



POLLYS VALENTINE

Polly by the cake new! Thinking no one night O to catch the dainty Jew—
Kiss her on the cheek
Very cautiously and still I
Tiptoe, making not a sign,
And I heard a whisper
"Patience, she's sure to have professed!
What will you do to Polly?
Will she scorn my love's offered
Or will she love me?
—Detroit Free Press.

Grandma's Valentine

THE postman the postman!" cried Dorothy, dancing excitedly about the nursery. "He is coming here; I hear his whistle! Oh, nurse, please may I go down and see if he has brought any valentines?"

"Not with your cold," said nurse, shaking her head, and so Dorothy had to be content with peering over the stairs, while Donald clattered down and came back again with his hands full of envelopes, large and small.

"One, free, six for Dorothy!" And how happily the children were as they opened the envelopes and explained the pretty cards and verses which they contained. And then Sister Nell came in to show them her valentine, a great bunch of beautiful roses, and when Dorothy asked her if she could guess who had sent them (for guessing is half the fun on St. Valentine's day), she grew quite red, and said, "Why, no, of course she couldn't be should she?"

And just then dear grandma came in to see what the children were making such a racket about. And of course they showed her their valentines, and Nell pinned one of her most beautiful roses on grandma's black dress; and then, quite unexpectedly, Dorothy looked up into the sweet, placid old face, and asked, gravely, "Grandma, did you ever get a valentine?"

Grandma did not reply for a moment, and then she stopped and kissed Dorothy on the forehead, and something very bright and glinting fell among the "brown curls." "Yes, dear," said grandma, softly, "lots of them, but I had one which I think I must tell you about some time."

"Oh, tell us now," cried all the children at once, and Nell, who had been

to play whist, when my real reason for coming is to see you." Your grandfather was always bold as a young man," said grandma, apologetically.

"Well, your grandfather used to come evening after evening, and he played long games of whist with the old people, but he used somehow to get in a little bit of a row with the old people, and he seldom had a chance to see each other alone. And then the 14th of February came around, and I had scores of valentines, and your grandfather, being a young man had to deliver his own, and it was no easy task to do this without being seen, which would have spoiled the fun. Well, just toward midnight he happened to be looking from an upper window, and I saw a tall figure creeping along by the garden wall. He had his hat drawn over his eyes, and he was looking at me with a dark, suspicious eye. I caught just a glimpse of a dark mustache, and I assure you, my dear, it was all I could do to behave with becoming dignity, when he saw me. He called out, and came upstairs with a square envelope addressed to me.

"Oh! I know!" cried Dorothy, clapping her hands. "It was your grandfather's valentine!"

"Yes," said grandma, "and here it is," and she drew from the box an old-fashioned envelope addressed to "Miss Nell, care of Mrs. W. S. Sherd, 1234 Main Street, New York City."

She handed the envelope to Nell, who, reverently, drew forth the valentine. It was a playing card, the queen of hearts, and over the back had been neatly pasted a sheet of white paper on which were written the following lines:

"My Kate is surely Queen of Hearts,
And I will swear she's queen of mine.
Let's play a game where Love is trumps;
Sweet Kate will be my valentine."

"The children all declared the poetry to be very beautiful," cried Dorothy, "and then, 'But grandma,' cried Donald and Dorothy together, 'what is that queer round hole right through the middle of the card?'"

"Sure enough, there was a hole which had pierced card and envelope just as the children had said.

"Well, my dear," said grandma, "we are coming to that. It was very soon after St. Valentine's day that your grandfather spoke to my grandfather about writing me this valentine, and he was very much surprised, although our love-making had been going on for some months right under his eyes. And he hesitated a good deal, but finally, as there was no real objection, he gave his consent."

Grandma paused here for a few moments, thinking, I suppose, of those happy days, now so long past; and the children had to remind her that they were waiting for the rest of the story.

"It was just after that," continued grandma, "that Ben had to go away on business for a few weeks, and he begged me to write a picture made of myself to him on his return. I dearly loved to tease him in those days, and shortly after he had started on his journey, I wrote to him by mail, and enclosed a fine picture made for him with which to surprise him on his return, but he would not give me back my valentine. 'Do you think I should send it to him?' I am going to return the first present you ever gave me? No, indeed, though I did make it myself. And he decided that he should always carry it next his breast."

"Well, the following spring we were married, and then we began to build a house. Ben planned the house himself, and I went with him to Boston to select the furniture. It was while we were there, Kate, Kate, the news that made our heart stand still.

"Fort Sumter had been fired upon! We

know how we women endured the long strain of that waiting for news. If it had not been that your mother was such a very young infant, I believe I would have followed my husband as soon as I did, preferring anything to the terrible suspense of waiting quietly at home.

"And then the dreadful slaughter began. But you, children, must wait until you are older to hear about that.

"One day I was walking restlessly up and down the piazza of my little home, when I saw a man in a top hat and a long coat to sleep as best I could without a jolt, by (for I could no longer sing), when a soldier came up the path leading to the house. I knew him well, although he was greatly changed, for he was a neighbor and had been in Ben's company. I knew at once that he was the bearer of bad news, and as he approached I knew I could not speak, but just held out my hand. He laid a small package in it, and I said, 'God pity you!' and that was the last I knew of my dear Ben. When I came to myself I still held the package in my hand, and when I had the courage to open it the first thing that met my eyes was your father's face, seen by the bullet which had pierced one of the bravest hearts that ever shed its life blood for our country."

There was silence when grandma had finished speaking. Sister Nell was crying, and Donald whistled; and Dorothy, too, crying, let's put away our valentines till to-morrow,"—George Curtis in New York Ledger.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COUSIN

LIVES IN PENNSYLVANIA AND BEARS THE SAME NAME AS THE MARTYR.

In Churchtown, Lancaster County, Pa., the cousin of President Lincoln will live. He is also named Abraham Lincoln and is now 90 years old.

In general appearance he is not unlike his distinguished relative, having the same erect, upright form and high cheek bones. Mr. Lincoln is a farmer, and owns a fine farm near the White Hall, near the Berks County line. He never saw his cousin, the latter was in the White House.

In the same region of Pennsylvania, a few miles from Reading, is the ancient home of the forefathers of President Lincoln. The house was built by Mordecai Lincoln 100 years ago and is still well preserved. Not far distant is the home of Daniel Boone was born. Living within hailing distance of these two places, before both the Lincolns and Boones moved southward to Kentucky, was the future President was born, was the Hanks family, from which sprang Nancy Hanks, the mother of the President.

In 1750, at the same time when the Boones and the Hankses set off from the same neighborhood for the South,

THE FARM AND HOME

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

How to Raise Chickens Successfully—The Packing of Fruit for Market—When to Cut Corn Fodder—General Notes About the Farm.

Mrs. W. S. Sherd, in Practical Farmer, tells how she manages chickens to make them profitable. She says: "Before setting my hens I cleared the nest of the old filling, threw in two or three handfuls of fresh slacked lime, put in fresh straw and sprinkled more lime all through the straw. I dusted each hen, well with lime before placing her on the nest; again I dusted her and at hatching time a louse was to be seen. Keep 'em cooped for a week, feeding chicks table crumbs, scraps of bread soaked in milk, curd and occasionally corn meal-molasses, but not slop. When a week old I let them out on pleasant days after the dew was off and fed on wheat screenings mostly, though I fed some corn and corn meal, keeping milk of water near the coop. All this I never had to do with two very important things in giving them a start were their freedom from lice and the feeding of proper food. First get rid of the lice, then give them good food. One of the best ways of raising chickens. For winter feed raise plenty of beets, carrots, turnips, cabbage, squashes and potatoes, and depend less upon grain, as the roots are so much cheaper and relished so much by the chickens. They will get more eggs by this plan of feeding. If you feed oats for a change, cook them. I cook the roots, chop them up fine, then stir bran into the water they were cooked in, salting and peppering with salt. One of the best ways of using eggs for my trouble."

Shipping Fruit.

Those who ship fruit to market may not be familiar with the methods of handling fruit by the carriers and merchants. Fruit started from the farm should be apparently well and properly packed. One of the most important points in the packing of fruit for market requires judgment and experience. There is something to learn and every grower should give some attention to securing information in that direction. One of the most important points is to have the fruit uniform, and of the same quality at the bottom of the basket or box as at the top, buyers always making close examination.

Cutting Down Corn Stalks.

When cutting down corn fodder one point to observe is to cut only the corn in the bright, not to cut when the stalks are too yellow, but cut when the blades are green. The ears will be dry and be as valuable when foddered at the green stage as to leave the corn standing until the blades begin to change. It is sometimes convenient to get into the field to cut the corn when it is ready, which causes a delay of a day or two. If the weather is dry and warm the delay may greatly affect the value of the corn fodder. This delay is sometimes made in a manner to prevent being thrown down by the wind, as dirt is not conducive to its appearance or quality. The fodder should be removed to an open shed as soon as it can be done, so that it may be kept from getting soiled. If fodder is carefully preserved it will be more readily accepted by stock.

The Asparagus Bed.

The soil for an asparagus bed should be made rich before planting it. In the first place, the bed should have good drainage, and should be shaded from the sun by a heavy dressing of old manure. Do not use fresh manure, as this will be filled with weed seeds, and, besides, it is not so well adapted to plant nutrition as old rotted manure. Having the bed ready for use, the trenches should be opened about six inches in depth and the plants set in every direction. The stalks should be shaded from the sun, which must be done by sifting down fine soil, and then firming on the roots, and then filling in between the rows with soil to grow among the plants. To maintain the fertility, supply a coating of old manure, two or three inches in thickness, over the whole bed every year. The stalks should be shaded from the sun by a heavy dressing of old manure. 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