

rieure et l'on fit un projet de loi à ce sujet. Cependant la question vint devant le comité de la bibliothèque qui se prononça contrairement aux conclusions des partisans du droit de copie international (1). Le congrès semble avoir partagé ses vues, car les projets furent abandonnés et depuis cette date nous n'en avons plus entendu parler.

Mais, il faut bien l'avouer, on n'a guère été plus libéral au Canada. En effet, comme nous l'avons vu ci-dessus, pour avoir le droit de copie dans un ouvrage quelconque, il faut de toute nécessité que cet ouvrage soit publié en Canada, et cela, que l'auteur soit sujet britannique ou étranger. D'un autre côté nous ne pensons pas que les statuts de la métropole sur le droit de copie international puissent s'appliquer ici, car, ainsi que nous l'avons dit ailleurs, (2) nous jouissons, relativement à la propriété littéraire, d'une indépendance absolue. Donc, dans tous les cas, l'auteur devra

" often dependent exclusively upon their own mental labors for the means
 " of subsistence ; and are frequently, from the nature of their pursuits or
 " the constitution of their minds, incapable of applying that provident
 " care to wordly affairs which other classes of society are in the habit of
 " bestowing. These considerations give additional strength to their just
 " title to the protection of the law.

" It being established that literary property is entitled to legal protection, it results that this protection ought to be afforded wherever the
 " property is situated... "

(1) Voici leurs arguments : " Your committee are satisfied that no form of
 " international copyright can fairly be urged upon congress, upon reasons
 " of general equity or of constitutional law ; that the adoption of any plan
 " for the purpose which has been laid before us would be of very doubtful
 " advantage to American authors, as a class, and would be not only
 " an unquestionable and permanent injury to the manufacturing interests
 " concerned in producing books, but a hinderance to the diffusion of
 " knowledge among the people and to the cause of universal education :
 " that no plan for the protection of foreign authors has yet been devised
 " which can unite the support of all, or nearly all, who profess to be favorable
 " to the general object in view ; and that, in the opinion of your
 " committee, any project for an international copyright will be found on
 " mature deliberation to be inexpedient. "

(2) Voir *La Thémis*, vol. III, pp. 368-9.