

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY. 1897.

AT CUPID'S SHRINE.



YE GOOD ST. VALENTINE.

Many years ago a Frenchman who visited London wrote this passage concerning the English girl on the fourteenth of February:

"St. Valentine's day is the carnival of the young people here. English girls await the arrival of the postman with the utmost impatience. They open their letters in a state of delighted excitement, and instantly give vent to their feelings in cries of rapture or bursts of laughter. The girl who receives no valentine has reason to feel mortified, as it is a proof positive that she will braid the tresses of St. Catherine."

The same condition of things exists to-day, as the postman whose work is doubled and trebled at that period will surely testify. In city and village, and in homes remote, the time is one of joyous expectancy, and often there is more than the trivial following of a tradition in the exchange of those lace-bordered and decorated missives with their saucy, mischievous cupids, their hearts transfixed by arrows and their sentimental verses.

"Hearts are broken, heads are turned by castles in the air." There are a few who take advantage of the time to send hateful comic valentines which illustrate some peculiarity of the ones to whom they are addressed, but no one will envy the unkind spirit that could dictate such a proceeding. But there are comic valentines that are employed as a pastime by persons who are not over-sensitive or refined.

In the olden days when the world was mostly under pagan rule, the 14th day of February was one of carnival, and often misrule. The valentine lottery was one of the favorite amusements in England, when the lads and lassies had not the gilded opportunity of the present time. They wrote billets with their names inscribed thereon, an equal number of each, and drew by lot—the men taking the billets from the male, and vice versa. The company being thus divided into couples who were each other's valentines, many happy marriages grew out of this lottery.

Writing was not then cultivated, even in court circles, and the first written valentine of which sentimental history has kept any account, is the famous one of the Duke of Orleans. This nobleman, being a prisoner of the battle of Agincourt, could not draw his valentine so he wrote a quaint and chivalrous address to an unknown divinity. Being a poet and a writer of songs, his verse had merit and is distinguished for its graceful simplicity. A stanza will give an idea of the poem:

"Will thou be mine, dear love? Reply sweetly consent, or else deny; Whisper softly, none shall know; Will thou be mine, love?—aye or no."

"Spite of fortune we may be happy by one word from thee; Life flies swiftly—ere it go; Will thou be my love?—aye or no."

Shakespeare, Drayton, Gower, Chaucer and many others of the old writers



A MOST WELCOME VISITOR.

One made allusions to ring poems to Valentine's Day and its pretty customs. In a Midsummer Night's Dream, as discovering the heart of lovers in the woods, says: "Gone, gone, gone! Saint Valentine's bird."

Wood-birds but in couple... Many years ago an English journal copied the following notice from the advertising columns of an American newspaper, the Worcester Democrat, published in the city of St. Valen-

way. No doubt the spelling was good for those days and the sentiments endeared it to the heart of the fair Anne.

"Is there inne heavenne aught more rare Than thou sweets nymphy of Avon fayre, Is there onne earthe a manne more trewe Than Willy Shakspeare is toe you?"

"Though fickle fortune prove unkynde, Still doth she leave herre wealth behynde; The, ne'er the heart canne forme anew, Nor make thy Willy's love unnetrewe."

"Though age with withered hand do stryke The form most fayre, the face most brighte, Still doth she leave unnetouched ande trewe Thy Willy's love and freynshyppe too."

"Though death with neverre faylinge blowe Doth manne and babe alyke brynge lowe, Yette doth he lake naughte but his due, And strykes notte Willy's heart still trewe."

"Synce thenne not fortune, death nor age Canne faythfulle Willy's love aswage, Thence doe I live and dye forre you, Thy Willy synce and most trewe." Drayton also alludes touchingly to the custom which tradition gave to the



CUPID'S AIM IS TRUE.

birds, of pairing on St. Valentine's day. Perhaps one of the most ancient verses is that written by Lydgate, the monk of Bury, in 1440, in praise of Queen Catherine, consort of Henry V.: "Saynt Valentine—of custom vere by yeere, Men have an usance in this region, To look and serche Cupid's kalendere And chome theyr choyse by grete affection."

Herrick, in his "Hesperides," speaking of a bride, says: "She must no more a-maying, Or by rosebuds divine Who'll be her Valentine."

A modern valentine has all the marks of the old-time effusions. The writer really claimed that it was yellow with age, being found in the dressing-case of a lady of the past, who had lived and died single. The valentine was wrapped in a bit of yellow lace, faintly scented with vanilla bean. "This merry maiden, radiant, rare, With winsome ways and debonaire, When sweet she smiles on me I swear That Eden's light is resting there Upon those lips so ripe, so fair! To look upon her face old Care Would cease to carp and court Despair, Would give up dole, his trade forswear, Don sunny locks, make Joy his heir, What wonder, then, that I should dare Her praise to sing, her colors wear, Her valentine myself declare! This merry maiden, radiant, rare!"

Sending valentines has become a favorite method of amusement among children, who buy one-cent missives which contain a verse of poetry with a fat cupid or a transfixed heart entwined with lilies and forget-me-nots, the poetic sentiment being something like this: "Can pictured paper fondly prove My true devotion and my love?"

Many years ago an English journal copied the following notice from the advertising columns of an American newspaper, the Worcester Democrat, published in the city of St. Valen-

time's day, and at the same time the peculiar form of advertising in vogue in this country:

"The great increase of marriages throughout Wayne county during the past year is said to be occasioned by the superior excellence of the valentines sold by George Howard. Indeed, so complete was his success in this line that Cupid has again commissioned him as great high priest of love, courtship and marriage, and has supplied George with the most complete and perfect assortment of 'love's armor' ever before offered to the citizens of Wayne county. During the past year the blind god has centered his thoughts on producing something in the line far surpassing anything he has heretofore issued. And it is with 'folinks' of the greatest joy that he is able to announce that he has succeeded."

Then follows a description: "The turtle-dove kind, with its coo-coo, the sensibly sentimental, the cutting, the severe, and, in short, everything that can be required, with all necessary fixings. Prices range from 5 cents to \$5."

A great number of valentines are on the market this year, and some daring innovations are made on the traditional Cupids, the loves and doves of yore olden times. For instance, a neat small folio of cardboard with raised flowers and a medallion of gold on which a bird in opaline colors is trilling a love song, has the non-sentimental verse on its cover: "The turprike road to people's hearts I find Lies through their mouths, or I mistake mankind."

When the leaves are opened behold a real peppermint lozenge, and a cigarette fastened to the inside page, with appropriate couplets to "My Valentine."

Cupid riding a bicycle and bearing a large bouquet to his lady love is depicted in outlines of gold and fancy paper, and a span of horses and a sleigh in the same style form pretty valentine toys for children. A bathing house made of cardboard has for its foundation a sandpaper for matches. One would think the valentine inventive faculty had gone mad, to see such an attempt as this. A sweet face peers from a heart-shaped opening in the door of the bathing establishment. Half-way down the building a tiny iron screw is fastened. It forms a word in the poetry that is printed around it: "He said as he gazed In her eyes of blue, 'Give me a kiss, My darling, do.'"

"I won't," she said; "You lazy elf, Screw up your lips And help yourself."

Her Valentine.



The postman pulled the bell with vim; The watching maid blushed rosy red; "It's a valentine from him!" With dimpling smiles she softly said.

She tore the envelope in twain, Her eyes the missive seized upon; Her face grew drawn with pallid pain— "Twas nothing but a tradesman's fun!"

—Sonia M. Best. No invention, we think, ever caused quite as much talk as the telephone. Fortune tellers.

OUR SPRINGFIELD LETTER.

Speaker Curtis' Policy.

The policy of Speaker Curtis is well shown in his appointments of those committees which have charge of the more important matters first, giving at the same time the assurance that he will be in no hurry in appointing those which generally have to do with the sundragging bills, which two years ago flooded the House. This action was taken by the approval, perhaps at the suggestion of the governor. He means if possible—and the speaker is in hearty accord—that appropriation bills, and bills of the most importance shall get through committee and on track before other matters, and the assurance is given that when they are done with the Legislature shall adjourn, and, if deemed necessary later on, a session shall be held to pass a revenue bill. If this plan is adhered to, and the governor has the power to do it if he does not tire, the state will have reason for rejoicing. It is also said to be the policy of the speaker to prevent the customary committees of investigation, which ramble over the state, to be a terror to local interests of various kinds and make havoc with the pecuniary substance of the investigated. These committees usually have a clerk, stenographer, attorney, and sometimes a veterinary surgeon, which they manage to keep on pay until the closing days of the session, and no one of them was ever known to accomplish anything, unless it was to draw pay out of threatened enterprises.

Hanley Wants a Job.

Hon. E. C. Hanley, who has been something of an actor in the last three Legislatures and who nobly held up the hands of Speaker Meyer and Mr. Berry in perfecting the legislation of the last House, is down to see us and looking out for an office. Politically Mr. Hanley is an old resident, and would like to be chief clerk of the grain inspector at Chicago. Mr. Hanley showed an aptitude for legislative optimism; that is, he readily saw the good points in every bill which came up without having a monitor to instruct him in their intricacies.

The Revenue Problem.

There seems to be a general feeling here that the present session will do nothing with the revenue law, but that an adjourned session will be held for this purpose. This is not good politics nor good business. The men who will prepare and urge the amendments to the revenue law can do that at this session as well as at any other time. They are not the men who will be most engrossed with the appropriation bills, which will form the greater portion of the labor of this session. Only a few amendments can be made at any one time to our revenue laws, and these can just as well be acted on now as next winter.

Unpopular With Corporations.

The trouble about making a new revenue law throughout is that the majority of the people of this state do not want a fair and just revenue law. This seems harsh to say, and those who have been for years reading my comments on legislation know that it has not been my way to be drastic in my correspondence. But it is true nevertheless that there is hardly a manufacturing town or city in this state which would vote in favor of making these manufacturing establishments pay taxes out of all proportion to what similar concerns have to pay in other states. There is not a town but would willingly vote to exempt any manufacturing establishment from taxation to secure its location, if our constitution permitted that kind of local endeavor.

Taxing Real Estate Loans.

To declare that money loaned out shall be assessed as real estate is, would be simply to add 2 per cent to the rate of interest that borrowers would have to pay. We cannot exempt money from taxation by law, and the easiest way out of it is to do just as we are doing now, elect assessors who will swear falsely when they make their returns. There it is all in a nutshell. The only improvement that one can suggest is to put burglars to work as assessors, for they get every year more money and diamonds than the assessors do.

Combination Against Cook.

It is noticeable that the Cook County machine is not represented in the House organization to the extent it is in the Senate. Tanner appears to have given Cook only what the terms of the original bond demanded, nothing more. The country members have been given full recognition, and they are the best satisfied of any. During the past week the country members have been busy forming a combination for offensive and defensive purposes. When completed this will consist of about sixty members, and no important legislation affecting the interests of Cook County will be permitted to go through the House without the consent of this combination. The purpose is to secure right of way for the "pig-sty" and "chicken-coop" measures of the members from the middle and southern end of the state and prevent the Chicago representatives from occupying the center of the stage. While the key-note of the committee selection is evidently friendship of the governor, there is nothing to suggest that Tanner is going to turn reformer. It appears to have been the governor's purpose to make a compromise between the gang and anti-gang element of the Legislature. Some of the most important committees in the House have been surrendered bodily to the members of the

gang. The committee on insurance is an example of this.

Going to Washington.

The Republican members of the House last week took up the matter of the proposed trip of the Republican Legislators to President McKinley's inauguration. As soon as the House adjourned Representative Peter A. Rowe called attention to the subject, saying that if the members intend to go to Washington for the inauguration it is time arrangements were begun. Representative Lyon of Waukegan moved that the matter be referred to the joint steering committee of the House and Senate, and this was agreed to. The Assembly will adjourn from Feb. 26 to March 8 to give the members an opportunity to attend the inauguration.

Adjt.-Gen. Hilton's Report.

The final report of Adjutant-General Charles C. Hilton, which was submitted in manuscript form to Governor Altgeld, just before the latter's retirement from office, is in the hands of the printer and will be made public within a few days. General Hilton's report is an exhaustive review of the condition of the state troops and contains important suggestions as to what he considers should be done for the betterment of the department. He advises, among other things, that no more new military organizations be permitted, but that the force be increased by the raising of the present commands to the full complement of officers and men. He thinks it is better to have fewer and stronger organizations than many commands poorly equipped and not well drilled. He recommends that each of the three brigades be made complete, by the adding of a battery of artillery to the third brigade, and a cavalry troop to the second brigade. This would give the state three full brigades. He advises also that Battery D be equipped as soon as possible with new modern guns in place of the old-fashioned pieces which the battery now serves. The establishment is advised of as many rifle ranges in different parts of the state as can be conveniently obtained, so that the militia may have all the opportunity possible for target practice, aside from what they obtain at the state encampments. The report closes after giving statistical information, with an urgent appeal to the Legislature and the people of the state, to provide liberally for the national guard, which would be the basis of a Federal army should occasion ever arise when the United States should need efficient troops for prompt service.

Wants to Regulate Electricity.

Among the bills introduced in the House is one coming from Mr. Nobe. It is a copy of the measure offered in the Senate by Mr. Dwyer declaring that nothing stronger or more powerful than 300 volts of electricity shall be sent over any exposed wire. The Nobe bill allows any amount to go underground, and the opinion is expressed by some people that the Nobe bill is for the better protection of the public against live wires and the dangers resulting from heavy charges of electricity. Others hold to the contrary.

Against Food Adulteration.

Senator Bollinger has tendered a bill on the question of the adulteration of food, drugs, etc. It is along the lines of the measure presented by Thomas Hamer of Fulton County in the last General Assembly, known to fame if not to fortune as Senate bill No. 285. The Bollinger bill, by indirection, takes a twist on the patent medicine men, requires the vendors of proprietary medicines to deliver to customers or expectant buyers on application a truthful analysis or prescription of the articles from which the composition was made. The state board of health is empowered to enforce the provisions of the bill if it becomes a law, which is quite unlikely, and an appropriation of \$5,000 made for incidental expenses.

Senator Putnam's Bills.

Senator Putnam will introduce a bill in the Senate which has been drafted by a joint committee from the Illinois Medical Society, Western Society of Civil Engineers and the state board of health. The bill imposes additional duties and authority upon the state board of health with reference to public water supplies and sewerage of the state. It provides that the construction of waterworks and sewerage in cities outside of Chicago be placed under the control of the state board of health, and that the plans and construction of a waterworks be submitted to the state board of health for their approval, after having been passed upon favorably by a civil engineer appointed by the board. The fee of the engineer is to be paid out of the regular appropriation of the board of health. Another bill to be introduced by Senator Putnam provides that the salaries of state's attorney outside of Cook County shall not exceed \$3,000. The salary is to be paid out of the fines imposed and collected. The bill further provides that when an assistant is necessary that the county board of supervisors shall select an assistant at a salary not to exceed \$1,500 per annum.

A Hypocrite.

"Oh, Mr. Smythe, your newspaper jokes are so funny I always read them twice." And, after Smythe had departed with his bump of self-esteem considerably extended, she told the other girls that she had to do so in order to see the point.—Texas Siftings.

70,000,000

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An Illustration. "There's lots o' m'n," said Mr. Rafferty, "thot attracts a gred deal av attention widout much thot's substantial to show for it."

"Thrus for yes," replied Mr. Dolan. "The lightest man runs up the ladder fastest. But it do be the wan that brings a hod o' bricks wid 'im that raly counts."—London Figaro.

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Literary Thrift. Of course we write light literature, and people really should expect it; We thus have postage in sending our stuff To the publishers who reject it. —Detroit Journal.

A Rare Occurrence. He had a fit. He did not lie upon the sidewalk and froth at the mouth, but his friends felt inclined to do so, they were so surprised. His English clothes really fitted him.—New York Tribune.

GIRLS IN STORES,

offices, or factories, are peculiarly liable to female diseases, especially those who are constantly on their feet. Often they are unable to perform their duties, their suffering is so intense.

When the first symptoms present themselves, such as backache, pains in groins, headache, dizziness, faintness, swollen feet, lumps, etc., they



should at once write Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass., stating symptoms; she will tell them exactly what to do, and in the meantime they will find prompt relief in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which can be obtained from any druggist.

"MY DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I am so grateful to you for what your Compound has done for me. For four years I suffered such pains from ovarian trouble, which caused dreadful weakness of the limbs, tenderness and burning pain in the groins, pain when standing or walking, and increased pain during menstruation, headaches and leucorrhoea. I weighed only 93 pounds, and was advised to use your Vegetable Compound, which I did. I felt the benefit before I had taken all of one bottle. I continued using it, and it has entirely cured me. I have not been troubled with leucorrhoea for months, and now I weigh 115 pounds." —LILLIE HARTSON, Flushing, Genesee Co., Michigan. Box 69.

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