

vincing and eloquent terms for its continuance. It must be clearly understood that we are discussing a general question. We do not propose to justify the exceptional cases in which men of beastly passion of sensual feelings and of reckless indifference deceive innocent, modest, timid ladies by sardonic smiles, unfeeling gallantry and solemn protestation of affection and undying devotion, while the unsuspecting victims of his flirtation are feasting their fond hopes with the colored pictures of a happy future soon to be darkened by contemptuous neglect and themselves to be overwhelmed by a flood of sorrow. We are simply discussing those cases in which one or both parties make unmeaning pretensions of attachment attended with mirth clearly understood always or nearly always, as such cases conducive to innocent enjoyment contributing to a knowledge of our race, productive of no evil, and soon to be forgotten by both parties. Some of our honorable opponents may cunningly assert that we are unfairly circumverting the field of discussion by an improper boundary suitable to our peculiar views. Such an assertion vanishes before a close investigation. Examine the flirtations, commonly so-called, as they present themselves. What is the character of nine-tenths of these, and on this great majority you are to decide this question. Every conversation and attention intentionally expressive of a preference for a certain person is called a flirtation. And, to be brief, the whole of a gallant gentleman's conduct toward the majority of ladies is made up of just such acts. The indifferent man, polite he may be, who coldly and stoically says only what he honestly means to young ladies, who scorns disguised flattery, and retreats with aversion from a shower of compliments, is a man that will never command the attention of the majority of fashionable belles as long as silver-tongued beaux, with pliant address and consciences tutored in the schools of politeness, cast winning glances at every lady they meet. Every man is aware of this fact, and his love of innocent pleasure will dictate to him the necessity of assuming a protean form, professing his interest in every lady with whom he may con-