

now making enquiries with a view to similar purchases.

In addition to the Library, let attention be paid to the winter evening class-room; and where a reading-room is practicable, let it be supplied not only with some of the best newspapers and literary magazines, but with the best illustrated mechanical and technical periodicals, such as the *London Engineer*, *Mechanics' Magazine*, *Practical Mechanics' Journal*, *Artizan*, *Builder*, and *Chemical News*; and the *Scientific American* and *American Artizan*. These would soon become as interesting to the practical man as the "latest novel," and be infinitely more instructive. Go to whatever city, town or village you may, a large number of young men will be

found loitering about the offices and bar-rooms of the hotels and inns for want of something better to do. How important to make available local talent, and attract those young men to the Institute Lecture Room, or to attend to readings or recitations. Many young men, to our knowledge, have been saved to society, and become useful members thereof, by means similar to those here indicated. To the young man away from home and home influences, and placed amid the discomforts and temptations of the boarding house, the various departments of the Institute should afford a place of healthful resort, instruction, and recreation. Let it be seen that this is practically the case.

Hearth and Home.

A TALK WITH THE YOUNG FOLKS ABOUT THE MONTH.

"Why, if here is not a picture of Cupid, acting as post man, and delivering valentines! How funny to find this in the ONTARIO FARMER!" Plenty of exclamations like these will no doubt be made as eager hands open the February number of this Journal, and curious eyes light on the monthly talk with the young folks.

But why is it thought surprising that a friend and counsellor of the young should have something to say on such a subject? Is there a booksellers' window from end to end of our Dominion, that is not, at the date of our present writing, he-decked with all sorts of pictorial sheets, meant to be folded into letters, and sent by our brisk-looking little postman? Are not most of our young readers either intending to send valentines or expecting to receive them, or both? Ought not something to be said now and again on a subject that appears to be so generally interesting?

"Well," Mr. Editor, our circle of juvenile readers are asking, "what do you think of observing St. Valentine's Day? Is it right, or is it wrong?" We answer, "your question can't be met by a simple 'yes' or 'no.'" "That depends"—is the best reply we can give in a breath.

It has become a custom for young folks to exchange letters of love and endearment on the 14th of February. In this there is nothing to find fault with. Young people were made to love one another, and to find happiness in social intercourse with each other. These pages will be read by many young folks who are in, and perhaps nearly if not quite out of their teens. With such, "falling in love," is a common occurrence, and quite proper. Be truthful, modest, honorable, wise, and faithful in this, as in all other of your doings, and neither God, the Bible, nor any good intelligent friend will frown upon you in it. Where sincere affection, truth, modesty, and fidelity exist, there can be no objection to their finding



suitable expression at any proper time. Why should'nt they find an expression, if custom invites it on St. Valentine's Day?

But what we have just written is too sober and sensible for most of those who employ the post-man on the 14th of February, and therefore fault-finding and reproof must be the chief business of this article.

First, what abominable caricatures are most of the pictorial sheets that hang in the windows of shops where valentines are sold! How "hard up" for money those must be who display such wretched prints for the sake of making a cent or a dime each by their sale! For one pretty, deli-