

control of the fruit of his own brain and labour, and interfere with his property to the extent of compelling him to sell it at a fixed price. They would also prevent his having any oversight of his writings, and this is not unimportant, for I have heard of cases in which a publisher employed another writer to finish a novel because the author did not issue it fast enough to suit his purposes. He would be unable to bring out any revised or improved editions, a point to which the late Lord Lytton attached great importance. He could not choose his own publisher. He could not control the accuracy of his writings, which, in many cases, is of vital importance not only to his popularity but to his reputation. These editions would lead to inextricable confusion.

As a case in point, I may refer to a theological work which Messrs. Rivington have been preparing. "An author is bringing out a few copies of an abstract of a theological work, for which he expects some circulation in Canada, because he is well known there, with a view to learn whether the public will give him sufficient encouragement to treat the subject more fully." If a licensed edition be issued he would be barred from bringing out his complete work, because it would necessarily include the smaller, and for this he would have lost his copyright in Canada, and could not even reprint it himself without a license.

Again, take the novel, the class of work most likely to circulate largely there. Mr. Blackmore's popular novel "Lorna Doone," did not attract sufficient attention for the first six months to justify his reprinting it in Canada, but afterwards it sold there very largely. Yet by this Act he would have lost his copyright there. Again, how is he to get adequate remuneration? Take the case of a novel by Edna Lyall passing through "Good Words." What is to prevent a local newspaper reprinting each portion as it appears; and is the royalty to be paid on the whole of each number of the paper or only in proportion to the space it occupies in it? Or if Farjeon's last novel, issued complete, were republished in a Canadian periodical, extending perhaps over 12 numbers, how is he to be paid? Again, if the novel is issued as a *supplement* to a newspaper or periodical, and *given gratis*, how is he to be paid? Remember he is barred from supplying very cheap editions direct now, because the law cannot prevent *their being returned to England to compete with* his home editions. This objection would also apply to the above Canadian cheap edition, and, therefore, he is bound for his own protection to be able to put them into the hands of a publisher he can trust, and bind him under penalty not to send them to England or the other Colonies.

I might multiply illustrations of the difficulties flowing from depriving the author of the control of his work, and even enlarge on its injustice. No other class of property is, to my knowledge, forcibly taken from its producer at, as I have said before, a price fixed without his consent, and I may add that no country has ever hitherto even attempted to rob him of the fruit of his labour, except the United States, and even that country is legislating to concede him this right, though, I admit, under severe restrictions.

I do not know whether you consider that the Canadian Act might be interpreted by the United States as directed against her trade. It would undoubtedly so operate, and, though I cannot feel that she deserves much consideration, it is to be borne in mind that the trade was created by our Act of 1847 and subsequent Canadian legislation, and perhaps, as a friendly Power, she is entitled to notice of this kind of legislation; and it may lead her to remonstrate on account of its being unfair to those of her interests which we have heretofore stimulated.

I earnestly hope the Canadian Government will not persist in this legislation, for I am sure she might substantially gain her end of encouraging her own production, as far as is reasonable, if she fully carries out her Act of 1850, and the Home Government were induced to legislate so as to prevent all colonial reprints from coming into the English market, and thus make it safe for British authors to arrange with Canadian publishers for cheap editions.

I may add the present Act is not in the interest of the Canadian public, for that might be better served by repealing the Canadian Customs duty on books (15 per cent.), nor of Canadian authors, for the Act, if proclaimed, would immediately restrict their copyright to the Dominion and exclude them from the benefits of the Berne Convention, and their present rights in Great Britain and other Colonies would also be lost.

I have, &c.

F. R. DALDY.