live to be dis-

missed by a-by a-any one." "Your highness"- began Brandon, but she was gons before he could ings with Mary after we came home from Windsor, at all of which her preference was shown in every movement Some woman are so expressive under strong emotion that every gesture, a

He did not follow her to explain, planation would be, but felt that it was best for them both that she should remain offended, painful as the thought

was to him. Of course, Mary's womanly self esteem, to say nothing of her royal pride, was wounded to the quick, and no

Poor Brandon sat down upon a stone, and as he longingly watched her retir-ing form wished in his heart he were dead. This was the first time he really knew how much he loved the girl, and he saw that, with him at least, it was a matter of bad to worse and at that

rate would soon be-worst. fended her and had permitted her to go without an explanation she was dearer to him than ever, and as he sat there with his face in his hands he knew that if matters went on as they were going the time would soon come when he would throw caution to the dogs and would try the impossible-to win her for his own. Caution and judgment still sat enthroned, and they told him now what he knew full well they would not tell him after a short time-that failure was certain to folow the attempt and disaster sure to follow failure. First, the king would in all probability cut off his head upon an intimation of Mary's possible fond-ness for him, and, second, if he should

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surprise and alarm - nay, almost my terror-when the band struck up Jane's "Sailor Lass." I saw the look of surprise and inquiry which Brandon gave Mary, standing there demurely by his side, when he first heard the music, and I heard her nervous little laugh as she nodded her head, "Yes," and stepped closer to him to take position for the dance. The next moment she was in Brandon's arms, flying like a sylph about the room. A buzz of astonish-ment and delight greeted them before they were half way around and then a great clapping of hands, in which the king himself joined. It was a lovely sight, although I think a graceful wo-

herself.

quickly to me.

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the princess.

ladies out a-dancing.

each you." "Master, we have our orders for the "There are others who can dance it first dance from the princess." much better than you," she returned, Imagine also, if you can, my double thout looking at me.

followed

wish," said I.

"If you allow another to teach you that dance," I responded, "you will have seen the last of me." She had made me angry, and I did not speak to her for more than a week. When I did-but I will tell you of that later on The evening was devoted to learning the new dance, and I saw Mary busily engaged imparting information among the ladies. As we were about to disrse I heard her say to Brandon:

asked me where I learned it, and I ld him you had taught it to Caskoden and that I had it from him. I told Caskoden so that he can tell the same

than any other dance or, in fact, any "Oh, but that is not true. Don't you other situation in which she can place think you should have told him the truth or have evaded it in some way?" After a little time the dowager Duchasked Brandon, who was really a great ess of Kent, first lady in waiting to the lover of the truth, "when possible," queen, presented herself at the musi-cians' gallery and said that her majesout who, I fear, on this occasion wish ed to appear more truthful than he ty had ordered the music stopped, and really was. If a man is to a woman's the musicians, of course, ceased play-

"But what if I do not wish?"

taste and she is inclined to him, he

lays up great stores in her heart by

making her think him good, and shame-ful impositions are often practiced to

Mary flushed a little and answered:

"I can't help it. You do not know.

Had I told Henry that we four had

enjoyed such a famous time in my rooms he would have been very angry,

and-and-you might have been the

"But might you not have comp

mised matters by going around the truth some way and leaving the im-

ression that others were of the party

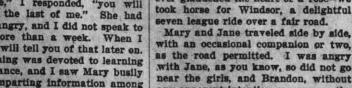
an opportunity to retaliate: "The best way to go around the truth; as you call

It, is by a direct lie. My lie was no worse than yours. But I did not stop

to argue about such matters. There is something else I wished to say. I want

this end

Condensed ads. in the Daily Sun to tell you that you have greatly



other, allowed events to adjust them-"You have greatly pleased the king bringing him a new amusement. We were perhaps forty yards behind the girls, and I noticed after a time that the Lady Mary kept looking back-

ward in our direction, as if fearing rain from the east. I was in hopes that Jane, too, would fear the rain, but you would have sworn her neck was stiff. so straight ahead did she keep her face. We had ridden perhaps three leagues when the princess stopped her horse and turned in her saddle. I heard her voice, but did not understand what she

In a moment some one called out, "Master Brandon is wanted!" So that gentleman rode forward, and I followed him. When we came up with the girls, Mary said, "I fear my girth is loose."

Brandon at once dismounted to tight en it, and the others of our immediate party began to cluster around. Brandon tried the girth.

"My lady, it is as tight as the horse can well bear." he said.

"It is loose, I say," insisted the princess, with a little irritation. "The saddle feels like it. Try the other." Then turning impatiently to the person gathered around: "Does it require all of you, standing there like gaping bumpkins, to tighten my girth? Ride on. We can manage this without so much help." Upon this broad hint ev-erybody rode ahead while I held the rse for Brandon, who went on with his search for the loose girth. While he was looking for it Mary leaned over her horse's neck and asked: "Were you and Cavendish settling all the philo sophical points now in dispute, that you found him so interesting?"

"Not all," answered Brandon, smil

"You were so absorbed I supposed t could be nothing short of that.' "No," replied Brandon again. "But the girth is not loose."

"Perhaps I only imagined it," returned Mary carelessly, having lost interest in the girth.

I looked toward Jane, whose eyes were bright with a smile, and turned Brandon's horse over to him. Jane's smile gradually broadened into a laugh and she said, "Edwin, I fear my girth that evening?" That was a mistake, for it gave Mary is loose also." "As the Lady Mary's was?" asked I,

unable to keep a straight face any longer.

Plain and ornamental printing at the Dally Sun job rooms.

and myself, and went with us up to she is really in love with him as yet London, where we lodged over night at perhaps, but I fear it is coming, and I dread to see it. That incident of the Bridewell House. The next morningas bright and beautiful a June day as oose girth is an illustration. Did you ever know anything so bold and transparent? Any one could see through it. and the worst of all is she seems not to care if every one does see. Now look at them ahead of us! No girl is so happy riding beside a man unless she is interested in him. She was dull enough until he joined her. He seemed any apparent intention one way or the in no hurry to come, so she resorted to the flimsy excuse of the loose girth to selves and rode with Cavendish and bring him. I am surprised that she even sought the shadow of an excuse,

but did not order him forward without any pretense of one. Oh. I don't know what to do! It troubles me greatly, Do you know, the state of his feelings?' "No," I answered, "but I think he is

heart whole, or nearly so. He told me he was not fool enough to fall in love with the king's sister, and I really be lieve he will keep his heart and head, even at that dizzy height. He is a cool fellow, if there ever was one."

"He certainly is different from other men," returned Jane. "I think he has never spoken a word of love to her. He has said some pretty things, which she has repeated to me; has moralized to some extent, and has actually told her of some of her faults. I sho like to see any one else take that liberty. She seems to like it from him, and says he inspires her with higher, hetter motives and a yearning to be good, but I am sure he has made no love to her."

"Perhaps it would be better if he did. It might cure her," I replied.

"Un no not now. At first much haps, but not now. What I fear is that in ne remains silent much longer she will take matters in hand and speak herself. I don't like to say that - it doesn't sound well-but she is a princess, and it would be different with her from what it would be with an ordinary girl. She might have to speak first, or there might be no speaking from one who thought his position too far beneath her. She whose smallest desires drive her so will never forego. so great a thing as the man she loves only for the want of a word or two." Then it was that Jane told me of the

scene with the note, of the little whispered confidences upon their pillows and a hundred other straws that showed only too plainly which way this worst of ill winds was blowing, with no good in it for any one. Now, who could have foretold this? It was easy enough to prophesy that Brandon would learn to

love Mary, excite a passing interest and come off crestfallen, as all other

RATHER TIME-WORN. -----

"Come, children," said the erstwhile widower, introducing his second wife to his children, "come kiss your new

mamma." 'Q. Pa," exclaimed the youngest. "If they worked her off on you as 'new' they stuck you."

CHAPTER VII. LOVE'S FIERCE SWEETNESS.

FTER we had all returned to A Greenwich the princess and Brandon were together frequently. Upon several occaons he was invited, with others, to her parlor for card playing. But we spent two evenings with only four of us present prior to the disastrons events which changed everything, and of which I am soon to tell you. During these two evenings the "Sailor

Lass" was in constant demand. This pair, who should have remained apart, met constantly in and about the lace, and every glance added fuel to the flame. Part of the time it was the princess with her troublesome dignity. and part of the time it was Marysimply Mary. Notwithstanding these haughty moods, any one with half an eye could see that the princess was gradually succumbing to the budding woman; that Brandon's stronger na-ture had dominated her with that half fear which every woman feels who loves a strong man-stronger than her-

One day the rumor spread through the court that the old French king, Louis XII., whose wife, Anne of Brit-tany, had just died, had asked Mary's hand in marriage. It was this proba-bly which opened Brandon's eyes to the fact that he had been playing with the very worst sort of fire, and first made him see that in spite of himself, and almost without his knowledge, the girl had grown wonderfully sweet and

THE CAUSE OF IT.

Why did you leave your last place?" swed Mrs. Hiram Offen. "Well," replied the pretty set naid, "the last couple I was with didn't agree-" "Indeed? Why should their disagree-

ments affect you?" "It was about me. The gentleman liked me, but she didn't."

spoken between us. The more I saw of this man the more be so fortunate as to keep his head Mary could not and certainly would I respected him, and this curbing of his affections added to my already high esnot marry him even if she loved him with all her heart. The distance beteem. The effort was doubly wise in tween them was too great, and she Brandon's case. After a time Mary knew too well what she ewed to her began to suspect his attempts to avoid osition. There was but one thing left her, and she grew cold and distant New Spain, and he determined while through pique. Her manner, however, had no effect upon Branden, who did The real cause of Brandon's manner not, or at least appeared not to, notice it. This the girl could not endure, and, had never occurred to Mary. Although she knew her beauty and power, as she lacking strength to resist her heart, soon returned to the attack.

ught and.

iarity.

Mary had not seen Brandon for nearly two weeks and was growing anxous, when one day she and Jane met him in a forest walk near the river. Brandon was sauntering along readng when they overtook him. Jane told me afterward that Mary's conduct up on coming up to him was pretty and curious beyond the naming. At first she was inclined to be distant and say cutting things, but when Brandon be gan to grow restive under them and showed signs of turning back she thanged front in the twickling of an eye and was all sweetness. She laugh-ed and smiled and dimpled, as only she could, and was full of bright glances and gracious words. She tried a hundred little schemes to

get him to herself for a moment-the hunting of a wild flower or a four leaved clover or the exploration e some little nook in the forest toward which she would lead him-h did not at first take the hint and kept close at her heels. Mary's impulsive nature was not much given to hinting matter of vanity, but as a matter of fact-yet love had blinded her where Brandon was concerned, and that knowledge failed to give her light as to -she usually nodded, and most en phatically at that-so after a few fail-ures to rid herself of her waiting lady she said impatiently: "Jane, in the his motives, however brightly it might illumine the conduct of other men tename of heaven, don't keep so close to us! You won't move out of reach of

my hand, and you know how often it nclines to box your ears!" Jane did know, Lam sorry fer Mary's take to say, how often the fair hand was given to such spasms; so with this emphasized hint she walked on ahead, half sulky at the indignity put upon her and half amused at her whimsical

Mary lost no time, but began the at-

of her veration, but only said she ver-ily hated Brandon; and that, of course, was the key to the whole situation. After a fertnight this ill humor be-gan to soften in the glowing warmth Mary lost no time, but began the av-tack at once. "Now, six, I want you to tell me the truth. Why do you refuse my invita-tions and so persistently keep away from me? I thought at first I would simply let you go your way, and then I thought I-I would not. Don't deny it. I know you won't. With all your faults, you don't tell even little lies; not even to a woman-I believe. Now there is a fine compliment-is it not?when I intended to scold you!" She gave a fluttering little laugh, and, with banging head, continued: "Toll me,

STUCK. "Yes," said the beginner at golf, tell-ing his troubles, "the caddy was so sarcastic and impertinent I felt like cracking him over the head."

Well, why didn't you?" asked his friend.

"I would have done it, but you see, didn't know which would be the proper Read the want ads. It will pay you. club to use for that purpose."

of her heart, which was striving to reassert itself, and the desire to see Brandon began to get the better of Brandon, tired of this everlasting watchfulness to keep himself out of temptation and dreading at any moment that lapse from strangth which is apt to come to the strongest of us, had reselved to guit his place at court and go to New Spain at once. He had learned upon inquiry that a ship would sail from Bristol in about twenty days and another six weeks later. So he chose the former and was making his

There was but one thing left-New Sno

ward whom she was indifferent.

could not help but know it-not as a

So Mary was angry this time-angry

earnest-and Jane felt the irritable

palm more than once. I, too; came in for my share of her ill temper, as most certainly would Brandon had he ab-lowed himself to come within reach of

her tongue, which he was careful not to do. She did not tell Jane the cause

