

Light—The Free Pipe Bill—Not the kind of Legislation the Commonwealth Needs.

Long ago people used pine knots for light. After they accumulated more of this world's goods, they used the lard of hogs and the tallow of cattle for light. Each family produced its own light at little cost. The next light was whale oil and gas, neither of which were produced by the people themselves, but by second and third parties, which was the cause of the creation, as it were, of a new industry. But all the lights of the fathers have given way to the light of this day and generation. The new light is not gathered from the wood, extracted from hog, steer, or whale, or generated in gas houses, but is pumped out of the earth, and people are pleased to call it coal oil. Coal oil is the new light. Large companies and corporations have been formed to get it out of the ground, and so centralized have these organizations become that they are threatening the equilibrium of the coal oil business, and agitating the legislative making branch of the government of this Commonwealth by their persistent demands. The association, or corporation in embryo, that is at the head of the movement, pressing the Legislature for enactments, is called "The Coal Oil Producing Association." The Association is importuning the Legislature to pass what it is pleased to call a FREE PIPE BILL, which shall provide for the construction of a pipe line or lines, through which coal oil is to be run from the oil country to the ports along the Atlantic sea board, on the principle much like a free railroad law. At first sight the question seems fair enough in the light of a Free Pipe Law, but when the interests of Pennsylvania, which are the first interests in the question, comes to be considered, the proposed FREE PIPE LAW falls to a heavy discount. To give the proposed measure life by legislative enactment, will be to strike at interests in the Commonwealth that are sources of revenue to the State, and sources of employment for many men. It has already been told that the parties moving in the matter, as soon as they got the law passed, will construct a pipe line to Baltimore, Md., that being the nearest seaport. A line to Baltimore would destroy all the oil refineries in the Commonwealth, and thus throw hundreds of men out of employment, and render millions of capital invested in the refineries valueless. It would destroy the coal oil carrying trade of the railroads, and thus again destroy the employment of hundreds of men, without making work for a single man removed. It would render the millions of dollars invested in coal oil cars and coal oil tanks valueless, and would cut down the revenues of the State to a much greater degree than people now realize, which would have to be made up on other branches of industry. For all this loss to the people of Pennsylvania, nothing whatever will be received in return. The only people who will receive benefit, are the people across the ocean, and the coal oil pipe corporations. Foreigners may, or may not, get coal oil a few cents cheaper than they now do. But grant it, that foreigners thereby may be benefited to the value of a penny or two on a quart, how would that benefit the people of Pennsylvania? Says one, "It will strike at the powerful railroad corporations which carry all the coal oil." That is about the most truthful thing that has been said of it. Grant it, that it strikes at the railroad interest, how will that help the State? How will that help the people? He must be a dull man who cannot see that to strike a railroad interest that employs thousands of men in the Commonwealth, and pays thousands of revenue into the State Treasury, and carries the products of the soil, and the merchandise of millions of people, to benefit a pipe line, that in the nature of its business, comparatively speaking, employs few men, and pays but little revenue, is not the kind of legislation that the Commonwealth needs.

Through mails for cities, but give country people in the Juniata Valley mail on way trains. There is a row in the English Cabinet over the Turkish situation. Certain English statesmen were meddling enough to declare that Russia should not send terms to Turkey, except through England as mediator. Russia bluntly rejected the impudent would-be mediator, and Turkey was compelled to ask directly for terms. The terms of peace were sent by Russia to Turkey without even a whisper of it having been sent to England, and that is what raised a row among the English. The first officers in the country have ordered an English fleet to sail to a point not far from Constantinople, and have also asked for a large loan to equip the army. These war-like movements have been characterized by several members of the Cabinet as unnecessary, and have caused them to resign, and that's the row.

Give cities through mails, but give country people in the Juniata Valley mail on way trains. Two of the best detectives in Massachusetts were detailed last summer to proceed to the western part of the State, join the army of tramps, associate with them for several weeks, and keep a journal of their observations. The diaries of these two men are incorporated in the Annual Report of the Chief of the State Detective force, and render it an exceedingly interesting public document. One of the entries under date of August 1, relates that a gang of tramps, moving toward the town of Washington, met another party in the woods, about twenty miles from Pittsfield. The leader of the second gang stated that they were waiting for a strike on the Boston and Albany Railroad, and that there were scattered about in that country about four hundred men, who were all waiting to join the strikers. These men appeared ready for any plan of pillage and destruction that was proposed. The proposition to burn the small stations on the road would have been carried into effect had it not been for the argument that it would be blamed on the poor men who were employed on the road. The plan of seeping the rails at various places, for the purpose of stopping the cars, was discussed; but as a strike was confidently expected, the tramps decided to wait a few days. The detectives took pains to find out whether the tramps they met were such from choice or necessity, and all with whom they conversed they found but two who did not see the idea of work upon any terms, and of the willingness of these two to work they express doubts.

DISPATCHES. CINCINNATI, Jan. 24.—Wm. Miller, a young man residing at Newell's Run, Ohio, died night before last from a wound inflicted by Miss Elizabeth Taylor, whom he had seduced. He had renounced her, and notified the overseers of the poor to take her to the infirmary. This coming to her ears, greatly incensed her, and procuring an axe she repaired to his room where he was sleeping and literally cut his head open. BISMARCK, Dakota Territory, Jan. 24.—Gen. Miles telegraphed from Post Fort Keogh, last evening that he had received Indian news which is really of a most startling character. His news comes from an officer of his command, and is substantially as follows: Sitting Bull is camped on Frenchman's Creek, and has over 1,000 lodges with him, including the escaped Nez Perces and the recent deserted Indians from the agencies. The latter number 280 lodges, with 800 warriors. Sitting Bull's own camp numbers 2,300 warriors and 5,000 women and children. They are splendidly mounted and armed. The Agency Indians are armed with Sharp's rifles, and have plenty of ammunition. They also have a large number of Government horses and mules. With him are all the powerful hostile chiefs. A short time ago Red Bear deserted his agency with 200 lodges. This was just after he returned from Washington. Two companies of infantry have been sent to Fort Peck to hold it against attack. It is evident that a southern movement is intended by the Indians, as they have been seen within ten miles of Fort Peck. Gen. Miles can only put 500 soldiers in the field.

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Post-Office Banks or Depositories.

There is a bill in Congress that proposes to create in the Post-Office Department a new feature, to connect a Banking department with the Post-Office department, for the safe deposit of money that people may desire to put out on call loans. A dispatch relative thereto says: In order to give complete and direct security to all depositors, the credit of the United States is pledged for the repayment to the depositor or to his legal representative of every sum of money deposited. There is to be a chief office at Washington, and the Postmaster General is authorized to designate such suitable money order post-offices, at which the salary of the master is not less than \$600 per annum, as the business of the postal savings depository may require. The rate of interest on deposits shall not exceed 3 per centum per annum, and shall, on the 30th day of June and on the 31st day of December in each year, be added to and become part of the principal. The aggregate amount of principal and interest to the credit of any depositor shall not exceed \$1,500; and money due to a depositor, whether remaining on deposit in said depository or invested in bonds, for which the bill makes provision, shall not at any time, while in the custody of the United States, be liable to taxation under any State or municipal authority; and any such money shall not be liable to demand, detention, seizure or withdrawal, without the voluntary consent of the depositor, by reason of any debt due against the depository or legal representative.

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Pennsylvania Legislature. SENATE. TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1878. The following bills were reported favorably: Relating to insurance companies doing business in this State, requiring and regulating publication of annual statements of their business and condition. Increasing the pensions of soldiers of the war of 1812 and their widows to \$96. The following bills were introduced: Granting pension to Ann Saggart, of Butler county; also, providing for a writ of error in all criminal cases; also to regulate the erection of guards and barriers along highways. For the purpose of preventing the unfair and fraudulent procurement of the benefits of the exemption laws. Relative to the liens of mechanics and others upon buildings. The nomination of John Mitchell, of Butler, for sheriff of Butler county, was announced. The bill appropriating \$610,000 for the payment of the military expenses of the late riots was amended by increasing the amount provided for the payment of troops from \$280,000 to \$310,000, so as to allow commissioned officers a full month's pay where ten days or over have been served by them. The bill, as reported from the committee on Finance, allowed the commissioned officers compensation for actual time in service. Pending the consideration of the amendment, the Senate adjourned until 11 A. M. on Wednesday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1878. The following bills were introduced: Mr. Long, relating to evidence in prosecutions for libel and slander. This bill provides that from and after the approval and passage of this act in all prosecutions for libel under the criminal laws of this Commonwealth, it shall be competent for the accused to produce in his own behalf and defense, testimony in support of the truthfulness of the alleged libel or slander, and that the publication of the issue was not prompted by malice, but was for and in behalf of the public benefit. That in all actions now pending or hereafter to be prosecuted for the recovery of damages sustained by libelous publications or slanderous utterances, the defendant in the action shall have the right to give evidence of the truth of the publication or utterance upon which said action is based, and that it was not prompted by malice, which facts when proven shall go to the jury in abatement or mitigation of damages, which may be returned by the jury as nominal, exemplary or vindictive, as the nature of the case may warrant. Neither conviction under the criminal statutes nor a verdict for damages in a civil action, shall follow when the alleged slander or libel shall be proven to be justifiable or made for proper motives for them or good, or for the purpose of warning the public against improper practices of evil disposed persons or lawless characters. A supplement to an act to authorize and require the auditors to publish an annual statement. Recommended. A supplement to an act to provide for the erection of a poor house, and for the support of the poor in the several counties of this Commonwealth, approved May 8, 1876. Passed.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1878. The following bills were introduced: To prevent traffic within one mile of any camp meeting. To repeal all State taxes on original writs, judgments, notes, certificates and transcripts on the prothonotary's dockets of this Commonwealth. Authorizing the Governor to appoint a competent person to assist soldiers and sailors of Pennsylvania in completing their claims against the United States for pensions. Appropriating \$3,000 to Philadelphia Union home for old ladies. Relating to burying grounds in and adjacent to incorporated boroughs. To better fix damages for animals running at large. THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1878. Bills making the following appropriations: To the Harrisburg Hospital, \$15,000; St. Luke's Hospital (Lodwig county), \$10,000; Germantown Hospital, \$3,000; Lackawanna Hospital, \$10,000; Wilkesbarre City Hospital, \$10,000; Jefferson Medical College, \$100,000; University of Pennsylvania \$100,000; Bethel Home (Erie), \$5,000; Pittsburg Free Dispensary, \$5,000; Pittsburg General Hospital, \$15,000; Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art (Philadelphia), \$5,000; Pennsylvania Institute for Deaf and Dumb, at Philadelphia, \$15,200. The following bill was introduced: To encourage the improvement of stock in horses, cattle, sheep and swine.

CHURCH. The Bishop of the African Methodist Church of Louisiana warns the negroes against the Liberator movement. Fifty-one spittoons are required in each church in Kent county, Maryland to supply the tobacco chewers. Rev. David Spring's sermons are furnished to the Chicago newspapers on the Saturday preceding their delivery from the pulpit. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has become chaplain of the Thirteenth regiment, National Guard of the State of New York. The duties of the position embrace two sermons to the command during the year, and attendance at the annual inspection and muster. The oil company is being awakened by a female revivalist. The conversion of children is believed in by Hammond, the revivalist. Four of Boston's prominent Baptist churches are without pastors, and appear to find it impossible to discover men good enough for them. The Universalists claim to have gained 7500 members during the past five years in the United States. They have 691 church organizations.

FIRES. The flour trade of the west is looking up. American coal is reported worth \$18 per ton in Brazil. General McClellan's inauguration cost the State of New Jersey \$140,700. There are two ice factories at San Antonio; and two more are to be erected. A gas well at Bradford pays \$2000 per month to the owners, who utilize it for light and fire. Thirteen thousand seven hundred and fifty tons of iron pipe of twenty-one pounds per foot will be required for the seaboard pipe line. The silver three-cent piece, first coined in 1851, was designed for paying postage with. Divorcees in San Francisco last year exceeded ten per cent of the marriages.

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TERMS: Your Royal Highness, Intidel Turk, accept my compliments and terms. First.—The right of self-government for Bulgaria under a Governor, and the withdrawal of Turkish troops. Second.—The independence of Roumania, and Serbia, with the control of the mouth of the Danube to me. Third.—The right of self-government for Bosnia, Herzegovina. Fourth.—Montenegro to be mind. Fifth.—Pay me \$100,000,000. Sixth.—My ships to have free passage through the Dardanelles. Your Royal Highness, Christian Russian Dog—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your compliments and terms, and regret that I must accept. You sit down on me so heavily.

FOREIGN. John Bull is roaring again. Business is very dull in London. Russia is in no hurry to make peace. The tone of the Russian press toward England is defiant. Russia prefers the friendship of Austria to that of England. Five million pounds (\$25,000,000) is the sum asked for by the British Cabinet for naval and military supplies. This looks like business. Austria and Germany give unmistakable signs that they are in accord with Russia. Austria is confidentially informed that Russia intends to advance on Constantinople unless her terms are immediately accepted. Austria does not object to the occupation of Constantinople by the Russians. The English government has decided to send another regiment to South Africa in consequence of the unsatisfactory state of affairs there. When Mexican regular soldiers are not engaged in battle they are put to drainage labor and repairing roads. If the Russians take and hold Gallipoli they will be masters of the Dardanelles. It is officially stated that the Russian losses in the war up to January 10 were 82,195 men. Austria has waived her objections to a Russian occupation of Constantinople. The London Standard's Vienna correspondent says it is reported from Constantinople that should armistice negotiations fail the Porte will unfurl the flag of the Prophet or permit the English fleet to pass the Dardanelles. The Mexican Government has instituted inquiries to ascertain what officers of the Mexican army invited Lieutenant Ward, of the United States forces to cross into Mexico. The Government has determined to oppose the crossing of the boundary by American troops. A Russian official dispatch from Kusanik, January 19, says that General Gurko fought Suleiman Pasha from the 15th to the 18th instant. The Turks were finally driven into the Rhodope Mountains. Their loss was 4,000 killed and 8,900 prisoners. Forty-nine guns were also captured. A Constantinian dispatch says that the whole district of Baargas has been devastated by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, who slaughtered the inhabitants and burned villages whole. An official account of the capture of the Shikpa Pass, states that four pashas, 250 officers, 25,000 prisoners and 81 guns were captured. The Russian loss in killed and wounded was 5,464 men. General Skobeleff entered Philippopolis on the 16th inst. and extinguished the flames in the Bulgarian dwellings fired by the retreating Turks. Mrs. Lyard, wife of the British Minister, has given assistance to 40,000 Turkish refugees within the last five days. The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan is believed to point to co-operation for their mutual interests in correction of the prejudicial policy fastened upon the two nations by the Western Powers. The Russian General Strouff has been ordered to reach the Dardanelles as soon as possible. He has twenty-four guns and a number of torpedoes with him. A number of Turkish men of war have been ordered to Gallipoli. A Russian official dispatch from Kusanik states that a portion of Suleiman Pasha's train, consisting of two thousand wagons, was captured on the 18th inst., near Heruanui, about forty miles west of Andrianoople. From details received by the Russian staff, General Gurko's victory at Philippopolis was more complete than at first announced. Suleiman Pasha's whole army 40,000 strong, was engaged and finally split into two parts. One commanded by Faud Pasha fled into the mountains, and the other under Suleiman Pasha retreated in the direction of Hasko pursued by Generals Skobeleff and Karzoff. The Russians captured 97 guns. Both fractions of the Turks seem to have reached Drama. The funeral of the late King Victor Emmanuel took place in Rome on the 17th inst and was very impressive. The procession started from the Quirinal about 10 o'clock. It was headed by fifteen military detachments, with their bands, and the clergy bearing tapers. The hearse was surmounted by the Lion Crown, the ancient diadem of the Lombard kings, which was brought from Monza for the occasion. The car was preceded by Lieutenant Generals: Medici, the late King's first aide-de-camp, mounted, who bore the palestro sword sheathed. The car was surrounded by a guard of honor and the special representatives decorated by foreign courts. There were 2,700 deputations from all parts of Italy, numbering each from five to several hundred. The entire procession, except General Medici was on foot. VERMONT BANKS. Vermont has twenty saving banks, with \$1,628 depositors and \$8,321,000 in deposits. Governor Van Zandt has appointed a commission to examine into the affairs of the Providence County Savings Bank at Pawtucket which omitted its dividend last Monday. The managers of the People's Savings Bank, Trenton, which recently suspended, have applied to the Chancellor for the appointment of a receiver. The liabilities are \$52,000; the assets are nominally the same amount, but will probably not realize seventy cents on the dollar.

NEWS ITEMS. The flour trade of the west is looking up. American coal is reported worth \$18 per ton in Brazil. General McClellan's inauguration cost the State of New Jersey \$140,700. There are two ice factories at San Antonio; and two more are to be erected. A gas well at Bradford pays \$2000 per month to the owners, who utilize it for light and fire. Thirteen thousand seven hundred and fifty tons of iron pipe of twenty-one pounds per foot will be required for the seaboard pipe line. The silver three-cent piece, first coined in 1851, was designed for paying postage with. Divorcees in San Francisco last year exceeded ten per cent of the marriages.

THE ONTARIO FIRE. The Ontario Flour Mill at Oswego N. Y., owned by J. M. Cummings, was burned on the night of the 22nd inst. Loss, \$50,000. The thrasher manufactory of Stearns Sons & Co., at Genoa, N. Y., was totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday inst. Loss \$25,000; small insurance. Several fires occurred in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on Wednesday night, inflicting a damage of from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The cotton batting mills of Wilson & Co., at Carrollton, Ky., were burned on Wednesday. Loss \$15,000. Unsured. Wicker's flouring mills at Shields, Indiana, were burned on Wednesday. Loss, \$20,000; insurance, \$11,000.

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FOREIGN. John Bull is roaring again. Business is very dull in London. Russia is in no hurry to make peace. The tone of the Russian press toward England is defiant. Russia prefers the friendship of Austria to that of England. Five million pounds (\$25,000,000) is the sum asked for by the British Cabinet for naval and military supplies. This looks like business. Austria and Germany give unmistakable signs that they are in accord with Russia. Austria is confidentially informed that Russia intends to advance on Constantinople unless her terms are immediately accepted. Austria does not object to the occupation of Constantinople by the Russians. The English government has decided to send another regiment to South Africa in consequence of the unsatisfactory state of affairs there. When Mexican regular soldiers are not engaged in battle they are put to drainage labor and repairing roads. If the Russians take and hold Gallipoli they will be masters of the Dardanelles. It is officially stated that the Russian losses in the war up to January 10 were 82,195 men. Austria has waived her objections to a Russian occupation of Constantinople. The London Standard's Vienna correspondent says it is reported from Constantinople that should armistice negotiations fail the Porte will unfurl the flag of the Prophet or permit the English fleet to pass the Dardanelles. The Mexican Government has instituted inquiries to ascertain what officers of the Mexican army invited Lieutenant Ward, of the United States forces to cross into Mexico. The Government has determined to oppose the crossing of the boundary by American troops. A Russian official dispatch from Kusanik, January 19, says that General Gurko fought Suleiman Pasha from the 15th to the 18th instant. The Turks were finally driven into the Rhodope Mountains. Their loss was 4,000 killed and 8,900 prisoners. Forty-nine guns were also captured. A Constantinian dispatch says that the whole district of Baargas has been devastated by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, who slaughtered the inhabitants and burned villages whole. An official account of the capture of the Shikpa Pass, states that four pashas, 250 officers, 25,000 prisoners and 81 guns were captured. The Russian loss in killed and wounded was 5,464 men. General Skobeleff entered Philippopolis on the 16th inst. and extinguished the flames in the Bulgarian dwellings fired by the retreating Turks. Mrs. Lyard, wife of the British Minister, has given assistance to 40,000 Turkish refugees within the last five days. The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan is believed to point to co-operation for their mutual interests in correction of the prejudicial policy fastened upon the two nations by the Western Powers. The Russian General Strouff has been ordered to reach the Dardanelles as soon as possible. He has twenty-four guns and a number of torpedoes with him. A number of Turkish men of war have been ordered to Gallipoli. A Russian official dispatch from Kusanik states that a portion of Suleiman Pasha's train, consisting of two thousand wagons, was captured on the 18th inst., near Heruanui, about forty miles west of Andrianoople. From details received by the Russian staff, General Gurko's victory at Philippopolis was more complete than at first announced. Suleiman Pasha's whole army 40,000 strong, was engaged and finally split into two parts. One commanded by Faud Pasha fled into the mountains, and the other under Suleiman Pasha retreated in the direction of Hasko pursued by Generals Skobeleff and Karzoff. The Russians captured 97 guns. Both fractions of the Turks seem to have reached Drama. The funeral of the late King Victor Emmanuel took place in Rome on the 17th inst and was very impressive. The procession started from the Quirinal about 10 o'clock. It was headed by fifteen military detachments, with their bands, and the clergy bearing tapers. The hearse was surmounted by the Lion Crown, the ancient diadem of the Lombard kings, which was brought from Monza for the occasion. The car was preceded by Lieutenant Generals: Medici, the late King's first aide-de-camp, mounted, who bore the palestro sword sheathed. The car was surrounded by a guard of honor and the special representatives decorated by foreign courts. There were 2,700 deputations from all parts of Italy, numbering each from five to several hundred. The entire procession, except General Medici was on foot.

NEWS ITEMS. The flour trade of the west is looking up. American coal is reported worth \$18 per ton in Brazil. General McClellan's inauguration cost the State of New Jersey \$140,700. There are two ice factories at San Antonio; and two more are to be erected. A gas well at Bradford pays \$2000 per month to the owners, who utilize it for light and fire. Thirteen thousand seven hundred and fifty tons of iron pipe of twenty-one pounds per foot will be required for the seaboard pipe line. The silver three-cent piece, first coined in 1851, was designed for paying postage with. Divorcees in San Francisco last year exceeded ten per cent of the marriages.

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MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

GRAND OPENING! IN THE CRYSTAL PALACE BUILDING, BRIDGE STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA., OF DRY GOODS, Groceries, READY-MADE CLOTHING, Hats, Caps, Shoes, Queensware, Glassware, Tinware, Spices, Notions, Soaps, Salt, &c., TOBACCO AND SEGARS, And will be sold at astonishing