

VALENTINE!

The Pranks of a Saint by that Name - Cupid Transformed into a Clown, and Love Made Supreme - Ridiculous and Valentine Specimens, Etc. Etc.

Valentine, a priest of Rome, who flourished in the third century, on the 14th of February, A. D. 270, was first beaten with clubs and then beheaded, for which reason he was raised by the Holy Father to the dignity of sainthood.

The modern customs which especially pertain to this day have no connection whatever with the life or death of the martyr to whose memory it has been set apart in the calendar of Rome.

The drawing was fixed upon the 14th of February - which happened to be St. Valentine's Day - because it was the middle of the month which had been devoted to the heathenish Lupercalia.

In accordance with the origin of the custom, it was until within a recent period nothing more nor less than a kind of lottery, the drawing being followed by those ceremonies which render the game of forfeit so extremely agreeable to young people of the opposite sexes.

In the time of Charles II, it seems that the names of married persons, as well as those of the unmarried, were placed in the wheel of fortune on St. Valentine's Day.

"This morning came up to my wife's bedside (I being up dressing myself) little Will Moore to be her valentine, and brought her name written upon blue paper in gold letters, done by himself, very pretty.

It was common in these days for the person drawn as a Valentine to make the person drawing him or her a handsome present.

"On the eve of St. Valentine's day, an equal number of maids and bachelors got together, each writes their true or some feigned name upon separate bits of paper, roll up and draw by way of lots - the maid taking the men's billets, and the men the maids, so that each of the young men lights upon a girl that he calls his Valentine, and the girls upon a young man whom she calls hers.

That the observation of St. Valentine's Day is of very ancient origin is proved by the fact that both Shakespeare and Chaucer allude to it, as well as the poet Lydgate, who died in 1400.

The superfluous "that" in the above lines is undoubtedly owing to the poet's deep emotion, and not to his lack of knowledge of good English.

"No mortal ever saw So ravishing a sight," and firmly persuaded that "If the gods might awe, And powerfully transpire, The glory of heaven, O'er-shooting every light."

The poet mingles his courage in true modern and civilized fashion, and thus resolves: "My lips I'll softly lay Upon her heavenly cheek, Dying I'll kiss her day, And in her ear I'll say, 'Oh, thou bright Morning Star! Thy light canst thou so far, My Valentine to seek.'"

The customs of St. Valentine's Day, as well as appear to any one who has gazed upon one of the comic missives which, in these days, are addressed to big-headed and small-bodied chambermaids, have undergone a sad change since that certain 14th of February on which Miss Stuart, in New York, the case may be different, was first beheaded.

which have been in vogue for several years, and which can be procured at every street corner for a sum ranging from one to five cents each, still lead all others; not less on account of their cheapness, we opine, than because of the cutting sarcasm which invests them.

"Lodgings Cheap and Nasty," is the inscription upon a signboard suspended in front of a dwelling, at the key-hole of which is perched, MacKracken like, a landlady with the customary swelled head and the invariable diminutive body.

"How little we are given To regard the serpent's feet, That while meat is sent from Heaven, Cooks from lower zones are tracked; Or, to square it, that the Devil, For the wealth of mortals, bids us With his eyes of smothered evil, Supervises every kitchen!"

And now we come to a milkmaid, who is an anomaly in the Valentine world, for the simple reason that her head is but half the size of body. It may also be interesting to know that her mouth is just half the size of her head, and that her feet and eyes are about on a par with respect to their superfluities.

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This, it must be remembered, is the production of a single firm. Placing the entire manufacture of the whole country at three times the above number - and the estimate is certainly low - we shall have seven and a half millions of Valentines.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Table with columns: COMPANY, CAPITAL, ASSETS, LIABILITIES. Includes Delaware Mutual Safety Insurance, Fire Insurance, etc.

THE BANK OF PHILADELPHIA. This bank is a member of the National Banking Association.

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EDUCATION.

Triple Murder and Suicide in Missouri. A man named Nichols murdered his wife and two children in Brookfield, Missouri, on Sunday night, and then killed himself.

Proposition to Strike Out the Word "White" from the Missouri Constitution. A proposition was brought before the Missouri Senate yesterday, to amend the Constitution by striking out the word "white" wherever it occurs in that document.

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FROM WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON. [SPECIAL DESPATCHES TO EVENING TELEGRAPH.] WASHINGTON, February 13. Maryland Internal Revenue.

League Island Navy Yard. The friends and opponents of League Island as a Navy Yard are here in strong force, seeking to influence the action of Congress.

The Southern Military Bill. The House has refused, by twenty-five majority, to second the previous question on Mr. Stevens' Military Bill.

Reconstruction. It is believed now that no general reconstruction bill will be passed by this Congress, but that separate bills, adapted to the condition of things in each State, will be passed, as in the case of Louisiana, bills for separate States are now being prepared, under the advice of prominent loyalists from the respective States.

The Fort Phil. Kearny Massacre. The Commissioners to investigate the massacre at Fort Phil. Kearny, have just returned about the 25th instant. The subject was discussed in the Cabinet meeting yesterday, with a view to having instructions prepared for a searching investigation into that matter, and into Indian affairs generally.

The Kansas Indians. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs is holding daily interviews with the delegations from the Indian tribes from Kansas to induce them to leave Kansas, but thus far no treaty to that effect has been concluded.

The House Ways and Means Committee are occupied with the Senate Tariff bill, and the temper of the Committee is to put on higher rates.

The Nominations of Cowan & Company. The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs will report in favor of rejecting the nomination of Mr. Cowan to Vienna, and of Hugh Ewing to Minister to the Hague.

The Bids for Government Paper. The bids for the great contract for Government printing paper were opened this morning at the Capitol. Some twenty bids were offered.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS. Senate. WASHINGTON, February 13.-Petitions and memorials were presented. Among them was one from citizens of Arkansas, asking that a similar bill should be passed for the organization of civil government in Arkansas.

Mr. Wilson (Mass.) from the Military Committee, reported adversely the House resolutions of thanks to the Secretary of the Quartermaster-General, Mr. Hays, for his services as Quartermaster-General.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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FIFTH EDITION.

By Atlantic Submarine Telegraph Cables. The Italian Parliament. Resignation of Ricasoli.

Continued Arrest of Fenians. Financial and Commercial News of To-Day. Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

Florence, February 13.-The Italian Parliament has been prorogued to the 28th of February.

Liverpool, February 13.-Cotton dull. Sales of 8000 bales. Middling uplands unchanged.

London, February 13.-Fenian arrests still continue. Many new Irish arrests were made yesterday, including two ex-officers of the American army.

FROM BALTIMORE TO-DAY. An Astronomical Item-The New State Buildings in Baltimore-New Police Commissioners.

Large delegations of the Legislature are now here selecting sites for the State building and Penitentiary. They are dogged by hundreds of interested parties.

It is now understood that Messrs. Lefevre Garrett, James Polk, and William Gatehell will be appointed Police Commissioners.

Latest Markets by Telegraph. New York, February 13.-Stocks very dull. Chicago and Rock Island, 9 3/4.

Police Intelligence. CLOTH STEALING. Mary O'Brien was up before Alderman Beiler for stealing packages of goods.

A SUSPECTED INDIVIDUAL. George Mason, who was arrested last night on suspicion of being about some stolen property, was heard this afternoon at the Central Station.

Charge of Man-Slaughter on the Ship Samuel Welsh - Further Hearing of the Case. The further hearing in the case of Captain Ernest Hecker, who is charged with the murder of Daniel Shields, was held this afternoon at the Central Station.

Philada. Stock Exchange Sales, Feb. 13. Reported by De Haven & Bro., No. 49 S. Third street.

SECOND BOARD. 28000 Lch 78 30 25 1/2 Central 44 1/2 5000 S. C. 10 1/2 200 1/2 5000 S. C. 10 1/2 200 1/2

CLOTHING. A most complete stock of MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING AT VERY MODERATE PRICES.

SWAB'S STATES UNION CLOTHING HALL, No. 606 MARKET STREET, NO. 606. A most complete stock of MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING AT VERY MODERATE PRICES.

PEIRCE'S PATENT SLATES. Warranted superior to any others in use. LIGHT! NOISELESS! DURABLE!!! Cannot be broken by acids, and Never Becomes Glowy.

These Slates have been unanimously adopted by the Board of Control for use in the Public Schools of Philadelphia, and also by the school authorities of Baltimore and Washington.

FLORIST AND reserver of Natural Flowers. A. H. POWELL, No. 725 ARCH Street, Below Eighth!