Fashions and Society.

ST. VALENTINE'S Day has come and gone, and the usual practical jokes have had full swing, even here in Honolulu. In the Eastern States St. Valentine's Day plays a most important part, beginning in childhood's happy hour. Many a heart flutters at the tap of the postman, and Fate in the shape of a letter causes joy or sorrow forever.

Much mischief has the little god Cupid to answer for

Mrs. Frear, I think, was the only one who had a regular St. Valentine's luncheon, and as usual with that charming hostess, everything was in most perfect taste. The guests were requested to bring a sentiment on paper, suitable for the occasion, and much merriment was caused by some of the verses, original and otherwise.

I also heard of a valentine which was sent to a rather elderly old girl by a most wicked and mischevous young man. It ran, I believe, something like this:

"Your bright, piercing glances,
Your beauty enhances,
And throws me in trances,
And my heart fairly dances
At thoughts of the prize I'd seize,
Might I go on my knees
And your soft hand but squeeze;
Oh, you'll be mine!
My own Valentine!!!!"

The young man told me he labored far into the night in order to produce this effusion, but the result has far exceeded his anticipations, for he has been taken seriously—and I am glad of it—and is trying to borrow money enough to get to the Coast. In his own elegant language he most emphatically declines the honor of the elderly one's hand and pocketbook. "Death first!"

So there is a semi-tragic side to St. Valentine's Day right here in Honolulu. It may be a lesson to refrain from practical jokes on practical but susceptible maidens, at least, but I doubt it.

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Costume dinners are the rage. The inaugural one was given by a famous French woman of wit and taste. It was a splendid affair, the hostess choosing to receive her friends in a magnificent Marie de Medici costume, while other noble and fashionable guests appeared in the costume of princes, peasants and commoners of all countries and ages.

Another of the season's diversions is the presentation of Japanese plays by society amateurs. Since Sada Yact has had such a vogue in Paris that enterprising Japanese has been favored. One of the smartest costumes is trimmed with the so-called Japanese embroidery.

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A great deal of importance centers nowadays on the small accessories of dress. Cravats and collars all have their special forms, the turned over style of the latter being perhaps the most frequent.

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Lace transparencies for the throat are brightened with gold and gems, while panne stocks are new enough to be extensively worn. The fancy stocks have inlet bits of lace and embroidery to add to their richness. Four-in-hand ties are shown among the novelties.

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The ornateness of the flannel blouse is something at which to marvel. A few years ago when some few thrifty souls first exploited the possibility of the flannel blouse nothing but scorn was their portion. Now even the most elegant women have some of them in their wardrobes. Literally dreams are the white pressed flannel of the finest quality, with silk embroidered cuffs, collars and bands. A pretty way to adorn these blouses is by the addition of a drawn-thread embroidery and the use of the cross stitch and herringbone lines. One fetching blouse of red cleverly utilized narrow velvet ribbon, drawn through holes cut in the cloth. Some blouses are cut low to admit the use of gimp. This allows one waist to appear under many different guises. Possibly the most popular one is the gold-trimmed one of red.

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Every well dressed woman now makes quite a study of suitable jewelry to wear with certain gowns. There is so much color in the dainty neck chains, safety pin brooches, etc., that they require careful selecting. If the brown-eyed woman wears amber or pink coral, let all the items of jewelry correspond; the same with the blue-eyed woman who deepens the color of her eyes with blue stones. But do not wear an amber chain with a turquoise brooche, or a blue neck chain with a pink bangle, etc. Keep to the color of one stone, even to the tiny pins that secure the lace jabot at your throat. Pink coral is extremely fashionable just now, as well as expensive. In the language of precious stones it is supposed to guard against danger and evil. Strings of coral will be much worn as watch and lorgnette chains.

The best dressed Parisians are not overcrowding themselves with jewelry, but select what is in keeping with the occasion. The chic society leaders almost invariably wear a stone which either tones with or matches their frocks, with the exception of pearls, which look best of all with all black and all white. Beautiful strass buttons and buckles are being worn at the back as well as in front of gowns; buttons are still an important factor in dress and show many exquisite designs of the period of the three Louises. Small chains with pearl or diamond drops at the end are very fashionable just now, and form a charming finish to a Marie Antoinette fichu of muslin and old lace, whilst the long chains of stones have by no means gone out.

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The hairdressers are jubilant and over-busy, for the very good reason that the fashionable form of coiffure has become too elaborate for any woman to attempt the puffing and combing and curling of her own silken locks.

Last autumn the pride of the pompadour was punctured, and only the expertest fingers can twist and coil feminine tresses after any of the new modes. There are just now no less than four classic ways of wearing one's locks. These four ways are owing chiefly to the prevalence of several widely different types of gown and hat, and to dress one's hair out of harmonw with one's gown is to commit a grievous anachronism indeed. For instance, if one is wearing an evening dress cut frankly on the pattern that prevailed in the 60's and adorned with bell-mouthed sleeves, a pompadour headdress or a Pysche knot would be as shocking as a folding bed in a Louis XVI boudoir. The proper arrangement with the aforementioned type of gown would be a coiffure pinned rather low upon the back of the head, and a straight around coronet of blossoms and delicate green form foliage.

On the other hand, for the proper adjustment of a squash hat and the framing of an oval face the hair must be rolled forward to almost obscure the forehead. This is technically and properly called the Romney wave, and is most becoming to youngish faces. From the full, soft roll of hair that almost touches the eyebrows the tresses are deeply onduled back to where a little upstanding tuft, which in the evening serves to add inches to the wearer's slender height, and by day it is the anchor to which her velvet hat is made secure.

Handsome young matrons and the very stately girls affect with their ball and dinner dresses the coiffure de l'Opera. For this a dash of hair powder is called into service; silver, gold or pure white are equally popular and effective, and when the whole silky suit is softly drawn up to a small knot on the top of the head, a couple o. tall black feathers, springing from a rose of gold or tissue, are set a trifle to one side of it.

For the morning and indoors the head dress is simple indeed. The full gypsy side rolls, a white, straight central part, a couple of long, pearl-topped combs and a soft coil at the rear is the most modish way of combing one's self for breakfast and when serving as a luncheon hostess.

In Paris, whence we get our hair powders and the Romney and Opera coiffure, it is not the fashion to wear hair ornaments. The American woman is, however, growing amazingly independent of the Paris fashions, and she wears sundry coquettish little trifles in her admirably arranged head. Big balls of gold threaded and plaited black tulle, from which a black and gold aigrette springs, is one of her favorite ornaments. A flight of blue and black spangled gauze butterflies hovering on wires among a constellation of wired brilliants, is another captivating device. Three tiny white ostrich tips dusted with gold powder and springing from a jeweled hairpin top quivers and glistens over many heads at the opera houses and on ball room floors, while there is no decoration more popular than a coronet of five gauze and silver roses mounted about the topmost loop of the Romney coiffure.

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A young matron here in this town or some other town who—well, her enemies say she flirts outrageously, and even her friends admit that she takes rather more of an interest in persons of the masculine gender than her husband would like if he knew about it. One of the objects of her especial interest sent her just a trifling remembrance for the jour de l'an. It was a stick pin, fashioned in the shape of two tiny intertwined hearts, with a pearl in one of them. He sent it up by messenger, and just as she was admiring it, and the sentiment which prompted the sending of it, in came her husband.

"What's that, my dear?" he asked.

She is a woman of quick wit. A woman with her ways, be it said, needs to be.

"Oh," she said, "I didn't mean you to see this till next week. It's a scarf pin I bought for your birthday."

The gentleman took it and gave thanks. Next day when he came home to dinner his scarf was adorned with a scarf pin of quite another pattern.

"I knew you wouldn't mind, Julia," said he as he called her attention to it, "but as I was passing the jeweler's today I went in and exchanged the pin you gave me for this. I knew you'd rather have me have one I'd like to wear, and men don't care for any pattern so sentimental as hearts, you know. The jeweler's name was on the box; but, my dear girl, I wouldn't have had you buy me anything so expensive if I had known it. You mustn't be extravagant, dearie, or you'll bankrupt me."

Personally, I think this story ought to be published in tracts, for the moral of it fairly cries aloud.

⁂

Mr. and Mrs. George Davies gave a dinner party at Craigside Saturday evening last.

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Miss Martha Afong, who left on the transport Lawton, for Manila, to wed Lieutenant A. J. Dougherty, is next to the youngest of the Afong girls. She met her fate two years ago when the troops first passed through here on their way to Manila. Miss Martha has proved that a girl can keep a secret—especially when it is her own—for not a word did anyone know of this romantic affair until last week. Lieutenant Dougherty will be fortunate indeed to secure so charming a wife, but it does seem a pity that so many lovely girls are leaving Honolulu for green fields and pastures new. Miss Afong was chaperoned by a prominent naval lady and will remain in her charge until the wedding, which will take place at once upon her arrival at Manila.

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Mrs. J. T. McDonald gave a delightful tea on Wednesday afternoon. The house was prettily decorated and a very pleasant afternoon was spent.

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Mrs. Joseph Cooke was the hostess of a charming luncheon Tuesday, given in honor of Mrs. Cooke.

⁂

Mrs. Carmichael entertained a number of friends at luncheon on Monday in her usual charming manner.

⁂

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gilman gave a most enjoyable poi supper Tuesday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Cooke, at which nearly eighty people were bidden. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the house was filled to overflowing, and everyone had a royal good time. The supper was served on the spacious lanai and enjoyed with much energy. After supper the guests played euchre until a late hour. Mr. and Mrs. Gilman entertain charmingly and are most popular in society. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Damon, Mr. and Mrs. George Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Allan White, Mr. and Mrs. Genie, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Tenney, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Waterhouse, Mr. and Mrs. James Castle, Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Wilder, Miss May Damon, Mrs. Alexander G. Hawes, Jr.; Dr. and Mrs. Clifford Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Isenberg, Miss Isenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Pond, Mr. and Mrs. Faxon Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. S. Wilder, Mr. Chas. Atherton, Mr. Jack Atkinson, Mrs. Mary Gunn, Mr. Walter Dillingham, Mr. Woods and many others.

⁂

Mrs. Mary Gun gave one of her popular dances Friday evening. There were many society people present. I understand Miss Edna Gunn will leave Honolulu shortly to remain in Oakland, Cal., with friends, for some time to come.

⁂

The San Francisco News Letter says that all Manila sits up and takes notice when Mrs. Ashton Potter, nee McNutt, appears at a social function. Such gowns as this bride has in her trousseau have not been seen Manilaward. Small wonder that the Manilaites are impressed, for even the favored few here who had glimpses of them were enthusiastic. There isn't any use pretending that Ruth McNutt did not get an unfair share of the family beauty. But when it comes to figure and carrying of her clothes Mary can make almost any girl in town wilt. So it's not alone her gowns, but the way she wears them, that is winning such genuine praise for Mary McNutt Potter. Ruth and Mrs. McNutt are expected home shortly with plenty of wedding cake for the girls to dream on.

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Genevieve Goad Martin and her brother Frank are going to turn their backs upon us for many a moon, to come. Not till they have traveled the wide world over, the seven seas across, will they return.

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In the recent decorations of the Legion of Honor, given at Paris in connection with the Exposition, San Francisco receives her share of glory. Michael H. De Young and Wiliam G. Irwin each being accorded the rank of Chevalier in that honorable order.

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Mrs. William Irwin appeared in the role of hostess for the first time this season last month, when she gave a luncheon at the University Club in San Francisco.

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Mrs. F. M. Swanzy entertained at dinner Tuesday evening. The guests of honor were Mr. and Mrs. Stetson.

⁂

Mrs. Frear gave a St. Valentine luncheon Thursday. Beautiful wreaths were hanging from the chandalier, on which were suspended Cupids, and leis of pink carnations were at each plate, while baby ribbons tied with golden hearts mingled with the ferns. The menus were large hearts and appropriate sentiments. The guests were Mrs. Lowrie, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Tenney, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Swanzy, Mrs. Hatch, Miss Kaufman.

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"When the League day at home was proposed about two years ago in the Kilohana Art League, it seemed a very impossible undertaking," said Mrs. Montrose Graham to me the other day. "Finally the question was solved when Mrs. Kinney came to Honolulu," continued Mrs. Graham. "Her valuable work of organizing a series of talks given at the League on days at home under the auspices of the Literary Circle, has given the members much pleasure. She is assisted by other members, but at least one of them emphatically wants it known that they are mere helpers and that it has been due to Mrs. Kinney's executive ability that the League has been able to give these charming entertainments. Now I think that I have corrected a wrong impression that might have been given out and made peace for the tearful member who is trying to find out what executive ability is.

⁂

Mr. Tarn McGrew gave a dinner party Tuesday evening, the guest of honor being the Princess of the Carnival, Miss Campbell. Among those invited besides the Princess, were Dr. and Mrs. Charles Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Tenney, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Damon, Mrs. Chambers, Miss K. Widdifield, Miss C. Walker, Miss Kaufman, Miss Schaefer, Mr. George Potter, Mr. Wesley, Mr. Wright.

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Miss Griswold gave a charming supper party after the concert Thursday evening in honor of Mrs. Allan White, Mr. Harold Mott-Smith and Mr. Prouty and Mr. Dillingham. The supper was distinctly a Valentine affair. The invited guests were Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mott-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Wilder, Mrs. Mary Gunn, Miss Parker, Miss Thrum, Miss Lawrence, Mr. Prouty, Mr. Walter Dillingham, Mr. Isaac Dillingham and Mrs. Lewis Gear.

⁂

Miss Irmgard gave a dancing party Friday evening.

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Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Wilder gave a most enjoyable poi supper on Friday evening.

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The engagement of Miss Gretchen Kope and Mr. Albert Waterhouse is announced.

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Mrs. Stetson has been quite ill for the past few days. The bad weather has had that effect upon many.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bowsly are at the Hawaiian Hotel.

⁂

Judge Hartwell speaks very pleasantly of his eastern trip, barring the severe illness of his son.

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Mrs. F. J. Lowrie gave an informal tea Friday.

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The Literary Circle will hold its fourth entertainment on Saturday, February 23d. Mrs. Harold Mott-Smith will lecture on "A Little Trip Through the Netherlands."

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Maskers at the Mardi Gras ball will please use the Miller street entrance exclusively.

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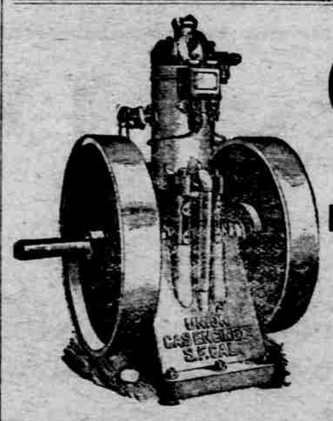

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