

On 29th September, 1891, Henderson made due entry in the book of registry of copyright kept at the Hall of the Stationers' Company in the city of London, pursuant to the Imperial Copyright Act, 5 & 6 Vict. ch. 45, of his proprietorship in the copyright of the said periodical.

For some years prior to 15th January, 1900, under agreements with plaintiffs and the prior publishers of "Life," who were the employers of Gibson, and with his authority, Henderson had acquired all rights of publication or reproduction throughout the British Dominions in the drawings and letter-press as published in "Life," for the purpose, as expressed in an agreement of 1st July, 1898, "of enabling the said James Henderson to secure British copyright by first or simultaneous publication of the said drawings or letter-press in the United Kingdom in a serial publication entitled 'Comic Pictorial Sheet.'"

By an agreement of 15th January, 1900, between James Henderson, Charles Dana Gibson, Mitchell and Millar, chief shareholders in plaintiff company and former publishers of "Life"), and the "Life" Publishing Company, James Henderson is acknowledged to be the owner of the British copyright in the drawings of Gibson "heretofore contributed or hereafter to be contributed to 'Life'," and by the said agreement Henderson grants an exclusive and irrevocable license, during the continuance of the British copyright, to Gibson to publish in book form or as portfolios or collections of drawings in the United Kingdom, the drawings theretofore contributed or thereafter to be contributed to "Life" by him. The agreement between Henderson and plaintiffs also provides that "the circulation of copies of the publication 'Life' containing such drawings and letter-press within the British dominions should not be deemed an infringement of Henderson's British copyrights."

All the original drawings and letter-press in question were prepared by Gibson as an employee of plaintiffs, and were paid for by plaintiffs, and they were each first published in London in the "Comic Pictorial Sheet" contemporaneously with their publication from time to time in "Life," and this privilege was paid for by Henderson at schedule rates set forth in the agreements.

On 1st September, 1900, there was duly registered at the Hall of the Stationers' Company, pursuant to the said Copy-