

be much better for the interest of the English author than the present defective and anomalous system. The importance of this proposed arrangement we shewed in our last No. to be more equitable and remunerative to the English author, while, at the same time, it would be more just and satisfactory to ourselves.

Further—were this permission granted us, to employ our own labour in the reprints of English copyrights instead of having to buy the product of American manufacturers, we could, by reason of our being able to reprint more cheaply than the Americans, take advantage of this, and sell to them of such reprints as we undertook to produce, and, hence, still further secure the interest of the English author. However this may be, there is no doubt that, to legislate by enforced enactments, these reprints "out of" the country—while our people have so long drawn from this source, and where, from the close intercourse between Canada and the States, these reprints are to be so easily had—would be a grave error: and to continue to tie our hands from competing in this trade with our neighbours, to the manifest loss of the English author, would be, equally, an error. While saying this, and while desiring justice for ourselves, it is no less the desire of the Government, the people, and the Book-trade of Canada to protect the interest and property of English authors. This should be understood at home; and it should be known that, individually and as a people, we regret the present unsatisfactory state of the question, and that we dislike, as much as the English publishers, that we should be compelled to "play second fiddle" to our neighbours, and have to buy in a market that, in the main, disregards the interests that should be first conserved—the author's rights. Our position, however, is an exceptional and peculiar one; and requires a legislation, on this subject, special and apart from that applicable to other colonies which have not the circumstance of contiguous position to the States to deal with.

To meet our exceptional case, and as a remedy of matters, three things suggest themselves, as being necessary to a satisfactory dealing with the question—these are, 1st. To effect an international copyright treaty between England and the United States; which, if secured, would, of course, end the matter as it affects Canada, and would be a measure which every one in the Dominion would rejoice in. 2ndly. Publish, simultaneously with the original editions for home sale, a popular, inexpensive edition for this continent, from which Canada might draw a plan, we have often thought, English publishers might have long since adopted, and

thus secured some return from the sale of this side: (the plates necessary to produce which, we might say, would be available for the cheaper editions issued by the homes after the sales of the original editions were exhausted). Or 3rdly. Accede to our Government's proposition, and allow us to reprint in Canada on the exaction of a stated royalty on the edition, in the interest of the British author, and thus put us in a position to compete with the American reprinters.

We commend these practical points to our English friends, and conclude by referring to one other matter and a suggestion among the same. Certainly, the first of the above suggestions is the desirable one, and is the true and just one—the effecting a reciprocal treaty between the countries. Mr. Blaine has charged Canada with standing in the way of the English Government's securing this coveted object, by reason of her providing a field to the American reprinters for the sale of their reprints and a monopoly therein, which, he advances, is of such value to them as to influence their Government in refusing to enter into any reciprocal treaty with England. We think Mr. Blaine is wrong in supposing that this matter weighs with them at all; and we are of the opinion that this is but a slight consideration in the matter with our neighbours; and were this market cut off to-morrow from the sale of their reprints, it would not influence them, or hasten, in any way, their agreeing to a treaty. There is a matter, however, that would undoubtedly affect them much more, and be more likely to bring our neighbours to agree to an international arrangement; and we wonder that this has not been urged in discussing this question—and that is, to withdraw all privileges Americans now enjoy in securing a copyright in England for native American works, so long as no treaty can be secured, and while the courtesy is not reciprocated. It seems absurd that an absolute property in American works can be secured in England by the simple manœuvre of writing the last chapter there or in Canada, while the same privilege is denied to the English author in America under any consideration. It is, manifestly, an unfair and one-sided arrangement; and, if this copyright privilege in the interest of American authors were withdrawn, it would sooner bring our neighbours "to book" in the matter, than any arguments advanced for the justice and honesty of securing to an author an interest in his productions. That our neighbours, however, will see that right, equity and policy lies in negotiating an international copyright treaty at once with England, we sincerely trust: and, while it would be simply an act of justice to the authors of both countries, it would,

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