

"the author is but one of the factors that enter into the making of a successful book; the publisher with his wide and varied connection and ready facilities for handling is frequently as important a factor as the author, and *proh pudor!* occasionally more so."

We all know one phase of this "handling" to use the expression of this person. Who has not been subject to the importunities of the book pedlar, often a young and pretty woman, with the petty tricks of sex, engaged to palm off some ill-written, useless book, with flash binding and prints of strong situations: a matter of profit to the publisher, pedlar and all concerned, from the wretched hack writer, upwards or downwards, as you place him; his share being the smallest in the division.

What is the object of a copyright? It is twofold. In the first place to protect the writer, who gives years of concentrated, untiring labour to a work of recognized merit and utility, also to the honourable publisher who embarks his capital in the production of the work. In such cases success is not obtained at the beat of drum; the attention which the work receives is not immediate. The recognition of its merit is a question of time, and whatever the character of the book it is generally a matter of expense and effort to bring it to the notice of the public. It is to assure these legitimate results, aimed at by author and publisher, that a proper period of protection should be granted, during which special privileges are accorded, so that the author may receive the reward due to him for his exertions, and the publisher be remunerated for his enterprise and labour.

The proposed copyright act limited the period of protection to twenty-eight years.

It contained also the astounding provision that publishers in Canada should have the right of reprinting any work published elsewhere, unless the work in question were printed and published in the Dominion within one month of its first appearance.

Sir Daniel brought the whole force of his character and reputation against such an enactment. The limit granted me to address you will not permit me longer to dwell upon the subject, but I will venture to lay down the principle which in my humble view a government in framing a copyright act should observe.

No copyright act should be passed from the *impetus* given to its provisions by "the trade" only. As Sir Daniel recommended, the government should address itself to this society, and to the universities, so that the public writer may be regarded as something higher than the "factor" that he has been claimed to be, by the class which desires to profit by his powers without fairly remunerating him.

His presence before us last year was a purely chivalrous advocacy of the cause of literature. If the course followed by him on that occasion had been destined to exercise any influence upon himself, it would have been to his disadvantage. Its tendency was to raise up around him a small swarm of scribbling wasps, who, themselves unknown, come upon men of eminence to inflict their sting, and fly back to obscurity. In his career two strongly defined principles are discernible: his moral courage and constancy of purpose. Not the courage of the swash-buckler; for, free from impulse, it was sustained by a sense of right, by belief in his own convictions, and by reliance on the justice of the cause he represented; courage tempered by judgment.

As president of Toronto University he had one of the most difficult duties in life to fulfil. His position placed him in contact with some hundreds of students of different temperaments in the first flush of feeling, "youth at the prow, pleasure at the helm," when the judgment is unformed and impulse takes the place of principle. They are no