

A VALENTINE.

(To my daughter.)

Sweet Valentine ! My sweet Saint Valentine !
True lovers' patron saint of thousand years !
I come with rosary of jewelled tears,
To tell my secret heart before thy shrine.
O, hear my being's prayer, Saint Valentine !
And ease my heart of all those jealous fears
That cruel absence brings to lovers' ears ;
And filling it with rapturous love divine,
O seal it in love's missive sweet with myrrh
And kisses born of this thy festal day,
And bear it on thy radiant wings to her,
My life ! My all ! My sweetheart, far away !
So when she opens it, the dear surprise
Of Love shall kindle in my darling's eyes.