

TORONTO, APRIL 12, 1902.

*The Secretary,*  
*The Canadian Society of Authors.*

SIR—

A circular letter has been shown to me written to the members of the Society, assuring them that a Bill, such as the Hall Caine Bill, which contains a licensing clause, would not place Canada outside the Berne Convention. In support of this view, the writer quotes a statement made by Mr. Hall Caine during the Ottawa Conference on the Copyright Question in 1895.

Mr. Hall Caine did not profess to be an authority upon the subject, as is evident from the following further quotation from the official report of the proceedings of the Conference :—

“SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER: ‘Has any gentleman present given attention to the point in connection with the Berne Convention? For instance, the exclusion of the colonial edition, supposing that edition to be one lawfully published in England. Might not the point be raised that this is inconsistent with the Treaty of Berne as excluding a copyrighted book from one of the countries included in the convention?’

“MR. ROSE: ‘I may say that in our discussion at Toronto with Mr. Hall Caine, we stated to him that we did not claim to be posted on constitutional or law questions. Mr. Hall Caine, I think, will