

July 20, 1854.

CHAP. XCVIII.—*An Act to Incorporate the Georgetown Gaslight Company.*

Corporators.	<i>Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,</i> That David English, Robert P. Dodge, Richard Cruikshank, William M. Fitzhugh, Richard Pettit, William F. Seymour, Adolphus H. Pickrell, and William Bucknell, and their present and future associates, are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Georgetown Gaslight Company," and by the same name shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all courts of law and equity in the District of Columbia and elsewhere; to make and have a common seal, and the same to break, alter, and renew, at pleasure; to ordain and establish by-laws, ordinances, and regulations, and generally to do every act and thing necessary to carry into effect this act, or to promote the objects and design of this corporation.
Name.	
Powers and duties.	
Capital stock not to exceed \$150,000.	SEC. 2. <i>And be it further enacted,</i> That the capital stock of this corporation shall not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; that a share in the same shall be twenty-five dollars, and books of subscription to the said capital stock, or to such portions thereof, as from time to time may be by the directors, for the time being, be deemed proper and necessary, shall be opened by the appointment, or under the direction of the directors hereinafter named, subject to such rules, limitations, and conditions as by them shall be prescribed, and the stock of the said company shall be deemed personal property.
Deemed personal property.	
Affairs, &c. of said corporation to be managed by a president and seven directors — how they are to be chosen.	SEC. 3. <i>And be it further enacted,</i> That the stock, property, and affairs of the said company shall be managed and conducted by and under the direction of a president and seven directors, being stockholders; that the said directors shall be elected on the first Monday of June, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and on the same day in each succeeding year thereafter, and shall hold their offices for one year from the day of their election, and until other directors shall be elected in their place; that such elections shall be held in Georgetown aforesaid, at such time and place as a majority of the directors for the time being shall appoint, and notice of such time and place of election shall be given by advertisement in one or more newspapers printed and published in the said town, at least fourteen days before the day of holding such election, and every such election shall be by ballot, and by such of the stockholders as shall attend for that purpose, either in person or by proxy, and each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote for each share of the stock which he or she may have held, and may continue to hold in his or her own name, for at least fourteen days before the time of voting; and the persons having the greatest number of votes shall be the directors; and if it shall happen that two or more persons shall have an equal number of votes, the directors in office at the time of such election shall, by a plurality of votes, given by ballot, determine which of the persons so having an equal number of votes shall be director or directors, so as to complete the whole number to be chosen; and the directors so chosen shall, as soon as may be thereafter, proceed to elect by ballot, one of their own number, or one of the shareholders, to be their president; and whenever any vacancy shall happen in the said board, of president and directors, the same shall be filled up by the remaining directors by plurality of votes, until the next annual election: <i>Provided always,</i> That the president of the said company, and at least six of the directors, shall be inhabitants of the said town.
Directors to choose one of their number president.	
Proviso.	SEC. 4. <i>And be it further enacted,</i> That David English, Robert P. Dodge, Richard Cruikshank, William M. Fitzhugh, Richard Pettit, William F. Seymour, Adolphus H. Pickrell, and William Bucknell shall be the first directors of the said company; the first named of whom shall be their president, and shall hold their offices until the first Monday in
Appointment of the first directors and president.	
Duration of their office.	

June, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and until others are chosen in their places.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That in case it shall happen at any time that an election for directors shall not take place on the day appointed by this act for that purpose, the said corporation shall not for that cause, or for any non-user, be deemed to be dissolved, but it shall and may be lawful to hold an election for directors on any other day, in such manner as shall be provided for by the by-laws of the said corporation.

When the day of election may be fixed by the by-laws.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the directors or a majority of them, to require payment of the subscriptions to the capital stock of the said corporation at such times and in such proportions as they, or a majority of them, shall deem fit, under the penalty of forfeiting any or all previous payment or payments thereon: *Provided*, Notice of the instalment required to be paid shall have been published at least fourteen days in one or more of the newspapers printed and published in the said town, before the day appointed for the payment thereof.

Manner in which capital stock shall be paid in.

Proviso.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the President and Directors shall have full power and authority to manufacture, make, and sell gas, to be made of coal, oil, tar, peat, pitch, turpentine, or other material, and to be used for the purpose of lighting the City of Georgetown, or the streets thereof, and any buildings, manufactories, or houses therein contained and situate; and to lay pipes for the purpose of conducting gas in any of the streets, lanes, or alleys of the said city: *Provided however*, That the said company shall so conduct the manufacture of gas as not to injure private property, or create a nuisance; and that the said pipes shall be laid, subject to such conditions, and in compliance with such regulations, as the Corporation of Georgetown, aforesaid, may from time to time prescribe: *And provided further*, That the right to erect and put up any buildings, works, or apparatus, for the manufacture of gas, shall be subject to such terms, conditions, restrictions, and regulations as the said Corporation of Georgetown may, from time to time, prescribe or direct.

President and directors: their power and duties.

Proviso.

Further proviso.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person or persons shall wilfully do, or cause to be done, any act or acts whatsoever, whereby the works of the said company, or any pipe, conduit, plug, cock, reservoir, or any engine, machine, or structure, or any matter or thing appertaining to the same shall be stopped, obstructed, impaired, weakened, injured, or destroyed, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay to the said corporation double the amount of the damage sustained by means of such offence or injury, to be recovered in the name of said corporation, with cost of suit in any action of debt, or on the case, to be brought in any court having cognizance thereof.

Penalty for wilfully injuring or damaging any of the works, erected by said company.

How recovered.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent any person or persons, nor any incorporated company, hereafter to be created by Congress for that purpose, from engaging in and pursuing the business specified in the seventh section of this act; and that it shall be lawful for Congress, at any time hereafter, to alter, amend, or repeal this act.

Nothing in this act to be construed so as to prevent any person or company from engaging in the business specified in the 7th section of this act.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to authorize the said Georgetown Gaslight Company to make, issue, or put in circulation any bill, draft, check, order, promissory note, change ticket, or any thing else promising or agreeing to pay money, intended to circulate as money, or the tendency of which shall be to circulate as money or currency, and the violation of any one of the provisions of this section shall be a forfeiture of the charter hereby given, and shall subject each of the directors voting for the same, to a fine of fifty dollars.

Said corporation prohibited from making, issuing, or putting in circulation notes, checks, drafts, &c., intended to circulate as money.

Individual liability of the stockholders. SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That each of the stockholders in the Georgetown Gaslight Company shall be held liable in his or her individual capacity for all the debts and liabilities of the said company, however contracted or incurred, to be recovered by suit, as other debts or liabilities, before the court or tribunal having jurisdiction of the case.

Part of act of 1852, ch. 79 repealed. SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That all right granted to the Washington Gaslight Company by an act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to incorporate the Washington Gaslight Company, approved July eight, eighteen hundred and forty-eight,' approved August second, eighteen hundred and fifty-two," to lay gas mains or pipes in the City of Georgetown, be and the same is hereby repealed.

APPROVED, July 20, 1854.

July 20, 1854.

CHAP. C. — *An Act for the Relief of Thomas K. Glenn.*

T. K. Glenn's account for carrying the mail to be settled and paid so as to correct a mistake in his proposals. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Postmaster-General be, and hereby is, authorized to cause the account of Thomas K. Glenn, for carrying the mail from Raleigh to Roxboro, in North Carolina, from the first day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, during the time he has been engaged, and to the termination of his contract, to be settled and paid in such manner as to correct an alleged mistake made in his proposals: *Provided*, The Postmaster-General be satisfied of the existence of such mistake, and that the difference to be paid to the said Thomas K. Glenn, with what he has already received, shall not exceed the amount of the next lowest bid, or the rate of two hundred and seventy-five dollars per annum for the term of the contract, or the actual performance of the service.

Proviso.

Amount to be paid.

APPROVED, July 20, 1854.

July 20, 1854.

CHAP. CI. — *An Act for the Relief of Charles Staples.*

Charles Staples to be placed on the pension rolls at \$8 per month, from January 1, 1853, for his life. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, directed to place the name of Charles Staples, of the State of Maine, on the pension rolls of the United States, at the rate of eight dollars per month, to commence on the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and to continue during his natural life.

APPROVED, July 20, 1854.

July 24, 1854.

CHAP. CIV. — *An Act to confirm the Claim of Dusuan de la Croix to a Lot of Land therein described.*

Preamble. Whereas in the supplemental report of the register and receiver at Jackson Court-House, dated twenty-ninth of December, eighteen hundred and twenty, communicated to the Senate twenty-third of February, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, it is stated that claim number four, in said report, was "inadvertently omitted in the general report" made on the eleventh of July, eighteen hundred and twenty, and presented to the Senate the seventeenth of November, same year; and whereas, it is considered by the Commissioner of the General Land-Office that, by reason of said omission, the said claim is not entitled to the confirmation contained in the act of eighth of May, eighteen hundred and twenty-two, confirming the general report of eighteen hundred and twenty:

1822, ch. 128.

Land claim confirmed to Dusuan de la Croix.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That claim number four, in the supplemental report hereinbefore referred to, be, and the same is hereby, confirmed to Dusuan de la Croix, his legal representatives and assigns,