

Gilderoy

Ely Playter Diary
Toronto, Circa 1815
Chord suggestions by Ian Bell

Oh Chlor - is ___ Could I ___ now but ___ sit, as ___ un - con - cerned as ___
when, Your in ___ fant beau ty ___ could be ___ get no ___ hap - pi - ness or
pain. When I ___ this ___ dawn - ing did ___ ad - mire and praised the com ___ ing
day I ___ lit - tle ___ thou - ght th - at ri - sing fire would take my rest a - way.

Chord suggestions: Am, C, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am, C, Em, Dm, Em, Am, C, Dm, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am, C, Em, Dm, Em.

2.
Your charms in harmless childhood lay
As metals in a mine
Age from no face takes more away
Than youth concealed in thine
But as your charms insensibly
To their perfection pressed
So love, as inperceived did fly
And centred in my breast

3.
My passion with your beauty grew
While cupid at my heart
Still as his mother favoured you
Threw a new flaming dart
Each gloried in their wanton part
To make a lover, he...
Employed the utmost of his art
To make a beauty, she...

From a page in Ely Playter's Diary - the Ely Playter fonds F556, Archives of Ontario.
Ely Playter (1776-1858) was a farmer, lumberman, militia officer, and member of the Upper Canada House of Assembly, who lived in and around York (Toronto).
Judging by its placement in the diary, the song seems to have been put there in about 1815.

It is one of at least two 18th century songs with this title. The other more common one, is about a Scottish bandit named Gilderoy. The tune shares a lot of musical DNA with the Irish air, "Star of The County Down".

I have heard the melody played just as a fiddle tune.

Thanks to David Raymont for bringing this material to my attention.