

OUR PUZZLE POEM REPORT: "SAINT VALENTINE."

SOLUTION.

SAINT VALENTINE.

Lamented Saint! in olden days,
Recurring spring proclaimed thy praise,
And plighted friendship, gifts of worth,
Thy birthday hailed with happy mirth.
Then paper off'rings, tinsel gold,
Replaced the costly gifts of old;
Yet, at the postman's loud appeal,
Maid, mistress flew in eager zeal!
Alas! no more the flimsy show
Gleams in shop windows all a-row,
And empty, lonely is the shrine
Of kindly old Saint Valentine.

PRIZE WINNERS.

Seven Shillings Each.

- Rev. S. Bell, Grove Park, Chiswick, W.
Amy Briand, 47, Hanley Road, Finsbury Park, N.
Alice J. Chandler, 11, Spencer Square, West Cliff, Ramsgate.
Dr. R. Swan Coulthard, Clanricarde House, Coventry.
Mrs. Deane, Lismogle, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.
Louie Drury, 27, Edith Road, West Kensington.
B. G. Fletcher, Glen Gordon, Colwyn Bay.
Edith M. Howard, 29, Beaconsfield Villas, Brighton.
Lizzie Peacock, 14, Hungerford Road, N.
A. Phillips, 15, South Hill Park, Hampstead, N.W.
Henzell G. Robson, 7, Oxford Terrace, Gateshead-on-Tyne.
R. M. Thomas, The Beeches, Uzmaston, Haverfordwest.
Mrs. Thompson, 14, Rutland Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool.
Mina Wallan, 68, Coatsworth Road, Gateshead-on-Tyne.
G. S. Wilkins, Westcroft, Trowbridge.

Special Mention.

Edith Ashworth, Edith K. Baxter, M. A. C. Crabb, Marie E. Hancock, J. Hunt, Ellen M. Price, Ellen C. Tarrant.

Most Highly Commended.

Mary Bolingbroke, Ellen Thurtell, George Wotherspoon.

Very Highly Commended.

M. S. Arnold, Mrs. Ashby, A. E. Ashton, Elsie Bayley, Lily Belling, Nanette Bewley, M. S. Bourne, Mrs. J. Brand, E. H. Brookfield, Edward Selby Bruhl, Agnes B. Chettle, E. H. Duncan, Mrs. E. L. Hamilton, Ada J. Harrison, Helen M. Hill, Elsie M. Jay, E. A. Knight, Carlina Leggett, W. McAllister, C. Y. MacGibbon, L. Masters, Nellie Meikle, "Morwenna," E. R. Oliver, Rev. A. B. Orr, Hilda Pickering, Mrs. Prestige, Elizabeth Rose, Annie Saunders, Ethel J. Shepard, Fanny Shepard, L. W. Siffken, Mildred M. Skrine, Gertrude Sterling, C. E. Thurgar, Camilla F. Walker, Annie Wheeler, Dorothy Wheeler, Louisa Whitcher, Emily C. Woodward, Elizabeth Yarwood.

Highly Commended.

Eliza Acworth, Emma Adcock, Annie Ainsworth, "Annette," Margaret Bailey, Adelaide G. Barnes, Albert H. Barnes, M. J.

Champneys, F. Chute, Leonora E. L. Clark, Rebecca Clark, J. Clemens (admirably designed), Mrs. A. E. Coombs, Louisa Coxhead, Mrs. Crossman, Jessie K. Field, C. M. A. Fitzgerald, A. and F. Fooks, Winney Foster-Melliar, Henrietta French, Edith E. Grundy, Charlotte Hayward, Florence Hayward, Gertrude E. H. Hind, M. Hodgkinson, Miss Hogg, Elsie A. Hooper, Rose A. Hooppell, M. Innocent, J. Jackson, Florence Johnson, L. Laurence, Clare E. Law, Mrs. Lister, Mildred M. C. Little, E. Mastin, May Merrill, E. C. Milne, Chas. A. Murton, Henrietta M. Oldfield, Mary Packer, A. E. Payne, Hannah E. Powell, Edith M. Prentice, Janet M. Pugh, Louise B. Rahe, Maude Rattray, Ada Rickards, J. Clarke Richards, Alexandrina A. Robertson, A. C. Sharp, A. B. Smith, Mrs. Snell, Mary Swidenbank, Constance Taylor, Bettie Temple, Violet C. Todd, Vera H. Walker, W. L. Wishart, Alice Woodhead.

EXAMINERS' REPORT.

It is hardly possible to say anything new. This is unfortunate because we have arrived at the point where the reiteration of the old things becomes tiresome. Now it is obvious that if we cannot write anything new, and if we will not write anything old, there can be no report at all. Nothing could be clearer—or more unsatisfactory. Let us therefore review the situation with the calmness bred of despair.

When we were much younger we knew something about valentines, but if we ever received one it has long since been forgotten. It is even more pathetic to reflect that those we sent have shared the same fate. A wiser generation has learned not to scatter the evidences of affection abroad in such an impulsive manner. Indeed, the birthdays, the wedding-days, the Christmas days and the other ordinary present-giving days which cross the path of the average man are enough to satisfy his most generous instincts. So it comes to pass that, on the 14th of February, the postman arrives at the ordinary time. But all this has nothing to do with our report.

It really seems as if it were not at all easy now to make a difficult puzzle. (The cynically inclined will probably say that it seldom is easy to do a difficult thing, but cynicism is always cheap and generally very foolish too.) Certainly "Saint Valentine" was not difficult, and many almost perfect solutions were sent in. Still, mistakes were occasionally made, and some of the more common ones may be mentioned:—

"Gifts" and "showers" for *spring*: "proclaims" and "replace" for *proclaimed* and *replaced*: "offerings" for *off'rings* and "upstairs" for *mistress*. That this last error should have been possible says much for the ingenuity of the solvers. The man in the mist is staring up at the sign post. Hence is evolved "upstare"; add the *res* following and you obtain "upstares," and if that is not the equivalent of *upstairs*, what is it the equivalent of? The obvious reading is, of course, "mistres" and the conversion of that into *mistress* is quite a simple matter as compared with the evolution of "upstares." "Waitress" in the same connection is not good. A wait does not usually serenade a sign-post.

"Gleams in the windows all a-row"—not "arow"—was a common and natural rendering of the tenth line, but the more careful solvers noticed that the windows were shop windows.

In the last letter of the next line is a small *r*. At least it was a small *r* when it reached the printer's hands, but some ink in the wrong place quickly converted it into a capital *P*.

Happily the accident did not matter much, for the solvers who failed to obtain *shrine* were in a very small minority.

Several solvers spoil their chances of success in various unnecessary ways. Some omitted the title; some ignored rule 1; some transgressed rule 2 (one solver does so regularly!); some wrote "of olden days;" many wrote "friendship's," and others, quite inexcusably, "with eager zeal." So long as such things can be, it will be possible to keep up the puzzle competitions in their present form. But, in spite of many urgent requests, we do not say it will be advisable, though it is hard to resist such an appeal as the following:—

"Dear Puzzle Editor, who's shy,
And forced from haunts of men to fly,
To dwell in lonely majesty.
Come back! come back! we loudly cry,
Again our feeble brains to ply
With pictures strange, and words awry;
We love your puzzles quaint to try
The shapes so strange and letters high.
Let us not in our sorrow die!
For puzzles still we, longing, sigh,
Come back! Come back! we loudly cry!"

A. E. J.

FOREIGN AWARDS.

COFFEE-MAKING.

Prize Winners (Half-a-Guinea Each).

Elizabeth MacPherson, Umbango, Tarcutta, New South Wales.
Mrs. J. Whitton, Little Oyster Cove, Hobart, Tasmania.

Very Highly Commended.

Effie Russell (Melbourne).

Highly Commended.

Elizabeth Lang (France), Katie A. Massey (Russia), Mrs. S. F. Moore (W. Australia), Helen Shilstone (Barbados), Mrs. Sprigg (Cape Colony).

Honourable Mention.

Bessie Alexander (Jamaica), Annie Barrow (Switzerland), Winifred Bizzey (Canada), Bertha Dyke (Buenos Aires), Mabel L. Hanington (Canada), Annie Jackson (Canada), Ina Michell (Cyprus), L. A. Russell (New South Wales), Annie G. Taylor (Brisbane), Jessie M. Ward (Switzerland).

PROSPECTUS PUZZLE.

Prize Winners (Half-a-Guinea Each).

Elizabeth Lang, 17, Rue Bayard, Paris.
E. Nina Reid, North Taieri, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Commended.

Mrs. Morison (Canada), A. Robertson (Canada), Mary Ruttonji (India).

CONTENTMENT.

Prize Winner (One Guinea).

Elsie V. Davies, Wheatland Road, Malvern, Victoria, Australia.

Highly Commended.

Ethel M. Davies (Australia), Helen Shilstone (Barbados).

Honourable Mention.

Ina Michell (Cyprus), Hilda D'Rozario (India).