

In the former of these Bills reciprocal action would be necessary on the part of the British Government; and should it therefore be adopted and passed by the American Government, there will be ample time for its full consideration in this country, and for taking such steps as may be expedient.

With regard to the latter Act, it will be observed that arrangements can only be made with an author, *not with his assigns*, and that the American publishers have not generally accepted it.

In the "Publishers' and Stationers' Weekly Trade Circular," published at New York, dated 8th February 1872, will be found the minutes of a meeting of the New York Booksellers and Publishers, on 23rd January 1872.

Mr. Appleton's arguments then adduced in favour of the Bill, were as follows:

"It is unquestionably just and right that the intellectual labour of an author should be recognised and protected by law.

"The Government grants this protection to an American author, and why should it not extend the same protection to a foreign author, if it desire to see the public derive profit from the result of his study and labour?

"Why should we appropriate without compensation the results of the arduous toil through youth and manhood of the foreign author, from which we derive both enjoyment and profit, and then allege, as an excuse for our injustice, that we are citizens of another country; that our laws do not recognise any right in him to the fruit of his labour when embodied in the form of a book?

"This Bill seeks to secure to the foreign author direct relations with the American publisher, and thereby grants to him all the advantages enjoyed by American authors.*

"It is sometimes asserted as an objection to an international copyright that it will increase the price of books. We do not, however, believe that this will be the result to any greater extent with English than with the works of American authors.

"It is believed that if the provisions of this Act are secured, and it become a law, very many of the works not now reprinted will be published here, and at lower prices than they could be imported. Twenty works in themselves very formidable might be mentioned which many publishers would be glad to produce in this country if they could enjoy the exclusive privilege of publishing them, *the English edition being at the same time excluded*. The consumption of paper in this country would thereby be greatly increased.

"American authors are necessarily placed under a great disadvantage by the existing law; for, as it permits the free republication of foreign works, they are forced to compete with authors whose works can be issued at a nominal expense for printing and paper, and are thus discouraged from making intellectual efforts in whatever field they may desire.

"We regard this Bill as affording protection in the broadest sense to English authors and American publishers.

"This Bill only requires that the works of foreign authors claiming copyright under it shall be printed and published in this country, just as the works of our own authors are published.*

"The sole object of granting this monopoly to the foreign author is to recognise his service to the public in the same manner as the services of American authors have been recognised."

On that occasion Mr. Edward Seymour, of the well-known firm of Charles Scribner & Co., objected to the Act on the following grounds:

"I. The practical difficulty of framing a law granting rights to English authors without virtually destroying the publishers' interests in the United States, and proving injurious to the American public.

"II. Congress has called upon the publishers for aid in framing an 'International Copyright Law,' but this Act is not an Act for 'International Copyright Law.' It is in spirit and substance an Act to protect American publishers, and should be so entitled.

"III. The Act entirely ignores the idea of reciprocity, a principle which the International law of Great Britain very properly makes prominent.

"IV. To gain for themselves all the advantages under this measure which they would have under an unrestricted Bill, English houses have only to secure American partners to represent them and create the very monopoly which American publishers so greatly dread.

"V. Further, it is perfectly obvious that the exclusion of the English publishers from the American market, even to the extent proposed by legislation, involves the enforcement of measures utterly repugnant to the spirit of our institutions, and such as the public could never be brought to indorse.

"VI. If it is conceded that English publishers can in any way, direct or indirect, extend their copyrights to this country, it is matter of comparatively small importance to American publishers, who are not themselves manufacturers, whether the books are made here or in England,

* This is not the case; any American author may *print* his book in any country without losing his copyright, but it must be *published* in the United States.