

NEW IDEAS IN VALENTINES.
Beautiful Specimens of Artistic Workmanship, Including Decorations of Lace, Gold-Dust and Feathers, Novel Designs in the Comic Line.

New York Star.

About this season of the year look out for valentines. The advice is unnecessary, perhaps, for every stationer's window is filled with these dear little missives of love. In just one month the bashful lover need no longer let "concealment, like a worm in the bud, feed on his damask cheek," for he can have an opportunity to gush as tenderly as he pleases through the medium of a valentine. On February 14 the birds are said to mate, and on that day many a maiden in the past has most captured by one of these silvered tokens and, judging by the display of the present year, many more "lovesick maidens" will succumb. The variety and quality of the valentines exhibited have never before been equalled. A Star reporter visited the establishment of a veteran manufacturer of this style of goods and took a view of the new varieties.

"The sales so far this season," said the proprietor, "far exceed those of any previous year. I have just gotten on the easel valentine, and it is an original idea, but it has already been copied by other manufacturers."

The easel valentine referred to is mounted on stiff cardboard. At the back, attached by a hinge, is a flap which can be pulled away from the back and thus made to support the valentine in the same manner as the prints to the ordinary photograph frames. The valentine proper was made of lace paper of both gold and silver hue. In the center was an opening through which could be seen a neat picture at the extreme end. The whole delicate affair is fringed with colored ribbon, the latter being also a new wrinkle in the valentine craze.

Another beautiful specimen was contained in a box—or rather the box was part of the valentine. The outer covering was ornamented to represent precious stones and presented a very rich appearance. On the lid, in the centre, was a scroll, on which the name of the fair recipient could be written by the hand of the lover. On raising the lid a mass of lace drapery was revealed, with a piece of fringed ribbon at each corner, the center forming an avenue toward a very suggestive building—a church. This costs only \$10.

Other varieties were ornamented with gold, silver and diamond dust. The cheaper varieties, ranging from ten cents to \$1, are principally composed of lace paper. In fact, it may be said that lace paper is the foundation of valentines. Some of the latter are so constructed that on pulling a cord a miniature stage is revealed, with lace curtains and ornamental scenery, while at the back a sentimental youth and maiden are perched upon a balcony, gazing at a moon whose nearness would startle the ordinary observer in real life. Even so trifling a sum as five cents a very pretty little memento may be purchased.

One of the greatest favorites, however, is a pretty ornated valentine, made of silver lace paper, with a pair of small doors, on which is engraved the motto: "The one I love." The fair recipient, wondering who her young man really loves, opens the door and beholds her own face reflected in a mirror.

The most suggestive of these love missives is a miniature altar, smothered in an ocean of lace and diamond dust, on which rests a plain gold ring surrounded by the motto: "Do you accept?" Of course this sort of a valentine means business, and unless it is received there ought to be good grounds for a breach of promise suit.

The valentine, however, which is dearest to the heart of the practical joker and the average "Young American" is the comic one. Thousands upon thousands are sold annually, and the subjects embraced are multitudinous. All trades, professions and branches of business are represented. The latest comic valentine is that inscribed to the destroyer of plethoric pocketbooks, the plumber. The subject stands with his tools on his left arm, while from his right hand depends a long "bill of particulars," such as "Looking at a faucet, \$5," etc. "Angling for a Husband," is the title of another valentine, which will make some young lady "yearn" to fly at the unknown sender. It pictures a damsel with hook and line straining to bait a heart. Even the aesthetic craze is to be burlesqued, and artists are already busily engaged in drawing designs, in which young men are to figure as "too too" Oscar Wilde.

"The retail price of valentines," said Mr. Fisher, "rises from 1 cent to \$50." "Do you mean to say that the latter sum is expended upon one valentine?" asked the reporter.

"Certainly, here is one," and he displayed a magnificent creation, in which gold and silver lace paper, diamond dust and real lace, ribbon, and beautiful feathers combined to make a perfect beauty, the whole being enclosed in a rich frame.

"Such a valentine as that," said the manufacturer, "generally does the business. Go thou and do likewise."

Winter Life in Holland.

Good words. In Holland the fun of winter life takes many forms; and winter facilitates locomotion; as the highways of summer available for trek-shuts become the best thoroughfares for those who skate. In this way, directly the ice bears, visits are made and distances traveled which cannot be done in summer; and, instead of going round and round as we do here on a small confined space, the Dutch make up a party and pay a visit to some neighboring town or village. A bright winter's morning is always exhilarating, especially to those whose red particles are doing their work satisfactorily; how much more so when cheerful company, free exercise, variety of character, and constant change of scene all tend to mark the day as a red-letter one; and to crown all comes the pleasant sensation of feeling deservedly tired, with a night's rest well earned. Should the frost be sufficiently severe, a river is most interesting, being on a large scale and taking more of the character of a fair

which is the case, for instance, on the Maas, at Rotterdam. This is very well pictured in some of the old Dutch engravings; one particularly gives an admirable idea of the whole thing, showing sledges, ice-boats, stalls, booths. Now, the freezing of the Maas is most uncertain; while other waters are frozen hard, the Rotterdams still remain land-bound. The Maas runs very strong, and the difficulty is for the first coating of ice to form. When a severe frost catches the still water during the night, then "once begun, soon done," and the crews, who turn their berths at night, wake up in the morning to find themselves frozen in. The canals naturally soon freeze over, and the trek-traffic is supplanted by baggage-sledges, large and small. Near dwelling-houses are seen the little box-sledges for the children. These are precisely the same as the seventeenth century contrivances; the child sits with just room for its feet, and, with a stick in each hand, pushes the sledge and propels itself ahead. The adult sledges are some cases simply gorgeous, as the opportunity affords great latitude for fancy, great scope for variety of gear, harness, and trapping. They are generally rather of the swan outline, the "sleighers" sitting in the back, the driver perched at the back, on the tail, the sweeping irons following the curve of the swan's neck; over these run the reins. One horse generally constitutes the team, but in an old engraving three horses in single file are shown drawing a sledge de luxe.

The Age of Progress and Improvement.

From the Chicago Photo, Jan. 17th, '82.

The world moves forward rapidly and no better exemplification can be found at the present day than the gigantic strides made in the railway world, which after a series of years have become so strikingly apparent as to place American railway equipment in a footing of unparalleled excellence. The requirements of an active comfort-loving population have been met by the hand of the lover. On raising the lid a mass of lace drapery was revealed, with a piece of fringed ribbon at each corner, the center forming an avenue toward a very suggestive building—a church. This costs only \$10.

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PEPPERMINT DRO.

A Cincinnati man says he lived for seven years in deadly fear that some one would find out that his mandibles were only imitation marl.

If a canal boat can sink a ram built to protect our whole Atlantic coast, why not commission a few canal boats instead of building more rams?

Ohio has almost ceased to furnish dental services, and lawyers do law that they don't want to be the first coating of ice to form. When a severe frost catches the still water during the night, then "once begun, soon done," and the crews, who turn their berths at night, wake up in the morning to find themselves frozen in. The canals naturally soon freeze over, and the trek-traffic is supplanted by baggage-sledges, large and small. Near dwelling-houses are seen the little box-sledges for the children. These are precisely the same as the seventeenth century contrivances; the child sits with just room for its feet, and, with a stick in each hand, pushes the sledge and propels itself ahead.

It may be mortifying, young man, but that most acetate stuff you are wearing for a suit will not last long.

Pennsylvania has three different laws by citizens who care less about us than about us who want to make out that the owner of a herd of bees is responsible for a financial loss every time a bee gets it to an outsider.

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Buffalo has three blocks in a street with a small one in between and did not catch the disease. Buffalo people are careful not to say whether he was a alderman or not.—Detroit Free Press.

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