

# OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER. ON VALENTINES!

It is now many years since I sent a valentine, and equally it is a long time since I have received one; but I can summon pleasant and even comical memories of those golden days. I have still in my desk a little picture that has been exactly thirty years in my possession; it is not much of a picture, if you will but I would be very sorry to lose it. On one side is a caricature of a lad, with a nose out of all proportion to his body; he is trying to raise himself sufficiently high upon his toes to look in through a window; he is only able to get the end of his nose over the sill of the window. On the other side are these very graphic lines:-

"Do you recognize yourself In this little impish elf, Standing on his toes." Just like you, where he should not, He has poked until he's got His awful ugly nose."

Now this is not exactly the certificate, or diploma, or character that one would be likely to keep for the edification of others; yet I prize it very much. Associated with it are memories that can never be effaced, and that must ever remain dear. The one who sent me that peculiar valentine has long since passed away, and passed away, if mortal can express an opinion with any degree of assurance on the future fate of the departed a candidate for heaven. In after years we have had many a pleasant laugh over the valentine that I kept so carefully; and, when I turn it up, as occasionally I do, it suggests to me a prayer for the repose of that young companion, who once thought that I was inclined to poke my nose into other people's affairs. Whenever St. Valentine's Day comes around I am inclined to ponder over this strange and olden custom.

**HISTORY OF VALENTINES.**—It might be very interesting to record the history of this custom of sending what are called valentines on the 14th of February, but the origin is so uncertain and the accounts given are so various that it would serve no purpose to enter into their details. At all events the practice is very old, and if I mistake not it was more general about the middle of the last century than at any period either before or since. This does not mean that valentines are not sent at present, and in hundreds of thousands. In fact, there are immense factories, or printing establishments in the United States, and especially in Germany, that are occupied nearly all year in the preparation of these missives. The output is simply enormous. It has been calculated that nearly one hundred million valentines of all varieties—from the one cent dabb to the five and ten dollar work of art are fabricated.

I have before me a small volume containing some of the most humorous and (if I may so call them) scientifically funny pieces of verse that it has been my good luck to ever read. They are valentines, written by the most serious poets of the "Nation." One of them, from Williams, to the "Poetesses of the Nation," is admirable beyond expression, and is as full of rich humor as aught that ever came from the pen of poet. He describes a trip to the stars that he, in imagination, had taken with the ladies who wrote those stirring ballads that gave such a glow to the literature of that day. He described "Desmond," (the non-de-plume of McCarthy), or a jaunt with one lady, and he told how he himself had escorted "Jessy," and this poetess, throughout the region of the skies. To his astonishment, however, on the next St. Valentine's Day, he received a reply from the sedate and generally solemn-souled author of the "Bell-Founder." The latter tells of a chat he had with the moon, in which that "lady" told him of the consternation in the heavens when a poet of the "Nation" was seen invading the upper regions in the company of a poetess. As a sample of the genuine wit, or humor, of the valentine, I will quote a few lines—but they are necessarily disjointed.

**DESMOND'S VALENTINE.**—  
"Oh! thou sly, audacious, inconstant, imprudent,  
Blood-shedding, verse-writing, medical student!  
Well! 'twas funny to see, as you swept thro' the sky,  
The stars wink at each other as they saw you go by;

While some were so struck by your comical ways,  
That they stopt in their course and grew fixed in amaze;  
With laughing poor Mercury threatened to melt;  
While Orion, the rogue, had to loosen his belt,  
And brandished his broadsword, and threatened to stab  
The Sun, who turned back in the sign of the crab;  
And such queer revolutions came over the whole,  
That the Bear, as I'm told, was stirred up by the Pole;

The Fishes got foolishly into the scales,  
And Comets (like leaders) deserted their tails;  
And the Archer exclaimed, as he saw you, 'Ho, ho!  
Madame Jessy, like me, goes about with her Beau,'  
And such curious confusion was caused on that day,  
That Saturn grew jovial, and Sirius got gay,  
And the Bull, of course, blundered and went quite  
And was found, like a cow, in the old milky astray way,  
Which curdled, of course, at such frolics as these,  
Till that wag, Capricornus, cried out, 'That's the cheese!'  
Then when you struck wildly your love-burning lyre,  
Aquarius cried, 'Water!' and Mars chanted 'Fire!'

**UTILITY OF HUMOR.**—To fully appreciate these sallies one would require to read the entire correspondence, or exchange of valentines, between writers whose serious poems have instilled patriotic fervor into thousands of hearts, and have drawn the tears of sympathy from thousands of eyes. They found a grave utility not only in valentines, but in all forms of laughter-creating compositions. What was it? They had undertaken the gigantic task of educating, of elevating, of inspiring a people whose heart had been crushed by long periods of misfortune, of reverses, of persecutions, of sorrows untold. They employed every means at their disposal. When they found the people full of hope, they sought to cheer them on by striking the patriotic strings of the harp; but when they saw Ireland broken in spirit, and

"When on the face of her children,  
They looked and beheld the big tears,  
Still stream down the grief-caten channels,  
That widen and deepen with years,"  
they determined that the smile should remove the tear, that the shadows, although not wholly vanished, should become golden, like the flush of dawn on the hills of expectation. Need I say that there was a grand utility in valentines of this class?

**THE CITY DEATH RATE.**  
The death rate in Montreal continues to be relatively low. Last week there were 90 deaths in Montreal; 81 Roman Catholics and nine Protestants.  
Among the causes of death were the following: Scarlatina, 1; typhoid, 1; infantile debility, 16; consumption, 11; bronchitis, 8; bronchial pneumonia, 2; pulmonary congestion, 2; pneumonia, 4; influenza, 2.  
When fortune turns a man down people turn up their noses.

## Notes and Cleanings.

**WAR ON SPIRITUALISM.**—Emperor William is so incensed at the spiritualist movement that he has issued a notification, through "The North German Gazette," that all persons in any way connected with spiritualists, faith healers, Christian scientists or kindred cults, will hereafter be rigidly excluded from the Imperial Court.

**BUYING COAL MINES.**—At a recent session of the lower house of the Diet, Berlin, the Minister of Commerce, Herr Moeller, made the interesting announcement that the Prussian Government would shortly submit a bill authorizing a credit of 55,000,000 marks for the purchase of the Westphalian coal fields.

**A SAFEGUARD.**—Let us again re-

peat that the Catholic paper is one of the greatest allies that Catholic parents can have in safeguarding the faith and moral of their children.—Sacred Heart Review.

**POLISH SENTIMENT.**—A special despatch from Warsaw says Polish national feeling runs so high that nearly all the Polish nobles invited to the Governor's splendid ball refused to attend, because the invitations were in the Russian language.

**THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL** of France is studying an important reform. It is the introduction of a stamped envelope for international use.

At present a person in Paris writing abroad can only enclose French stamps for a reply, which is useless.

**PURE WATER.**—Physicians have long agreed on the important bearing which pure water has on health and longevity, but it has remained for a Brooklyn experimenter to demonstrate picturesquely its power to give flexibility and elasticity to stiff joints and muscles. For more than a year Dr. A. L. Wood, of Brooklyn, has used nothing, he declares, but distilled water for drinking and cooking purposes, and he is now able to perform feats of agility which many young men find impossible. At the age of sixty-two he is as spry as he was forty years ago, when he was a firmly knit young fellow. He has recently demonstrated his ability in this way before the Hundred Year Club, the Vegetarian Society and several other organizations.

**CAMPAIGN FUNDS.**—The opening of the election campaign in France is a fruitful subject for correspondents of American dailies. One of them writes:—

There are two or three groups of politicians who are preparing to attack the existing government with might and main at the next election—the "Association of the Women of France," the organization known as "La Patrie Francaise," and the moderate and Catholic opposition led by the Honorable M. Plou—'ce brave Plou,' as Leo XIII. called him.

These various groups have collected subscriptions. Money has poured into their coffers by the hundred thousand, nay, by the million francs.

**DETROIT BANK SUSPENDS.**—The City Savings Bank has suspended payment, and it is in the hands of George L. Maltz, banking commissioner.

Asked the reason for the suspension, the state banking commissioner said: Frank C. Andrews, vice-president of the bank, and commissioner of police, is the reason. The bank had total deposits of something over \$3,000,000, and Andrews had more than a third of this money out on certified cheques and overdrafts.

**FUNERALS.**—London spends over \$5,000,000 annually on funerals.

**SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.**—Persistent rumors are afloat to the effect that proposals for peace have been addressed to the Government, on behalf of the Boers, says the London "Universe." Mr. Balfour, it is true, has declared in the house that "no proposal of the kind has reached us on the part of any one who is able to speak for the leaders of the Boer forces." But this statement, it is clear, does not exclude the possibility that there have been overtures made from one or more neutral quarters. As regards the Boer leaders in the field, we are at a loss to discover how any of their friends in Europe, including even Mr. Kruger himself, could well undertake to treat on their behalf. For the combatants are evidently more or less cut off from all communication with the outside world, and even if their friends did arrange terms of peace it is a question how far Steyn, De Wet, and Botha would regard themselves as bound by them.

**PROFITS OF SALOONS.**—Some interesting figures as to the profits of licensed victuallers dropped up at the hearing of a claim for compensation by the lessee of the Castle public house, Portugal street, Lincoln's Inn, London, which is required by the Government, the manager of the house explaining how a gallon of brandy bought at 13s 9d was retailed for £2 13s 4d. The jury's award was £7,414 10s.

**FATHER McCALLEN.**—At a reception and profession at the Mother House of the Good Shepherd in Philadelphia, the other day, at which Bishop Prendergast officiated, Rev. Father McCullen, S.S., of Baltimore, and for many years associated with St. Patrick's parish this city, delivered the sermon.

## Small Pox Prevalent.

All over the world an epidemic of smallpox, more serious than has occurred for years, is raging, says the New York "Herald." London, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and New York itself are afflicted. Thanks to years of intelligent submission to vaccination New York has a firm bulwark from behind which the disease may be resisted. There are at present ninety cases on North Brother Island—a gratifyingly low total. Only one case was reported to the Board of Health yesterday. The victim was William Edwards, of No. 219 East Forty-fourth street.

In Connecticut and New Jersey whole villages are swept by the disease and it is widely prevalent in Pennsylvania. At London plague ships, anchored fifteen miles down the Thames, are overcrowded and temporary barracks along the banks of the river, to accommodate eight hundred patients, are being erected. "Vaccination!" is the war cry of the Health Department of New York, and of every physician. With thorough vaccination, they say, smallpox would cease to exist, and even varioloid, which alone can live in a virus impregnated system, would become a rarity.

In London, where the disease is so prevalent that smallpox insurance has become popular, there were 3,723 cases between May 1, 1901, and January 10, 1902, and 897 were under treatment on the latter date. The death rate there is 14 per cent among those vaccinated, 65 per cent in cases of doubtful vaccination and 50 1/2 per cent in cases where there had been no vaccination at all.

In New York Commissioner Lederle's figures place the total death rate at 23 per cent of those afflicted. In January there were 184 cases of smallpox, 26 of them being fatal, as against 3,096 cases of measles, 1,276 of scarlet fever, 1,256 of diphtheria and croup, 1,033 of phthisis, and 120 of typhoid fever.

## Notes for Farmers.

**GRAIN SAMPLES.**—The Ottawa "Free Press" says:—The important work of sending out grain samples is in progress at the Central Experimental Farm. A large number of orders are filled daily in the green house, under supervision of Mr. Ellis. In this department also samples of seed grain are being tested as to vitality. Farmers all over the country have been invited by Director William Saunders to take advantage of both these lines of work.

Outside work consists mainly of drawing manure from the city. The road-making, which was of an extensive character, has terminated. A long distance has been improved by gravel, drawn from the vicinity, and the roads next summer will be much improved.

**THE DAIRY.**—At the annual meeting of Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, held in Whitty last month, it was stated by the president that more poor cheese had been made in 1901 than the previous year. The cause is due to the maker and not the material. Experience has shown that cheese must be of first quality as well as all other Canadian products before they can be sold on the British market with success. It behooves makers then to direct their attention to cheese manufacture. It is an industry that can reach great proportions in this country.

Professor R. Harcourt, chemist of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, has made some useful experiments in curing cheese. His observations have been closely on temperature. The results show that the cheese put directly into cold storage showed a gain of two per cent in weight over those kept in the ordinary curing room. As to quality, the same percentage was indicated in favor of the cheese put in cold storage and kept there. Those cheese kept at 65 degrees for one week and then cold stored stood highest in favor. The professors experiments point that 40 per cent, and the milder qualities may be conserved by judicious curing.

**BEEF MARKET.**—At the annual meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association of New Brunswick held at Fredericton, Prof. Grisdale, agriculturist, Dominion Experimental Farm, addressed the meeting at length on the very important subject of Requirements of the Beef Market. His remarks may be summarized as follows:—  
The demand for good beef is in-

creasing. It will continue to increase, and not merely at the same rate as in the past, but at a rapidly increasing rate. The reasons are obvious. The old country is bound to continue importing in increasing quantities. The United States, whence is shipped a very large part of the beef imported by the British Isles, is approaching the limit of production under present feeding conditions. The United States' home consumption is increasing much more rapidly than the supply. The exports must naturally decrease, and we are the natural heirs to their trade.

We must prepare for it. How? First, by learning what is wanted in quality, size and finish. Second, by learning how to feed economically. In quality, the British market demands an animal strong in loin, broad in the back right up to the shoulder, and well filled in the ham, with a medium length of quarter. The rib must be well covered with meat, and the whole carcass as free from unevenness and irregularities as possible. The bone must be fine, and the belly light. Coarseness, paunchiness legginess, and generally speaking, any roughness are very objectionable. These characteristics in a steer indicate that the weight of meat from the animal will bear a rather low proportion to its live weight. In addition, any coarseness or roughness means a class of beef not relished by the consumer, as it contains too much bone and gristle. In brief, the market demands the very highest proportion of good eatable meat on the very best cuts—the loin, the rib, the sirloin and the quarter.

The only way to get such quality is by breeding from good beef stock. The product of the dairy bull or dairy cow can never be of much value, for the export or any other beef trade. The product of a (Shorthorn, Aberdeen Angus, Hereford, of Galloway bull uncommon or even well graded dairy cows, is sure to develop, under fair conditions, into good beef, and may be expected, in many cases, to grow into most excellent beef. The use of such a sire as mentioned above on half-bred cows of any of the beef breeds guarantees a good frame for beef, and generally speaking, an aptitude for the laying on the right sort of meat in the right places. The size of animal required for the best trade is from 12 to 15 hundred pounds. A nice weight is 1,350 pounds. Such a weight suits the very best home market, and the top British market. Steers may weigh this at 2 years old; they should weigh it at 3 years old without fail. Too many never reach such proportions till four years old; and in some sections never get near such weights. The cost of transportation will always keep the size up to the above mentioned proportions, because the freight is charged so much per animal, not per ton.

## With the Scientists.

**ABOUT MARCONI.**—In discussing Marconi's feats, the "Electrical World and Engineer" calls attention (January 18) to his personal qualities as a factor in his success and especially in the confidence felt by so many electrical experts in the reality of his results in transatlantic signaling. It says: "It will be recalled that in the five years or more in which his name has been prominently before the world, Signor Marconi has at no time announced what he expected to accomplish, in every case the public having obtained knowledge of his plans only after they had been carried to successful completion. To this is largely due the confidence he has inspired and which caused his unsupported statement as to the reception of the famous signal at St. Johns to be accepted without question by all who knew of the man. At the dinner Prof. Elihu Thomson said that when asked by a newspaper reporter if he placed confidence in Marconi's statement, he replied, 'If Marconi said he did it, I believe he did'—which is the same reply made to a newspaper reporter by Edison; and Dr. Pupin, in his remarks at the dinner, said that he would not now believe that the signals had been received if he did not know Mr. Marconi personally. Surely this is a case of a virtue meeting with merited reward."

**AWATER KITE.**—A Swedish inventor named Sjostrand has constructed an ingenious safety appliance for vessels, which he calls a "water kite." As described it consists of an aluminum plate suspended by a wire and #9 balanced by weights that the motion of the vessel causes it to maintain a fixed depth so long as the speed remains constant. It acts, in short, like a kite except that it swims down-

ward instead of flying upward. Its depth remains substantially the same for speeds of from five to fifteen knots. When the kite strikes an obstacle, it is detached from the wire, the change in the tension of which causes an alarm-bell to ring. The kite, however, remains attached to a second wire by which it can be recovered."

## HINTS FOR GIRLS.

### HOW TO PRESERVE HEALTH AND GOOD COLOR.

**Pale, Sallow or Anaemic Girls Restored to the Bright Freshness of Youth by Natural Means—Good Health Within the Reach of All.**

From the Sun, Orangeville, Ont.  
Miss Maggie Brownlee, of Orangeville, is a young lady well known to the residents of the town and greatly esteemed by all her acquaintances. Like thousands of other young girls throughout Canada, Miss Brownlee fell a victim to anaemia or watery blood, and for a time, as she says herself, feared she would never again enjoy robust health. Experiences like Miss Brownlee's cannot fail to be of benefit to other pale and anaemic girls, and for this reason she kindly consented to give a statement to the "Sun" for publication. "My illness," said Miss Brownlee, "came on very gradually, and at first it merely seemed as though it was a feeling of depression and tiredness. I kept getting worse, however, and finally had to give up a good position. I was at times troubled with a throbbing, racking headache; my appetite gave out; the least exertion tired me, and my heart would beat painfully. My limbs seemed to feel like weights, and at other times there was a sinking sensation which I can scarcely describe. I was treated by a good doctor and took a number of remedies, but without any improvement in my condition, and I began to fear that I was doomed to be an invalid. One day a friend who called to see me spoke very highly of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and what she said interested my mother so much that she bought a few boxes. I began taking them, and in the course of a few weeks there was no room to doubt that they were helping me. I continued taking the pills for a couple of months or more, when I felt as well and strong as ever I had been. It is about a year since I gave up taking the pills, and I have not since felt the need of any medicine. I think Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a grand medicine, and should be taken by all pale and feeble girls."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills make rich, red blood with every dose taken, thus restoring the bloom of health, and the brightness and freshness of youth to pale and sallow cheeks. Through their action on the blood they cure such diseases as anaemia, nervousness, headache, rheumatism, dyspepsia, St. Vitus' dance, heart troubles, diseases of the kidneys, etc. These pills also cure the ailments that make the lives of so many women a constant misery. Sold in boxes, the wrapper around which bears the full name—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Can be procured from druggists, or will be sent by mail, post paid, at 50c a box or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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**TRUE WITNESS**  
Pig. & Pub. Co. Ltd., Montreal.

Sometime ago I read of reading a highly entitled "In Tuam gomery Carmichael, ber rightly, was con diplomatic service i therefore, with delig upon the same autri bution to the "C under the heading "Work," the Congreg chele Dei Santi. As reviews commencing tations from the o work or works to be case I feel that I c my aim by taking i sentences in the a In closing the a write of the living a and fear to say too The full history of t (of Saint Michael will be written in a tion. But to us of the great lesson tha is Catholic, Apostol she is also still Ho meanest and worst change our hearts th is ready as of yore, the means of making ous exchange." Th and consoling truth last sentence, and story of the now fan tion which the auth one of the best illu could be found of the Great Good Shepher think that I should the account that the the conversion of young atheists, and organization of the Saint Michael of the could I expect this p for me the entire a quently, the only w difficulty seems to b synopsis of the intro story, and then relat language of the auth

**PADRE GIOVANNI** ing remarks are disj taken from the text chael's article, and s ther as to form the of the story of Padre the city of Leghorn t young in years, one vance of God, and I old-time work of sanc as to be scarcely t Giovanni Battista Sa name in the world; del Sacro Cuone in r a member of the ancl able Order of the Dis the Most Holy Trinity, St. John of Malta at Valois, in 1198, for of captives from the Giovanni came to I two and a half years priest of San Fero Church of the Trinita situated in a quarter called "Venezia," on its canals, and is the tion of the city, as we of rough characters: t chists in the parish; i of all the elements bl tery hostile to the c ministers.

**HORRID IMPIETY** quote directly from the question, commencing loving:—

"When Padre Giova charge of the parish a deplorable condit few men should come many should be o against the church, w sible if terrible, but tious evil of all was th a society of boys bo oath never to enter Church, and to preven boys from doing so. reprobrates took a par in offending the ears tians by the most sho blasphemy. They wou church doors during G and shout 'Abasso Ge so la Madonna!' The scouts and, so to spe the church with a cor and prevent other boy to Mass.' At this tim only eleven boys in t who had the courage t sacraments, and they tice be described as y

**SALVADORI LISMA** leader of these young founder of this juvenilic society was a wiry, dare-devil of a boy called Lismano. He was a