

It is highly probable that the simplification and consolidation of the Imperial law will greatly facilitate our negotiations with other countries. Indeed I know it will. At present the foreigner is bewildered when told that the rights of British subjects are contained in twelve different Acts. He cannot realise with any exactitude what those rights are, and after puzzling himself for months he abandons the whole subject in disgust; whereas, if we frame our law on the basis suggested, it will harmonize in character with that of France, Germany, and the United States, and be intelligible to those affected by it.

I shrink from trespassing further on your Lordship's time, and will merely add that, if I can be of any use in the carrying out of these suggestions, my time is at your Lordship's disposal.

I have, &c.

FREDERIC R. DALDY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.,
H.M. Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 89.

MR. R. E. BRAY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received December 10, 1894.)

(Extract.)

102, Union Avenue, Montreal, Quebec,
November 27, 1894.

In the Canadian papers of this date is a report, concisely worded, of a deputation of English literary men who waited upon you in protest against the desire of the Canadian Government to abrogate the Copyright laws between this country and England.

I would humbly pray your Lordship to deal justly in this matter, from a moral and honourable standpoint and not one of political necessity. The desire of the Canadian Government in this matter is not the desire of the Canadian people; they have never been consulted in the matter. It is a disgrace to this country that under the pretence of fostering trade and commerce the people are deprived of their best interests.

Canadian cheap reprints mean the *vilest* quality of type, paper, and printing imaginable, the paper is of the very commonest—grocers' wrapping papers—and the print any worn-out type or obsolete styles that can be saved from the melting-pot.

This is just to enable one or two men to make money at the expense of a nation. No one who loves books or buys books will hesitate to pay a fair price for the same, providing it meets the requirements expected of a good book. Canadian reprints are only bought and sold by disreputable or ignorant booksellers, by all the better class ones they are taboo'd.

As a friend says "What is preferable to a cheap book is one that is honestly come by."

I therefore trust your Lordship will disregard the request of Sir John Thompson who speaks for the Canadian Parliament but not for the Canadian people.

No. 90.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to the EARL OF ABERDEEN.

MY LORD,

Downing Street, December 18, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter,* which has been addressed to this Department by Mr. R. E. Bray of Montreal in connection with the proposals of the Canadian Government as regards Copyright, and I request that the writer may be informed that his letter has been received.

I have, &c.

RIPON.

No. 91.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to the EARL OF ABERDEEN.

[Answered by No. 109.]

MY LORD,

Downing Street, March 15, 1895.

You are aware that one of the questions which the late Sir John Thompson proposed to discuss with Her Majesty's Government during his visit to this country was that of the Canadian Copyright Act, which has already formed the subject of considerable correspondence.

* No. 89.