

Does the occasional use of poison by the murderer prevent the physician from using noxious herbs in healing his patients? Do the almost daily destructive explosions of steam engines arising from unpardonable mismanagement drive the manufacturer from his spindle or sweep the crowds of pleasure-seekers from the decks of our majestic steamboats? No sir! And such it is with flirtation, a harmless custom, a source of pleasure to the young, consequently beneficial, and as a natural result, justifiable. But this custom is not only harmless and conducive to innocent pleasure, but is in many cases highly beneficial. Passing through a season of flirtation will often prevent the susceptible and unsuspecting from passing through a season of distress or falling under the blasts of disgrace. The young lady or gentleman untutored by observation and uninstructed in the various intrigues and deceptions practiced by mankind will invariably give implicit credence to anything told them in an earnest and engaging manner. They are thus subject to the capricious attentions of heartless flirts whose only object is to crush the hearts of lovely woman, that their indignant tears and humiliating sorrow may add lustre to their triumphant career as the conquerors of the fair and the admired of the beautiful. How is a young lady, ignorant of man, confiding in every polished beau of gentlemanly bearing, to be protected from the insidious attacks of polished heart destroyers, when, by the banishment of innocent, every-day flirtation from society she is necessarily led to attach candor to every earnest expression? It is utterly impossible. The only way to foil the attempts of these flirts is to allow our young ladies and gentlemen to engage in flirtations and thereby cultivate their shrewdness, increase their knowledge of their race and to shield them from a too ready belief in the truthfulness of words and earnestness of attention intended as mere pastime.

Some men will deceive ladies whether flirtation is generally countenanced or not, and if the admission of all to engage in its merriment will render otherwise unsuspecting ladies suspicious of such characters, the doors of flirtation