

will take a dose of Epsom salts, and get his digestion right, he may be able to send me something that will merit my approval. Till then I forgive him his slanders, and wish him well. I know something of the sensitive literary temperament, though I haven't a notion who he is. But it is plain that his signature of "Quod Erat Demonstrandum" was not happily chosen.

Yours, etc.,

BERNARD M'EVROY.

Editor of Morang's Midsummer Annual,  
"Our Lady of the Sunshine."  
August, 1898.

#### AUTHORS' REMUNERATION.

To the Editor of the *Mail and Empire*:

SIR,—The correspondence from the Quebec "Chronicle," reproduced in your columns yesterday, referring to Mr. Morang's "Our Lady of the Sunshine," and the remuneration of Canadian authors, is worthy of more than passing notice. Considering the disadvantages under which Canadian authors have suffered in the past and are suffering to-day, the matter for surprise is not so much that the remuneration of Canadian authors is so small, but that there is any remuneration at all, in Canada, for them. Look at the facts. Prior to 1886, the Canadian author who had written a book and was foolish enough to first print it in Canada, so as to help Canadian printers and other Canadian workmen, enjoyed copyright in Canada only. Any publisher in the United Kingdom or the United States could reprint the work without even the formality of asking permission. The British author enjoyed copyright in Canada, but the Canadian author had no copyright in Great Britain. This, of course, was most unfair to the Canadian author. But its worst aspect was the nipping in the bud of Canadian publishing. These points were plain enough to Canadians. Yet it took years of agitation before the British Parliament could be induced to grant relief on this point. Since 1886 a book first published in Canada has enjoyed copyright throughout the British Dominions. This was some encouragement to Canadian writers and to Canadian publishing interests. At the same time, it is a fact that the interests of both these classes have been grievously retarded on account of the Imperial authorities refusing assent to copyright legislation passed by the Canadian Parliament. At the present time, an author who writes a book and first prints it in the United States may and does secure copyright throughout the British Dominions and the United States—thus covering practically the English-speaking world. On the other hand, a Canadian author who writes a book and first prints it in Canada cannot secure copyright in the United States.

What is the natural result of this ridiculously one-sided arrangement? Simply that many Canadian authors are driven to dispose of their manuscripts to foreign publishers, and we have the poor satisfaction of seeing Canadian publishing interests stunted, while those of the United States flourish like the proverbial green bay tree. Why did Prof. Drummond get his excellent volume of dialect verse printed in the United States? Why did Miss Marshall Saunders get her new story, "Rose a Charlotte"—one of the cleverest stories yet written by a

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Canadian—printed in the United States? Why has Prof. Goldwin Smith had his later books printed in the United States? All these books could have been printed in Canada in as good a style as they have been printed in the United States. But what Canadian publisher could offer the figures of the United States publisher, when the Canadian publisher knew he would have to set up the type for the books in the United States if he desired United States copyright on them!

If, then, Canadian authors wish to secure a higher remuneration for their work from Canadian publishers, it would seem to be in the interests of Canadian authors to give their moral assistance to those who are endeavoring to stimulate Canadian publishing interests. If those who sympathize with this view of the case would send me their names and addresses, I should be glad to communicate further with them.

Yours, etc.,

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD.

Public Library, Hamilton, Aug. 18.

#### DEATH OF MR. DAVY.

John Davy, secretary of the Toronto Public Library, died on the 9th inst. Mr. Davy had been ill for some time on account of a stroke of paralysis which he suffered in the spring. He seemed to recover, however, and returned to his duties at the library. He had a relapse a few weeks later, and since then had been steadily sinking. Mr. Davy was born in London, England, 72 years ago, and came to Toronto in 1854. He was appointed secretary to the Mechanics' Institute, and afterwards to the Public Library. Besides a large number of friends who held him in high esteem, Mr. Davy leaves a widow and two sons to mourn his loss. Deceased was a prominent member of the Masons, belonging to Rehoboam Lodge.

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