A TRERIBLE FLIRTATION.

BY L. BYRON. "Goodness gracious!" exclaimed Lily Lovelace, as a stranger entered the ball room with a young lady leaning on his arm. He was tall, dark and handsome, with a color fresh and clear as a lady's His eye sparkled with intelligence; and his voice was low and musical, with a deer tenderness and power which gave him a wonderful advantage among the fair sex, and earned for him the envy of the men wherever he went. He was the son of a Southern gentleman, with a large fortune at his disposal, and being yet but 25 years at his disposal, and being yet but 25 years she looked into his face in a way that told to plainly her soul's surging emotions.

"Like your own sweet self to say so, darling, but in this case I claim the right to plainly her soul's surging emotions.

"Like your own sweet self to say so, darling, but in this case I claim the right to judge. To me you are my morning star, the sun of my life and the soul of my existence. With you by my side, life would be all sunshine Without y u, the sweetest joys, the brightest hopes, the greatest grandeur, would be but mere hollow mockery," and drawing her yielding head gently to his breast, he added: "Hang there, my darling, like fruit till pavilion at the Horticultural gardens. "Hang there, my darling, like fruit till Miss Lovelace being the reigning beauty the tree dies." of the day was there of course; and when she saw the stranger she was leaning on the arm of her betrothed, Robert Boyd, a

young physician of rising fame.

Miss Lovelace was the only child of a worthy and wealthy physician, whose wife departed this life when Lily was quite a baby, and she was therefore brought up almost altogether by strangers, who had almost altogether by strangers, who had more regard for her own interests than they had for hers. It is not surprising to find her as a young lady petted and spoiled, and wilful to a dangerous degree. She was lovely (as a poet's dream, and she knew it. She was only 21 years of age, and she counted her conquests by the score, and the man who could secure her company for an evening felt himself far above the ordinary run of mortals.

As soon as she could frame an excuse she tore herself away from her lover and ran over to where Miss Mackay, her friend, was standing talking to some and said in a low tone: is the gentleman you came into the ball room with a little while ago? "Oh! replied Miss Mackay, moving a few step away from the others, "his name is Mr Rockaway, he is from the south; I hav only known him about an hour, and he is just splendid. He asked me who you were? and I told him, and he requested me to secure an introduction for him, but, by the way, here he comes with Mr. Blackburn; and the next moment the man of law said, "Allow me to introduce to you my friend, Mr. Rockaway, Miss Love-lace."

After the formalities of the introduction After the formalities of the introduction were over the band played a lively galop, and Mr. Rockaway and his partner, Miss Lovelace, were whirling away among the merry throng. As for Miss Lovelace, if ever her beauty elegance and fascination reached a culminating point, it was upon this occasion. When the dance was finished Mr. Rockaway led his partner to a seat which much to their satisfaction was

Before he had time to reply Mr. Boyd came up and bowing to the stranger said, "Excuse me, sir." Then turning to Miss Lovelace with a smile he said. "Lily, R believe your next dance is mine the stranger said, "The engines of the vessel I was to

some strange fortune, they met again.
"I leave the city in a few days, Miss
Lovelace, but I should be delighted to see you once more before going," said Mr.

Good bye, Florence, concluded Mr. Rock-Rockaway.
"I shall be pleased to have you call upon

then good bye.".

He held her hand in his, and with impression said, "till then, good bye."
It is needless to say that Mr. Rockaway kept his engagement next day, and in fact became a daily caller at the Lovelace house during the remainder of his stay in

Upon the evening after the ball Miss May Mackay, the intimate friend of Miss Lovelace called upon her and the conversation naturally turned upon the handsome stranger. 'He is certainly very handsome, Lily," said the former, "and quite entertaining and so forth, but he is a stranger.'

"Royal," cried the newly made wife, "peak! is this woman your wife?"

Mr. Rockaway stood with bowed head in the middle of the room covered with

as you do, but you need not be alarmed, I have no intention of deserting Mr. Boyd; Before either of the women could combut I see no harm in firting a little and making a conquest of the handsome South-

"Well, Lily, of course you know best wide enough to swallow your reputation.

bid you good night."
"Good night, May. I meant nothing

taken her friend's advice this story would never have been written.

The following summer, in the month of August, a lady and gentleman are walking to and fro in front of the Queen's Royal hotel, in the quiet town of Niagara. The god of day, in his majestic march across the sheavens, had reached the west, and seemed to linger a moment on the hilltops, as it to cast one long look of love on namere before bidding her good night, then, with a passionate kiss which brought the blush of pleasure to her cheek, he gracefully withdrew, "and day gathered about him she called to see her, and finding her ill

"What do those stars remind you of, Royal?" asked the lady, as she scated her-self in a rustic chair which stood with some others near the brow of the hill overlooking

"They remind me," said the gentleman, taking a chair beside his companion—
"they remind me of bright thoughts in hours of mental darkness—they also remied me of you, my darling, existing and shining for the admiration and good of others in general, and myself in particular. Do you like the thought, Cleo?"

the tree dies."

'Oh, Royal! if I could die thus, I could almost rejoice. I can never have a truer rest nor a sweeter cup than this."

A few moments later Royal remarked, "The air is chilly, Clet, you may catch cold, and that might spoil all our beautiful dreams, and reduce us to the level of mortals. Shall we go in?"

'Yes, Royal, perhaps we had better, and "Yes, Royal, perhaps we had better, and "Yes,

tals. Shall we go in?"

"Yes, Royal, perhaps we had better, and prepare for our journey to morrow," said the lady.

Dear reader, do you suspect who this lady and gentleman are? None other than Mr. Royal Rockaway and his fair young bride, known to yeu as "Lity Lovelace."

After Mr. Rockaway left Toronto he kept up a constant correspondence with Miss up a constant correspondence with Miss Lovelace, while she, to gratify her vanity and amuse herself for the time being, replied to his letters regularly in the same strain as his, which were always of the nost gushing character. This correspondence continued until Miss Lovelace found dence continued until Miss Lovelace found herself madly in love with the Southerner, and upon the night before her intended marriage with Mr. Boyd she mysteriously disappeared, and the next heard of her was a letter to her father informing him of her marriage at Niagara to Mr. Royal Rockaway, which "she hoped would not be distasteful to her parent, since she discovered that she loved Mr. Rockaway with her whole heart, and could marry no one else. The news almost overcame Mr. Lovelace,

The news almost overcame Mr. Lovelace, who thought his beautiful daughter as the very perfection of womanhood and the soul of honor, and in silence he grieved over what he regarded as a misfortune.

Mr. Boyd bore his disappointment man-fully—and although he loved Miss Love-lace devotedly he said, when speaking to a friend of the event: "Miss Lovelace had

20th. The next day they were just about to enter a fashionable dry goods store when a lady came out and Mr. Rockaway some distance apart from the others.

"This, I believe, is your first visit to Toronto, Mr. Rockaway. How do you stepped to the side to allow her to pass. But she suddenly halted, and looking up in the exclaimed: "Why. Royal. "Yes, this is my first visit, but not my last I hope, and I must say I like the city very much indeed Miss Lovelace, but, judging from the present company, should say Toronto's chief glory is in the beauty of her belies."

"Well—sh I—ah—, Cleo," turning to his bride, "if you will go on with your should say Toronto's chief glory is in the beauty of her belies."

"Mr. Rockaway flatters," said Miss

Lovelace with a bewitching smile which showed plainly that she believed the flatter altho's he pretended not to.

"If facts be flattery then I do, but I can assure you that altho' I have traveled a great deal of late and have seen many fair faces I have seen in Toronto."

"Thanks, Mr. Rockaway, I trust you will continue to think and speak so highly of the ladies of our city," said his companion.

"In the late of the lady who had accosted him and said, "Florence, how do you come to be here?"

"Well? after you left home, I received a note from our friends the Marshalls asking me to come and spend a few days with them in the city, and as you were to be away for three months I thought I would accept their invitation and so I am here."

"Excuse me, sir." Then turning to Miss Lovelace with a smile he said. "Lily, he believe your next dance is mine, the seta are forming already; shall we go and join them?"

"Certainly," said the fair one. "Excuse me, Mr. Rockaway. Au revoir," and the belle of the ball glided away to the dance, leaving Mr. Rockaway to his own thoughts. He was not left long thus, for no sooner had the waltz ended than, some strange fortune, they met again.

I will have more time at my disposal.

Good bye, Florence, concluded Mr. Rockary, and entered the store in search of his bride. He found her and as soon as she had made her purchases they returned

They had soarcely seated themselves in their room when Florence confronted them and in an excited voice demanded an

explanation. "What does this mean, Mr. Rockaway? she said. Then turning to Lily, she asked, "Are you aware that this is my husband?" "Your husband!" she explained.
"My husband," replied Florence, bowing

stifily as she spoke.

"Royal," cried the newly made wife,

"speak! is this woman your wife?"

Mr. Rockaway stood with bowed head entertaining and so forth, but he is a stranger, and that means a great deal; and I would advise you not to become too free with him, especially as you are engaged and therefore likely to be talked about. Besides you know, dear, Mr. Boyd might not like it."

"Why, my dear, sweet, little innocent, I know your love for me leads you to speak as you do, but you need not be alarmed. I

prehend his meaning he drew his revolver, placed it to his heart, fired and fell dead

"Well, Lily, of course you know best your own business; but let me tell you that Mother Grundy's mouth is already open alone, smoking his after dinner cigar. He was nervous and excited, resulting from a strange feeling of anxiety about his beau-

wide enough to swallow your reputation. Take my advice and drop his acquaint ance until you know more about him."

"Stop! May. I shall hear no more; let Mother Grundy mind her own business. I am quite capable to mind mine. It you and I are to be friends, never mention the subject again," interrupted Miss Lovelace excitedly.

"Sorry if I have offended you, Lily," said May, as she rose to leave. "I must bid you good night."

was nervous and excited, resulting from a strange feeling of anxiety about his beautiful and wayward daughter.

"Oh, if she would only come back to me," he said to himself, sorrowfully, "but she's gone, perhaps gone forever, my poor lost Lily." Then dropping into a chair which stood on the verandah, he became absorbed in thought. He was in this condition when a hand gently touched him and a soft, sweet voice said to him, father."

He started to his feet in amazement personal, dear; but it makes me wild to think that one can't speak or look, or scarcely think even, without becoming the talk of a lot of fools."

Thus these two girls parted—and when they met again it was under very different circumstances. If Miss Lovelace had taken her friend's advice this story would never have been written.

He started to his feet in amazement, trembling with excitement and caught the figure beside him, holding it in front of him for a moment, then in breathless and broken accents, "Lily! My God, is it you? On—my child—my child! thank God, you are home at last!"

There they stood for a few moments and wept out their sorrow and their joy, but suddenly Lily fell in a death-like swoon at

his jack to finight and buttoned it with she remained with her and nursed for back to life again. Six months after this there was a wedding in S. Andrew's church—Miss May Mackay to Robert

Boyd, M.D.
Dr. Lovelace died two years after his daughter's return, and she died three months later. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd are with us to day, in full enjoyment of life and happiness.

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An open winter makes iceman hot. A man may smile and smile and be

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"Mr. Rockaway flatters," said Miss vous accents. Cleo was his put name for worms. No article of its kind has given by such satisfaction. such satisfaction.

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A heavenward pointed tack is no res-

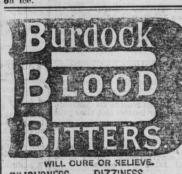
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