

England, since in that case the protection of the English publisher, which is in the copyright, is absolute, and shields him from all competition."

Mr. Seymour thus recapitulates his objections to the proposed measure :

"1. It is in no sense an International Copyright Law, but simply an Act to protect American publishers, regardless of the rights of American authors. It has so narrow a basis, therefore, that it can never receive the endorsement of the public.

"2. Even if it were possible for American publishers to secure the 'protection' proposed, in compelling the manufacture of foreign copyrighted books in the United States, such 'protection' would be wholly delusive, since the copyright which the English publisher could hold indirectly through an American partner, would secure him the absolute control of this market, whether the book was made here or in England.

"3. For the reasons above stated the Act is objectionable in prohibiting the importation of stereos and electros, in failing to provide for the copyrighting of cyclopædias, &c., and in giving the American publisher power to exclude revised editions of works of which he may own the copyright."

On Friday, 2nd February 1872, the executive Committee of the Copyright Association (chiefly of authors, and of which Mr. Charles Astor Bristed has for a long time been secretary and active representative) adopted the draft of a third International Copyright Bill, which was presented, on behalf of the association, to the joint committee of Congress. It is entitled "An Act to secure Authors the Right of Property in their Works," and after the enacting clause, consists of these two sections :

"1. All rights of property secured to citizens of the United States of America by existing copyright laws of the United States are hereby secured to the citizens and subjects of every country, the Government of which secures reciprocal rights to citizens of the United States.

"2. This Act shall take effect two years from the date of its passage."

This, it will be observed, is entirely in the interest of copyright owners, and ignores the discrimination practically made in the other Bills in favour of American publishers.

As the result of a conference and compromise between these interests, on the 20th of February last the following Bill (a fourth) was presented to the joint library committee of the Senate and House of Congress :

"AN ACT to secure a Copyright to Foreign Authors and Artists.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, of the United States of America, in Congress assembled :

"Sect. 1. That any author and artist who is not a citizen of the United States may secure a copyright for his or her work, in accordance with the regulations of the United States Copyright Act, provided such author and artist shall manufacture and publish said works in the United States.

"Sect. 2. That any author who is not a citizen of the United States may secure the right of translation of his or her work, whether the original work be published in a foreign country or in the United States, provided that upon the first publication of such original work the author shall have announced on its title-page his intention of translating it, and the original work shall have been registered in the office of the librarian of the Congress of the United States, and a copy of it shall have been deposited in the library of Congress within one month after its first publication in a foreign country, for copyright, in accordance with the regulations of the United States Copyright Act, and provided also that the author shall manufacture and publish the translation of his or her work in the United States.

"Sect. 3. This Act shall take effect from the date of its passage."

In this Act the author only, neither his personal representatives nor his legal assigns, can acquire a copyright, and he can only acquire it when his book is "manufactured" in the United States.

In consequence of the silence of our own Government since the letters addressed to them by Messrs. Longman and Murray, Mr. Longman thought it expedient, in December last, to write to Earl Granville the following letter, making inquiry as to the position of the negotiation for International Copyright with America :

"39, Paternoster-row, London, E.C.,
"11 December 1871.

"My Lord,
"Permit me to make an inquiry with regard to the position of the negotiations of the British Government with the Government of the United States, on the subject of a treaty for international copyright.

"I beg to mention that, in June 1870, shortly before the lamented death of Lord Clarendon, I attended at the Foreign Office, at his Lordship's request, to confer with him on the subject of copyright with the United States.