

being badly printed on poor paper and issued in a worse binding. Mr. Gladstone once said:

"Noble works ought not to be printed in mean and worthless forms, and cheapness ought to be limited by an instinctive sense of law and fitness. The binding of a book is the dress with which it walks out into the world. The paper, type and ink are the body in which the soul is domiciled; and these three—soul, body, and habiliment—are a trio which ought to be adjusted to one another by the laws of harmony and good sense."

A good instance is Mr. Bryce's notable work, "The American Commonwealth." It was not possible to copy-right the first edition when it appeared and so when the sale seemed promising enough to bring out a pirated edition one promptly appeared. When the present authorised second edition was published containing much new material which could be protected by copyright, the printers of the pirated edition brought out a "new edition" also, impudently inserting "new chapters" but without any intimation that they were not from Mr. Bryce's pen. The average purchaser of this garbled work, therefore, has no means of telling that what he is reading is not "Bryce" at all except in a few chapters.

After all, the reading public can only perform a certain stint of reading, the limit being set by time and inclination. If, therefore, for economical reasons he limits his purchases to the cheapest, the reader will not only degrade his taste but put such a restraint on both author and publisher in his own country that we shall stand in as great danger of repressing our potential Canadian literature as the Americans did of strangling their own prior to 1891. As a matter of fact our danger as Canadians is infinitely greater since, from our close proximity to our neighbours and the smallness of our population as compared with that of the States, we are much more likely to be Americanised than the Americans were to be Anglicised by British writers 3000 miles away. That the community of readers' interests is much closer between Canada and the United States than between us and