

verse. Ladies are actuated by the same motives. Reasoning *a priori* draws us to the same conclusion to which we are led by observation. Flirtation in its various forms is seen in every assemblage of men and women undisturbed by sorrow.

The coroneted knights and jeweled ladies that go arm in arm beneath the evening shadows of marble pillars into the sculptured halls of the great, have already commenced a night of gay flirtations. The rustic farm boy, as he spurs his harness-marked plough-horse, is already alive with unusual gait as he thinks of the country damsels he will charm as he leads them to the picnic dance. The music that rises enchantingly from the ball room of the summer watering resort is only thrilling the breasts of gallant gentlemen and fair ladies that increased impetus may be lent to the charms of flirtation. The schoolboy with broken slate and dog-eared books, as he steals away from the noisy crowd of school birds and strolls leisurely along the sidewalk casting smiles upon a romping maiden is showing a preference that is merely a flirtation.

Flirtation in its general form is perfectly harmless. It is generally known in society that ladies and gentlemen will be polite; the entertainment of friends of the other sex generally demands it, and it is necessary to manifest more than your real feelings to each lady. It is not necessary to "pop the question," as it is generally termed, to constitute a flirtation. It is sufficient to make love in jest, to express an unusual regard in fun, or to show any preference whatever, otherwise than in earnest. What injury can result in such gait—none whatever. It is only when unprincipled, dastardly monsters in human form seize upon their innocent unsophisticated victims and drown their fondest hopes in a sea of grief. But this is foreign to our question; it is a corruption of the agent, not of the instrument. We are merely discussing the feasibility of the instrument, and are not concerned with the improper occasional and injurious application of that instrument by unfeeling wretches who would accomplish their purpose if flirtation were obsolete.