

does not wholly acquire, copyright. Secondly, because the authors (and particularly the novelists) have not been able as yet to break down the artificial library system, which by maintaining the high-priced three volume issues and editions not for popular use but for the privileged classes, plays into the hands of the publishers, and makes the author a mere cipher in regard to the trade arrangements for bringing out and handling his book. Helpless in regard to his home market, the author is not any better informed about, or more in a position to conduct negotiations with, the foreign market. Hence the difficulty in getting him to see not only the reasonableness, but the gain to his pocket, in meeting the views of the Canadian publisher, whom he somehow treats as an accomplice of the American literary pirate, nefariously robbing him of his due, rather than as a fellow-subject who would gladly protect the interest of the British author if the British author would put him in a position to do so. What the Canadian publisher seeks reasonably and justly to do, the author, if he will dismiss prejudice from his mind, and recognize the exceptional circumstances of the Canadian position, will find embodied in the Ottawa Copyright Act of last session, as well as in the Act of 1872, which, at the instance of the English book-trade, was vetoed by the Imperial Government. The principle on which both of these Acts were based may be briefly stated. Their first aim was to protect the native market from the inroads of unauthorized American reprints, which by a British Order in Council in 1847 were on certain conditions privileged to enter Canada. Their second and chief aim was to secure the British author's interest by legalizing native reprints, paying a royalty to the copyright owner on the edition authorized to be printed, while their manufacture in the country would give employment to the various industries connected with publishing. In this effort of Canadian legislation to solve a knotty problem, it is not of course claimed that the highest regard is paid either to vested interests or even to abstract right. The compulsory clauses of the Acts take perhaps too much liberty