

SF Bk 2 English Letter 23 (transcribed by Brian Falk)
(Typewritten)

S.F.2
Bernard Wright Esq.,
BIRMINGHAM

June 20th [189] 8

Dear Sir,

I have no doubt you have seen the enclosed report of the Petroleum Committee, but I enclose same in case you have not yet seen it. No doubt you are as much surprised as I am to find that Mr. Collings has adopted our recommendations almost word by word with the exception of the Flash-point. The report says that he has adopted these regulations as formulated by Mr. Wright, the President of the L & S T Association, which I think requires correction. You will remember that these trifling alterations in the construction of Lamps were recommended by us solely in connection with the raising of the Flash-point, and we always laid particular stress on the importance of the raising of the Flash-point in conjunction with our recommendations. I think a letter should be addressed to the Times, and if you like to the other papers, pointing out these facts and as I do not consider it fair to us that parts of our recommendations should be adopted without any reference being made to the fact that (the) other and more important recommendation of ours has been omitted. Further, Mr. Collins attaches such importance to the fact that Lamps reasonably well constructed, and used with a fair amount of care are safe for all ordinary oils. I think this is very foolish because he says "if used with a fair amount of care". Now he knows as well as we do that most of the accidents arise because Lamps are not used with a fair amount of care. He also knows that Lamps which may be safe when customers buy them may be unsafe the day after, and anybody blessed with a fair amount of common sense must know that the only radical remedy is a safe oil, and nothing else. After the regulations of Mr. Collings are adopted, accidents are not likely to diminish, and the agitation for safe oil will be going on the same as before, to the detriment of our business. On the other hand Mr. Collings seems to be most anxious that other trades using a small quantity of oil of Petroleum, or trades which in future may perhaps use Petroleum should not be injured, whilst the Lamp trade which surely is more important than others, will through his proposed regulations be considerably hampered without any equivalent benefit.

I leave it to you to draft a letter to the papers, if you think it is the right thing to do, but in my opinion something should be done now on our behalf to show to the public that Mr. Collings has only adopted part of our recommendations, and in our opinion the least important part.

I remain, yours truly

S Falk