

of view, it would be worth a very considerable effort if the present copyright protection could be terminated. It does not seem unlikely that the present attitude of the Canadians on the question of copyright is something of a menace to the continuance of the good understanding between the States and England. If their demand for unlimited control of the question of reprinting in Canada should be granted, for instance, it would be almost impossible to prevent a constant dribbling of contraband cheap editions across the frontier, which would surely lead to retaliatory measures from this side. In view of the fact that the Canadians cannot create a paying book market under any circumstances—they lack the population which is essential—it seems quite unreasonable that interests so large, and so full of possibilities, as those of English writers in the United States should be jeopardised.

You will be interested to know, in connexion with the Canadian desires, that I have lately received from a Toronto publisher, holding several sets of plates, a proposition that, instead of paying 10 per cent. royalty, in future he should be allowed to pay 1 cent per copy on all editions printed and sold in paper covers (they sell nothing else, by the way). His argument was that he has to sell books so cheap that he cannot afford to print any more on the regular 10 per cent. basis. He proposes to pay for ———, for example, (2*l.*) two pounds per thousand copies. If this is his proposal under a copyright law, which secures to him the sole right to print Canadian editions, what can be expected when such right to print will be open to anybody choosing to set the type of a popular book? I have not yielded to his arguments, of course, but it is an open question whether we shall not be compelled to make some concession in the end.

I have been rather surprised to find, on inquiring of chance Canadian visitors here, that the agitation for these unlimited rights of reprinting in the Dominion is confined to, and, indeed, known to, a very small section of the people, and that the interested section, from the point of view of printing offices. More than one bookseller has expressed in conversation not only ignorance of the scheme in detail, but positive opposition to the general idea. I gather that the booksellers, as distinct from the book printers and producers, have not been allowed to know too much of what was going on.

I suppose you have heard of the great success of ——— here. The publishers claim to have sold over 100,000 copies already. This appears to have been very greatly in excess of their most sanguine expectation, and of course could not have been done in the absence of copyright.

T. Norton Longman, Esq.

Believe me, &c.
C. J. MILLS.

No. 83.

F. R. DALDY, Esq., to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received November 10, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 85.]

"CANADIAN COPYRIGHT."

Aldine House, Belvedere, Kent.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

November 9, 1894.

YOUR Lordship, in reply to my letter* asking you to receive a deputation on this subject, informed me that you did not think an interview would be appropriate until the Official Committee who had the matter in hand had made their report.

In anticipation of this report, and in consequence of Sir John Thompson's visit to this country, I now write to ask your Lordship if you would kindly let me know when the deputation will have the honour of waiting on you; and to say that I should be much inconvenienced if your Lordship could let me know a week before the date determined on.

Sir John Lubbock would probably introduce the deputation, and it would be representative of the various bodies mentioned in my printed letter† of last month.

I have, &c.

FREDERIC R. DALDY,

Hon. Sec. of the Copyright Association.

* No. 56.

† No. 82.