

First, at section 184, it is admitted that "It is highly desirable that the literature of this country should be placed within easy reach of the colonies, and that, with this view, the imperial act should be modified so as to meet the requirements of colonial readers.

In sections 186, 187 and 188 the following passages occur, which I now beg to cite, as confirmation of the narrative which I have given in the early part of this letter, of the effects which immediately followed the imperial act of 1842, and as showing that the Canadian government is now but reiterating an oft repeated statement, the truth of which has long been established and admitted :

"186. These means are not available, and indeed are impracticable, owing to the great distances and scattered population in many of the colonies, and until the cheaper English editions have been published the colonial reader can only obtain British copyright books by purchasing them at the high publishing prices, increased as those prices necessarily are by the expense of carriage and other charges incidental to the importation of the books from the United Kingdom.

"187. Complaints of the operation of the Copyright Act of 1842 were heard soon after it was passed and from the North American provinces urgent representations were made in favour of admitting into those provinces the cheaper United States reprints of English works. In 1846 the colonial office and the board of trade admitted the justice and force of the considerations which had been pressed upon the home government 'as tending to show the injurious effects produced upon our more distant colonists by the operations of the imperial law of copyright' and in 1847 an act was passed 'to amend the law relating to the protection in the colonies of works entitled to copyright in the United Kingdom.'

"188. The principle of this act, commonly known as the 'Foreign Reprints Act,' is to enable the colonies to take advantage of reprints of English copyright books made in the foreign states, and at the same time to protect the interests of British authors."

The result of the Foreign Reprints Act is thus stated in sections 193 and 194 :

"193. So far as British authors and owners of copyright are concerned the act had proved a complete failure. Foreign reprints of copyright works have been largely introduced into the colonies, and notably American reprints into the dominion of Canada, but no returns or returns of an absurdly small amount have been made to the authors and owners. It appears from official reports that during the ten years ending in 1876 the amount received from the whole of the 19 colonies which have taken advantage of the act was only £1,155 13s. 2½d., of which £1,084 13s. 3½d. was received from Canada; and that of these colonies, seven paid nothing whatever to the authors, while six now and then paid small sums amounting to a few shillings.

"194. These very unsatisfactory results of the Foreign Reprints Act and the knowledge that the works of British authors, in which there was copyright not only in the United Kingdom but also in the colonies, were openly reprinted in the United States and imported into Canada without payment of duty, led to the complaints from British authors and publishers, and strong efforts were made to obtain the repeal of the act."

The request which I have been pressing in this letter and the grievances which the Canadian Copyright Act of 1889 was intended to remove are thus summarized in section 195 and the two following.

"195. A counter complaint was advanced by the Canadians. They contended that, although they might still import and sell American reprints on paying the duty, they were not allowed to republish British works and to have the advantage of the trade, the sale of which was, in effect, secured for the Americans. In defence of themselves against the charge of negligence in collecting the duty, they alleged that owing to the vast extent of frontier and other causes and also from the neglect of English owners of copyright to give timely notice of copyright works to the local authorities, they had been unable to prevent the introduction of American reprints into the Dominion.

"196. The Canadians proposed that they should be allowed to republish the books themselves, under licenses from the governor general, and that the publishers so licensed