

DONNA VIOLETTA.

A SPANISH BALLAD (NOT IN LOCKHART'S COLLECTION.)

I.

Lythe and listen, ladies gay, and gentle gallants, listen :
In Donna Violetta's eyes the pearly tear-drops glisten,
The hour has come—the Priest has come—have come the
 bridemaids three,
The groomsman's there, but ah the groom, alas! and where
 is he ?
Full sadly sighed that mother sage, "It is provoking,
 really—
What can the good knight mean or plead to justify his
 delay ?"
And red and pale alternate turned the bride, as wore the
 morning,
And there she stood amid a crowd, half sorrowing, half
 scorning.

II.

At last outspoke the best bridesmaid, as on the time-piece
 glancing,
Her black eye fir'd, and her small foot beneath her robe kept
 dancing :
"If I were you, sweet coz," she said, "I'd die before I'd let a
Man put ring, who first put slight, upon me, Violetta!"