A Spectacle the Like of Which May Never Again Be Seen. Petroleum, or "rock oil," according to the present theory of its origin, is a distillate from the remains of marine life, both animal and vegetable. It sometimes finds its way to the top of the ground and forms springs, as does water; but it is more frequently held down, at a great pressure, by hard, impervious, rocky strata, lying above the oil-bearing beds; and when in such cases a hole or "well" is drilled down to it, through the superincumbent mass, it gushes up with great force.

Within the last ten years the "holy land" of the Parsees has become the seat of a vast petroleum trade. Baku is now a grand kerosene oil refinery. The industry is not yet as fully developed there as in our own oil region of Personness of Pers of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has nearly thirty thousand oil-wells, against five hundred at Baku. But the five hundred Baku wells are discharging as much petroleum to-day as the thirty thousand American wells.

At Baku the oil is nearer the surface of the ground than in Pennsylvania. American oil-wells average nearly fifteen hundred feet in depth, while in Baku the average depth is scarcely six hundred feet. In America, too, the diameter of oil-wells is but about five inches, while those at Baku are rarely drilled less than a

The discharge of oil and gas from some of the wells at Baku has been so profuse and violent that a mere statement of the facts seems too marvelous for belief. These facts, however, come to us well attested.

In one case where a well was being drilled, the auger, or drill, at a depth of five hundred and seventy feet, suddenly penetrated to the oil strata and was blown bodily out of the shaft with tremendous violence. With a roar that could be plainly heard at a distance of two miles, the gas blew off for some minutes, and was followed by an equally terrific blast of oil.

The derrick which had supported the drill was seventy feet in height. The jet of oil and sand blew away the top of the derrick and rose two hundred feet above it. All efforts to check the discharge by blocking the shaft proved useless. Log plugs, and even huge stones, were thrown aside like feathers. Throughout September and October this geyser continued to discharge oil at the rate of nearly two millions of gallons a day. Pools and lakes, broad and deep enough to row boats on, were formed on the adjacent plain, and a good-sized brook of petroleum flowed from them down to the

The sand which was vomited forth with the oil accumulated in huge drifts, burying the neighboring derricks along with several shops, tanks and other buildings. The sand and oil drifted first to one side, then to the other, according to the direction of the wind, and a vast mound was formed. having a saucer-shaped depression, or crater, at the center, whence the jet

This center orifice, or crater, constantly obstructed by the sand, presented the appearance of a wildlyseething caldron, which it was dangerous to approach. All the fires in the vicinity were extinguished to prevent explosions and conflagrations. Thus, day after day and week after play, presenting, it is stated by those who saw it, a truly grand and memorable spectacle.

It is estimated that not less than five hundred thousand tons of oil were spouted forth during the months of its unrestricted flow, nearly all of which ran to waste! In America this crude oll would have been worth at least five millions of dollars; yet the unfortunate company that drilled the well, being quite unable to control it, was ruined by the damages which it occasioned to its neighbors. Unwittingly a monster had been let loose which no one could capture or curb.

The Russian Government was at length appealed to for assistance, and two imperial engineers visited Baku, to see what could be done to this end. They were able to devise nothing which succeeded, however, and it was not till late in December of that year, when the geyser had spent its first violence, that a resident engineer sugceeded in fixing a cap of boiler iron over the mouth of the orifice and effeetually "gagging" it -Youth's Com-

FLORAL DECORATIONS

How to Make a House Look at Its Best for Weddings and Parties.

It is truly amazing to know the amount that is spent for floral decocations every year. During the present senson 'flower weddings' are the correct thing, and are as pretty as they are novel. One bride, whose name was Lilly, had the whole house decorated with lily of the valley. Another, whose name was Rose, used roses for the decorations. Pansles, with their almost human faces, make very effective decorations.

The old-time wedding bell has been done away with and the umbrella, wishbone, four-leaf clover and other new designs have taken its place. Among the latest things are found the portieres, which are formed of dozens of ropes of smilax, dotted here and there with resebuds. A canopy of smilax makes a most effective and simple bower of green.

Large balls, suspended by almost invisible wires, are as odd as they are pretty. The frame is composed of wire and filled with wet moss; then it is filled as any other design is. Ferns Lately the talents were called in, and, and scarlet flowers are especially pretty for such a design. not make
A pretty idea is to decorate a house was \$537.

throughout with the same color; for instance, yellow or pink. Roses, car nations and other flowers of the same shade are used. White can be used with any color and plenty of ferns, smilax and other green.
At a protty wedding that occurred

in November, when flowers were performance of certain duties. The fee scarce and high, the decorations were mostly of arbor vitæ and the red, bitter-sweet berries. The dining-room certificate. The fee for burials is \$2, was festooned with ropes of arbor and \$3 if at a distance. In this case vitze, dotted here and there with the a so a certificate entails an additional bitter-sweet. In the parlors there fee of \$1. For publishing the banns were ropes of green and a canopy of of matrimony, the fee is \$1 in adsmilax, under which hung a four-leaf vance. Nothing is charged for bapclover design. Bouquets of roses and them, but if a baptism certificate is decarnations were scattered here and sired \$1 is charged.

An apple-blossom wedding, where the entire decorations were the sweetdesigns, banks, bouquets and baskets make lovely decorations. Fancy shells filled with moss and flowers and an occasional fern make the most graceful and effective decorations. All sorts of odd shapes can be used. and where they will not hold water very well, fill with wet sand before ing here?" Officer-"l arrested him putting in the flowers. Nasturtiums again as he was lavin' the theater-are especially pretty for decorating a he was pickin' a pocket."—America.

house and will last so long. They an be grown in water all winter, or earth, and their foliage is so graceul. Sweet peas and mignonette are particularly pretty in a slender, glass se. Rose-bowls or jars of blocked lass are much in vogue now, and

an be found in all styles and sizes. At a recent wedding reception that was given by a bride who had every hing that love or money could buy, it was noticed that the house was decorated with garden flowers. The parlor was made fragrant with lender vases and rose-bowls, filled th sweet peas, and the dining-room as gorgeous with the many colored sturtiums.—Carrie May Ashton, in Farm and Fireside.

HUMOROUS

-It is a queer coincidence nd numerals are both natives of Arabla -- Exchange.

The profession of rat-catching has not yet been invaded by women. -Burington Free Press.

-There is talk of the oyster getting nto a trust. Down with the oyster .-Yonkers Statesman. There is no full stop to the furnace cold weather. It always requires the

lon. - Boston Gazette. -One who delights in carrying a orfumed handkerchief is seldom withut a scent in his pocket.

ne other day to get her bangs immed, and found the barber to be e French count with whom she flirted at the seaside during the summer, her bangs and she cut him.

ooking over his essay)-"What do ou think of it?" Critic-"Well, the irst time I read it I was favorably inssed; the second time less so, and fter the third perusal I put it down bosh." Graduate-"That's all

-Conductor (after a collision in reat harm has been done. We rav to the rear end of a freight train id if some of you will come out an. n clear the track we can proceed our journey." Fat Passenger-'onductor, are there any more freight ins on ahead?" 'Oh, I suppor "Well, let's stay where we a e."

-One day a clergyman's wife, preing to give a collation to her and's association on the fel ing Monday, and not being in the it of doing extra work on Sunday. I her cook that she had better boil ham for the sandwiches on Satur-, lest if boiled on Monday it might too warm to slice. "W'y," drawled cook, "Miss W'ite, yer don't think ad be wicked ter bile it Sunday, do er, of we biled it slow?"

which you state that the young les of our city are 'more boldly in notoriously given to flirtation inquired, abruptly.

in those of any other town of the street of m you durned quick, too." Ed-"-"Really, I meant no harm. ught something ought to be dore attract strangers to the city."-

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

rre Haute Express. ..

-There will be thirty-five Japanese ttending Ann Arbor University and igh school this year.

-Methodist students at Michigan iniversity are to have a \$35,000 deinational headquarters.

The faculty of the University of ennsylvania have voted to admit dents without distinction of sex to al the college courses. This action equires the indorsement of the trus-

-It is said that there are more cusalem itself, the number being and giving in trade, happily we moved to a distant street.

I enjoyed a respite of two months in my new home unmolested by the trading erty-nine synagogues.

-The Presbyterians and Episcolians have decided to erect subantial headquarters at Chautauqua efore another season. The Presvterians will build near the heart of hautauqua with stone material.

-A Chinese guild is to be estabhed in New York where the 500 pils in the twenty-five Sundaycols in that city may find enter-inment and instruction during the o Chinese are to be provided.

-New York churches have a not usual feature of a table placed near platform for the purpose of stenoghers. The young men are not porting for the papers, but are mostclerks in law offices who have idled shorthand and go to church r practicing purposes. Some of r practicing purposes. Some of five years have passed since, and to this em reduce the sermon to typewrit- day I have not seen her or "dem chickens" g and sell copies to members of the ngregation.

-A novel method of raising funds as been tried by a Sunday-school in turlington, N. J. Some time ago o new five-cent pieces, called "talents," were distributed among the scholars and teachers, with instrucons to do whatever in reason could to increase the sum. notwithstanding all the scholars did not make returns, the sum received

-The correspondent of a Toronto aper says that one of the reasons by the English church is so weak in anada is its peculiar system of fees. n the diocese of Toronto there is an thorized schedule of fees which the lergy are entitled to exact for the or marriages, for instance, is \$4. An additional fee of \$1 is exacted for a

scented apple blossoms, was truly a -Justice-"Officer, what is the pretty scene. Field daisles used for charge against this prisoner?" Officer -Justice-"Officer, what is the - Well, yer honor, I was called into the theayter to arrist him for disorderly conduct." Justice-"What was he doing?" Officer-"They told me ho was hissin' the villain in the play for stealin'. I let him off after quietin' him." Justice-"Then what is he doTHE TWO-HEADED GIRL.

In the way of twins, says a New York letter to the Buffalo Express, you have probably seen the so-called two-headed girl, Millie-Christine, consisting of two negresses poined together by nature much more compoined together by nature much more com-pactly than were the famous Siamese twins. Millie and Christine have been shown by Barnum and other exhibitors for many years, and are now aged about forty. The Siamese brothers married two wives, as you will remember, and lived in South Carolina after retiring from the museums until the death of one from disease was im-mediately followed by that of the other from fright. A post-mortem examination proved that physicians had been right in saying that a surgical separation would saying that a surgical separation would have been fatal. In the case of Millie and Christine even the suggestion of parting them can not be considered, because they are joined from their hips nearly up to their are joined from their hips nearly up to their shulders. But it was not a question of freak-ish anatomy which led me to write of these women. Ex-Judge Dittenhoefer is a New York lawyer to whom show people go with many of their knotty legal questions.

"But no case was ever presented to me

that was easier to decide, and yet more curiously novel," the lawyer recently said to me, "than that of Millie-Christine. The death of Dick Fitzgerald, through whose show agency much of the business of the museums was done, recalls this matter, which came to me should a year age, but her which came to me about a year ago, but has never been published. Fitzgerald called at my office with a letter from Millie-Christine equesting me to find out whether, if the were to marry one and the same man, it would constitute bigamy in the eye of the law. It was evident enough, al-When Miss Flora McBullion en-though they did not say so explicitly, that an offer of joint marriage had been made to them and that they contemplated an acceptance in case the tripartite union would be lawful. They urged that they had al-ways been advertised as 'a two-headed grrl,' the claim being made on their behalf that they were one individual with two he refused to recognize him. He cut her bangs and she cut him.

—Graduate (to critic, who has been looking over his essay)—"What do looking over his essay looking over his notion of doing any thing wrong, legally or religiously. Fitzgerald wished my professional opinion for the guidance of the twins. Of course, the theory that they were one person was entirely untenable, and I had no difficulty in forming an opinion that their joint marriage to one man would be higher for him. It would ight, then. I've only got to read it man would be bigamy for him. It would enter, you know."—Lawrence Amerian.

—Conductor fafter a collision in -Conductor (after a collision in thich every body got bounced half if the question ever came before a court, my across the car, but no one was murt)—"Gentlemen, 1 find that no only the one marriage ceremony which present harm has been done. We ray second one, although it might have occurred a minute later, would be invalid, and would possibly subject the husband to prosecu-tion. At the same time I reminded Fitzgerald of the late Charles O'Connor's remark when he was asked whether it was legal to shoot a burglar to death on sight. "The law would say hang you for it," he exclaimed, "but no public presecutor or judge or jury would punish you for it; so shoot the burglar." After the same fashion I advised Fitzgeraid that Millie-Christine's prospective husband might be sent to State's prison for bigamy, but that nobody would be supported by the control of the would ever undertake to do it. However, the two-headed girl concluded to live un-

> HOW DELIVERANCE CAME. Peace Purchased at the Expense of Bright Red Jersey.

I was sitting at my desk writing one day says a writer in the Philadelphia Times One Way to Boom.—Chairman of when I was startled by a voice close beside journed "indignation meeting"— me. Looking up I saw a tall, slim negro liourned "indignation meeting" me. Looking up I saw a tall, sain negro girl, wearing a most dilapidated costume of girl, wearing a most dilapidated costume of many colors and pieces. Her face was pinched and ashy, her eyes a kind of muddy hazel, the peculiar combination giving her an unusual appearance. "Got any ole clo's yer wanter trade?" she

"Better git somer dese here berries; dey's mighty nice. I'll take mos' any thing for 'em. Gimme some cle med'cine ef you got any. Some uv us is purty nigh always R. S. WALLACE, sick."

I shuddered to think of the consequences that might result from my venture in a second-hand drug establishment, but began to contemplate my stock of old clothes, as she seemed so determined to "trade." It was an evil hour, indeed, that led me to be-gin a series of "trading," that grew with the weeks and strengthened with the months until years even had pussed over my benighted head. Scarcely a fortnight passed after I first made her acquaintance that I did not have a visit from my ubiquitous berry woman. She brought berries and fruit in their season, and nuts and chickens in their season; in fact, she

claimed all seasons for her own.

When I had begun to despair of ever ridding myself of my "old man of the sea," when I saw a long vista of years stretchews in New York City than in ing out before me in which I must be trading and giving in trade, happily we moved Transacts a general Real Estate Business

At last, one day in early fall, she reap peared upon the scene with renewed vigor, bringing a basket of nuts and one chicken I was compelled to sacrifice a plate of "vict-uals" and an old hat on the altar of hospitality and the above-mentioned articles During my search for the hat Josephine spied, hanging in my closet, a very pretty red Jersey, which a few stitches might render very useful, and immediately began to devise ways and means to possess her-

self of it.
I at first told her I didn't want to dispose of it, but, suddenly, with the inspiration of a providential interference, I conceived a asium, bureau of information, an in-mary, and attractions peculiar to dear departing jersey, but a bright hope for the future, I took the jacket down and gave it to her, saying: "Here, Josephine, you may take it, and

pext week bring me two chickens for it." "Yessum," she responded, engerty. "I'll fetch you dem chickens er Chuseday, sho. You kin 'pen' upon gittin' 'em. I ain' tole yer no lie yit, an' I ain' goin' to tell yer She departed, to leave me in peace, for

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A Typographical Error. Talking of typographical errors, the Bur-lington (Vt.) Free Press does not remem-ber seeing a more horrible specimen of this class of blunders than one which appeared in a Massachusetts paper not long ago. At the close of an extended and highly culogistic notice of a deceased lawyer the reporter wished to say that "the body was porter wished to say that "the body was taken to Huil for interment, where repose the remains of other members of the family." By mistake a letter "e" was substituted for the "u" in Hull, changing the sense of the sentence to such a degree that no extra copies of that issue of the paper were ordered by the family of the dead laws at



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