

For My Mother.

Oh, mother mine,
What wilt thou for thy valentine?
The kindred of thy youth to love thee?
The sunshine of the skies above thee?
(Earth's kindred pass like life's brief story;
The sunshine's but a fleeting glory.)
The gleaming gold of earth to cheer thee?
(Away, dead gold, while Love is near thee!)
The stars of peace at even beaming,
To bear thee up where worlds lie dreaming?
To bear thee up no brighter star-gleams bring thee,
May heaven no brighter prayers that angels wing thee.
I send thee for thy Valentine
My heart's best gifts—my Love is thine,
Oh, mother mine!

—Carol Elmore.

A Valentine.

Love, is it winter?
How can I tell,
While thou art near me,
Weaving thy spell?
Never was May-time so flowery and sweet,
Never was June so with music complete,
Never did summer so linger and stay,
As now on this blessed Saint Valentine's Day.

Once—was it summer?
How could I tell?
While thou wert absent,
Sweet Claribel?
Never was autumn so withered and sere,
Never was winter so cruel and drear,
Never was night-time so gloomy and grey,
As that morning in June when my hopes died away.

Winters and summers
May come and may go;
Snow-drifts may deepen
And roses may glow;
Rivers may sob in their prison of ice;
Brooklets will sparkle and song may entice;
Daisies may spangle the field as they will,
Or the heart of the year may be silent and chill—
My winter forever is driven away,
And summer it is on this Valentine's Day!

The Original Valentine.

St. Valentine—the true historic St. Valentine—was a bishop and an early Christian martyr. He was clubbed and beheaded near Rome on February 14, A.D. 1270. Why he should have become the patron saint of lovers, and why the anniversary of his death should have been celebrated by tender messages and gifts no one knows, but so it is and has been for centuries.

And on the fourteenth of February, generation after generation continues to choose their mates. The old English custom was to draw lots for partners or "Valentines" as they were called. Many attentions, including a handsome present, were due to the lady from the gallant assigned her by fate. It was also held that the first unmarried person of the other sex one met on walking out on Valentine's morning was designed to be her future husband or wife. Many were the ruses of those whose affections were already engaged to come into contact "accidentally on purpose" with the right person. Pretty girls peeped from behind window curtains until the chosen one turned the corner. Unwilling swains feigned blindness or sudden business in some opposite direction when in danger of meeting the wrong lady. All kinds of rites were observed the night before, in order to bring prophetic dreams of the partner for life.—Ex.

LIFE ON THE RAIL
IS A HARD ONEC. P. R. Engineer's Experience
with Dodd's Kidney Pills.They Brought Back His Strength When
He Could Neither Rest Nor Sleep.

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 2.—(Special).—Mr. Ben Rafferty, the well-known C.P.R. engineer, whose home is at 175 Maple Street, is one Winnipeg man who swears by Dodd's Kidney Pills. "Long hours on the engine and the mental strain broke down my constitution," Mr. Rafferty says. "My back gave out entirely. Terrible, sharp, cutting pains followed one another, till I felt I was being sliced away piece-meal. I would come in tired to death from a run. My sole desire would be to get rest and sleep, and they were the very things I could not get. Finally I had to lay off work. When I started to take Dodd's Kidney Pills, and the first night after using them I slept soundly. In three days I threw away the belt I have worn for years. Dodd's Kidney Pills cured me."

Canada's Growth Since
Confederation.

(June 30, 1868, to June 30, 1903.)

The imports of Canada have increased from \$73,459,644 to \$241,214,961.

The exports of Canada have increased from \$57,567,888 to \$225,849,724.

The total trade of Canada has increased from \$131,027,532 to \$467,064,685.

Canada's imports from Great Britain (coin and bullion excepted) have increased from \$37,617,325 to \$58,793,038.

Canada's export of produce to Great Britain has increased from \$17,905,808 to \$125,199,980.

Canadian shipping tonnage has increased from 12,982,325 to 33,655,043.

Canada's railways have increased from 2,278 miles to 18,987 miles.

The deposits in the savings banks of Canada have increased from \$4,360,692 to \$82,013,120.

The deposits in the chartered banks of Canada have increased from \$33,317,879 to \$378,937,458.

In 1871 Canada had 3,650 seagoing vessels, sail and steam, only 399, however, being steam. In 1876 Canada had 8,554, with a tonnage of 1,634,333. In 1903 Canada had 11,282, with a registered tonnage of 2,085,568. In 1903 there were also 4,647 British and 12,403 foreign vessels cleared from Canadian ports. On inland waters there were in 1868, as many as 40,144 vessels, with a tonnage of 8,663,504. In 1903 there were 61,934 vessels, with a tonnage of 17,813,868.

In 1867 there were 5,693 boats and vessels of all kinds on the Canadian register of shipping, and in 1902 there were 6,824.

In 1867 it was given out that there were 68,914 warehouses, factories and stores in Canada. In 1901 there were 75,968 alone, producing goods valued at \$476,198,886 and paying out wages of \$100,663,650 to their 370,256 employees.

On June 30th, 1903, the warehouses of Canada contained goods valued at \$7,244,052, but the number of establishments is not given. The shops and stores of Canada are as numerous as the sands on the sea shore.

In 1871 the census of Quebec went into the number of centenarians in the province. Eighty-two people claimed to be over 100 years old, thirty-seven being male and forty-five female. Of these eighty-two, the ages of only

nine could be verified at over 100 years, and the oldest of the nine was shown to have passed 113 years in this vale of tears.

In 1868 the revenue of Canada was \$13,687,928 and the expenditure \$13,

486,092. In 1903 the revenue was \$86,037,069 and expenditure \$54,691,903.

In 1873, 155,680 acres of Dominion lands were dealt with, realizing \$28,586; in 1903, 5,308,473 acres were dealt with, realizing \$649,693.



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