

## ANTICIPATING THE ASHES

Omaha Folks Make Merry Before the Day of Fast and Prayer.

## SOCIETY WHIRLS IN ITS GAYEST MOOD

**St. Valentine's Day Inaugurates Round of Pleasures Fit to Close the Season During a Period of Penitence.**

The pre-Lenten season of 1898 has had no gayer week in Omaha society than that one that has just been brought to a close. As the period approaches when the debutantes of this and previous seasons eschew candy, and the faithful churchmen pass up good cigars, there is an unmistakable desire on the part of the Omaha devotees of Dame Society to get all the merriment possible out of the functions that occur before Lent.

The week just ended was ushered in by good old St. Val, and there were many hearty affairs given in his honor. The Valentine dance of the popular organization of young married folk on Monday evening was an auspicious beginning for the week.

On the same evening the society people of the fashionable little city "yonder, 'cross the river," found much pleasure in a card-walk that would have caused the face of Willie Vandeleur to assume an emerald shade out of jealousy for his laurels in this direction. Omaha was fairly well represented at this occasion, as it was also at the dancing party of the Delta Gamma society at the University of Nebraska on Monday evening.

But what was probably the most signal success of the week in local society was the grand ball

of the resurrected Monday Night club, which was given at the Millard hotel on Thursday evening. It was a grand affair, and as there were nearly a dozen extra dancing girls, the girls had to make another use of all their girls looking alike to the men and there were no wall-flowers now. Some of the Omahans were fortunate enough to be present at the Dickens' party given in Council Bluffs on Thursday evening, and they have returned with flattering accounts of the ingenuity displayed by the chess players, the female impersonators, the inventors of the most popular characters of the great English novelist. The dancing party of Miss Georgia Krug on Friday evening at the Millard hotel also deserves to be mentioned in a review of the week's happenings in that peculiar realm called society. The valentine card-walk on Thursday night on Wednesday evening reflected great credit on "Moxy" and the other society people who conducted it. Aside from the major events that have been mentioned society found time to attend a number of card parties, teas and receptions, all of which were enjoyable, but none of which deserve the praise of being noted.

The premier event of the coming week will be the meeting of the Cotillion club on Tuesday evening. As it will be the last after Easter nothing will be left undone by the skilled entertainers who will be hosts or guests to ensure that it will be a brilliant success so that it will finally be remembered all through the dull Lenten season. As Wednesday will follow right upon the heels of George Washington's birthday anniversary, and will abruptly put an end to further society functions among the upper set for forty days and nights. This does not mean that all forms of pleasure will be abandoned; for there are those in Omaha society who do not observe Lent. But so far as the swell affairs are concerned, they will be suspended for the time being. Aside from the Cotillion club's party there will be several smaller entertainments during the coming week.

It is apparent that a large number of Omaha young women think that in the Lenten season a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of charity. At least it would appear so from the reports by young men of their various social engagements, which attribute to this set that form of charity that they have recently received. Whether the real object is to learn the exact age of some young men, or whether it is the hard coin that the young women are after for their different charities is hard to tell, but it is a surely true fact that recent reports among society with these objects in view arise from mixed motives. Here is a sample form of the invitation under discussion:

"Tis something new, something new,  
With a dash of something new,  
Please, either send or bring it back,  
With as many cents as you are old;  
We promise the sum shall never be told;  
Will you be Visiting Nurses, with greeting hearty?

Will welcome you to their Birthday party.  
Does not allow the publication of all the many invitations of this character.

Under the eyes of many a young man  
Please, either send or bring it back,  
With as many cents as you are old;  
We promise the sum shall never be told;

Will you be Visiting Nurses, with greeting hearty?

A penny, friend, you've asked to give,  
For each year God has let you live,

For each year you've been so dear,  
And from your church to clear.

This will be an Easter gift,  
We hope with the best of luck.

With a dash of something new,  
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