Love's Alarms

A One Act Comic Opera

The Music by Edward Fitzwilliam
The Text by John Buckstone

This libretto is a transcription from the manuscript submitted to the Examiner held in the British Library (Add MS 52943 U). Spellings are as in the manuscript and include such words as "favorite" for "favourite". **{xx}** marks the page numbers of the manuscript. (…?) marks a word unable to be deciphered.

Some punctuation has been changes as the original manuscript relies on many dashes between phrases. The dialogue is in two columns with the speaker in the left-hand column. Vocal items are in the centre of the page.

See http://englishromanticopera.org/operas/Loves_Limit.htm for more details on the opera.

Please send any comments or corrections to englishromanticopera@gmail.com.

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Dramatis Personae

Colonel St. Ernest

Joseph (Servant to the Colonel)

Tony (Servant to the Countess)

Captain Courage

Grenada

Three officers

Chorus

The Countess

Lolotte (her maid)

Leonora

Zerbine

Volante

Julia

Ladies (Chorus)

Love's Alarms

{4}

Scene 1 – *A Garden. On the Left Hand, Upstage?*[1]*, a chateau with door in front and a practicable window with a balcony to which is tied a Bouquet with a ticket attached. A large tree is near it, at the foot of which is a garden chair. A Wall runs along at the back with a garden gate* (…?) *to open. A Pavilion Right Hand with French windows opening on to the Garden.*

Colonel St Ernest heard in the Pavilion
Pooh! Pooh! Don't bother me. I know **{5}** nothing at all about it

Tony (*outside*) It's very strange, Sir. Very strange indeed

Col. I know nothing at all about, I repeat.

Tony The Countess desired me to enquire

Colonel The enquire elsewhere and don't disturb me

Tony Who'd ever think that you were a soldier

Colonel Why Sir?

Tony A Lady sends me to make an enquiry into a matter of mystery, desires me first to ask you concerning it. You know I am sent by a Lady, that I am in the service of a Lady, that I am the only manservant in the Lady's house and all that you can be polite enough to say is "pooh, pooh, don't bother me".

Col Well, well, state the cause of complaint again, let me perfectly understand it.

Tony I've told you Sir, that we have twice found a **{6}** nosegay tied to the rails of that balcony Sir and we suspect it is put there by one of your soldiers.

Col. And what crime can the Countess see in that?

Tony No particular crime Sir, only it has made a vast deal of mischief here.

Col. In what way?

Tony Why you know, Colonel, that excepting myself there is not a man in that house and that there are more than one dozen women living there.

Col. I am aware of it. The ladies have fled from the seat of war in Brussels to seek refuge at the chateau of the Countess, who being the widow of a distinguished French officer, has cheerfully taken them under her protection.

[1] The stage directions are L.H.U. and what looks like an E.

Tony And it is very evident that someone has an intrigue with one of those ladies and, if that is the case, it is highly improper, as all of them excepting the Countess and her maid Lolotte and if any mischief should come to pass I shall be suspected of the villainy.

Col. Well, well, I 'll make every enquiry among my men (*going*)

Tony Stay, Colonel, one word more if you please. This **{7}** dreadful mystery may get you into a scrape as well as me for tho' I'm the only man inside the house, you are the only man outside of it. You lodge in that Pavilion. The Countess allowed you to take up your head quarters there as a sort of protection to her chateau during the war but on the express condition that you never entered her doors or spoke to any of the ladies. So if any faux pas should come to light, it will surely be put to the account of you or me.

Col. I never speak to any of the ladies. I never look at them.

Tony We all know that – they say you're a surly bear

Col (going) Sirrah!

Tony Yes and that you would as soon think of taking a dose of arsenic, as of taking a wife.

Col. They are not much off the mark there. Marry – horror. The springing of a mine, the bursting of a thousand bombs is child's play to matrimony.

Song - Colonel

{8}

March to the field of glory
Fight for Honor's Crown
Burn to live in story
Die to gain renown
These become the hero
These are worth a strife
Who but boys through folly
Seek to win a bride
March to the field etc.

If o'er the fate of battle
Cause your ranks to fly
Join not such dishonor
Scorn retreat and die
But if once by woman
Should your ranks be cross'd
For your life avoid them
Run or you are lost
March to the field etc.

Colonel is going off at the end of the song.
Tony calls him back.

Tony Stop sir – I've something more to say – that the **{9}** mischievous nosegay that has been placed there yet for there is a ticket tied to it on which is written "to the sweetest lady in the chateau".

Col Then of course all of them claim it

Tony They do and it has caused such a disturbance you can't think.

Col Well, once for all, give my compliments to the Countess and tell her that if I discover the guilty wretch, who can so far forget his nature as a man and his morals as a soldier to tie a nosegay intended for a pretty woman to the balcony of her window, he shall be shot.

(*Exit through gate*)

Tony And serve him right. I'll find out the villain. I'm determined but though all the ladies claim the bouquet, every one thinking herself the handsomest (poor vain things as they are) yet I'm convinced it is intended for the Countess's maid – my Lolotte and if I can discover the interloper, I'll interlope a bullet in his head.

Enter Leonore, Zerbine, Julia, Volante (left hand) and other ladies disputing the nosegay
{10}

Chorus
Why this pother? Can't you see
The nosegay's only meant for me
Tis mine, 'tis mine, 'tis mine.

Leonora
Tis directed to the sweetest
And the sweetest sure am I

Zerline
When I'm absent but my lady
Tis not so when I am by

Volante
Or I

Julia
Or I

Leonora
Tell us Tony that's a dear
Who's the sweetest woman here

Tony (*considering*)
That's a poser – all I can
Decide is I'm the sweetest man

Leonora
Silly fellow – ope your eyes

All
His decision we despise
Why this pother can't you see
The nosegay's only made for me
For me, For me, etc
{11}
(*Ladies on left Hand, Tony Right Hand*)

Tony Oh, they're all mad

Leonora Tell us Tony, have you seen the Colonel

Tony I have

Leon Well – who placed the nosegay there? Who is it, who is it?

(*2 ladies on each side of Ton*y)

Tony Ah now you are all flocking about me again

Leon And what did the Colonel say dear Tony?

Tony He said that it must be ---

Leon Who?

Tony Some one?

Leon Of course

Tony But for his part he strongly suspected

Zerbine Who?

Tony Somebody

All Foolish fellow
{12}
Zerline Box his ears

Julia Slap his face

Volante Tear his eyes out

Tony If you use such language, I'll call out murder but listen, I've hit upon a plan that must [reveal] his cover, the audacious monster.

Leon What is it?

All What is it?

Tony It's a fine plan. It can't fail

All Tell us Tony – dear Tony

Tony But it's a secret

Leon Never mind, we can keep it

Tony I'll tell it on one condition

All Name it , name it

Tony Being a gardener, of course, I am fond of flowers, especially roses, lilies and tulips but there are roses and lilies that are to be found elsewhere than in the earth and tulips that are better to kiss than to smell –

{13}

Leon What does the fellow mean?

Tony Fairly enough. If you'll all give me a kiss with your tulips – I'll disclose my plan

All Ha! Ha! Ha!

Tony You may laugh but I'm serious

Leon If the plan should fail

Tony Why then I'll give you them back again. Come is it a bargain? It's sure to succeed. Besides I'm certain the secret is to be sold cheap enough and offer I on very advantageous terms.

All A bargain, a bargain

Tony Now for it then

All Yes, yes! (*they all crowd eagerly round Tony*)

Tony You are aware that whoever it may be who ties those flowers to the balcony comes at night when we're all asleep. Now having carefully examined that tree, I am convinced he must climb up it - and so –

All And so –

Tony Now you'll be astonished and I shall be kissed. I have **{14}** taken off all the bells in the chateau including the big alarm bell and the big dinner bell and this morning at daybreak I tied them to the boughs of the tree there so that my gentleman in climbing up according to his custom will make a desperate noise and then we can rush out and catch him.

All Excellent, excellent - Ha! Ha! Ha!

Tony Ha! Ha! Ha! So we'll sit up all night on the watch. It's a beautiful summer's evening, sure not to rain, so we shan't catch cold and when we hear the bells begin ringing, I'll run out and seize him by the hind legs and you must all come to my assistance. Then how we will punish him. Eh?

All We will. We will

Tony And if he shows fight, I'll rouse up the Colonel.

Leon We at first thought 'twas he

Tony Lord bless you. He never thinks about woman. He's afraid of you. Ah, his thoughts are in harmless cannon balls and innocent swords, not dangerous petticoats.

Leon Capital plan isn't it?

Julia It is indeed – come along

{15}

Volante We shall catch him now

All (going) Sure to catch him – sure to catch him

Tony Hullo! Hullo! You're not going in that way I hope. What's to become of our bargain. Where are my kisses?

All (*slyly*) Oh

Tony Come, come, honor among thieves

All Sir

Tony Well then Ladies and Gentlemen, here I am, all ready, my mouth wiped and myself anxious

Leon Volante, you kiss him first

Volante I don't like

Zerbine I shan't

Julia I won't – though I shall not mind if anyone will set the example

Leon Well, well as we must in honor keep to our terms, I'll kiss him first. Now sir don't laugh

Tony Oh no by no means, t'would spoil the flavour

{16}

Leon (*kissing him*) There

Tony Oh! How nice

Volante (*kissing him*) Well then - there

Tony Beautiful! One down, t'other come on – who's next?

Julia You, Zerbine

Zerb No, no, you

Julia I suppose I must – there Sir (*kissing him*)

Tony It's positive nectar! Who wouldn't be me – now then keep the pot boiling

Leon Stop a moment. We shall be all day before it's over. I propose that this one more shall be the last. Those who are of this opinion will signify the same by holding up their hands –

(*All hold up their hands except Tony*)

Carried unanimously

Tony Oh what a swindle. Well, if it is to be the last – let it be a good one

Zerb There Sir (*kissing him*)

{17a}[2]

Tony A little one if you please Ma'am

Leon No, no, you are honorably paid, so be satisfied Tony. Come Ladies come.

{16b}

Introduced song (*ad lib*)

You've been paid my little man
So pray don't complain
But if success attend your plan
We'll kiss you p'raps again
So Ladies come and let's tonight
Be ever on the watch
And Tony be prepared to fight
If we the man should catch.

{17b}

[2] Buckstone or someone else inserted a song for Leonora into the manuscript at this point written on the backs of two pages of the original text.

True courage wins a Lady's love
And makes her passion's slave
Then Tony what a chance to prove
That you are really brave
And so on you we shall rely
In our defence to fight
Think how much glory tis to die
As woman's trust knight.

Tony It's no such thing

Leon Yes – yes it is. So be prepared to fight

Tony But madam

Leon Hush. All's settled now

All the Ladies enter the chateau laughing

{16b}
Tony (solus) Fighting be hanged. No, no, if there's anything of that sort likely to occur then the Colonel's the man to come to the rescue. He's a soldier and paid for killing people. I'm only a peaceful gardener, who will kill nothing but worms. How comfortable **{17a}** I do feel. I wish I'd another bargain to dispose of on the same terms, but what a pity Lolotte was not among them. A kiss from her would have been worth all the rest but I hope she won't hear of my plan for she might chatter about it and spoil all. I don't think the Ladies will tell her for she seems to have very little to say to any of them.

Joseph heard without singing

That's Joseph's voice. He's the Colonel's factotum, just such another man as his master. Thinks too much of himself ever to admire a woman.

Enter Joeph by the Garden gate

Joseph (*Strutting about*) Ah Tony! How do Tony!

Tony Good evening, Mr Joseph. (*aside*) What a conceited fellow.

Joseph Tony, is the Colonel here, Tony? **{18a}**
Tony How he Tony's me. Yes, I think he is

Joseph (*looking towards the chateau*) Ah! There's the petticoat flounce of my dear Lolotte

Tony What did you say about Lolotte?

Joseph Did I say anything about Lolotte? You are dreaming, Tony. It was yourself Tony, not I Tony

Tony Was it? Very likely, I'm always thinking of her. Heigh ho (*sighs and retires*)

Lolotte (*appearing at the door of the chateau*) Joseph, Joseph, I want to speak to you.

Joseph My love!

Tony Eh! Did you speak to me

Joseph You Tony? No Tony! By the by, Tony, have you discovered the person who places the flowers on the balcony every night.

Tony Not yet, but we shall soon catch him. I've such a plan to find him out.

Joseph You find him out. Nonsense, anyone could deceive you, Tony.

Tony Could they? There's not the man, woman or baby living that could

Lolotte runs from the chateau and conceals herself below the tree.
Joseph sees her. She motions him to get rid of Tony.

Joseph I'll bet you a bottle, Tony, that I can deceive you

Tony You can't

Joseph I'll try. Will you take the bet?

Tony A bottle of claret?

Joseph Yes!

Tony Done

Joseph Done

Tony Now how are you going to deceive me?

Joseph Stand in that corner, look that way and before five minutes have past, I'll make you turn your head.

Tony You won't

{20a}

Joseph I will

Tony (*pointing to L.H.*) I'm to look that way, eh? Now observe the clock yonder. Do you see the time?

Joseph Yes, yes, are you ready?

Tony Quite!

Joseph Fix'd?

Tony Firm as oak?

Joseph (*suddenly*) Tony!

Tony It won't do. I won't turn my head

Joseph I'll try again (*he beckons Lolotte forward*)

Lolotte (*aside to him*) He'll see us

Joseph No, he won't

Tony Come begin, begin. Why don't you deceive me?

Joseph Tony, look here. Lolotte's here Tony.
{21}
Tony It won't do

Joseph (*to Lolotte*) You see, we're quite safe. Now my dear Lolotte have you asked the Countess to consent to our marriage

Lolotte Not yet, I'm afraid

Tony It won't do. You are putting questions and giving answers yourself but it won't do

Joseph I would speak to my master, the Colonel but I'm sure he'll not consent for he hates women

Lolotte And my mistress hates men

Tony Ha! Ha! You imitate Lolotte's voice very well Master Joseph but I won't turn my head. Make haste or I shall win my wager

Joseph If the Colonel refuses you'll be constant

Lolotte Till death dear Joseph and if the Countess refuses you'll not change

Joseph Never sweetest, never

Lolotte I must go now
{22}
Joseph One kiss

Lolotte Be quick

Joseph kisses her. Tony half turns his head

Tony No, no, it won't do. You're only smacking your own lips. All shadow, no substance.

Joseph You didn't take my flowers last night

Lolotte I couldn't. I was watched.

Joseph I shall come tonight. See me if you can.

Lolotte If I can – goodbye

Joseph Goodbye (*kisses her again. She runs into the chateau*)

Tony (*turns round*) Ha! Ha! The times up. I've won, I've won

Joseph (*affecting rage*) Confusion and I've lost

Tony So you thought to deceive me did you? I hope you are satisfied that I'm not so easily taken in

Joseph Tony. You're a man of strong intellect.

{23}

Tony I am!

Joseph Your head's not easily to be turned

Tony No, it's no weathercock. Now for the bottle. Where shall we go to drink it

Joseph At my quarters – the Golden Pig

Tony Come along then.

As they go out Lolotte enters from chateau

Lolotte Tony, the Countess wants to speak to you

Tony Oh dear. Well never mind. (to Joseph) you go to the Pig, order the wine and I'll be with you as soon as I can.

Joseph (*going*) Don't be long

Tony No, no and I say

Joseph Well!

Tony Don't draw the cork till I come (*exit into chateau*)

Joseph Not for the world, Tony. Be quick (*to Lolotte*) Poor booby he little knows how we've tricked him.

{24}

Lolotte Oh Joseph. What a nuisance it is only to be able to speak to you by stealth. I wish you'd contrive to leave off soldiering and give up the army

Joseph Give up the army. My dear Lolotte I can't. Besides you don't know the joyous excitement of a soldier's life. Only just listen while I draw a picture of it

Joseph (*solo*)
Heart undaunted , all dangers daring
Arm never quailing. Rub a dub dub.
No timid fears his courage impairing
Braving all perils, never despairing.
That's the bold soldier, undaunted Rover.
That's the bold soldier, fearless and free.

Both
Heart never failing, Courage unquailing
That's the bred soldier fearless and free

Joseph
Martial trumpet, merrily sounding
Break on his slumbers, Tran ta ra ra
Drums loudly beating, echoes resounding
In each proud bosom, hope wildly bounding
{25} Thus lives the soldier and undaunted Rover
Thus lives the soldier, fearless and free.

Both
Heart never failing, Courage unquailing,
That's the bred soldier fearless and free

Lolotte Stop a bit, that's only one side of the picture. Look at this!

Lolotte
Armless, legless, crutches sustaining
Softens the soldier, limp, limp, limp.
Eyes, he's but one left. Ears non remaining
Nose but a fragment, shape all disdaining.
Thus comes the soldier cover'd with glory
Thus comes the soldier back from the war.

Both
Eyes, nose and cheeks with wounds batter'd and shapeless
Thus comes the soldier back from the war.

At the end of duet, Joseph says to Lolotte[3]

Present Arms (*she obeys*)
Fire! (*kisses her*)

[3] These four lines were added on the back of page 24.

Joseph exits by garden gate. The Countess enters from the chateau, Tony following.

Countess Tony, shut the gates at the back of the chateau. See that all is safe and go to bed.

Tony To bed my lady, so early?

{26}

Countess You must rise at daybreak to look to the vines. Do as I desire (*she retires*)

Lolotte Go sir, do as your mistress desires

Tony Was ever anything so unfortunate? Poor Joseph will sit all night with a bottle before him that he dare not touch because I'm not with him. I'll have an eye to the tree though (*aside*) (*exit into the chateau*)

Lolotte What is that man muttering? I'll go and see that Tony does as you desire him madam for you know what a lazy fellow he is. (*aside*) If I can only get her into a good humour this evening, I'll ask her at once if I may'nt be married that I will (*exit into the chateau*)

Countess Heigh ho! There's a pleasant melancholy in the stillness of a summer evening that leads me into strange thoughts in spite of oneself. I am sad, but for what I know not. Tis not for love of that I am certain for I am free and all my hope is that I may long continue so.

Countess

Farewell to love. No more your joys
Shall reach my weary heart.
Your kindness like your scorn destroys
And now 'tis time we part
{27} No more, no more, Oh never more
I'll trust your fleeting wiles.
There's sadness in your lightest sighs
And sorrow in your smiles.

Farewell to love! Your hopes and fears
With scorn I cast away.
They lead but to despair and tears
No joy can e'er repay.
All cold and heartless like the world
Henceforth I'll strive to be
I may have sorrows hard to bear
But never mor through thee.

Lolotte re-enters from chateau

Lolotte My mistress seems in good humour. I've a great mind to break the ice. I will. I'm resolved. She can't kill me for doing so. Hem

The Countess comes forward

Hem. Madam, I, I wish to have a little conversation with you Madam

Countess With me Lolotte?

Lolotte Yes my Lady

Countess Well

{28}

Lolotte The fact is I – I – I can't get a word out. The truth is (*sobbing*) I shall say in a moment I know I shall

Countess You seem affected – what has happened?

Lolotte Some – Something very serious my Lady

Countess Indeed

Lolotte Yes my Lady. A young man has popp'd

Countess Popp'd

Lolotte Yes Ma'am – popp'd the peculiar question

Countess Oh now, I understand you.

{29}

Lolotte And so my Lady, if you've no objection, I – I want to be married.

Countess Lolotte I'm astonished

Lolotte So am I Ma'am – but I can't help it.

Countess Are you serious

Lolotte Very serious Madam. I have thought of nothing else for the last fortnight and now have ventured to ask your permission.

Countess Which cannot be granted.

Lolotte Don't say so my Lady. I shall break my heart if you won't consent. Consider my Lady, you are a widow. You have been married and now you say that you hate men. I may be of your opinion if I could, so pray let me have a husband then I may one day be a widow and hate the men as much as you but at present, I can't and indeed my Lady, I've tried all I can.

Countess You are an orphan Lolotte. You have been protected from infancy by our family and I cannot consent to your committing such a folly.

{30}

Duett - Countess and Lolette

Lolette (*sobbing*)
Oh! Oh! Oh!
'Tis cruel my lady to hinder a maiden
From having a husband, when one is at hand
I feel that I never was born to live single
How can you prefer it, I can't understand.
Oh!oh!

Countess
Foolish girl, could you know the sad chance of marriage
The dreaming of pleasure, the waking to woe,
Loke me you'd love solitude, hate all the fellows
And find independence the best gift below.

Lolotte
I shall die in hysterics distracted or pining
Take poison or jump from some rock in the sea.

Countess
In a word, I forbid you weak creature to marry
Your lesson of fortitude copy from me.

Lolotte
I shall die in hysterics you'll certainly see

Countess
Dry your tears silly creature and then follow me.

Exeunt Countess and Lolotte in Chateau

{31}

The Colonel and Joseph enter through the gate

Col Joseph

Jos Colonel

Col Before you go to bed, take this letter to the Major General then go your rounds and come to me early in the morning.

Jos Yes Sir – But

Col But what Sir

Jos Before I go in, will you allow me to ask you a favor

Col Name it

Jos You have ever found me a good servant Sir?

Col Tolerable

Jos And I don't want for courage

Col You behaved well in the last battle

Jos Well Sir, what I want is that my courage may be put to the test

Col Do you wish to fight a duel?

{15}

Jos I'm above such trifles Sir

Col What then? To head a forlorn hope

Jos That's nothing Sir to the danger I would encounter

Col Are we short of ammunition and do you offer too supply the place of a cannon ball?

Jos Worse than that, Sir. I want to take a wife!

Col Joesph! You may volunteer in any reasonable peril but you are too good a servant to be sacrificed in that way. Do you know what a woman is?

Jos I've been in the army 6 years Sir and if I don't I ought

Col Joseph! Attention! Don't make a fool of yourself. Stand at ease, go your rounds, Sir, and don't dare to think of matrimony. Left foot forward. March

Duet

Colonel

Attention! Attention!
My orders are stringent and you must obey
Your rounds straightaway go Sir, without more delay
When glory's in view, all womanhood shun
Leave baggage behind and quick shoulder your gun

Joseph

{33}

Ah, Colonel! In your care it's all very fine
Who no baggage have but not so in mine.
I love and am lov'd, then am I not right
To wish to have someone for whom I could fight.
A Bachelor is but a cold, selfish Elf (?)
With no one to think for or care but himself,
Regardless alike (?) of his limbs or his life
But prudent and timid when once he's a wife.

Colonel

Poor stupid! Before a few quick months were sped
You'd own you could heartily wish your self dead.
And so far from dreading the charge of the foe
Be glad on their bayonets your body to throw.

Joseph
If such be the truth, I but seek its test
Experience you know always teaches the best.

Colonel
This folly give o'er, my order obey
Your rounds straightaway go Sir, without.

Both
Wars alarms invite us now
To Mars must Venus yield
With laurel we will deck our brow
Upon the battlefield.
All else forget at honor's call
But on with sword in hand,
And braving shot and cannon ball
Strike home for Fatherland.

Colonel (solo)
Vive la guerre! Brave hearts advance
Strike terror to foe
Triumphant wave the flag of France
O'er others laying low.

Joseph (solo)
Although a Hero's part I'd play
And seek to win a name.
Yet married, I could safely say
I'd try and do the same.

{34}

At the end of Duett, Joseph exits thru' gate and Colonel into the Pavilion.

Tony appears at the door of the chateau in his nightcap

Tony I've slipp'd down stairs without being heard. What a shame of the Countess to send me to bed as I was about to enjoy myself over a bottle. I must examine my machinery now and see if it's all in order (*looking at the tree*). Bless me! I never bolted the gate. (*bolts it*) Ah! Some one is coming downstairs. It's Lolotte. I declare what n opportunity for me to reveal my passion. I'll watch her and then say something tender.

Conceals himself behind the tree

Lolotte (*enters from Chateau*) Who can have left the door of the chateau open? That careless Tony I suppose. Oh, dear me. The Countess is a very hard-hearted woman or she would never trifle with my feelings and forbid me to marry. It isn't every day that an opportunity offers of altering one's situation, but when one does, to lose it in this way is too dreadful to think of. I'm so vex'd I could scream. Oh! I'll never indulge in the hope of a husband again.

Song
Hope is still a fair deceiver
Telling tales of coming joy.
If you listen ne'er believe her
Or your peace she'll soon destroy.

{35} Whisp'ring in my Ear one morning
She a husband promis'd me
But her word of honor scorning
Single still I'm doom'd to be
Hope etc.

Let her golden hair be waving
All enchanting be her smile,
Beauty lies in good behaving
Not in lovely looks of guile
Grim despair tho' sad and sighing
Tells you all the worst he can
Then on all the worst relying
Never more I'll dream of man
Hope etc.

Lolotte Heigho! (*she sits under the tree / lights gradually fade down*[4]) I'll sit down here and meditate a little. I wonder if Joseph will come tonight.

She leans her face on her hands. Tony comes from behind the tree and sits beside her

Tony Now I'll say something tender (*aside*) Booh! (*shouts in her ear – she screams*)
{36}[5]
Lolotte Oh! What's that! (*falls on her knees*)

Tony It's only me your true lover (*falling beside her*)

Lolotte You monster. How could you frighten me in this way. Help me up, Sir

Tony I merely wanted to astonish you

Lolotte Then you might have gentler means

Tony I've another method, my dear. If you do not think it too electrifying. What say you to a kiss, eh?

Lolotte Stand off puppy. Dare to touch the hem of my flounce and I'll annihilate you. The Countess ordered you to go to bed, Sir. I'll tell her in the morning of your conduct, Sir. Walking about in the nighttime like an assassin or housebreaker. Never speak to me any more, Sir, as long as you live.

Exit into chateau

Tony Well that's odd. They say faint heart never won fair lady. Now I'm sure in this instance I have been as bold as a lion and see what the effect is. Ah! She's in her room now going to bed (*yawns*) I feel a **{37}** little sleepy myself but I'll

[4] The page opposite (34b) has "Lights gradually down" written on it.
[5] On the page opposite (35b), there is an instruction "Ready at bells"

not give in. I'll go to my chamber and listen all night but I'll discover this nosegay demon.

Exit into chateau

Joseph appears on the wall – a nosegay in his hand

Joseph

All's silent Grenade

Grenade appears on the wall

Joseph

Sit on the wall and keep watch (gets over the wall). At the first noise you hear, give me the signal and retreat. The Colonel must not know of this.

Gren

All right, I'll take care

Lolotte opens the window near the balcony and takes in the nosegay

Joseph

Lolotte

Lolotte

Joseph

Joseph

I'm here my dearest. Don't take those flowers, they are faded. I've fresh ones for you

Lolotte

Hush!

Joseph

{38} Why?

Lolotte

Tony's there

Joseph

No dear

Lolotte

Oh Joseph! The Countess will not consent to our marriage

Joseph

No more will the Colonel

Lolotte

I'm so unhappy. I shall die before morning.

Joseph

Oh don't! I'll climb up the tree as usual, give you a kiss as usual and comfort you as usual.

He climbs up the tree. The Bells on the branches ring[6]*. Joseph exclaims* "Ha! Betray'd". *Tony runs out with a broom. Lolotte screams and shuts the window. Tony seizes Granade by the leg as he is escaping. Tony exclaims* "I've got him*". Grenade kicks Tony, who falls crying out "Murder". Leonora, Zerbine, Volante, Julia and Ladies rush out with chamber candlesticks and in night dresses and*

Joseph conceals himself in the tree

[6] The page opposite (37b) has instructions "Bells after a pause in music, very loud. Lights up"

Concerted piece

{39}

All the Ladies
Tony, Tony, is he hurt?

Tony
Dear me. Ah, the breath's forsaken
My poor body.

All
What's he done?

Tony
I'm wounded. He'd a gun

They help him to rise

Leon.
But you must have seen him go

Tony
'Twas a soldier that I know

Enter Countess and Lolotte from Chateau

Countess
Ladies, ladies, why this riot?

Lolotte
Tis Tony, Ma'am, he's never quiet
Noisy sleep disturbing man
Fright'ning ladies all he can

Countess
This conduct I must disapprove

Joseph (*in the tree*)
I'm fix'd here and dare not move

Leon
Tell us Tony, if you can
Who is this audacious man

{40}

Countess and Lolotte
Tell me Ladies if you can
What mean you by audacious man?

Tony
I don't know th' audacious man

Joseph (*in tree*)
I am the audacious man

Tony Take me in, take me in. I'll never come out man catching again. All I can tell you is that he was a soldier but who or what he was like I can't say.

All the Ladies What a pity

Countess Come, come, Ladies, the night dews are falling, go into the chateau

Leon. Stupid Tony. This is the end of your fine plan is it?

All the Ladies[7] (*scolding Tony and leading him into the chateau*) Stupid Tony. Simple Tony

Countess Leave me Lolotte. I would remain here an instant

Lolotte (*aside*) If she should see him in the tree

Countess Will you obey me Lolotte?

{41}

Lolotte Yes Madam. I – I tremble all over

Exit into chateau. Countess sits under the tree.
She takes off her bonnet and places it by the side of her

Joseph (*in the tree*) What the devil shall I do now? She's going to sit here and think. If I move a finger what a peal there will be

The French windows of the Pavilion open and the Colonel appears

Colonel How hot the air is. 'Tis impossible to sleep

Countess Who's there?

Colonel I'll walk about and ruminate

Joseph (*in tree*) The devil! He's going to think now.

Colonel What figure is that?

Countess Colonel?

Colonel The Countess. Do not leave your seat I beg. A lovely night madam

[7] On the back of page 39, opposite this page there is an instruction "Lights down", which it indicates should happen here.

Countess Lovely indeed.

Colonel I trust I am not disturbing your solitude.

{42}

Countess No Colonel

Colonel May I be permitted to sit under that tree a few moments?

Countess (*going*) Certainly

Colonel But not alone, for there is something in the stillness of this summer night so beautiful, so soothing that it seems selfish in wishing to enjoy it alone

Joseph (*in tree*) He's growing sentimental all at once

Colonel This is almost the first time Madam, that I have presumed to exchange a word with you since you kindly permitted me to reside in your pavilion.

Countess Well Colonel, I trust it may not be the last.

Colonel (*aside*) How sweet are the tones of her voice. I surely never herd music till now.

Countess (*aside*) Tho' I have long discouraged the advances of men, yet here is one so respectful and unassuming that he seems to gain my favor in spite of myself

Joseph Now they're both getting sentimental. If I move a **{43}** muscle there'll be the devil to pay

Countess Colonel, are you the culprit that fastens flowers to that balcony?

Colonel No Madam but

Countess Well?

Colonel I shall indeed be happy in being so guilty were they accepted by you

Countess (*aside*) 'Tis he. They have been left for me but he will not confess it.

Joseph She flatters herself

Colonel (*Takes off his cap and places it on the seat*) Is it not strange, Madam, that the resolution of a life should suddenly change?

Countess What mean you?

Joseph Now they're going to be comfortable (*Bells ready*)

Colonel I never thought to meet the woman who could cause me tender emotion in my heart but now in the quiet of this sweet night and alone with you, no one

near us, no one to observe us, new thoughts have suddenly come upon **{44}** me and I confess myself vanquished.

Takes her hand, kisses it and leads her forward

Duett

During this stage gradually gets light

Colonel
Dearest be mine, this summer night
Love haunts the very air
He laughs in yonder beams of light
And lingers everywhere.
'Twere sin to scorn his power now
So witching is the time.
Then sweetest give me vow for vow
'Ere strike the morning chime

Countess
Alas I thought no more to love
I'd lend a list'ning ear
But sure some magic rules above
Or strange enchantments near,.
For all the firmness that so long
Hath kept me passion free
Deserts me in my utmost need
And leaves me all to thee.

Colonel
Oh words of bliss, oh sounds of joy
Away pale morning light

Both
Thine curious rays must ne'er destroy
This gentle Summer night.

{45}

At the end of the Duett, the Colonel leads the Lady to the Chair and falls on his knee to her.

Joseph Huzza. They must be married after this. Then they can't refuse me. They will want a peal of bells. They shall have one now.

Music.

He shakes the tree. Bells ring. The Countess starts up. The Colonel half draws his sword

(*On the back of page 44 (opposite p.45), there is an instruction, "Bells ring. Lights up gradually". Presumably it is now.*)

Col. Who's there?

Countess Hush, we have been observed. Leave me I implore. The Chateau is alarmed. Retire, retire.

Colonel retreats into the pavilion. The Countess is going into the chateau when Tony appears with a gun. As he enters, Countess retreats. When he has advanced a little she slips in.

Tony Who's there? Speak or I fire. I shall only ask you 3 times and then I may shoot you lawfully. Who's there once? Who's there twice! Who's there?

Countess (*at door*) Tony is that you?

{46}

Tony Hush, Madam, Hush

Countess What is the meaning

Tony Hush, there's someone in the tree. I'll pepper him

During the above, Joseph has quietly descended, taken the Colonel's cap and the Countess's bonnet and disappeared over the wall.

Countess Nonsense Sir. (*going to the seat*) Ah, where is my bonnet. Tony, I left my bonnet here early in the evening. Have you seen it?

Tony No, madam

Countess Look for it Sir or you leave this house in the morning (*aside*) Who can have watch'd us?

Exit into chateau

Tony There's some horrid mystery about all this. (looking up in the tree) Come down you young saucebox or we'll see what virtue there is in bullets. Come down. Come down. Why there's nobody there.

Re-enter Colonel hastily from Pavilion

Colonel My cap, where's my cap?

{47}

Tony Who's that. Oh, is that you Sir?

Col I left a cup here early in the evening. Have you seen it?

Tony Oh, you left a cup here early in the evening. Perhaps you left it with the Countess's bonnet and perhaps they've eloped together

Col (*seizes Tony*) Scoundrel. Have you dar'd to watch – to listen?

Tony I Sir! No Sir!

Col Look for my cup. You must have seen it Sir. Look for it I say or I'll blow you to atoms.

Exit R.H

Tony I'm bewildered. I can't fathom the meaning of all this. Perhaps it was the Colonel who was in the tree. Oh, my stars

Joseph without knocking at the gate

Joseph Hullo! Hullo!

Tony That's Joseph's voice. What can he want so early?

Opens gate. Joseph enters with the Countess's bonnet in his hand and the Colonel's cup in the other

{48}

Jos Where's the Colonel? I bear some important dispatches for him.

Tony (*looking at Cup and Bonnet*) I see you do. Here my lady, here's your bonnet

Jos Hush! Hush!

Tony I'll bring her to you. This is getting positively harrowing

Jos Now if I am to delicately hint to the Colonel and the Countess that the change in their sentiments has been witness'd by me, I'm sure they can't refuse to make Lolotte and me happy

Lolotte appears at the door

Lolotte Joseph. Oh, how did you get away from the tree?

Jos You shall know presently. In the meantime go and tell everybody that your mistress is going to be married.

Lolotte She going to be married – impossible

Jos Do as I bid you. Take this bonnet and again ask your mistress to consent to our marriage, look slyly at her as you give it and if she refuses you again – just whisper the words "Dearest be mine"

{49}

Lolotte Well I'll try! But I'm sure it's no use

Joseph I'll return in a few moments. Now do as I bid you and we shall succeed

Exit Joseph through gate

Lolotte Dear, dear! What a strange but delightful night's adventure. I had a sort of presentiment that something nice would happen for it has been the very evening of all evenings for a little love making. The moon shining, the wind gently beating, the perfume of the flowers, the singing of the birds. Oh delicious

Song (*poetry by L.E.L.*[8])

When should lovers breathe their vows?
When should ladies hear them?
When the dew is on the boughs,
When none else are near them;
When the moon shines cold and pale,
When the birds are sleeping,
When no voice is on the gale,
When the rose is weeping;
Then should lovers breathe their vows?[9]
Then should ladies hear them?

O, softest is the cheek's love-ray
When seen by moonlight hours;
Other roses seek the day,
But blushes are night-flowers.
O, when the moon and stars are bright,
When the dew-drops glisten,
{50} Then their vows should lovers plight,
Then should ladies listen!

Lolotte enters the chateau. Joseph re enters from gate

Joseph Now let's see if I can't turn this bell ringing to my advantage. I wonder whose trick it could be. Tony's no doubt or one of the Ladies (A loud shout[10] heard without) What the devil's that?

Shout again. He opens the gate. Captain Courage, Grenade and 3 officers enter

Courage Where's Colonel St. Ernest? Tell him peace is proclaimed.

Joseph What peace? Here Colonel, Colonel. Ladies! Ladies! Come out. Here are all your husbands. Come out and rush into their arms.

Colonel enters from Pavilion. Countess, Leonora, Zerlina, Volante, Julia, Ladies, Lolotte enter from chateau. The Ladies run to their husbands and embrace.

[8] Letitia Elizabeth Landon. Although Landon had died in 1838, her work was still being published.

[9] These two lines above have been added and the following omitted

When the stars are bright on high
Like hopes in young Love's dreaming,
And glancing round the light clouds fly,
Like soft fears to shade their beaming.
The fairest smiles are those that live
On the brow by starlight wreathing;
And the lips their richest incense give
When the sigh is at midnight breathing.

[10] The back of page 48 has the instruction "Ready for shout"

Courage Yes Colonel! Peace is proclaimed and so we can henceforth live with our wives and be happy.

{51}

Jos (*concealing cap*) Now Colonel. I hope you'll consent to my union

Col No Sir

Joseph (*looking significantly*) Here's your cap, Sir

Col (*to Joseph*) Ah, villain – was it you? Zounds! I'll kill you

Joseph Don't kill me Sir. Let me be marries, t'will be the complete revenge

Col Well, well, do as you please

Joseph Huzza!

Lolotte (*concealing bonnet and to the Countess*) Madam, as all the Ladies have their husbands again, I wish you would permit me to have one.

Countess Never

Lolotte (*significantl*y) Here's your bonnet, Madam

Countess Ah!

Lolotte Yes Madam! Joseph fount it on that seat, desired me to return it to you and in doing so whispered "Dearest be mine"

Countess (*aside*) Twas Joseph then. Lolotte, you may use **{52}** your own discretion

Lol May I! Oh, my dear Joseph – (*turns to him*)

Tony enters from the chateau

Jos My dear Lolotte, I must come to you up the tree tonight for the last time.

Tony Oh, my eyes begin to be open'd. You are the nosegay Demon, eh Mr Joseph

Jos Yes Tony and I suppose the plan of the bells to discover me was yours, eh Tony

Tony Yes, wasn't it a clever one, Joseph! Who then, it was you that knock'd me down last night. Never mind, I'm magnanimous. I forgive you.

Col Well gentlemen, you shall not see in me, the only forlorn being in love. My sentiments are changed. I can now appreciate the charms and virtues of woman and allow me to introduce to you the future "Madame St Ernest"

Taking Countess's hand

Tony Then I'm the only unpair'd person here. Never mind I'll turn woman hater, my young feelings have been blighted in the bud. I'll detest you all and don't expect me ever to change my sentiments. No! I'm too **{53}** much an admirer of consistency

Lolotte
Well after all, our night has gaily past
But let us hope it may not be the last
It will not, if your approbation calms
The fears that may attend our "Lover's Alarms"

Officer Lady Officer Lady Joseph Lolotte Colonel Countess Tony Lady Officer Lady Officer[11]
{54}

Finale

Solo - Countess
A husband gain'd, one man to love
As captive, I resign
If you kind friends do but approve
What happiness is mine.

Duett – Joseph and Colonel
War's alarms we bid adieu.
To Venus, Mars must yield
Forget parade, drill, march, review,
The siege and battlefield.
Be deaf to drum and trumpets' bray
The messroom disavow,
A new commander to obey
His duty will be now.

Solo - Joseph
Here with Lolotte in quarters rare (?)
I gladly would remain.
With her some honor hope to share
In this our last campaign.

Solo - Col
A lasting peace if you foresee
Proclaim it loud tonight
Our only study then shall be
To love and not to fight
War's alarms etc.

{55}

[11] This is presumably the way they wanted to place the singers ahead of the finale.

Solo (Lolotte)
Hope I'll no more call deceiver
But henceforth all guileless truth
In her vows I'll be believer
Vows, so dear to love and youth
She her word of honor keeping
Does the very best she can
Tears of joy I'm fairly weeping
For he's such a nice young man.
(*pointing to Joseph*)

Chorus
When the ruddy morning light
Shall break so bright and cheerily
Let us ring the ??? of night
With Hymen's bells so merrily.

Ding dong – ding dong
Symphony of Bells