A LOVING WORD.

Only a loving word,
Which cost us nothing to say!
And yet in the web of tangled life
It shines like a sunny ray.

Only a loving word!
But it made a weak heart strong,
And helped a tempted soul to choo
The right instead of the wrong.

Only aloving word!
But it brightened a gloomy day;
Or, speken to some one weary and sick,
It charmed their pain away.

Only a loving word!
But it made the angels smile:
And what it is worth perhaps we'll know,
After a little while.

BUSSIAN FIRE FOUNTAINS.

The great town of Baku has now a coast-line of about 6 miles, sweeping round a well-protected harbor crowded with shipping—ships of all tonnage, all fitted with tanks to store the oil that pours from ahundred fountains. From time immemorial this spot has been deemed sacred by the Ghebres of Persia, who recognise in the flame of the native naphtha a sacred fire symbol. Here for at least 2,000 years the sacred earth-fed flame has burned unceasingly, and the temple of Surukhani has been a center of reverent pilgrimage. This native naphtha flows from the soil in so pure a form as to burn without rectification, and is indeed so inflammable that the naphtha gas occasionally ignites spontaneously and plays in pale flames above fissures in the rocks. On stormy nights these flames have been seen to blaze up with an awful spirit light, which, in the eves of the Ghebres, invested the spot with special sanctity—a sanctity intensified by the fact that here, according to Arabian chroniclers, a great volcanic mountain was in full action till 800 years ago. Since then the thermal forces have expended their energies in spouting oil and therewith saturating the desert plain of the Apsheron Peninsula; and truly a more repulsive site for a great city could not well be found.

It is a plain about fifteen miles in width and projecting thirty miles into the Caspian from the point where the Caucasus terminates on its shores. The whole surface of the ground is black with waste petroleum which in cold weather hardens to the consistency of asphalt, where beneath the blazing midsummer sun the foot sinks in to the depth of three inches. Every breath of wind raises blinding clouds of black bituminous dust, formed by the coarse black naptha with which the streets are practically "watered"-true water being too precious to be thus wasted. This dust, combined with the dense smoke poured from the chimneys of somewhere about 300 refining factories, does nothing to improve the atmosphere. And here, day and night, the oil fountains pour forth their hideous black streams. They yield an average of from 25 to 35 per cent of pure oil, and from 20 to 30 per cent of refuse, which makes excellent fuel for the developed. It crops up in Tchelikan, a true isle of that gives him privileges which she does the sea from hills and cliffs which may

On the eastern shore of the Caspian mutual rights. it reappears at various points—as, for instance, at the Neft or Naptha Hill where the deposits are officially valued at £35,000,000. Then, again as Baku lies at the eastern extremity of the Caucasus range, so at its western extremity lies an oil field extending over about 250 miles. It terminates in the Peninspla of Taman, between the Black Sea and Sea of Azov, a region abounding in active mud-volcanoes and occasionally shaken by earthquakes.

Now the fire-giant, who tends the great laboratory beneath the Caspian seems disposed to emulate the example of his brethren in New Zealand and Tonga. Hitherto he had been satisfied with such sport as turning on such an oil stream as that which gushed forth three years ago from one of the Baku springs, spouting with such force as to break to pieces a 3-inch cast-iron plate which had been fastened over the well in order to divert the flow to a different direction. A neighboring oil spring, on being tapped, threw up a column of petroleum to the height of the great Geyser in Iceland, forming a huge black fountain 200 feet in height—
a fountain, however, attributed solely to the removal of the pressure on the confined gas, as there is no perceptible

heat in these geysers.

/ It was visible for many miles around; and on the first day it poured forth about 50,000 barrels, and, with gradually diminishing volume, continued to play for five months, when it finally subsided, leaving its unfortunate owner (an American company) well nigh ruined by the claims brought against it by neighbors whose lands were destroyed by the oil flood. One house, which stood near the spring, now lies buried They contain the confessions of another soul, the confidences of another mind, that would be rudely treated if given any sort of publicity. And while he first came into office—was rewarded

beneath a sand hill, which alone marks the site of this too prodigal fount. Quite recently a still mightier naphtha flow suddenly commenced playing with such vigor that a number of buildings were swamped. For some days it continued altogether uncontrollable, and fears were entertained for the safety of the town of Baku.

Now, however, a more appalling terror has appeared in this region, where there is so enormous an amount of inflammable matter that one might well dread the kindling of the most careful-

ly guarded flame.
On the night of the 15th of January the inhabitants of Baku were awakened by a violent shock which caused all the windows to rattle, and suddenly the darkness of the night was illuminated by an intense light as though the city ere aflame. It proved, however, to be the reflection of a great fire at a distance; but no one dreamt that its locality lay within the earth. Nor was this realized till the following night, when the same awful glare became visible; and shortly before midnight a terrific explosion was heard, immediately followed by a vast column of flame, apparently 350 feet in height, which shot up from the summit of the Lok Batan, close to the Ponto railway station. It was a calm night, with scarce a breath of wind, so the flames continued to ascend quite vertically, carrying large masses of dark matter, which fell back into the crater. Considerable heat was felt at the distance of fully a mile, and the whole country was lighted by a glare brighter than that of the sun at noonday. This lasted for about 30 hours. but not continuously, the column occasionally subsiding. The volumes of liquid mud ejected in this period overspread a tract of about a square mile, to a depth varying from seven feet to fourteen feet.

Patrick Murray, Sexton St. Patrick's Cemetery, Baltimore, Md., was poisoned by poison oak, and was promptly cured by St. Jacobs Oil. Sold by Druggists July. and Dealers.

A WIFE'S LETTERS

Can a husband open his wife's letters? That would depend, many would say, upon what kind of a husband he is. But it cannot be put aside in that flippant manner, for it is a legal right that is in question, and it has recently been decided in a Paris tribunal that the husband has the right to open the letters addressed to his wife. Of course in America an appeal would be instantly be taken from this decision, and perhaps by husbands themselves; for in this world rights are becoming so impartially distributed that this privilege granted to the husband might at once be extended to the wife. and she would read all his business correspondence. and his business is sometimes various and complicated. The Paris decision must be based upon the familiar formula that man and wife are one, and that that one is the husband. If a man has the right to read all the letters written great fleets of oil steamers and lo- to his wife, being his property by reacomotives. The supply may well be son of his ownership of her, why may deemed inexhaustible, inasmuch as 12,- he not have a legal right to know all 000 square miles in this region are that is said to her? The question is found to be oleierous, and of this vast not whether a wife ought to receive surface only six miles have as yet been | letters that her husband may not read, The oil-bearing stratum or listen to talk that he may not hear, extends beneath the Caspian Sea, where but whether he has a sort of lordship Here the oil literally streams into not enjoy. In our modern notion of marfiage, which is getting itself exbe said to be formed of ozokerite—in pressed in statute law, marriage is sup-other words, of crude paraffine.

In theory the husband and wife are still one, and there can nothing come into the life of one that is not shared by the other; in fact, if the marriage is perfect and the trust absolute, the personality of each is respected by the other, and each is freely the judge of what shall be contributed to the common confidence; and if there are any concealments, it is well believed that they are for the mutual good. If every one were as perfect in the marriage relation as those who are reading these lines, the question of the wife's letters would never arise. The man, trusting his wife, would not care to pry into any little secrets his wife may have, or bother himself about her correspondence; he would know, indeed that if he had lost her real affection, a surveillance of her letters could not restore it.

Perhaps it is a modern notion that marriage is a union of trust and not of suspicion, of expectation, of faithfulness the more there is freedom. At any rate, the tendency, notwithstanding the French decision. is away from the common-law suspicion and tvranny toward a higher trust in an enlarged freedom. And it is certain that the rights cannot all be on one side and the duties on the other. If the husband legally may compel his wife to show him her letters, the courts will before long grant the same privilege to the wife. But, without pressing this point, the Drawer holds strongly to the sacredness of correspondence. The letters one receives are in one sense not his own.

husband and wife are one to each other, for his services (whateverthey may have they are two in the eyes of other peo-ple, and it may well happen that a friend will desire to impart something to a discreet woman which she would not intrust to the babbling husband of that woman. Every life must have its own privacy and its own place of retirement. The letter is of all things the most personal and intimate thing. Its bloom is gone when another eye sees it before the one for which it was intended. Its aroma all escapes when it is first opened by another person. One might as well wear second-hand clothing as get a second-hand letter. Here, then, is a sacred right that ought to be respected, and can be respected without any injury to domestic life. The habit in some families for the members of it to show each other's letters is a most disenchanting one. It is just in the family, between persons most intimate, that these delicacies of consideration for the privacy of each ought to be most

respected.

No one can estimate probably how much of the refinement, of the delicacy of feeling, has been lost to the world by the introduction of the postal-card. Anything written on a postal-card has no personality; it is banal, and has as little power of charming any one who receives it as an advertisement in the newspaper. It is not simply the cheapness of the communication that is vulgar, but it is the publicity of it. One may have perhaps only a cent's worth of affection to send, but it seems worth much more when inclosed in an envelop. We have no doubt then, that on general principles the French decision is a mistake, and that it tends rather to vulgarize than to retain the but in order to guard against the chance relation. And the judges, so long even as men only occupy the bench, will no operator, threw a shawl over his face doubt reverse it when the logical instantly an operation was concluded question whether the wife may open her husband's letters.—CHARLES DUD-

is her crown of glory. But alas! how quickly does the nervous debility and chronic weakness of the sex cause the bloom chronic weakness of the sex cause the bloom of youth to pass away, sharpen the lovely features, and emaciate the rounded form! There is but one remedy which will restore the faded roses and bring back the grace of youth. It is Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription," a sovereign remedy for the diseases peculiar to females. It is one of the greatest boons ever conferred upon the human race, for it preserves that which is fairest and dearest to all mankind—the beauty and the health of woman. the health of woman.

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A Bitter Compliment

"Insults are hard to bear, but there are some compliments which are worse than any insult." said a veteran Italian patriot, who had shared the councils of Mazzini, dined with Count Cavour, and talked with Garibaldi upon the most famous of his countless battle fields.

"I suppose you mean," suggested I, "the kind of compliment that a French wit paid to an enemy who had come and scribbled 'Coquin' [blackguard] up-on his door one night with a piece of chalk. Next morning the wit went to the fellow's house, and said in the poli-test way possible, Monsieur, you left your name at my door last night, and I have come to return the visit.

"It was certainly a two-edged courtesy," replied Signor S, smiling grimly; "but I think I can match it from my own experience. A good many years ago, in the evil days before Ceives are in one sense not his own.

They contain the confessions of Italy freed, one of the King's Ministers

been) by being decorated with the cross of some Italian order. On the day he received it he found among his letters of congratulation (which of course came pouring in from every side) a small plain envelope, addressed in a handwriting which he well knew." "Meaning your own, I presume, ignor S.—," said I.

Signor S___," said I.
"We won't mention any names," answered the old gentleman, with a sly twinkle in his large black eyes. "The envelop, when opened, contained nothing but an Italian quatrain, which, if translated into English, might run somewhat as follows:

"Thieves upon crosses fixed to be In rude old times did law condemn; In this enlightened age we see The crosses fixed on them."

-DAVID KER, in the Editor's Drawer of Harper's Magazine for July

Turkish Vaccination.

The women in the sultan's seraglia at Constantinople have just been vaccinated to the number of 150. The operations took place in a large hall under the superintendance of four gigantic eunuchs The Italian surgeon to whom the work was confided was stationed in front of a huge screen and the women were concealed behind it. A hole was made in the center of the screen just large enough to allow the arm to pass through, and in this manner arms of various colors and sizes were presented to the operator in rapid succession. It was utterly impossible for the surgeon to get even a glimpse of his patients purity and delicacy of the marriage of his being al'e to see through the screen, two eunchs, who stood by the march of events forces upon them the and did not remove it until the next arm was in position.

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many "letters of thanks" as Lydin E. Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass. Mrs. B—— of Enfeld, N. H., says: "I will simply say that your Vegetable Compound is all you recommend it to be. It has done me Worlds of good." Another lady writes from Ottawa as follows: "I have just to-day bought the seventh bottle of your Vegetable Compound, have used two boxes of Pills and several packages of your Sanative Wash, and think it but right to full was how much small Jacobs from wasterness. right to tell you how much good I derived from your medi-cines. They are a regular God-send. All the pains and aches have almost disappeared, my stomach is much stronger too and I feel myself improved every way." Price 61. Sold by all Bruggists.

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