

The Real St. Valentine.

St. Valentine was a veritable man, a priest and martyr of Rome during the ltter pant of the third century. legend concerning his death is thus given in the Aurea Legendea. He was summoned before the Emperor Claudius II., who was called Gothicus from his victory over the Goths. The emperor demanded why he had departed from the worship of the ancient divinities. Valentine replied, "If thou hadst knowledge of the grace of Jesus Christ, thou would'st deny the idols and worship the very God." The emperor was at first impressed by Valentine's boldness and earnestness, but finally delivered him to Asterius, the provost of the city to be kept in prison. When put in the prison he prayed, "Lord Jesus Christ, which art the light, illuminate this house in such wise that they that dwell therein may know Thee to be the very God." The provost overheard him and said. "Thou sayest that thy God is light. If He make my blind daughter to see, I will believe in Him." Through the prayers of Valendaughter of Asterius received her sight, and he and all his house became Christians. But finally by the orders of the emperor, Valentine was beaten with clubs and then beheaded upon the Flaminian Way, a road leading to Rome. This was upon February 14,

There were two other Valentines who were canonized by the Roman Church. One as an Italian bishop and martyr, the other a Bavarian bishop of first half of the fifth century, known as the first bishop of Passan.

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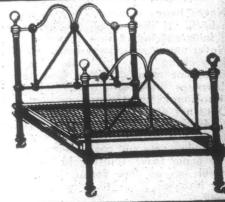
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