

FINEST OF ALL LOVE'S MISSIVES



A baby beauty, and flowers, and love—THAT makes a Valentine.

Fine Old Saint

By

MARY GRAHAM BONNER

HE had been ill, quite ill. When she was getting a little better some of her friends, conscience smitten, said each unto herself: "I must go and call on Sally and ask her what I can do for her. She's all by herself. I suppose it's the only decent thing to do and I don't believe she'll need anything much now."

So one by one they telephoned and this is what they said: "Oh, my dear, I didn't know you had been so ill. I thought it had only been a slight cold, and not having heard from you I thought I'd call up to see what had happened! I'll come up and see you if I may. I wish I had known you were ill before. I might have been able to bring you something. But I'll come up today and see what I can do for you. Good-by, dear. I am so relieved you're a little better. Now don't do too much. I simply won't hear of it. Good-by."

So, every day for a week, one of them at least dropped in to see what could be done. And this is what they did: They let her get up and make them tea (when they called around teatime.) They let her make coffee and sandwiches when they came in the evenings.

And as they left, at different times, each said approximately the same. It was this: "Now don't do too much, dear. I couldn't bear it if you got really ill. You're looking so much better now. Oh—don't bother to thank me. It was a pleasure to do what I could."

Yes, she felt sadly disillusioned. Life seemed to her a very sordid proposition.

She remembered when she was passing a jewelry shop, one day. She had seen a sign in the window: "We furnish the license free to anyone buying a wedding ring from us."

Fancy their having such a sign! And there must have been people who had responded, or they wouldn't have such an advertisement.

She could fancy the mortification and embarrassment of having one's prospective husband suggest such an economy.

Alas, though, something had gone entirely wrong with her romance in life. Now, Valentine's day was approaching, and once more she knew she would have no flowers to wear, while all her other friends had them.

It had been hard, illness, and nothing now to buck her up. She was lonely and young. It was worse, she felt sure, than being lonely and old.

Her mind went back to the days when she was sixteen. There was Geoffrey Pratt. They had talked of their future together—but they were both very young and Geoffrey had gone away that next year. She had never seen him since; it was over ten years. To think of being able to speak of something as having happened ten years before. It made her feel so old.

Suddenly her mind was aroused from these thoughts by a ring at the bell.

Was she dreaming? Could it be—"Why—Geoffrey?" she stammered. "Is it you?"

"Such a question," he laughed. And then—but why pry into those precious moments of hers?

He had come back! In real life, too, and clad in the armor of romance. And tomorrow—St. Valentine's day—they were to be married. He had had a dreadful time getting back for that special day!

And why hadn't he written? Why hadn't she? Each had thought the other of course now cared for some one else when letters were not answered at first—letters which were never received: It was only natural to think that. But he had heard, only two months before, when he had been down in South America, from some one who had seen her. She was not married. She wasn't supposed to be engaged.

And he had come—all the way—to get her. Nothing would do but that. Oh yes, there still was romance.

And St. Valentine was a mighty fine saint!

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All Hearts Bow to Good Saint Valentine

Modern Maid Is No Different From Grandmother.

OVERS beware! A wealth of cheery little red hearts and rampant cupids are daunting their charms from shop windows to lure even the wary into the endearing ways of St. Valentine.

And just what chance have young men and their sweethearts! There's no telling when one of these paper arrows may reach home or a plaintive verse, as sweet as a sugar plum, succeed in entwining itself around a loose tendril of a wistful heart.

It is safe to announce that there is many a girl who laughs at the loving tricks of her grandmother's day. That would be the kind of honor with a bunch of flowers, a bar pin or a dainty locket. But while girls shorten their dresses and cut their hair and while fashions in valentines come and go, the heart of the maid is generally as susceptible to valentines and their verses as that of the hoop-skirted lady generations ago.

Little Old Lace
By WILLIAM HERSCHELL



LITTLE old lace valentine, Heritage of Auld Lang Syne, You have secrets, old as gold; Secrets you have never told; O the glad hours Youth has spent Drowning in your sentiment!

BOY still longs to see her look As he slips you in Girl's book; Waits to see the glad surprise Beaming from enraptured eyes. All he craves is just to know Name but his could please her so!

—Indianapolis News.

JAPANESE ARMY GETS VENGEANCE FOR DEAD

Hundreds of Chinese Troops Slain in Retaliation.

Mukden, Manchuria.—The Japanese army has avenged its dead. Official communiques said that hundreds of Chinese have been killed in a series of offensives undertaken in retaliation for the Chinese victories of the previous week, in which the Japanese casualties were heavy.

Supported by heavy artillery airplanes, the advancing columns of Japan killed at least 220 Chinese in engagements at Yentai and Tungliao, the communiques said, and near Yingkow, where a force of 500 Chinese was encountered, "a considerable number" of casualties was inflicted.

These were the three major engagements, but there were many others. Larger units were employed than in previous activities of this sort, and more imposing auxiliary arms.

While the Japanese pressed on with their work of revenge, new groups of Chinese war lords arrived in Mukden to take part in negotiations looking toward the establishment of a new Manchurian state, wholly free of Chinese control.

Gen. Shigeru Honjo, Japanese high commander, explained the fierceness of his new offensives by saying it was necessary to rid South Manchuria of "the curse of banditry" in order to permit the Chinese farmers to sow their spring crops "in assurance of safety and peace."

In the battle at Yentai, a coal mining center 25 miles south of Mukden, a Japanese infantry battalion, equipped with machine guns and backed by airplanes and artillery, fought forty minutes with about 500 Chinese. A communique said the Chinese were "almost completely annihilated." The battalion returned to Mukden and a gang of coolies was hired to dispose of the bodies on the battlefield. Numerous enemy wounded were taken to Japanese hospitals.

A Japanese column was sent to the Tungliao district after reports had been received that 1,000 Chinese were looting a nearby village. The Chinese lost 22 prisoners in addition to 90 dead in this battle, headquarters announced. A brigade sent to the Chinsi district to smash irregular Chinese troops returned to its Chinchow base, reporting its mission accomplished.

Among the war lords arriving in Mukden for the negotiations about the establishment of a new government for Manchuria was Chang Hai-peng, who failed in an attempt to oust Gen. Ma Chan-shan from Tsitsihar before Gen. Jiro Tamon accomplished that task in November.

Nat. Postoffice Robber With Guns, Explosives

Boston.—"Pawtucket Johnny" Conley, alias "The Parson," notorious post office robber and safe blower, was arrested in Pawtucket when police found two loaded .45 automatic pistols and a bottle of nitroglycerin in the back seat of a car in which he was sitting. Conley was crouched down in the front seat of the car, which was parked without lights. A companion, who said he was Elmer S. Thurber, was also arrested.

Father, 89, Slays Son; He Pleads Self-Defense

Bethany, Mo.—Wounded by his father, an eighty-nine-year-old veteran of the Civil war, Alexander Smothers, forty-seven, is dead. The father, Joshua Smothers, pleaded self-defense and has not been arrested. The shooting occurred at the home of the father. The home was in a state of siege for thirty minutes before the father fired. Inside the home, Mrs. Smothers sat in an invalid's chair and heard the threats of her son.

Roosevelt Indorsed by South Dakotans

Huron, S. D.—South Dakota Democrats, meeting here, unanimously indorsed Franklin D. Roosevelt, governor of New York, for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

A slate of delegates, headed by Senator W. J. Bulow as delegate at large, was instructed to support Roosevelt as long as his name is presented to the national convention as a Presidential candidate.

Urbana Business Is Halted for One Week

Urbana, Ill.—A business moratorium under which stores, shops and plants, except essential services, were closed for one week, was proclaimed by Mayor Reginald Harmon as a method of calming the fears of the people after the closing of two banks in Champaign and one here.



Cold Insurance

He carries it with him, ready for just such times. That little box of Bayer Aspirin. If he catches cold, what of it? Bayer Aspirin will stop it. If his throat feels sore, he will end the soreness with one good gargle made from these tablets.

Dangerous complications can follow the neglect of "a common cold!" Every case of tonsillitis began with "just a sore throat!" It's a wise plan to take aspirin after any undue exposure to bad weather, or whenever there is any chance that you've caught cold. If it's genuine aspirin it can't possibly hurt you; and how it does banish the aches and pains caused by colds, neuralgia, neuritis, lumbago, and even rheumatism.

Bayer Aspirin will insure your comfort through the worst cold season. The more susceptible you are to colds, the more you need it. Does not depress the heart.

Tractor Statistics

In number of tractors per 100,000 acres of crop land, California leads all states with 523. New York is second, with 492. Illinois has the most tractors on farms, Kansas comes second, and California is seventh on the list. In value of all farm machinery equipment, Iowa is at the head of the list, Texas is second and California is tenth. These figures are drawn from the government census report of 1930.

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Porcupines Destroy Trees
San Juan national forest officials have discovered a new enemy of trees—porcupines. The animals rub trees with their sharp quills, stripping a ring around them and causing them to "spike top," or die at the

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top first. Forest Supervisor Andrew Hutton estimated porcupines have caused as much damage to the timber during the last few years as that caused by fire. A campaign against them, he said, would be made.

CORRECT GROWTH for Children



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