A VALENTINE.

(Written by a married man.) Into my presence came just now A little child-I know not how. Familiar, too, he seemed; and yet I could not tell where we had met.

His mien was innocent and mild-I never saw a fairer child-And yet, in most unseemly giee. He cocked one wicked eye at me.

I knew him then. The pretty boy Took aim with the same silver toy That slays its thousands, "Wait!" cried I "Don't shoot at me, my son; oh, fie"

"For you forget it was your dart, Sent once with your own matchless art, That made me like the rest-a ool. "Since then, alas, I've been at school!

"For she, ah, yes! she still is fair; Untouched by gray her dusky hair. Once she was loving; now you see She rules the house, and she rules me."

He said no word, but just took aim. Straight to my heart the arrow come. "Forget me now. sir, if you dare!" Cried Cupid, running down the stair.

Deep in my heart there is a pain-Methinks I am in love again! Sweet, sweet, my pet, it is not true; Those foolish words I deeply rue.

I wonder if you are in league With Cupid? Is it Love's intrigue? I know not, care not, but I'll sign Myself your humble Valentine.

MEG'S VALENTINE.

EG was only one of the "hands" in the great factory of Weaver & Co., and with about the same regularity as the machinery she performed her daily tasks.

Nobody in the factory had ever given her so much as a sympathetic glance; the whirr of wheels, the grind of machinery, the everlasting hum of moving belts and singing of spindles do not encourage sympathy, and besides Meg was quiet, even timid, and her companions, after the first day of now and then a half curious, half critical inspection, paid no attention to her.

And yet Meg's "trouble" had been a romance; a sort of a flower which blooms sometimes along the hedgerows with the same beauty and sweetness as in the conservatory.

Born was all Meg knew about her origin: brought up, at first in a charitable institution, later as the chore girl in a boarding house, which always smelled of dirt and rancidity; and still later as a boarder at the same place, because it was ore like home to her after her long, hard day's work at the factory, where she had secured employment at the age of 15. Meg's life had been an uneventful one.

Meg was ignorant, her "schooling" having been encompassed by a six months' course at a grammar school in the neighborhood, and for which "educational auvantage" she had toiled for the mistress of the boarding house until her health threatened to give way under the strain, But since somebody, back in the past of Meg's unknown ancestry, had sent a drop of ambitious blood flowing through her veins, within the six months she had learned to read easy words, both in print and writing, and she was proud of the fact.

She did glory in her power to read and spell out the meaning of such cheap books as came in her way, and once, having watched a postman deliver a letter across the street, she was seized with a wish that was somewhat akin to pain to receive a letter from somebody-just to see if she could frame an answer.

She had never received a letter and thinking it over from this standpoint, Meg felt that she was very lonely and she vaguely wondered how it all came about that nobody in all the thousands which made up the big city-the big city was Meg's world-had cared whether she liv-

Once a sweet little girl, who was walking with her nurse, had looked up into her face and with that free-fasonry which knows nothing of rules and which has in it the element, nay, the very essence of fraternity, had pressed a tiny cluster of

violets into her hand. And so the days went on, to-day as yesterday, to-morrow as to-day, until one morning Meg overslept herself, by some method of calculation which did not consider time in the light of dollars and cents added to her income, and she went to her breakfast late. The landlady was usually pleasant when a boarder happened to be late at breakfast and, as became one in her exalted position, she made an offense of this kind on Meg's part an affair of great importance.

worked for Weaver & Co. had been late to breakfast more than three or four times, but the landlady never quite forgot that Meg had at one time been her will ing slave and any dereliction on her part



which was savored of independence was not a thing to lightly pass over.

On the morning in question, the landlady, much to Meg's surprise, greeted her in an affable manner and her grim mouth quivered with something which might, under favorable conditions, have been mistaken for a smile, but which had had so little practice that it merely succeeded in being a grimace, as she told her to take her seat at the table and then proceeded to introduce her to a new boarder who had just paid a month's board in ad-

Meg acknowledged the introduction, and to look at her vis-a-vis, and discovered that he was a tall young man with a bronzed complexion and a pair of brown eyes which met hers frankly, and seemed to look right down into her foolishly beating heart, and after the tough steak had been served and he had gallantly filled a glass of water for her Meg made up her mind that he was different from those whom she constantly met beneath that last, she let him go. roof, and was undeniably "nice."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.



On the 12th of February, 1809, in the wilderness. it Larue County, Kentucky, was born one of the best and greatest men that ever lived-Abraham Lincoln. His father was a poor farmer, and in the rude life of the backswoods his entire schooling did not exceed a year, but while at school he was noted as a good speller, but more particularly for his hatred of cruelty-his earliest composition being a protest against putting coals of fire on the backs of the captured terrapins. He wore coarse, home-made clothes and a coonskin cap, and his trousers, owing to his rapid growth (before his 17th birthday he was at his maximum of 6 feet 4 inches), were almost always nearly a foot too short. His last attendance at school was in 1826, when he was 17 years old, but after leaving it he read everything readable within his reach, and copied passages and sentences that especially attracted him. His first knowledge of the law, in which he afterwards became eminent, was through reading the statutes of Indiana, lent to him by a constable and he obtained a tolerable knowledge of grammar, also from a borrowed book, studied by the light of burning shavings in a cooper's shop, after his family had, in 1830, emigrated to Illinois. In 1834 he was elected to the Illinois Legislature-was three times re-elected—was admitted to practice law in 1836, and then removed to Springfield, the State capital. In 1846 he was elected to Congress, where he voted against the extension of slavery, and in 1854 was a recognized leader in the newly-formed Republican party. In 1860 he was nominated for the Presidency, received a majority of votes over any of the other candidates and was installed in the President's chair March 4, 1861. His election was followed by the secession of eleven Southern States and a war for the restoration of the Union. As a military measure he proclaimed Jan. 1, 1863, the freedom of all slaves in the seceding States; and was re-elected to the Presidency in 1864. The war brought to a close April 2, 1865, and on the 15th of the same month Abraham Lincoln's life was ended by the hand of an assassin. Thus, when he

Had mounted Fame's ladder so high From the round at the top he could step to the sky, the great President passed to his rest. Twice elected to his high office, he was torn from it in the moment of triumph, to be placed side by side with Washington, the one the father, the other the savior of the Union; one the founder of a republic, the other the liberator of a race.

ed out of the city on the iron rails be- and that hireling of men, who considered longing to a great railway line, and that humanity of her kind as merely adjuncts

whom she had ever met. the time flew away it was apparent to py that now and then she caught at her everybody that she was growing abso- heart lest it should beat aloud. lutely pretty-happiness having much | No. 207, which was Tom's train, would power in this direction-and that the time | be in at 3:20 o'clock, and at 6, in the was approaching when the honest young presence of only one or two of the boardbrakeman and herself would cease to be ers and the landlady, the ceremony was to lovers and become husband and wife.

Meg had told Tom that she had saved | concluded that the train was an hour late \$100 from her meager salary, and Tom and she would don the pretty gown so as had confessed that "before he had known | to be all ready when Tom came, She smilher he had spent all his earnings, but ed at her image in the glass as for the since that time he had begun to put by twentieth time she shook out the rustling a little, and now had \$300, and that he skirt and then ran hastily down to again meant to work hard and get a promotion, look at the clock. It was 5 o'clock now, so that they could some time have a and still Tom had not come, and all at Not that Meg in all the years she had home of their own," etc., just as humble, once something like a cold hand grasped happy lovers always have done and al- Meg's heart and she trembled as one with ways will do, and then they decided that a chill. Then the door bell rang and, with they would put the \$100 and the \$300 to- | the glad cry of "There he is!" upon her gether, and, as that was the 1st of Feb- lips, she sprang to meet-not Tom, but ruary, they would get married Feb. 14- a stranger, and he looked odd and uneasy a "valentine wedding," as Tom said, and at poor Meg, and somehow she knew then, when she said "she never had had a valentine," he laughed out of a heart just bubbling over with sweetness, and love, and merriment, and told her "he would be her valentine and she would be his," and then he kissed her, and Meg was in such a state of delight that she forgot she ever had been lonely, and she wouldn't have changed places with a queen, even if the latter had insisted up-

As the time drew near for the wedding Meg had a pretty new dress made and, somewhat softened by the love affair which had gone forward directly under her supervision, the landlady had made preparations for a wedding supper which was to outdo any previous effort of the kind in the neighborhood. Indeed, she and resolved that for once she would be extravagant, and she got out several ancient receipts, which were headed "Bride's Cake," and set to work beating eggs and weighing sugar in a way which made the kitchen scullion to declare, in a confidential manner, to the garbage man, that ing a letter-her first letter-that some-"Missus 'peared to be a little teched in her upper story," and gave as her reason for her conclusion that "She was a-mak-

in' cake to beat sixty." A few days before the time set for the wedding the weather, which had been in that condition known as "muggy," turned | Thomas Atwood, a brakeman, had fallen cold, and when Tom came around to bid | between the cars while on his regular run Meg good-by before going out on his run and had been so badly injured that he for the last time before he claimed her as his bride, he had a powder of snow on the hospital. Before his death he had after the landlady had gone out ventured his collar and that strange, indescribable asked for pencil and paper and had writ-Meg snuggle up to him and say she "was sent to its present address." sorry he had to go out in the cold," and then, as she kissed him in that motherly calmness of one who has fast hold of deway that comes natural to women when spair she read Tom's last message which, they love, she asked him to "be very care- with many breaks and almost illegible ful and watch his footing as he ran across | tracery, ran as follows: "Deer girl: Ithe tops of the cars, which were sure to have made my last-run and-have got to

The young man, whose name was At- | bright, although snow lay like bleached wood-"Mr. Thomas Atwood," as he was linen wherever a heavy team or an early called by the landlady-was disposed to | pedestrian had not marred its purity, and talk as he went on eating his breakfast, | Meg arose light of heart and light of foot and as Meg was the only one at the to make the final preparations for her breakfast table he naturally talked to her, | union with the man she loved. She had | and she soon learned that he was head | told the foreman on the previous evening | brakeman on one of the trains which roll- | that she would not return to the factory,

his home was in an Eastern city. She to money getting, had deigned to say in told him that she also belonged to the an interlocutory fashion: "Going to git toiling masses, and before breakfast was married, hey?" Meg did not answer, but finished they became very well acquaint- she felt such delight at leaving the huge ed, and Meg, as she pinned her veil down | building, where she had been merely as close over her plain little hat, thought a piece of the machinery, that it seemed Mr. Atwood the very nicest gentleman to her she had never known freedom and vaguely wondered if it really were she-And so Meg's love story began, and as Meg-who walked on air and was so hap-

be performed. Meg watched the clock, Indeed, they had talked it all over, and | but when the hands pointed to 4:30 she



AND, AT LAST, SHE LET HIM GO.

when he handed her an envelope containthing had befallen her lover, and she felt her way back to the little parlor and with shaking hands tore the letter open and slowly spelled out its contents. It was not long, but was written by Dr. -, of the company's hospital, and it stated that had died shortly after being brought to

Meg dropped the letter, and with the be slippery because of the snow," and, at say good-by-keep a tite hold on the brakes, and with-love forever and ever, St. Valentine's morn dawned clear and I am-your valentine."

That was all; only the story of two A PERFECT HOME SECURED AT humble lovers, and to-day Meg is again in the factory. But, as I said, back of her soft gray eyes is a something which is too sad for speech, too deep for tears, and it will go with her all her days, and -who knows?-will fade only when she is no more lonely, no more heart-hungry Death is not the end; it is the beginning. -Utica Globe.

MAKING LINCOLN PRESENTABLE

Mrs. Lincoln "Fixed Up" the Presi-

dent-elect to Meet a Delegation. In narrating "When Lincoln Was First Inaugurated," in the Ladies' Home Journal; Stephen Fiske writes interestingly of the memorable journey from Springfield. Ill., to the national capital, and tells of Mrs. Lincoln's efforts to have her husband look presentable when receiving a delegation that was to greet them upon reaching New York City.

"The train stopped," writes Mr. Fiske "and through the windows immense crowds could be seen; the cheering drowned the blowing off steam of the locomotive. Then Mrs. Lincoln opened her hand bag and said:

"'Abraham, I must fix you up a bit for these city folks."

"Mr. Lincoln gently lifted her upon the seat before him; she parted, combed and brushed his hair and arranged his black necktie.

fectionately asked. "'Well, you'll do, Abraham,' replied Mrs. Lincoln critically. So he kissed her

Love Lottery Day.

the other New York officials."

One of the most charming and at the same time plausible versions of the relation of the modern valentine idea to that devoted Christian martyr, St. Valentine, is the following:

The early Christian fathers, in their attempts to conciliate their pagan compatriots, with most commendable tact and insight utilized many of the popular forms of mythological celebrations to commemo-

rate Christian events. One of the festivals, dear to the heart of every Roman, was the feast of Lupercalia, when they did honor to their gods that can be had by digging from ten to Pan and Juno, not only with the banquet, dance and drama, but with a pecu- land to be had almost everywhere. fiar ceremony which provided a billet There is plenty of wood for building box into which were dropped slips of patimber and for fuel, while coal is conper inscribed with the ladies' names. The venient, and sells at low prices at the bachelors drew out these slips and the la- mines. In driving through the country dies whose names were on their papers | they passed many fine patches of wild were henceforth installed as their mis raspberries, and say they can speak tresses for twelve months to commano them as best suited their sweet wills. This festival usually occurred in February and was therefore made use of by the Christians to commemorate the birth day of the martyr, St. Valentine. In time it came to be called Valentine's Day and retained the love-lottery as its especial

WHERE ABE PRACTICED LAW.

Old Courthouse at Lincoln, Ill., Has Connection with the Martyr.

The city of Lincoln, Ill., still contains one building in which Abraham Lincoln practiced law over forty years ago. It is known as the "Postville" court house, although that village was long ago absorbed by the present city.

The first county seat of Logan County was Postville, and the old court house. which still stands in the western part of Lincoln, was occupied as such from 1839 to 1848. In the latter year the courts were removed twelve miles south to Mount Pulaski, which village was the county seat until 1855. At almost every term of court from the time of the organ-



OLD POSTVILLE COURTHOUSE.

ization of the county as a separate loca! district and until his nomination for the presidency, Mr. Lincoln was one of the lawyers in attendance, and that he was a favorite with the people of the county is evidenced by the fact that the city bears his name. His stories are yet repeated by surviving pioneers who were county officials at that time, and his legal serare still remembered.

When the Chicago and Alton Railroad was built through the county it did not pass through the new county seat, Mount Pulaski, nor the old one of Postville, but it did pass within a mile of the latter town. At this point a new town was founded and named in honor of Mr. Lincoln, who was was a friend of the men who were its founders.

At the sale of lots in the new town on Aug. 29, 1853, Mr. Lincoln was present and expressed his regrets at having no money with which to buy some of the town lots. However, two lots opposite the block set aside as the court house square were given to him by Messrs. Gillet, Hickox and Latham as an attorney fee for services in the work of securing the charter and deeds for the new city These lots Mr. Lincoln owned fintil his death and were not sold by his heirs until about seven years ago.

Honest Abe and the Bull.

Crossing a field one day, the late Presi dent Lincoln, it is said, was pursued by an angry bull. He made for the fence but soon discovered that the bull was overtaking him. He then began to rur round a haystack in the field, and the bull pursued him; but, in making the short circles round the stack, Lincoln was the faster, and, instead of the bull catching him, he caught the bull and grabbed him by the tail. It was a firm grip and a controlling one. He began to kick th€ bull, and the bull bellowed with agony and dashed across the field, Lincoln hanging to his tail and kicking him at every jump, and, as they flew along, Lincoln shouted smell of cold on his clothing which made ten the inclosed, and requested that it be at the bull, "Hang you, who began this fight?"

> Grace's Valentine. Such a dainty valentine! Cupids, mottoes, lace, Roses, satin frills-in fine. Just the thing for Grace!

Push the satin frills apart, Lo! beneath the lace Lies a flimsy, tinsel heart-Just the thing for Grace! LITTLE COST.



Ivan and The odore S t riovski, form erly residents of Michi gan, but now living in Alame-

da, Western Canada, before taking up their home there visited the country as delegates. They reported to the Government of the Dominion of Canada the result of their observations, and from this report extracts have been taken, which are published below:

"We have visited a number of most desirable locations, and are highly pleased with the country as a whole, it being beyond our highest expectawell-contented lot of people. They around and struck for home." have comfortable homes, and their vast tields of wheat and other crops in addition to their herds of choice cattle, indicate prosperity in the full sense of the word. In conversation with the farmers throughout our trip we learned that the majority of them came here with very limited means, and some with no more than enough to bring them here, and they are now well-to-do. They "'Do I look nice now, mother?' he af- all claim that this is the only country for a poor man, or one with little means, to get a start and make a home for himself and family. As you are and lifted her down from the seat, and aware, we were a little shaky and unturned to meet Mayor Wood, courtly and | decided before leaving Detroit, but suave, and to have his hand shaken by have determined since that we, with our friends, will make this country our future home. It is far from being the wilderness we had pictured it to be; it is, instead, a land having all the facilities required by modern civilization, such as railroads, markets, stores, churches, schools, etc., in fact, an ideal ome for those having the future welfare of themselves and families at heart."

The Messrs. Striovski selected the Alameda district, but what they say of it applies in a general way to most other districts in that vast country. They speak of the fuel, which is to be had in great quantities, of the water twenty feet, and of the good grazing highly of their flavor, as they could not resist the temptation to stop and eat.

Having already transgressed on your valuable space, I shall defer further reference to Western Canada for another issue. An illustrated pamphlet recently issued by the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada, giving a complete description of the country, will be forwarded free to all who write for it.

Yours, WESTERN CANADA.

An Underground City. In Galicia, in Austrian Poland, there is a remarkable underground city, which has a population of over 1,000 men, women and children, scores of whom have never seen the light of day. It is known as the City of the Salt Mines, and is situated several hundred feet below the earth's surface. It has its town hall, theater and assembly room, as well as a beautiful church decorated with statues, all being fashioned from a pure crystallized rock salt. It has well-graded streets and spacious squares, lighted with electricity. There are numerous instances in this underground city where not a single individual in three or four successive generations has ever seen the sun or has any idea of how people live in the light of day.-New York Herald.

He Is Well Indicted.

Down in a West Virginia county is a grand jury which has made a record in the matter of liquor law violation indictments. It is not the number of the indictments, although they reached the generous total of 300, that constitutes the peculiarity of the case, but the fact that the whole 300 were issued against one man, and on the testimony of one man. Michael Callahan is the man who is staggering under this load of indictments for selling liquor without a license, and the man who testified against him said that he bought a drink of Callahan every day, vices in many of the trials of those times | except Sundays, for nearly a year. On this testimony the grand jury issued the 300 indictments, one for each of-

> If a man is at all sharp no other man ever tries to sit down on him more than once.

Frightened Away. "No," said a man who was sitting ona box in front of a grocery store, "I can't say as I know very much about Alaska."

His companions looked at him in astonishment. It was the first time he had ever admitted not knowing much about anything.

"I reckon, then, that you're not thinking about going to dig for gold," said one bystander.

"Mebbe, though, as the stories of sudden wealth keep pouring in, you'll change your mind,' 'said another. "It won't be possible. I've been

"And came back without getting rich?"

"Yes. I didn't much more than cross tions. We find here a prosperous and the boundary line before I turned

"Scared?" "That's the answer." "What of? Polar bears?"

"No."

"Supplies give out?" "No. I had plenty of food. What changed my plan was seeing a man digging a hole. I had these ideas about gold being found any and everywhere, and I went up, thinking to get some points about mining. I asked him, in an offhand way, whether he had struck any pay dirt yet, and he turned around and glared at me and said: 'Young feller, what do you think I am digging this for?' I told him I thought he was digging for gold. He glared at me again, and said: 'Gold nothing! I'm doing this for fun. I've been living here for four years, and there's one thing that my curiosity has never been satisfied about. I'm going to dig this hole good and deep so as to allow plenty of room, and then find out just how far down this climate will make the mercury go.' "

Lake Erie's Big Fish Supply. It is claimed that Lake Erie produces more fish to the square mile than any other body of water in the world.

Eruptions On the Face

"I was troubled with eruptions on my face. I thought I would give Hood's Sarsaparilla a trial, and after taking a few bottles I was cured. I am now also free from rheumatism to which I have been subject for some time." C. E. BARRY, 726 Milwaukee street, Milwaukee, Wis.

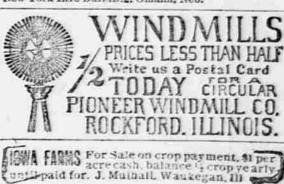
Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best-in fact, the One True Blood Purifier.





For information as to Low Railway Rates, Maps Pamphlets, etc., address the Department of the Interi or, Ottawa, Canada, or C. J. BROUGHTON, 1223 Me. nadnock Building, Chicago, Ill.; W. V. BENNETT, 115 New York Life Building, Omaha, Neb.



AN OPEN LETTER To MOTHERS. WE ARE ASSERTING IN THE COURTS OUR RIGHT TO THE

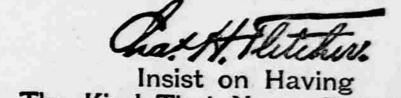
"PITCHER'S CASTORIA," AS OUR TRADE MARK.

I, DR. SAMUEL PITCHER, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of hat It thickers wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. LOOK CAREFULLY at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought of and has the signature of hatt. Hetchers wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Fletcher is

President. Count Fitcher on D. March 8, 1897:

Do Not Be Deceived. Do not endanger the life of your child by accepting a cheap substitute which some druggist may offer you (because he makes a few more pennies on it), the ingredients of which even he does not know.

"The Kind You Have Always Bought" BEARS THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF



The Kind That Never Failed You.