that difficulties have mainly arisen, a common language and common literature being, it would appear, rather provocative of hostility to mutual concessions than influential in promoting agreement. In the American book market the British or Canadian author enjoys no legal protection whatever. The supply of American book literature is limited in quantity, and, with some distinguished exceptions, is generally of an inferior quality to that of the Old World. The demand of the most book-loving of peoples has, therefore, to be principally supplied from Europe, and no law exists to compel an American publisher to pay for the brain labour from which he derives, in the shape of cheap home-printed editions, an enormous harvest. The laws of the United States do not even reciprocate the advantages offered by the British Law to foreign authors. By the British Act of 1842 (5 and 6 Vic., c. 45) it was provided:

"That the copyright in every book which "shall, after the passing of this Act, be published in the lifetime of its author shall endure "for the natural life of such author, and for the "further term of seven years, commencing at "the time of his death, and shall be the pro-"perty of such author and his assigns; pro-"vided always, that if the said term of seven "years shall expire before the end of forty-"two years from the first publication of such "book, the copyright shall, in that case, "endure for such period of forty-two years; "and that the copyright in every book which "shall be published after the death of its "author shall endure for the term of forty-two "years from the first publication thereof, and "shall be the property of the proprietor of "the author's manuscript, from which such "book shall be first published, and his as-"signs."

Neither in this clause, nor in any other portion of the Act, is there any limitation as to the nationality of the author. It is interesting, in perusing the several legal judgments given upon the trial of copyright issues in England, to observe in how broad and liberal a spirit its provisions have been construed by the great expositors of British Law. For our present purpose it is only necessary to state that, by the final decision of the House of Lords in the well known case of Routledge *vs.* Low, it was finally settled that, if a literary or musical work *be first published* in the United Kingdom, *the author being at the time resident within the jurisdiction of the Act*, he may acquire a copyright in any part of the British dominions; but if, on the other hand, such work be first published in India, Canada, or any other British possession not included in the United Kingdom, no copyright can be acquired in that work, excepting only such (if any) as the local laws of the colony, &c., where it is first published, may afford. An American, therefore, resident for the time being in England or Canada, may make agreements simultaneously with a British and American publisher, respectively, and thus enjoy copyright privileges throughout the British dominions, as well as in his own country. It will be clear that this provision, honest and equitable though it be, can only be operative in a few exceptional cases. Still it is a national and honourable recognition of the foreign authors' rights, and relieves the Mother Country from the imputation of resisting the just claims of the subjects of a foreign nation to the protection of her laws for the productions of their genius. Nor has the great British North American dependency, so closely connected geographically with the United States, been less liberal than Great Britain in offering to the foreign author the advantages of a Dominion copyright. By the Canadian Copyright Act of 1868 (31 Vic., cap. 54) it was enacted:

"That *any person resident in Canada*, or "any person being a British subject, and "resident in Great Britain or Ireland, who is "the author of any book, map, chart, or "musical composition, or of any original "painting, drawing, statuary, sculpture, or