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CANADA.

that honourable gentleman, that by his exertions to bring the matter before the British Government and people during the last few years, he had done much to redeem what they now saw to have been a mistake. By the Confederation Act of 1867 the power to grant copyrights was given to the Canadian Parliament. It was a moot question which had never yet been decided by a court of law whether that Act over-rode or superseded the Imperial Statute of 1842. It was singular that we had legislated in our exclusive interest with respect to patents of invention and discovery under the same section of the Confederation Act which gave us power to legislate with respect to copyrights. It remained to be explained how it had come to pass there was exclusive jurisdiction in the one case, and only jurisdiction subject to the superior authority of Imperial legislation in the other. But few Canadian authors had taken advantage of the Canadian Copyright Act of 1868, although he believed that some publishers had been printing here to a limited extent the works of British authors by agreement with those authors. Practically, however, we were flooded at the present time by American reprints of British authors, the publication of which might be piratical, or by agreement with the original producer, while our publishers were prevented from reprinting these works in Canada on the same terms as the publishers of Boston or New York. The remarks which he had made applied, of course, more to current literature than to standard works. A practice had grown up in the United States of the leading publishers competing for advance sheets in the English market, so that while occasionally an English author found his work reproduced without compensation to himself, in very many instances the author, or those who had the copyright, were paid for the right to reprint. These arrangements, coupled with the fact that the Canadian sale was small in comparison with that in the United States, had probably prevented the English author from coming to terms with Canadian publishers. He would mention the results of the experience of one gentleman who was well known, not only as an enterprising publisher, but as one of the most loyal and patriotic of Canadians. He referred to Mr John Lovell of Montreal. Mr Lovell had been in business since 1835, and during the whole of that period had been desirous of giving Canada a cheap current literature of her own, or at any rate of her own production. A few years ago Mr Charles Reade's work "Foul Play" was published by an American firm. It did not enter Canada as an English reprint, but as an American copyright work. To test the state of the law, Mr. Lovell printed and published about 3,000 copies of that work at 25 cents, the American edition being sold in Canada at 75 cents. This left an admirable profit both for himself and the retail dealer. He was, however, threatened by Mr. Reade with an action at law, and although the action was never tried, he thought it better to place the profits to the credit of those who might be declared legally entitled to them, and there the money remained to this day. Mr. Lovell desired to publish another work of Mr Reade's, "Put Yourself in his Place," but on applying to Sheldon & Co. of New York for permission to publish it in Canada, he was told that he might do so for the trifling sum of twenty thousand dollars. This was not the only case in which the disadvantages of the present law had been shown. Mr. Lovell, however, was desirous of rendering his best assistance as a well-known Canadian publisher to induce the English publishers, who were our chief opponents in this matter, to withdraw any opposition which they might be disposed to offer to the Act of 1872, now awaiting the Royal Assent. He went to England and had an interview with Messrs. Longman and a number of other English firms. He reminded Mr Longman that he had offered to pay him 100*l.* for the privilege of publishing "Colenso's Algebra" in Canada, but Mr. Longman adhered to the determination that none of his copyright works should be published, as he said, by a colonist, and ended by the exclamation, "Thank God, we have got the power and we intend to keep it." We had to see whether we had not power and a cause so just to lay before the Imperial authorities as to break down Mr. Longman's resolution. Mr. Lovell, disheartened at the discouragement he had received for so many years, determined to circumvent the obstacles in another way. He established a printing office at Rouse's Point, set up his types in Montreal, took them to Rouse's Point, printed his sheets there, and sent them into Canada, paying the 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* customs duty. The American publishers, however, offered him so large an amount of business that he found he could more profitably employ his hands