



A Valentine to Cupid.
Ah, little boy Cupid, I know you well;
But you're not as the poets say;
You have no arrows, that I have seen,
Though you captured my heart, one day.

You wear more clothes than the picture
Love, and to call you blind were a sin;
But I know you are Cupid, for no one
else
Such a number of hearts could win.

For they all succumb to your winning
wiles,
The lassies, the maids, and the
dames;
Though instead of "Cupid," they call
you "Pet."
And "Honey," and all such names.

So I send you a valentine, Boy, today,
To say you may keep my heart,
For it must be yours forever and aye,
Though I felt not the feathered dart.

IDA'S VALENTINES.

By M. Louise Ford.

"Tomorrow's Valentine's Day, mamma, and oh, you ought to see the big box teacher's got on her desk for us to put our valentines in! Can I make some more tonight? I know how to make lovely ones!" and an eager little face looked up into Mrs. Lane's.

Mamma stooped down and planted a kiss on the rosy cheek, saying:

"Yes, indeed, dear, as many as you please. But to whom are you going to send them all? Isn't you list about full? Have you remembered Katherine and Annie as well as the others?"

"Yes, mamma, and I'm going to make one for Alec Boles; he isn't very bright, you know, and the boys make fun of him. I thought he'd like one. I don't believe he'll have any; and Kitty Welch has to stay at home now, 'cause her brother's got the measles, and so I thought I'd send her one, too," replied Ida earnestly.

"I am very glad you thought of them," said her mamma, "and here



MAKING HER VALENTINES.
are some little pictures I found today;
you may use them if you like."

"Oh, oo! aren't those just sweet!" exclaimed Ida in high glee.

"Yes, indeed, especially the one that came off the candy box," said mamma, with a merry twinkle in her eye.

Ida was off in a trice to make her valentines, and so busily did she work that she had quite a handful to take to school next morning.

How the merry little voices did chat-

ter up to the very time the bell rang, and Miss Walker kindly allowed the wonderful box to be opened before lessons were begun.

Time after time Ida's name was called, until her desk was quite covered with big valentines and little ones, home made and store bought, some rather the worse for handling, and some fresh and clean in their white envelopes.

"Seventeen!" she counted in surprise, when the last one was distributed, and the proud and happy little maiden looked around to see who had fared any better.

"How many did you get?"

"And you?"

"Oh, isn't that a lovely one!" were the words heard on all sides, and the excitement had scarcely begun to subside when Miss Walker struck the bell once more, and every valentine was put away till recess time.

Only one little girl there was who had not a single valentine; she was a new scholar, a thin, sad-looking child, with big brown eyes. Her dress was old and faded, and the first day she came to school, one little girl had whispered to another:

"Josie Dean's father drinks, I guess, 'cause I saw her with him last week, and he couldn't walk straight."

That was, indeed, the sad secret of Josie's home, and now, when all the others were happy with their valentines, she was looking out of the window, winking hard to keep back the tears.

Not one valentine, did I say? Oh, yes, there was one of those dreadful ones children sometimes call "comic," with a coarse picture of a drunken man, with a bottle in his hand upon it. Some thoughtless boy had put that in the box for Josie Dean, and in delight she had responded to her name.

But when she saw the cruel joke her little face grew pale and frightened, and she hid the dreadful thing in her pocket before any one could see it.

At recess time Ida was here and there, showing her treasures and admiring others, and suddenly came upon Josie Dean, who was crying very bravely not to be disappointed, but wiped away a tear as Ida came to the window where she was standing.

In a minute Ida had guessed the trouble, though she knew nothing about the secret hidden depths of the faded pocket. She saw that Josie's hands were empty.

"Oh, Josie," she said softly, "didn't you get any? I'm so sorry. Here I've got lots of them, more than I need, and I want you to pick out the very prettiest one," and she drew her away into the dressing room, and spread her valentines out.

"There, now you take just the one you want most."

Josie's face brightened, but she was too shy to accept the kind offer, until Ida insisted upon it.

"Yes, you must; you see you've been here such a little while that the girls don't know you much. Next year you'll have plenty. You see they all know me 'cause I've been here so long," she said comfortingly.

There was one representing two little girls busily and happily at work in the very act of making and writing valentines; this one Josie chose, and shyly thanked Ida.

"We'll say that is you and me," said Ida, laughing, "and next year we will make our valentines together," and the two little girls went back to the schoolroom, their feet dancing with happiness, and their hearts light as air.

It would be hard to tell which of the two was the happier, but Ida said to her mother that night, as she was tucked into her little bed:

"The very best part of the day, mamma, was when I gave Josie that valentine. It made such a happy place in my heart that it hasn't gone away yet."

"No, and it will not, for it is what we do for others that makes us happy. What is the verse about that, dearie, can you tell?"

Ida looked thoughtfully a moment, and then said, "Oh, yes, 'It is more

blessed to give than to receive,' and it is, sure enough, isn't it mamma?"—Our Sunday Afternoon.

PICK OUT THE PRETTIEST ONE.
blessed to give than to receive,' and it is, sure enough, isn't it mamma?"—Our Sunday Afternoon.

APPROPOS.
By Helen Chaffee.

Between the sips of coffee
I paused a bit to say,
"You've surely not forgotten
That 'tis St. Valentine's Day?"

"You used, when you were courting,
To sentimental grow,
And send me at this season
Some gift quite apropos."

"If blue by chance my ball gown,
A box would come from you
Forget-me-nots containing,
And a valentine in blue."

"If sweet you said my lips were,
Like gold my curling locks,
You sent a golden jewel
And sweets in costly box."

"But sentiment by wedlock
Is dulled—or soon or late;
No valentine finds Cupid
For wives appropriate."

As day wore on, forgotten
These words of sad regret,
The door bell rang. I answered.
A messenger I met.

An envelope with Cupids
And roses all enlaced!
I opened it, and, trembling,
The page scanned in haste.

"To silks and lace—one hundred."
"To squash, to fish, to ham—
Payment received—and so forth—"
"I've done my best. Yours Sam."

MAY TRY IT ON AGUINALDO.

Success of the Gomez Negotiations
Leads to New Hopes.

THINK IT IS A VERY GOOD IDEA.

Otis Shows That the Situation Is Improving and the President Is Urged to Have a Commissioner Meet the Insurgent Filipino Chief.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Believing that the pacification of Cuba is assured, as a result of the conciliation of General Gomez, administration officials are urging the President to take action looking to the conciliation of Aguinaldo and securing his co-operation in settling the Philippine question.

The authorities are confident that there will be no trouble in accomplishing the disbandment of the Cuban army now that its leader has consented to aid the President in bringing peace to the island. In view of this satisfactory outcome in Cuba it is urged by some that a similar experiment should be tried with Aguinaldo. Advice from General Otis show that conditions in the archipelago are improving. He states that he is confident that when the treaty of peace is ratified the opposition to American control will collapse.

General Otis has before been directed to keep in communication with Aguinaldo and explain the friendly purposes of this government, but the point is made that if the commission now on the way to the Philippines, or one of its members, should be directed to confer with Aguinaldo, as Mr. Porter was instructed to do with Gomez, and explain the wishes of the President, the backbone of the fight against the sovereignty of the United States would be broken and a different aspect would be placed on the situation.

If the President chose to do so, he could with propriety have a conversation with Agoncillo, who represents Aguinaldo, and explain the purposes of this government. Agoncillo has made himself distasteful to this government, however, because of his action in making public the documents he submitted to the State department and sending cablegrams to his chief advising him of the developments in the situation.

Through his secretary, Agoncillo has presented at the State department another memorandum, showing that the area of territory and number of people controlled by the "Philippine republic" is many times greater than that controlled by Spain when she was recognized as the sovereign of the archipelago, and overwhelmingly greater than that controlled by the United States, which only holds Manila. He enclosed additional data attempting to show the right of the Filipinos to govern themselves and closing by urging that the United States should recognize the republic. No notice will be taken of the communication.

LABOR AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Senators Differ on the Power to Shut Out Products.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Mr. Chilton addressed the Senate this morning upon the various anti-expansion resolutions. He asserted that he was not an anti-expansionist or anti-annektionist. Within proper bounds he regarded it as the duty of this country to widen its bounds. He thought the acquisition of Porto Rico and the island of Guam was well thought, but in the acquisition of the Philippines a grave public policy was involved. Mr. Chilton said if our operations were confined to Porto Rico and Cuba we would need no increase in the standing army, but if the Philippines were taken we should require an army of 300,000 men to subjugate the turbulent elements in the islands, and pensions would be piled on pensions. Their products could not be shut out from this country.

Mr. Foraker, interrupting Mr. Chilton, called his attention to authorities for the statement that it would be competent for any state of the Union to protect itself in any way it saw fit, by levying import duties on importations from the Philippines.

This point was sharply controverted by Mr. Chilton. The laboring people of the country, he added, had caught the alarm and read a letter he had received from the National Cigar makers' union urging Congress not to annex the Philippines on the ground that it would demoralize the labor market of this country.

Mr. Platt of Connecticut said he had studied the question pretty carefully and he was satisfied that neither the Filipinos nor their products could come into this country unless Congress so provided.

Mr. Chilton replied that this was merely the opinion of Mr. Platt and was of no actual value or effect.

The friends of the treaty will find themselves short of the votes necessary to ratify the treaty and some of them candidly confess that such is the case. They are, however, still hopeful that the shortage will be made good before Monday.

\$601,817 FOR WEST POINT.

The Military Academy Wants Congress to Furnish Cullum Hall.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The military academy appropriation bill was taken up by the House to-day. It carries \$601,817, which is considerably less than estimates, but more than recent appropriation bills of this character. Mr. Marsh of Illinois, in charge of the bill, explained that the increased total was due to the need of renovating the library and furnishing the new Cullum hall.

INSURGENTS ATTACK MANILA.

Americans and Filipinos Have a General Engagement.

Manila, Feb. 5, 8:15 p. m.—Americans and Filipinos have clashed. Insurgents attacked outposts of Manila. The clash was brought about by three Filipinos who sought to dart past the pickets. They repeated the experiment three times. The last time, Corporal Greeley of the First Nebraska challenged them and then fired, killing one and wounding another.

Almost immediately afterward the Filipinos' line from Calvoan to Santa Mesa, commenced a fusillade which was ineffectual.

The Nebraska, Montana and North Dakota outposts replied vigorously and held their ground until reinforcements arrived.

The Utah light infantry finally succeeded in silencing a native battery. The Third artillery also did good work on the extreme left.

The engagement lasted over an hour. The losses of the Filipinos cannot be estimated at present, but they are known to be considerable.

The American losses are estimated at 20 men killed and 125 wounded.

Dewey came to the rescue with the fire from the gunboat Concord and cruiser Charleston and the monitor Monadnock. When daylight came the Americans advanced and drove the Filipinos from the villages. The Nebraska regiment also distinguished itself, capturing several prisoners and a howitzer and a very strong position at the reservoir, which is connected with the waterworks.

The following members of the First Nebraska regiment are reported killed in the insurgent attack at Manila. Names of wounded are not given:

Ralph W. Kells, C. O. Ballinger of the Omaha company.

Harry S. Hall of company A of York.

Charles R. Keckley, son of ex-Senator Keckley, of company A, York.

Edward Eggen of Fremont.

Louis Begier of Lincoln.

David Lager of company I at Benet.

Orin T. Curtis of Beatrice.

James Pierce, a regimental musician.

Corporal Greeley's name does not appear in the roster of the First Nebraska regiment as the regiment was organized when it left. He probably joined the regiment at Manila.

ENGLAND SUSPECTS FRANCE.

The French Marine Minister's Words Revive War Feeling.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—An alleged interview with the French minister of marine, M. Lockroy, published in a Rome paper, has created considerable stir in some quarters in London, as it is held to show that France has in nowise buried the hatchet, but is determined to attack Great Britain at the first opportunity. People here, however, can hardly credit the veracity of the interview, in which M. Lockroy begins by describing the British naval organization as "all humbug," and saying: "The English have only the brutal force of numbers."

The minister of marines is also quoted as declaring that war with Great Britain is inevitable, and he is said to have added in consequence: "Let England continue to construct war ships. Our naval program is steel plated, powerful, swift cruisers, torpedo boat destroyers and submarine boats."

The British newspapers have apparently taken these utterances seriously and are urging the government to reply "to words with deeds."

These French menaces seem to accord with confidential information that the military and naval circles here are convinced that France means war. Secret advisers, it appears, have been received at the British war office, showing that the French authorities are noiselessly preparing for the struggle. In fact, it is even said that the Napoleonic idea of an invasion of Great Britain is revolving in the minds of the French military authorities and at the present moment a gradual but silent movement of troops is said to be proceeding towards the northern coast of France where, in two months' time, it is asserted, about 150,000 men will be concentrated. The British war authorities are determined not to wait France's convenience, but to call her hand as they did in the Fashoda incident and will declare that they regard this concentration of troops as an act of war.

In the meanwhile the British navy is paying the greatest attention to gunnery. The channel squadron this week has been engaged every morning in firing practice at moving targets. The results are carefully noted.

Cuban Railroads.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—A dispatch from Havana says: The control of the existing railway system of Cuba has been secured to the New York syndicate, which includes Canadian capitalists.

A Big Mexican Bank.

CITY OF MEXICO, Feb. 6.—A new financial institution, to be called the Central Mexican bank, is to be established here on a broad and liberal charter, with \$6,000,000 capital, and shares have been subscribed to the amount of \$4,000,000 in excess of the capital. One-half of the capital stock has been subscribed to by an international syndicate, in which J. Pierpont Morgan, of New York, Bleichroeder and the Deutsche bank, of Berlin, are, with Henry C. Creel, of Chihuahua, owners of one-half of the stock.

TO TEST BALLOT LAW

ATTORNEY QUESTIONS ITS CONSTITUTIONALITY.

Brings Suit Against His Successful Opponent to Oust Him From Office—Declares the Australian Ballot Law Unconstitutional.

Phil E. Winter of Omaha, who was defeated in the race for county attorney last fall by George W. Shields, fusionist, has instituted quo warranto proceedings in the district court to oust Shields, alleging the unconstitutionality of the Australian ballot law in that it allows the name of a candidate to appear several times upon the official ballot. This means that Mr. Winter will drop his contest against Shields, which is now pending in the county court and rely solely upon the alleged defects in the law. Under the law quo warranto proceedings of the nature involved here should be filed by the county attorney, but very naturally Mr. Shields declined to file a suit against himself, and thus become attorney for his opponent, whereupon Mr. Winter employed counsel and instituted the suit himself. In his application for the writ he alleges that the law is contrary to the constitution of the United States and of the state in that it gives one candidate an advantage over another by allowing his name to appear in as many columns of the official ballot as there are parties of which he is a candidate; that under the law there is no true way of determining the strength of the parties; that the present law, though amendatory, does not show what it is intended to amend and is self-contradictory, there being a conflict between sections 15 and 21, thus confusing the voter and the parties making the count of the votes. He contends, in addition to this claim against the law, that the nomination of Shields was due to a political bargain by means of which the support of the populists and free silver republicans was secured in consideration of the democratic party according to those parties representation on the legislative ticket, which is alleged as a species of bribery.

FILLMORE COUNTY CONTEST.

Committee Not Yet Ready With Its Report Thereon.

The position of the committee on privileges and elections in the house on the Fillmore contest has not been stated to the house through the members, with the exception of a few minority members at one time signed a report recommending the ousting of Representative Taylor and the seating of M. Conwell. Now the one minority member who signed the report has asked that his name be taken off and there is a strong likelihood that two reports will come in. The minority members have prepared another report recommending the ousting of both representatives from Fillmore county on the theory that the ballots in the three precincts not yet counted have been discredited so that they could not be counted. The majority of the committee has not yet agreed to this report and is rumored that one or two republicans favor a recount of the ballots in the three precincts, the ballots for which have been in the possession of Judge Skipton.

Hand Torn in a Cornsheller.

Lewie Kendall, a young man living with his parents on their farm three miles east of Sutton, had his hand badly torn up in a cornsheller. The physicians in charge fear that amputation of the hand will be necessary. Mr. Kendall was oiling the sheller when his mitten got caught in the cogs.

The Sutton schools which closed on January 18 on account of measles, have reopened. There are still a number of measles patients in that city.

Given Penitentiary Sentences.

Frank Graham, the Edison burglar, and Albert Young, the Arapahoe highwayman, were each sentenced in district court at Beaver City, to five years in the penitentiary. Graham, since his conviction, has been writing letters to different persons saying that he would kill them as soon as he served his time. Some of these letters came into possession of the judge and Graham's sentence was much longer than it would have been otherwise.

Making Converts.

At York a large attendance, especially of young people, listened the other evening at the Christian church to a sermon on the "Purpose of Christ's Suffering," delivered by the pastor, Rev. J. A. Kiefer. Three made confession and two were baptised. The pastor is earnestly endeavoring to increase the spiritual activity among his members and is pleading with the unconverted to surrender themselves to God.

Serious Charge.

William Hayes and June Bent of Red Cloud were arrested by Sheriff Wells, charged with highway robbery in having knocked down and robbed a man by the name of Jacobs while he was going to his home at a late hour of the night, accompanied by the first named man.

J. M. Mills, a stockman of Clark, was run over and killed by freight train No. 28 on the Union Pacific while loading out his cattle.

Washington's Gift to the Olympia.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 8.—The contract for a silver service to be presented Admiral Dewey's flagship Olympia by the citizens of Washington was awarded to Shreve & Co. of San Francisco. The service is to consist of twenty-seven pieces and it is to be manufactured of native silver. In addition to the service a library is also to be given the Olympia.