

over her face. "Mr. Vernon," she said, with mocking emphasis, "you flatter me."

"I beg your pardon, Miss Vaughn, if I have in any way offended you," he said entreatingly.

The orchestra suddenly stopped, and the whirl of feet ceased. When the dance came to an end, Mr. Vaughn, a little out of breath, made his way up to them. A pleasant smile lingered on his face as he introduced La Solferino to Vernon. Lily rose, and holding her father's arm, whispered softly to him and moved away.

"Although I have never had the pleasure of meeting you before, Mdlle. Solferino," said Vernon, "I have long heard of your fame, and I am honored to have made your acquaintance."

She smiled sweetly, showing a row of pearly white teeth.

"You are a great friend of Mr. Vaughn's, so he was telling me," she said modestly.

"Yes, I have that honor."

"What a charming girl his daughter is, Mr. Vernon. So pretty. I have quite fallen in love with her."

"Yes, she is exceptionally beautiful," he said, looking at a young man who was making his way to them.

"At last, Mdlle., I have found you!" the stranger exclaimed, in a high-pitched key, while an expectant light shone in his eyes. She turned