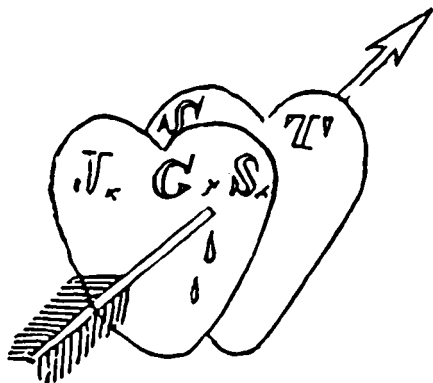


From Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Simcoe to Miss Sarah Townsend ; Written and delivered at Oyster Bay, L. I., St. Valentine's day, 1779 :—

VALENTINE.



Fairest Maid where all are fair,
 Beauty's pride and Nature's care ;
 To you my heart I must resign ;
 O choose me for your Valentine !
 Love, Mighty God ! thou know'st full well
 Where all thy Mother's graces dwell,
 Where they inhabit and combine
 To fix thy power with spells divine ;
 Thou know'st what powerful magick lies
 Within the round of Sarah's eyes,
 Or darted thence like lightning fires,
 And Heaven's own joys around inspires ;
 Thou know'st my heart will always prove
 The shrine of pure unchanging love !
 Say ; awful God ! since to thy throne
 Two ways that lead are only known—
 Here gay Variety presides,