

A VALENTINE.

If I could bring the brightest gems From Nature's richest treasure mine— Diamond, ruby and emerald, Shining pearls that the waves have kissed— I'd string them in one radiant twist To make my love a Valentine.

WOMEN FENCERS.

Why They Use the Foils and How They Do It.

An Effective Aid to Beauty and Health— Popularity of Fencing in Europe— Mrs. Langtry an Expert in the Art.

"Ah, madam, you will never make a fencer until you abandon those abominable heels." So saying the polite fencing-master laid aside his mask and pointed his foil, half scornfully, half sadly, at the little blocks which projected from a point near the middle of the soles of his pupil's slippers, and which had just tripped her up in a lunge.

The costume was certainly one which would have gained the young woman applause on the stage. It consisted of a white flannel jacket, double-breasted and padded across the chest to deaden the force of her assailant's thrusts.

As may be supposed the pupil did not have much difficulty in placating the offended master, and the lesson went on. But in future the high heels were discarded and in their place came slippers without any heels at all, which are the only proper foot-gear for either man or woman while fencing.

"Not only do I feel the good effects of my morning lesson all through the day," she said, in a general tuning up of the whole system, but I find that my fencing is particularly valuable to me in my profession. It gives me a command over my muscles and a suppleness that are invaluable on the stage."

M. Senac is as proud as a peacock of his pupil. He gives her lessons in single-stick as well, and an extremely pretty picture she makes, twirling her light cane about her head. She calls it the art of defending one's self with an umbrella. Senac wants her to give a public exhibition with the foils when she comes back to New York.

The number of women who handle the foils is larger than is generally supposed. Even in New York where fencing has become a popular amusement only within the last few years, fencing-masters find plenty of female pupils, although these are generally actresses.

Actresses are credited—probably justly—with taking more care of their beauty than any other class of women. Now, women who are really careful of their beauty should not neglect their health, and no exercise is more healthful than fencing.

In Continental Europe the women are more fully awake to the advantages of fencing than they are in this country. The Empress of Austria, whose daring horsemanship, love for dogs, and general sporting proclivities are so well known, adds an admirable proficiency with the foils to her other accomplishments.

Spain has a torpedo cruiser, compared with which the grayhounds of the sea are but as waddling ocean poodles. This remarkable vessel is the Destructor recently launched at Glasgow, which on her trial trip developed the speed of about 27 1/2 miles an hour.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

It is estimated that there are in round numbers five million professed Spiritualists in this country.—Chf. Age Herald.

In New South Wales male school-teachers are paid from £72 to £156, and female teachers from £40 to £89 per annum.

The American Tract Society published during the past year 213,115 tracts, and card packages and wall rolls, etc., to the number of 6,369,804.

Dr. T. L. Cuyler says in the New York Evangelist that "it would be well if all pious parents would read Dr. Hodge Bushnell's 'Christ an Nurturo' once a year."

The Jewish Messenger says that the curious specimens of prayer lately published may be added to a modern rabbi: "Oh, Lord, Thou rememberest we said last week," etc.

The total number of communicants at Trinity Church, New York, is 1,350 of whom 575, representing 410 families, are from the working-class.

A revivalist at Louisville was interrupted the other day by a crying baby, whose mother started for home with it. "Don't take the baby out," the preacher cried, "I wish there were fifty babies here. God bless the mother for bringing that baby. Let it cry; I can talk louder than babies can cry."

According to the latest published statement, under the authority of the Baptist Church in New York State, it appears that there are in the State 866 churches, or four less than last year, and that the membership amounts to 116,068, indicating, as compared with last year, a gain of 1,831.

Those who are striving to devise means for the preservation of American forests are being well abetted by the school-authorities in many localities. The "arbor-days" of the schools and colleges are bringing the youth of the land to an appreciation of the value of trees, and are awakening strong public sentiment in favor of energetic means to check the processes of wasteful denudation.

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser gives this hint to educators: "We have heard of one very sensible school-teacher who has discarded geographical textbooks for a season, and in the meantime has made her scholars as thoroughly familiar as they could be, with the means available, with the situation, history, physical features, material resources and political conditions of the Soudan, Russia, England, Afghanistan and other countries, the scenes of great international contentions. This appears to be more practical and profitable than in committing to memory the names of the principal rivers in A. A. ka, of the capes on the west coast of Ireland and the county towns in the State of Kansas."

WIT AND WISDOM.

A dog that knows where to find a bone is wiser than a scholar who has not learned how to make a living.—John Swinton's Paper.

Always look at your worries through the wrong end of an opera-glass. Examine your joys with a microscope.—Phil delphia Call.

It takes two weeks to recover from the effects of pepper thrown into the eyes. Be satisfied to take these figures instead of the pepper.—Detroit Free Press.

"Will you pass the butter, Mr. Fogg?" asked Brown. "Every time," replied Fogg. The landlady says it was the way Fogg said it that made her mad.—Boston Trans ript.

"Thoughtlessness. Time to me this truth hath taught— 'Tis a treasure worth revenging. More attend from want of thought Than from any want of feeling."

"Money will make us work, but money will not make us give our hearts to the work—nothing but love for our work or real good principle can make us do that.—John Ingelow.

"Rather Embarrassing. Boy—'Why, your face isn't very long, is it?' Visitor—'Not very, why do you ask?' Boy—'Cause pa said you came from Chicago here on it.'—N. Y. Graphic.

"That article you had in last week's paper was the funniest thing I ever read," said a lady to an editor. "I am glad to hear you say so." "Oh, not at all. It would make a dog laugh. I thought my husband would split his sides."—Arkansas Traveler.

"Never go back," advised a writer. "What you attempt to do with all your strength." This may be good advice, but it won't work satisfactorily. When a young man, for instance, attempts to court a girl he may do it with all his strength, but he goes back, all the same. He goes back about six nights a week.—No. Pistoun Herald.

RUPTURE PERMANENTLY CURED.

We will pay your fare from any part of United States to Portland and hotel expenses while here if we do not produce irrefutable evidence from well-known bankers, doctors, lawyers, merchants and farmers as to our reliability in the cure of reducible rupture or hernia, without knife, needle or sharp instrument. You are secure against accident from the first day until cured, and the cure guaranteed permanent or money refunded. You can work every day, no matter what your occupation, without danger or inconvenience. Consultations free. Office hours from 10 to 4 daily. Correspondents will enclose stamp for reply and address Drs. Forden & Luther, rooms 8 and 9, First National bank, Portland, Oregon. Mention this paper.

When Baby was sick we cried for Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Try hot flannel over the seat of neuralgic pain, and renew frequently.

No lengthy advertisement is necessary to bolster up Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

De Lesseps has offered Germany a two-fifths interest in the Panama Canal.

Go to Towne & Moore when in Portland for best Photographic and Crayon work.

TRY GERMEA for breakfast.

Red Star Cough Cure. Absolutely SAFE. SURE. PROMPT. 25 Cts. Free from Opium, Emetics and Poison.

St. Jacobs Oil. The Great German Remedy For Pain. Cures Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Headache, Toothache, Sprains, Bruises, etc.

Hall's Sarsaparilla. Cures all Diseases originating from a disordered state of the BLOOD or LIVER. Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Boils, Blotches, Pimples, Scrofula, Tumors, Salt Rheum and Mercurial Pains readily yield to its purifying properties.

WAKELEE'S. The Best is the Cheapest. SQUIRREL AND COPER EXTERMINATOR, IN ONE-POUND AND FIVE-POUND CANS.

GRAND OPENING NICOLL THE TAILOR. The Grandest Display of Choicest Woolens ever shown in the City. English, French, Scotch and German Fabrics in endless variety for Suits to measure.

CASTORIA. For Infants and Children. Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me. H. A. ARCHER, M. D., 111 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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