

time" to the highly colored penny wood-cuts of a humorous and sometimes indecent character, having a few lines of course, often scurrilous, droller printed beneath them, is an entire misapprehension of the word, which can only be properly applied to amatory addresses passing between lovers and sweethearts. Of late years, however, these "comic valentines," as they are called, seem even more popular than those of a sentimental character, and we all know how the stationers' windows are crowded with them at this season of the year. There is a very old superstition that even the birds choose their mates on St. Valentine's day. This tradition has been handed down from the very earliest institution of the Roman Lupercalia which St. Valentine's day replaced. Shakespeare alludes to this belief when he makes Theseus say in "A Midsummer Night's Dream"—act iv, scene i:

St. Valentine is past;  
Begin these wood birds but to couple now.

Herriek has written, in his Ilesperides,

Ort have I heard both youth and virgins say,  
Birds choose their mates and couple too, this day,  
But by their flight I never can divine  
When I shall couple with my valentine.

Charles, the duke of Orleans already alluded to as a famous writer of valentines, also refers to this bird-mating in the following dainty morceau:

Look how, my dear, the feathered kind  
By mutual caresses joined  
Bill and seen, to teach us two  
What we to love and custom owe.

Shall only you and I forbear  
To meet and make a happy pair?  
Shall we alone delay to live?  
This day an age of bliss may give.

An old writer defines a valentine to be "Ye firste of mankynde that a myde shalle see on ye Saynte Valentynes Daye, or ye firste myde that a man shalle see on Saynte Valentynes morn." A custom many centuries old and one still observed in many parts of England and Scotland gives the person thus seeing his or her valentine the right to claim him or her with a kiss, which the said valentine has no right to resist or reject, but is in honor bound to freely accord. Admirers of Sir Walter Scott will remember his beautiful description of how Catherine Glover, "the Fair Made of Perth," thus claimed, on St. Valentine's morning, the valiant armorer, Henry Smith, who had saved her from dishonor by his great strength and courage on St. Valentine's eve. Shakespeare refers to this old custom when he makes poor Ophelia sing in Hamlet:

Tomorrow is St. Valentine's day,  
All in the morning betime,  
And I a maid at your window  
To be your valentine.

In some of the rural districts of England there are observed on Valentine's day many quaint folk customs which suggest those of the Christmas season. Among these is that of children going about in merry groups from house to house singing at every door the following rhyme:

St. Valentine, St. Valentine,  
Curl your locks as I do mine.  
One before and two behind,  
Good morning to you, Valentine.

The good housewives at whose doors they sing reward them with bread, cheese, beer and half pence.

In our own time and country the only usage of St. Valentine's day that is retained is the sending of the printed and painted "valentines" of the stationers' shops, and even this custom, perhaps, after all more honored in the breach than the observance, seems to be fast dying out. Postmasters all over this country testify that the number of these missives passing through the mails has steadily diminished for several years past. This falling off began with the introduction of Christmas, New Year and Easter cards, the number of which transmitted by post has increased just in proportion to the diminution in valentines. The reason is obvious. A sentimental valentine, the only one for which the word is not a misnomer, can only have its proper significance when it passes between persons of opposite sex. A Christmas, New Year or Easter card, on the contrary, is universal in its applicability. It is equally appropriate and acceptable from mother to daughter, from sister to sister, from lover to sweetheart, from friend to friend. Good wishes on any of the festal occasions named, Christmas, New Year's or Easter, may very gracefully and appropriately be sent by anybody to anybody, and the popularity of these three classes of cards bids fair to finally extinguish even the last remaining American observance of the day devoted to the honor of good St. Valentine.

One of the oldest usages in connection with that occasion is the giving of gifts. In the lottery of St. Valentine's day the persons drawn as valentines are under a direct obligation to make a "valentine present" to those who have drawn them. In the days when even royalty and nobility used to participate in this drawing of valentines some of these presents were of the most expensive and magnificent character. The first valentine present received by Nell Gwynn from Charles II is said to have been a necklace of diamonds and pearls valued at £3000, while Sir Walter Raleigh on one occasion appeared at court wearing £30,000 worth of diamonds and other jewels consisting largely of valentine gifts from Queen Elizabeth and other lady admirers.

GEOFFREY WILLISTON CHRISTINE.

#### DR. MAESER IN PAROWAN.

Last Sunday, the 5th inst., we were highly favored with the presence of that dearly beloved teacher, Dr. Karl G. Maeser, general superintendent of all the academies and seminaries of the Latter-day Saints. In the morning he addressed the theological class then the whole Sunday school; in the afternoon he preached to the people in public meeting, his subject being "Ye are the Salt of the Earth," etc. He also preached in the evening, subject, "The Children of this World are Wier in their Generation than the Children of Light."

On Monday, the 6th, he attended our seminary during the whole day. His remarks throughout the two days were replete with most valuable instructions to the people. The Spirit of the Lord was with him in all he said, and the universal verdict was, he has never spoke with greater power nor more to

the edification of the people of Parowan than during his present visit. Pupils of our seminary have told me that since Dr. Maeser's visit and instructions to them there has been a happier and better spirit in the school-room. May such men live long, they are needed every day!

Last Sunday morning William Whitney, son of Newel S. and Sarah Whitney of this place, was working with an old bull dog pistol, unknown to his parents. He had got a cartridge that was too large fast in the cylinder, and went down cellar where he thought no one would disturb him, to try and get it out. The pistol went off and the bullet went through his right leg between the knee and thigh, fortunately breaking no bones. Under the care of Dr. Hall, who is sojourning in this place for the present, the boy is getting along as well as could be expected, but it is an ugly wound. Being only a flesh wound we trust it will soon begin to heal.

The Parowan Dramatic association put on the boards lately the play of Uncle Tom's cabin. Nothing ever presented here before had such run. Night after night the people flocked in and filled the house to overflowing. Dr. Hall made a good Uncle Tom. Miss Alice Robb, a child of eight years, did real well as Eva. Miss Charlotte Evans, as Topsy, was quite entertaining; indeed all did their parts very well, and for a rural district the play was quite a success.

A. WEEHUE.

PAROWAN, Iron County, Utah, Feb. 9, 1893.

#### A CARD.

To the Bishops of the wards of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion:

Dear Brethren:—Your attention is called to the following notice, which you will please read to the people of your wards, in hope of aiding the anxious father to recover his lost son.

Your Brother,

ANGUS M. CANNON,  
President of Stake.

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 9th 1893.

#### NOTICE!

Last Tuesday night (January 10th, 1893), a boy, James Christensen of Murray, on being reprimanded by his step-mother, after returning from school, went away from home without leaving any clue to his whereabouts. The anxious father, Miller Christensen, asks any one who may happen to find his son or who knows where he is, to communicate with him, and address letter or telephone to Harry Haynes, Murray. He will gladly pay the expenses. The boy is thirteen years old, somewhat stout but not tall. When he left he wore a little round, dark cap, brown-striped vest and coat, and overalls. The papers in this city, Ogden, Provo and Park City, are requested kindly to give publicity to this notice.

Mr. C. E. Maestrom has penetrated the bluff, by means of a tunnel ninety feet long, at Oak Dale ranch, south of the Oak springs, and obtained a flow of water sufficient to supply a truck yard. He has forty acres of excellent clay.—*Springville Independent.*