

SOME SIVALENTINE DAY SKETCHES



A ST. VALENTINE'S DAY REVERIE.



ROMANCE OF A VALENTINE.

It was the fourteenth day of February and the lovely Estelle was sitting in her luxurious boudoir when a package was handed her which she opened and exclaimed with innocent delight: "It is a valentine!"

How exquisite this wreath of hand-painted roses—delicately tinted, as all tea-roses should be. And this little pocket! What can it contain? A ring. Amazing. And written on it this motto: "Think of me." There are no Cupids, with bows and arrows, and lines, rhyming with love and dove, charms and alarms, rain and pain, etc.—but a neat blank verse expressing regard and admiration, and conveying no hint of the donor or other information than that he was one unknown to her, who for the loves of art and travel, which had always ruled his life, would soon be far away on the other side of the blue waves.

Estelle took the ring from its hiding place and slipped it on her finger, curious to know if it fitted, then her maiden modesty suggested that she ought not to accept and wear a gift from an unknown giver—and she withdrew it quickly from her finger and determined to return it. But now the question arose: to whom? where?

After reasoning with her conscience she again put it on her finger. It fitted nicely and produced a mysterious presentiment of coming bliss, and a sensation about her heart which she had never known before painted her cheek with the lovely color of the tea roses on her valentine, and she said emphatically, "He shall be my ideal; I can construct him as I like—I shall make him as handsome as Apollo and as gifted; and who can chide me if I become a hero worshiper?" And he only asks that I think of him.

Her solitary and state of curiosity were interrupted by a friend and comrade of the art school, Mrs. Bird, a widow lady of wealth and an enthusiast about art, like herself, whose errand was to propose a journey together to the cradle of art. Estelle was only too glad to accompany her and accepted without hesitation. A feeling she could not account for prevented her from showing her valentine or speaking until long afterward of the little tall man that now seemed almost like a betrothal ring. The congenial friends made their trip a series of delights—and would have regretted reaching their destination so soon if they had not been just in time for one of those annual fetes which the American club of artists delight to celebrate.

As they were speeding along on their pleasure jaunt seated on the deck of a comfortable boat watching their companions and enjoying a delicious breeze and the varied scenery—mountain, crag, castle, monastery and dark forest—Estelle observed a picturesque looking young man, artistically dressed, as suited the occasion, gazing with a surprised and earnest look at herself. His rich brown hair and glowing eyes of the same color reminded her of her ideal, the beautiful hero whom her imagination had created, and she felt the finger encircled by the mysterious ring give a little throb in unison with her heart beat. At this moment to her surprise her friend Mrs. Bird gave him a smile and nod of recognition and before she had time to recover from her confusion of mind, Mrs. Bird requested permission to introduce her artist

friend, Henry St. Leger, and she very soon found herself absorbed in conversation with the most attractive man she had ever met.

But it was long after this, on another St. Valentine day, when the artist friends homeward bound, sat gazing down into the dark blue waves—that she laughingly gave an account of her first valentine and the little circlet of gold, which she observed, but did not know why, attracted his attention and excited his curiosity, that he ventured to tell of his long years' study and self-denial, whilst at the same time he had followed and worshipped a star which he thought too far above him to be obtained, but which he now, by the aid of St. Valentine, hoped would ever more be his guiding spirit.

The table is seven feet by four and a half. The cloth is white satin damask and the center-piece a diamond shaped, plate glass mirror, eighteen inches long by fourteen wide. Hearts fit about this outlined as solidly as possible in red carnations. Within the hearts stand five branched silver candelabra, with red candle-shades. Three small heart-shaped cut glass dishes filled with heart-shaped chocolates, peppermints and water-greens, and one with salted almonds, are placed near the candelabra.

At the corners of the table are flat looped bows of satin ribbon, five inches wide, with long ends reaching to the bottom of the table cloth. On each bow is placed a slender cut glass vase, eighteen inches high, with twelve American Beauty roses arranged carelessly. The ribbon should match the roses. From the chandelier four ribbon streamers, four inches wide, of the same shade, are suspended and fastened on to a rose in each vase. In the center a carrier dove is hung, with a small white envelope attached to its neck by a silver cord.

At each cover are four forks, four spoons, two knives and five glasses, for water, champagne, claret, sherry and cordial. On the napkin is placed a white linen picture frame, heart-shaped and embroidered with solid red hearts, outlined in gold. In them may be inserted either the dinner cards or a suitable valentine verse, but who knows if there might not one day be slipped into some of these pretty favors the presentiment of that very face which maidens long to dream of on St. Valentine's Eve?

To secure the vases to the table, a simple device may be employed. Sew a piece of kid the size of the standard of the vase, in the center of each bow, then sew each in turn firmly to the tablecloth, and underneath, to the same place, sew a piece of tape in the middle, leaving the ends to tie to the legs of the table or tack underneath. Mix plaster of paris with water to the consistency of cream, moisten the kid with water and spread a thin layer of the plaster over it. If the vase is placed thereon and held firmly till the plaster sets, no unpleasant disaster like overturning it need be dreaded.

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Ye Olden Valentine. HE fingers of Time have encrusted with gold. The page that I cherish for memories old; I gaze at the couplet that's homely and true. "The rose it is red and the violet blue."

And here is the heart that was lovingly drawn By one sleeping now at the gates of the Dawn, And oft as I linger o'er picture and line A tear lies empearled on the old valentine.

'Twas wafled to me in the long, long ago, When the world sweetly slept 'neath its blanket of snow. When high on the mountains and deep in the dells We heard the clear notes of the silvery bells; But fairer to me than the feathery fleece, As white as the wings of the Angel of Peace That covered the earth in the winter sunshine, Was the once snowy page of my old valentine.

A thousand have smiled at its quaint little rhyme Who know not the story that clings to its time; It brought to my cheeks then a healthful hue, Love's roses are red and its violets blue— As red as the cheeks of the sender, I know, As blue as the eyes that I loved long ago; No wonder I cherish in shadow and shine The fast fading truths of the old valentine. Whenever this page and its rhyming I see The portals of Memory open for me, And back from the years with their shrouding of snow Come a hand and a voice that I missed long ago; And over a picture that hangs on my wall Rays that are golden a moment doth fall, And beautiful charms in the winter sunshine The we, crumpled page of the old valentine.

Why He Did Not Start. A lazy man is seldom so very lazy as not to be able to invent some excuse for his inactivity. Harper's Round Table tells a story in point. Patrick was the captain of a schooner that plied between New York and Haverstraw on the Hudson. One day his schooner was loaded with bricks, ready to start for New York, but Patrick gave no sign of any intention to get under way. Instead of that, he sat on deck smoking a pipe.

The owner of the brickyard, who was also the owner of the schooner, and who had reasons for wishing the bricks landed in New York at the earliest possible moment, came hurrying on board and demanded of the captain why he did not set sail. "Shure, your honor," said Patrick, "there's no wind." "No wind! Why, what's the matter with you? There's Lawson's schooner under sail, going down the river now." "Yis, I've been watchin' her, but it's no use my gettin' under way. She's got the wind now, and, faith, they isn't enough of it for two."

Her Cards Well Played. The fair young woman looked her bejeweled and florid employer coldly in the face. "No, Mr. Boodlemuch," she said, "I cannot afford to make social acquaintances of those whom I meet in my business life. I must decline to go to dinner with you this evening, and I shall certainly not attend the opera in your company. I am exceedingly sorry, for you have been kind to me. If I have displeased you, be it so. I cannot help it. I am your typewriter. It ill becomes one of my station to speak so to the man whom the whole business world fears and honors and upon whom society has smiled. Yet I speak from the heart. What I have spoken that have I said." They were married a week later.

The First Valentine. (According to Darwin.)



"Sentimental Sally" sends us the following valuable and reasonable contribution: He who would have me for his valentine Must have no other love than mine; I cannot share his heart, I will not have a part, I must have all, or none, For he my heart has won, And there he reigns alone, A monarch on his throne.

WILL OBJECT TO IT. COLORED MEN TO STOP ELECTORAL COUNT

Will Make War on Election Laws—Part of a Far Reaching Scheme to Overthrow the Registration and Election System in Various Southern States.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—President-elect McKinley's right to his seat may not be officially declared next week. Complications have arisen which may furnish a dramatic interruption to the counting of the electoral votes next Wednesday. Representative George Washington Murray, the only colored member of the House, who represents the Charleston district, will be the chief actor in the dramatic episode. He has just returned from South Carolina, where he was in consultation with the leading Republicans of the Palmetto state. He is armed with a petition signed by thousands of Republicans of that state protesting against the counting of the electoral vote, and asking for an investigation of the election laws and the state constitution. The claim is made that the election laws and the state constitution, upon which they are based, are not in accord with the federal constitution.

"While the dispute over the vote of South Carolina cannot in any way effect the final result, the best authorities agree that the petition cannot be ignored, and the investigation of the precedents shows that when such a protest is entered the count must immediately stop until the question is settled. Whatever the immediate result of this attempt to discredit South Carolina's vote may be, there is no doubt that the program, which is to be thus dramatically inaugurated, is part of a far reaching scheme on the part of several Southern Republicans to overthrow the registration and election laws in various Southern states where the negro predominates, but his vote is not a factor—the purpose being to secure either the Republican domination in these Southern states or reduce the Democratic representation in Congress."

GRAIN INSPECTION.

Annual Report to the Board of Railway Commissioners.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 8.—The state grain inspection department filed its seventh annual report with the state board of railway commissioners yesterday afternoon. The report shows that the number of inspections at public warehouses on track for the year ending December 31, 1895, increased over 100 per cent over the preceding year at St. Louis and St. Joseph, and decreased about one-fourth at Kansas City. Inspector Hiller says the decrease at Kansas City was due to the more liberal rules of the Kansas state inspection in regard to mixing grain. The expenses of the department were greater for 1896 than for 1895, caused by the increase in business. The total receipts from fees in 1895 were \$33,215.54, and in 1896 the fees aggregated \$43,458.63, an increase of \$10,243.09. The total expenses in 1895 were \$26,959.22, and in 1896, \$37,818.12, an increase of \$10,858.90.

EX-QUEEN LIL'S SCHEME.

The Deposed Hawaiian Monarch Will Have an Annexation Claim.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8.—According to advices from Honolulu by the steamer City of Peking, Kaululua said of the ex-queen's trip to America: "I do not believe that she would have gone there in dead of winter at great risk to her health without strong motive and that motive is: The ex-queen has been deprived of the income of the crown lands to which she was entitled, amounting to \$100,000 a year. This has been taken by the government. If the United States should annex Hawaii, she probably feels that she has a strong claim upon them for redress for that loss of income. She wishes, therefore, to be at hand to press her claim whenever the question of annexation comes up. Her personal presence might be important."

VENEZUELAN PRESENTS.

A Rosette and a Case of Rare Woods Given to the President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Senator Andrade, accompanied by Secretary Olney, called on President Cleveland yesterday bearing a testimonial from the governor and people of the state of Zulia, Venezuela, in recognition of the good offices of the President and Secretary Olney in the matter of the boundary dispute. The testimonial consisted of a rosette composed of 172 samples of rare woods from the forests of Zulia, and a cane made of 125 pieces of these roots.

An Oklahoma Feud.

GUTHRIE, Okla., Feb. 8.—A telephone message comes from Chandler to the effect that the Lurtin-Graham feud has broken out anew. Some time ago, old man Lurtin faced the Fort Smith court for shooting at Graham. He is still under bonds for this same cause. This morning E. and W. E. Lurtin, Charles Moore and Jim Furber were surrounded at the country postoffice of Stroud, captured and taken to the Creek country. Conflicting reports claim W. E. Lurtin was shot and the hand of Lurtin was once a butcher at Chandler. James Furber was, during the Kansas boom, deputy sheriff of Lane county.

"Bob" Kneebles Convicted.

BETHLEHEM, Feb. 8.—Robert Kneebles, the American horseman charged with entering the trotting mare Bethel in races on the German tracks under the name of Nellie Kneebles, was yesterday sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, and ordered to pay a fine of 1,000 marks. He will also be deprived of all civil rights for two years. Seven months' allowance for the time which he has already served in prison will be deducted from the sentence, so that in reality Kneebles has only two months yet to serve. The court ordered the forfeiture of the mare Nellie Kneebles. Kneebles reserved the right to appeal.

SALVATION ARMY SCHEME

Will Establish a Great System of Social Settlement—Chicago to be the Center.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—According to Colonel Brewer of the Salvation Army, Chicago is to be made the center of a system of social settlements similar to that in operation in England, made famous by General William Booth of the Salvation Army. Arrangements have been made whereby General Booth is to come to Chicago and personally direct the inauguration of the movement. He will apply the practical knowledge of such work gleaned in the principal cities of the world to the establishment of a system of city colonies, where at least temporary work will be offered every idle man in the city, will place spacious tenement houses under the supervision of the army, and later will extend the movement to form colonies within a radius of several hundred miles from the city. Eventually the movement will include the whole country.

The methods will be the same as those employed in London. In that metropolis the 5,000 men sheltered in one year cost \$265,000, but all but \$13,000 of this amount was contributed by the persons helped. It has been estimated that the expense to the city for the same work would have been \$1,500,000, with no return in work. Colonel Brewer stated that the first effort would be to enlarge the Prison Gate home, the Albemarle Food and Relief depot and other relief institutions in this city. Others will be opened and factories, where the work done will not interfere with the product of outside labor, will be established. "The next and most important step," said Colonel Brewer, "will be to secure several large tracts of land in the neighborhood of Chicago. As far as possible the tide of immigration is to be turned backward from the city to the land and the congestion in the crowded districts relieved. On these farms, under supervision of army officers, the men will be taught to support themselves. They will thus cease to be dependent on charity and instead will become producers and consumers."

ANARCHY IN CRETE.

Blood and Fire Reign Supreme in the City of Canea.

VIENNA, Feb. 8.—An unconfirmed report has been received here of the massacre of 1,500 Christians in the villages of the Island of Crete.

ATHENS, Feb. 6.—The situation at Canea has reached a crisis of blood and fire. The Turkish troops have joined hands with the native Mussulman cutthroats. The consul has sent telegrams to the effect that the situation is hopeless. At Retimo, 3,000 Mussulmans assembled in front of the government house and threatened to slaughter the entire Christian population, unless all of the Christians outside of the town would consent to disperse. The attempts to exclude the Mussulmans from the strategic portions of the town were abandoned, upon the advice of the bishop, and the Christians finally consented to retire. This concession on the part of the Christians, however, does not prevent the Mussulmans from continuing to besiege Christian villages. Three-fourths of the Christian quarters in the city of Canea have been burned to the ground, according to late advices. The Christians, while trying to escape to the warships, were attacked by the Mussulman population and many were killed and injured. The total number of victims of the recent fighting is estimated at 300.

A NEW SET OF ARTICLES.

Somewhat Peculiar Move on the Part of Fitzsimmons and Julian.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Bob Fitzsimmons and Martin Julian have destroyed the old set of articles on the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight March 17, and in place thereof, drafted and signed a new set which states that the big fight is for a purse of \$15,000 and a side bet of \$5,000 a side. The new document also stipulates that the \$2,500 which Fitzsimmons posted with Al Smith some months ago was to be considered the first deposit, and that a second deposit of \$2,500 must be posted not later than February 17, the party failing to forfeit the money now in the stakeholder's hands. This paper was set by special messenger to Al Smith, at the Gilsey house. The trouble which caused Fitzsimmons to destroy the old document started when a rumor went the rounds of the sporting resorts that the Fitzsimmons party was in a pretty bad way financially and was going to bunk out of the \$5,000 side bet with Corbett. Al Smith, on hearing this rumor, had a talk with both Fitzsimmons and Julian, and they assured him that on February 17 they would hand over the balance of \$5,000 to cover a similar amount which represented Corbett's stake.

Fifty-Nine Bills Passed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Yesterday was private bill day in the House and the entire day was spent in clearing the calendar of the unfinished business reported from the Friday night sessions. Out of sixty-three bills, fifty-nine were passed. Among those passed were the following: To pension the widow of Major General Erasmus B. Tyler, at the rate of \$50 per month; to increase the pension of Major General Julius H. Stahl to \$50; Frances P. Trumbull, the widow of Colonel Matthew M. Trumbull of the Ninth Iowa cavalry, \$50, and the widow of Major General George H. Stoneinan at the rate of \$30 per month. The Senate fixed the rate in this bill at \$75.

Called Senator Squire a "Cur."

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 8.—In the Senate Taylor made a bitter speech in denunciation of the statement made by United States Senator Squire before the senatorial investigating committee that he was one of the men whom Warner claimed were in the combination that could be handled with money in the senatorial fight. Taylor referred to Squire as a cur and demanded the appointment of a committee to investigate the matter. The committee was appointed, and at Taylor's request was composed of three Republicans, being of the opposite political faith.

Fort Scott Storekeepers in Jail.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., Feb. 8.—J. Greenburg and M. Berkson, proprietors of the "Model" store here, were locked up last night after a preliminary trial by which it was shown that they had knowingly received a stolen bill of goods from Whiteside & Stroud's store at Uniontown, which was burned after having been robbed.

HAD A LIVELY SESSION.

Kansas House Railroad Committee at War—Members Locked In.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 8.—The House committee on railroads had a stormy session yesterday afternoon. The maximum freight rate bill was under discussion and some of the members tried to break up the meeting. A fierce quarrel followed and it became necessary to call the sergeant-at-arms to quell the disturbance. The good sense of the members perhaps was all that stood in the way of a serious conflict.

The trouble occurred when Chairman Brown, Populist, suggested that the maximum rate bill be read and "considered" section by section. Mr. Ury, Republican, objected. He said that there were several other bills in the hands of the committee, and asked that they all be brought out so the committee could decide upon which should be read first. Brown insisted upon reading the maximum bill.

Ury struck the table with his fist and declared that he would not vote for the maximum bill if the state never got any railroad legislation.

Brown said he guessed Ury would have to lay aside his prejudices. "For," he added, "this bill will be read today, and in my judgment it will be reported and passed."

Ury jumped up and said he would not listen to the reading. "I'll leave the room," he roared, and started toward the door.

The three other Republican members—Burtis, Henley and Brooke—rose to follow Ury.

"You men can't go out of here," Brown shouted, and he made a dash for the door, too.

The head of the table at which Brown sat was near the door, while the Republicans were on one side toward the lower end. Brown, therefore, reached the door first, and had it locked and the key in his pocket before Ury and his friends got fairly under way.

Ury demanded that Brown open the door. Brown refused.

For ten minutes the Populist chairman and his Republican adversary abused each other, and the rest of the members "put in" whenever there was a lull.

Kansas Arid Counties.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 8.—Ed Jaquins of Cowley county this forenoon presented in the House a petition signed by J. E. Conklin, a loan agent of Winfield, praying the Legislature to grant to non-resident owners of land in Western Kansas relief from unjust laws and from the extortion and extravagance of county officers.

Conklin is agent in Kansas of the North American Trust company, which owns in Greeley, Stanton, Finney, Seward, Lane, Meade, Hodgman, Kiowa, Morton, Scott, Haskell, Stevens, Garfield (now a part of Finney), Clarke and Comanche counties 1,535 tracts of land, or 255,055 acres. These tracts were obtained by lending money secured by mortgage and due process of foreclosure. In few cases has the company received either principal or interest. The loans were made in 1890 and 1897.

"These counties," the petition says, "are hopelessly bankrupt, and all have a bonded indebtedness. The one with the least bonded debt is Greeley county; it owes the permanent school fund \$75,300 and is resisting in the courts the payment of either principal or interest. Scott county owes the permanent school fund \$150,800 and it is also resisting payment. These counties stand in the position among the beneficiaries of attempting to defeat the state in the collection of its most sacred fund."

"The bonded debts of the remaining counties range from upwards of \$100,000 to nearly \$400,000 and upwards of \$1,000,000 of this debt formed a part of the permanent school fund, and but a pretense is made of paying either principal or interest. The taxes that are collected are used in sustaining expensive county organizations and the law's machinery of many of these counties is used to defeat payment. Notably is this the case in the counties of Greeley and Scott.

Conklin asks that the laws be repealed and his petition says that mortgage companies made loans in Western Kansas in good faith. When the loans were made there were on the lands buildings, fences and other improvements, which in most cases have been destroyed, and for years, with very few exceptions, the loan companies have not received a dollar of interest, but instead in many of these cases, notably in Haskell, they have a constantly increasing liability in the amount of taxes paid.

Continuing, Mr. Conklin makes the broad statement that the courts are in league with the people. He says: "It is impossible for us to obtain redress in courts, for the machinery of the courts is too slow and is inimical, not only to our interests, but that of all non-residents. Or, in other words, it is impossible for us to obtain justice or protection in these counties. As a final resort we now come before this Legislature, make a statement of our grievances and request such remedial legislation as will give virtue to our rights by relieving us of this unjust taxation."

"As suggestions along this line, in addition to the consolidation of counties that fail to cast the constitutional 250 votes, I would indicate:

"First—That the state superintendent of public instruction have power to consolidate school districts where there are less than six pupils.

"Second—Give the county commissioners power to compromise back taxes.

"Third—Call a constitutional convention for the purpose of giving all sections of the state a just and equitable representation."

Wong Chin Foo in Limbo.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—Justice Richardson held Wong Chin Foo, editor of the Chinese Daily News and president of the League of Americanized Chinamen, to the Criminal court on the charge of being the keeper of a gambling house.