

his interests in the country by exchanging an ineffective for an effective system of royalty upon the sale of his works here; while, at the same time, by abandoning the methods in vogue he would help Canadian publishing industries, and the more speedily lead the American reprinter to agree to some measure of reciprocal copyright. To this day, he has in the main failed to see the advantage of this, and Canada has consequently had to bear the odium of complicity with what Sir Daniel Wilson calls 'literary theft.' That in the proposed Canadian legislation there is a measure of compulsion, or an absence of what is termed 'by your leave,' was, under the circumstances, inevitable, as every one knows who has given study to the question. But the measure set out to meet a real difficulty, and to meet it with honour and success."

Mr. Adam does his best to state in courteous terms the conviction that the British author has persistently played the part of a pig-headed fool. But, apart from the fact that the appeal thus presented to him is to make the best terms he can with men who insist on taking and using his property as they please, without leave of the owner, the author has in many cases far other and more valued interests at stake than the royalty or percentage on his works. Why should not Canada deal with him as one capable of managing his own affairs; the present tendency in most civilized communities is to proceed on this assumption, and the "Berne Convention" aims at placing it on a cosmopolitan basis.

Every country possessing a literature of its own, or desiring to acquire one, must give the author full control of his work, and leave him to make his commercial arrangements in the way which he thinks best promotes his interests. The law merely protects his right of property. The spirit of the Berne Convention is to make those rights as complete and uniform as possible. Let us not, as Canadians, proceed on the assumption, that we neither have nor anticipate any near future when we shall have a literature of our own, and so have a common interest in the republic of letters, as well as in the world's trade and commerce.

In so far as the ethical aspect of the plea for an immediate compromise with the trade is concerned, the line of argument seems to amount to this, that as our neighbours beyond the line have systematically availed themselves of their immunity from British law to turn to their own account the property and brain-work of English authors, and Canadian booksellers and bookbuyers have profited in the wrong, therefore the English author may as well give up all hope of being honestly dealt by, and come to terms with the spoilers. If he will not, then he is blind to his best interests and must take the consequences. The Act of 1889 is an amendment of an older one which, under the pretense of giving the British authors a percentage on pirated editions imported into Canada from the States, proved as already stated, a delusion and mockery. Moreover, while thus professedly aiming at securing cheap literature for the people, they are to a great extent debarred from the higher class of literature, and the public and university libraries are restricted in their purchases by a heavy duty on imported books.

The passing of the Copyright Act in 1889 almost without attracting the notice of Canadian authors and those specially interested in science and letters is significant. Our legislators appear to have welcomed advice from the book trade, but to have wholly ignored the representatives of the "manufacturer" of books. But brief as is the interval, Canadian authorship has already assumed a more aggressive status, and the small but