

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE

ON

ACTS OF 8 ANNE, AND 15 & 41 GEO. III.

For the Encouragement of Learning,

By vesting the COPIES of PRINTED BOOKS, in the

Authors or Purchasers of such Copies.



*Ordered by The House of Commons, to be printed,  
20 July 1813.*



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# MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Committee on ACTS respecting Copy Rights of printed Books.

*Martis, 16<sup>o</sup> die Martii, 1813.*

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. called to The Chair.

Adjourned.

*Martis, 23<sup>o</sup> die Martii, 1813.*

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

**M**R. *Turner* heard on behalf of the Booksellers.

Mr. *Parry*, Bookseller, called in; and Examined.

WILL the delivery of eleven copies be to you a grievance?—I consider it will, in many instances.

*Mr Parry.*

In what will the grievance consist?—Where small numbers are printed, it bearing much more in proportion in small numbers than in large ones.

[Delivered in a Paper marked A.]

Books printed in small numbers, if 11 copies are delivered to Stationers Hall,	
of 50 - - - - it is - - - -	22 per cent.
100 - - - - - - - - - -	11
250 - - - - - - - - - -	4½
500 - - - - - - - - - -	2½
1,000 - - - - - - - - - -	1½
2,000 - - - - - - - - - -	¾
5,000 - - - - - - - - - -	¼

*H. Parry.*

Will the paper be the whole expense?—Certainly not; I consider the paper of about 1-5th of the value when published.

What make up the whole expenses of a work?—They are various: purchases of copy; editor, when copy is not purchased; paper; print; engraving; copper plate printing; wood cuts; hot-pressing; the risk of the capital; rent; taxes; advertising, and colouring plates. Bad debts we consider as part of the risk of the trade.

What proportion of those expenses will eleven copies bear?—The eleven copies will be in the exact proportion, as appears by the paper delivered in.

What effect will the delivery have on works, as to the undertaking of such works?—I should conceive, in many instances, to prevent those works being engaged in, especially where small numbers are intended to be printed.

Is that likely to affect the revenue?—Certainly, the duty on paper is very considerable, being from ¼ to 1-9th of the value. The duty on Rees's Cyclopaedia, if completed in 36 volumes, would amount to £. 1,000. and the duty on advertisements would amount to at least £. 2,000.

Has your trade any particular risk?—Many, as publishers and manufacturers, paper being the raw material; but we cannot bring forward three or four articles, as other manufacturers do, but must publish a large number, with very great uncertainty as to the final result of the sale.

Mr. Parry.

Is there not another copy taken away?—There is; by the Act for preventing Sedition, one copy must be lodged with the printer.

What were the expenses of the last edition of Shakspeare?—£. 5,875. the edition of Johnson and Steevens, by Reed, published in 1803.

How long was this selling?—Nine years.

What profit at last was gained upon it by the proprietors?—The book being nine years in selling, deducting  $\frac{1}{9}$  in each year, charging interest on the remainder 5 per cent. and 5 per cent. for the other expenses, servants wages, house rent and taxes, left a profit of £. 375. 16s. or 6s. per copy to the publisher.

What would have been the actual loss of giving the eleven copies there?—As the edition was sold, £. 122.; and would have left only 4s. per copy to the publishers.

Is that loss calculated on the prime cost or selling price?—On the retail price.

If 2s. had been added to the price of each copy, do you apprehend the sale would be much diminished, or in any degree?—I conceive not.

Will you be generally enabled to advance the price of books to meet this grievance, without injuring the sale?—Where small numbers are printed, I think not; for 250 must make an advance of £. 5. per cent.

In fixing the price of a book, do you not consider you are to furnish eleven copies gratis?—Certainly not; for until the late decision of Lord Ellenborough, we did not think the penalty of one penny per sheet sufficient, and therefore did not send the copies.

Would you not, in future, take it into consideration, and alter the price accordingly?—We certainly shall take it into consideration, but in small numbers we must decline the work.

In estimating the prime cost of eleven copies, do you include a proportion of the costs of advertising, of house rent and taxes, bad debts, and in short, a proportion of the general costs of the trade?—As publishers we certainly only include the actual expense the work costs us, but in the estimate, if eleven books are given out of 100, we conceive it to be 11 per cent.

Do you include in your estimate, the proportion of taxes, house rent, &c. which make up the proportion of your trade?—Certainly not.

Whether in estimating the cost of giving away the eleven copies, do you presume, if not given away, they would be sold?—When we agree to publish, we calculate every copy will be sold; but unfortunately, as booksellers run very great risk, many frequently being left on hand for years, and are at last sold for waste paper.

In those cases, can the delivery of the 11 copies be any loss whatever to the bookseller?—The 11 copies being delivered when published, we are in hopes of selling the whole copies; after the expiration of a few years, they become waste paper; but it is many years before that can be determined.

When it is known that you must give away 11 copies, would you not print a sufficient number to meet that demand?—We cannot, as we should pay for 11 the expense of printing 250 copies.

Why?—Such being the custom of the printers in London, and which have existed for several hundred years.

Can you only adjust by intervals of 250 to 500 copies, and so on?—Instances are, where we print less merely to save the additional expense of paper, but not many; and then we pay for the additional 250 printing.

You have stated, that the principal burthen is in books on which less than 250 copies are printed; but in all such works is there any additional expense to the printer by the 11 copies?—Certainly not; under 250 the printing is the same; but of plates, and those plates coloured, the expense of the colouring, and also the expense of the paper.

You having stated that a material loss arose to the publishers, from the early delivery of the 11 copies, are you of opinion that a more late delivery of these copies would not considerably relieve the publishers from the inconvenience and loss, which, in your opinion, they at present sustain?—It much depends on the time of the publishing. I will instance one book, Buchanan's Mysore. About 7 years since we gave 1,000 guineas to the East India Company for the copy. The book cost us near 4,000 guineas before it was published; at this moment we have not got back the original cost; and instead of 6 guineas, at which they were

were published, having half the impression on hand, we should be glad to sell for 3 guineas.

Mr. Parry.

How could that inconvenience be affected by the delivery of the 11 copies at a later or an earlier period?—Expecting the sale of the whole impression, we should have valued at 6 guineas.

It being now ascertained that 11 copies are to be delivered at some period, how is the inconvenience, mentioned in the last answer, affected by a later or earlier delivery?—If the 11 copies are to be delivered, it will not make any difference.

To what works does that relate?—To works that have not a speedy sale; I think 7 years a fit average to ascertain the sale.

In works that have a speedy sale, inasmuch as the 11 copies that are on all works to be delivered, what effect can the time of the delivery have in the inconvenience complained of?—The loss in works that have a speedy sale, by delivery early, would be the exact price at which they would be otherwise sold.

Then the time of the delivery does not affect, in your judgment, the interest of the publishers on the works of speedy sale, it being only affected by the value of the 11 copies?—After published, it can only affect as to the value of the copies delivered; but previous to the publication, it would be a consideration whether we would publish or not.

Do you mean to say that the delivery of the 11 copies would form a consideration previous to the determination of the publication; or that the time when those copies are to be delivered, would form an objection to the publication?—The time will not; but the delivery would, as I have before stated.

What do you call a small number of a work?—Five hundred copies and under.

What will relieve the proprietors of books, in your opinion, from the inconvenience complained of?—Reducing the number of copies to be delivered; paying a certain proportion of their first cost; not being obliged to send the eleven copies unless we wish to secure the copy-right; where two papers are printed, that on which the largest number is printed; books not to be sent above a certain value, and when the impression does not exceed 250 not to be sent; but the principal would be, that of paying a one-third or one-fourth of the price, would prevent books being demanded that are not wanted.

Will making these public bodies pay one-fourth of the selling price of the work, remove the apprehension that you entertain, that works of a certain description will not be published?—I believe it would.

Could you not indemnify yourself by increasing the price of each copy, on the principle of the calculation delivered by you to the Committee?—I think not. The delivery of the eleven copies in small numbers would prevent the book being undertaken at all; the expense being increased would check the sale, and would not indemnify us if that addition was put on.

*Mercurii, 24<sup>a</sup> die Martii, 1813.*

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

Mr. Thomas Norton Longman, called in, and Examined:

ARE you a bookseller and publisher?—Yes.

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

What will be the grievance to you, to give eleven copies of all works of which you sell all your edition?—The grievance in that case, certainly would be the full price of the whole eleven copies; between the publisher and the retail bookseller it would be the whole retail price of each copy.

What would be the grievance on those which do not sell?—The grievance on those that do not sell would be the price which they might be sold for at a bookseller's trade sale.

How many years do you wait before you sell for waste paper?—That is perfectly uncertain, the difference in the value of course is considerable; it is perfectly uncertain what the remainder of an impression may sell for at an auction, but always above waste paper price; frequently very near to the full trade price.

It depends upon the character of the book?—Perfectly so?

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

It is your custom, when you find works do not sell publicly, to sell them by auction among yourselves?—Certainly, that is the mode adopted.

Do any works sell after lying some years without a demand?—They sometimes do after the regular sale may be found to be over, some public circumstance or other brings a work into demand again; for instance, I might state, when the French invaded Egypt, books of travels in Egypt sold immediately, although they had lain dormant for years; a particular circumstance, which brings a subject into notice, creates a demand for a work which had not sold for a length of time before.

Would the delivery of eleven copies materially intrude upon the profits of small editions?—It would be more heavy upon small editions than large ones; the per-centage would be larger upon 250 copies than upon 1,000; besides on small editions there is a more certain sale, they are frequently all subscribed for, in those cases it may be looked for almost the whole price of the eleven copies.

Would it in any case prevent the author or proprietor from receiving any profit upon small editions of expensive works?—It might so happen; I should think it would not often happen; but I know it does so sometimes. I heard Mr. Nichols, the printer, state, within these few days, that of his works he has printed no more than 250 (that are valuable and respectable works of their kind), and that he has calculated that the trade sale price should pay him his expenses without even a view to profit.

In general, before a work is undertaken or published, you can pretty well ascertain who will be the purchasers?—Not always, even of small editions.

If the price was increased, by calculating the additional expense of the eleven copies in works of that kind, do you think the addition would be such as to prevent persons buying at that increased price?—A bad effect must be expected from every addition to the present price of books.

On those small editions if you were to calculate the expense of eleven copies, and on that account to put a higher price upon the number sold, do you think that would be likely, in many instances, materially to affect the sale?—I should apprehend it might in some cases; I think in many cases it would totally set aside the printing; I have, indeed, heard instances mentioned.

Are not those small editions the editions upon which most profit is made?—No, certainly; upon small editions the profit is not great, as upon large editions.

In proportion to the number of impressions printed, are not editions of fifty or a hundred more profitable, in proportion to the capital employed, than editions of a greater number of impressions?—I should hardly think so; the profit is not regular, either upon large or small editions; but I should not expect a larger proportion of profit from a small edition than a large one.

How comes it that this practice, which is modern, has grown to such an extent of printing small editions, if there is not a greater profit?—There is a reason for it; there is more printing of every description of late years than there used to be, and among the increase, that of printing small impressions of certain works, and the expected demand has not been considered to be sufficient to print a large impression. It has been sometimes thought, a small impression, by putting an adequate price upon it, would answer as far as it went; and small editions are sometimes published by way of subscription, and when the number is known to be limited, subscribers are more eager to come forward, from the rarity of the book; by that means, we can sometimes fill a subscription for a small number, when the number would not have been sold in the ordinary way.

Have you not heard, in the course of trade, that there are some persons, great collectors, who have ordered works published at a certain price, and who are sure customers for all works to that amount; as for instance, that an order is given for all works of 50 or 100 guineas?—I have not myself heard of any such customers, who have given an order to purchase all works of that description.

Do not you think, there are persons to whom the difference in the price of those costly works would make no difference as to their having them; that they would wish to have them, being great collectors?—I do not doubt that there are such, but it is not general by any means.

Are not those fine costly works in general, published for the sake of those collectors alluded to?—I should apprehend certainly not; that they could not be sufficient.

They are not published for general sale?—Certainly not for general sale; for very limited sale.

Do

Do you think that the modern practice of printing small editions, is conducive to the diffusion of literature?—I should think it would be particularly so.

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

Have the goodness to explain why?—Because it is probable, and I might almost say certain, that those editions would not be otherwise printed; the reason of printing a small edition is, because there is not a prospect of selling a large one.

The question refers to editions printed on royal paper; on large-sized paper with engravings, which add to the price, and which is the case with some small editions?—That is not always the case with small editions; I should think they would be less likely to introduce engravings in small editions.

The question refers to a smaller number of copies on large paper, where there are some printed on common paper?—That is quite a different question. Where there are both large and small printed together, or only one, for we frequently throw off a certain number of large paper copies, the reason of printing those large paper copies at the same time when the larger number are printed on ordinary paper is, that there are a certain number of persons who are fond of having a superior book to the ordinary, and are willing to pay a larger price; and at the same time, the practice of doing so probably may have the effect of reducing the price we should have put even on the ordinary paper; because the profit of the publisher is calculated in a general manner, not separating the larger paper from the small, but both together, and obtaining a larger price for a certain number of copies, would have the effect of reducing the price of the ordinary edition.

Do not authors, who print for themselves, frequently print small editions, from a fear of the work not selling, and the expenses of publication?—Certainly; in some cases authors, after booksellers have refused to engage in a work, will print a small edition themselves, having a certain number of subscribers that they may have collected, and trusting to the public for the disposal of the remainder.

When they print small editions of certain works, as 250, is not the profit exceedingly small, at the usual price books are every day printed at?—I should suppose the proportion of profit would be likely to be less, rather than greater.

Does not the profit arise upon the multiplicity of the copies?—Yes; certainly.

You have said, you consider that those smaller editions are conducive to the diffusion of literature; do you mean, that supposing a work to be useful to literature, a thousand copies, printed on medium paper, is not more serviceable to literature than 250 or 500 copies, printed on fine paper?—If they are all sold, certainly; because there are more copies circulated.

In case of small impressions, is not the reason for taking those small impressions, that the additional quantity of paper upon a larger impression would increase the loss, in the event of the non-sale?—Certainly; if the work does not sell, of course the larger the number of copies printed, the greater would be the loss.

Does not that render it necessary, in books not calculated for more than a small impression, not to take a large one?—Certainly; if the popularity of the subject is not great, of course we should look to a moderate demand.

Would not the consequence of printing a larger impression, by creating a greater loss, throw a damp upon similar undertakings in future?—Certainly; if a loss arises from printing large impressions, of course we take advantage, from experience in similar cases, to avoid such engagements.

Is it not therefore conducive, in that point of view, to literature, that small impressions of such works should be taken?—Certainly: when a bookseller or an author does not feel sufficient encouragement to print large editions, he may conceive it advantageous to print a small edition, and in that case literature is benefited, as the work would not otherwise have been printed.

Is it not a matter, therefore, of necessary policy in such editions, that the impressions should be small?—It is altogether a matter of policy.

What impression do you consider a small edition?—I consider 250 as a very small edition; 500 is a very moderate impression.

Do you ever print less than 250?—Such instances do occur, but very rarely.

Do you think that an addition to the price of a work of five per cent. in an impression of 250 copies, would indemnify the publisher for the eleven copies he is obliged to give away?—Of course it would indemnify, if they were all sold.

*Mr.*  
*T. N. Longman.*

Will it be any inconvenience to give away copies of a work of which the impression is not all sold?—Certainly, if the copies are not all sold, it is probable there will be a loss instead of a gain on the publication; and at any rate the profits will be likely to be diminished in proportion to the number that remains; in that case the value of the eleven copies that are given would be a loss in proportion to the price that could be obtained for them.

If you lay out of your account the probability of the public bodies buying?—Yes, those copies would be sold, not to the public.

Can it make any difference to the publisher whether the works remain in the wareroom or are given to the public bodies, in cases where they are not sold?—But the publisher would not allow them to remain there.

Supposing he cannot sell them, either at the first or the auction prices, but they become waste paper?—If he can obtain no more than waste paper, it is then only the value of the waste paper; but that rarely happens.

Then it makes the difference of the auction price?—Yes, it does.

When works are not bought by the public, you have the custom of submitting to dispose of them at an inferior price among yourselves?—That is the custom, certainly.

Your auction is confined to the trade?—Yes.

The trade bid one against another?—Yes.

The prices vary very much?—Yes.

Are they not generally sold there at very reduced prices?—The shades of difference at those auctions, are between the full price and the waste paper price.

Are not those auctions unknown to the public, and of your own private arrangement?—Quite unknown to the public.

The average price at those sales, is the medium price between the full price and the waste paper price?—Yes.

Are, or are not, your largest number of unsuccessful works disposed of at the trade sales?—They are.

In the case of an edition of which all the copies are sold, the Committee is to understand the addition of five per cent. to the price will indemnify the publisher on an edition of 250 copies?—That is simply an arithmetical question.

Will the addition of five per cent. materially hurt the sale of that impression?—That is a thing on which it is impossible for one to give an opinion simply; of course it would be difficult to add precisely five per cent. to the price of a book, because there are regular prices; if a book was price five guineas, £. 5. 10s. would be an awkward price, other prices would be still more awkward; but in fixing the price of a book, a small sum will sometimes determine the sale of a book, which shall vary more than that small sum shall appear precisely to call for.

Generally speaking, would the addition of five per cent. on an addition of 250 copies, materially affect the sale?—It would be difficult to answer that question, because the price of books is at present generally complained of; they are very much advanced of late years, and therefore we always apprehend, from the raising the price in the least degree, some diminution of sale.

You do not find the apprehension very generally verified?—If a work does not sell, it is impossible to say precisely the cause of its not selling.

If a work is sold, the price of which is 10s. would the addition of sixpence to that work, in your judgment, be a cause of preventing the sale of that work?—I should not have any great apprehensions on the subject, certainly.

Is not the expensive mode of printing books one great interruption to the sale of them; printing on wire-wove pressed paper, and so on, has not that impeded the sale of books?—I do not think so; it depends very much upon the nature of the work; some books sell the better for being handsomely printed; I have no doubt of it, that they would sell less if they were less expensively printed.

Independently of the price of materials, is not the present mode of printing books much more expensive than it was a few years ago?—Yes.

Of all descriptions?—I do not know, of all descriptions.

Is that occasioned by your own taste, or called for by the taste of the public?—We are always influenced by what we consider the taste of the public.

If an addition of five per cent. be put upon the price of books, would it not, upon



upon the whole, discourage booksellers from making contracts with authors?—It would sometimes turn the scale.

Have you any means of knowing whether the public think the price too high but by the not selling?—We have no other means of knowing than the objections that we hear, and the book not selling.

You do not mean that the price is the only cause of the non-sale of books?—By no means.

Have you experienced a diminution in the sale, since the prices have been raised, of any particular works?—I am not prepared to instance any particular works.

In an impression of 250, speaking generally, if the whole were sold, according to the usual price put upon such books, would the whole amount be much more than equal to the expenses?—Certainly, the price would be fixed so as to allow the ordinary profit.

Would not the price of eleven copies bear a large proportion to the total profit put upon the impression?—Eleven copies were estimated just now at five per cent.; the profits, of course, would be diminished five per cent.

Unless the price could be added to the rest?—Of course.

Could you add that price to all the works you publish without injury to their sale?—I cannot consider that that price can be added without injury, nor could the price be added in all cases at all.

Could such a price be put upon an impression of 250, as would bring the profit of such small impressions out of proportion to the profit on a larger impression, that is, the profit, upon the same number?—I should rather expect the profit to be less than the usual proportion of a larger impression.

Would not therefore the taking away eleven copies, bear a larger proportion to the deduction from the profit?—The eleven copies would be a heavier deduction on a small impression than a large one.

The grievance of paying eleven copies is, in your opinion, heaviest upon the small impressions?—Certainly.

Upon an edition of a thousand copies it would be much lighter?—The grievance would be heavier on a smaller number than a thousand, than it would upon a thousand.

And the indemnification necessary to be added to the price could be more easily procured upon an impression of a thousand copies, than upon any smaller impression?—It would certainly be easier, inasmuch as it was less in proportion to each copy.

Would you, in point of fact, upon a thousand or two thousand copies, think it policy to advance your price, if the obligation of depositing the eleven copies should be enforced?—We should in no case advance the price of a book unless the necessity of the case called for it; the price of those eleven copies, with the addition of other collateral expenses, would influence the raising the price of the book when the value of the eleven copies could justify the raising of the price.

Is, or is not, the present price of literary works complained of by the public and by literary men?—Certainly, it is very much complained of.

Does it, or does it not, in their opinion, affect literature?—In my opinion it tends to diminish the sale of books; I am certain it does in the foreign market, in a very great degree.

Are there not many works which possess considerable literary reputation, of which only small impressions are taken?—Certainly.

If the profit of eleven copies was taken from those works, would it not tend to discourage the publication of many such works?—I have no doubt that it would.

Are the works that have the most literary credit, in general, those that are most calculated for a large impression?—Certainly not always, by any means; a work may possess very great literary merit, yet the subject may not be very popular, and in that case the work would not be adapted for a large impression.

Are there, or not, many important works so circumstanced?—Certainly many very important and very valuable works.

What expenses do you consider every individual work to bear, independent of your general expenses of business?—Paper, printing, engraving, printing the engravings, editorship or authorship, advertising; those are the principal expenses that occur to me.

Is the advertising a specific expence upon every individual work?—Certainly.

Does

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

Does it not occur to you, in your practice as a publisher, to have manuscripts often offered to you, which, from your own opinion or the opinions of those you consult, are considered to have great merit, but which you think will not pay the expenses of publication?—Certainly.

Would not any necessary addition to the price of those works operate still more strongly in deterring you from undertaking the publication of them?—Certainly.

Would the items of expense you have stated, the printing, engraving, editorship and advertising, be increased by the giving of eleven copies?—The eleven copies would bear their proportion of those expenses.

In the printing of 50 copies, would the printing expence be at all increased by printing eleven copies more?—One can hardly speak of fifty copies, it is not a usual number to print; it is so very rare, it is not a number worth taking into the account.

Suppose any number under 250 were printed, would the printing expense be increased?—Certainly not.

Would the advertising expence be at all increased by the addition of the eleven copies?—The amount of advertising should be adapted to the number of copies that are to be sold.

You would not advertise for the purpose of procuring those bodies to take them gratis?—Certainly not.

Would the expense of advertising be affected by the printing the eleven copies?—If we print a thousand copies, the expense of advertising would be the same, independent of that.

Would the expense of printing the engravings be increased?—Certainly, the engravings would be printed expressly for the eleven copies.

The engravings are printed for the whole impression of 500, are they not?—Not necessarily; we frequently print a hundred or two hundred, as we want them.

Would the expense of making the copper plate or the wood cut be increased?—Certainly not.

Then the total increase would be, striking off eleven additional engravings, and the paper?—Yes.

Would not the delivery of eleven copies be considered as one item of expense added to the other items already mentioned?—Certainly.

And in the case of fifty copies, if such a case ever occurs, would there be any advertisement at all?—I should hardly expect that there would.

Have not the expenses of printing and paper very greatly increased of late?—Certainly.

Has not that increase of expenses of printing and paper tended to induce you to decline the publication of many works, which you would have published previously to that increase of expense, upon the ground that you cannot put a proportionate price upon the article?—Certainly; works do not occur to my recollection, but I am sure that is the case.

Is there this difference between the printing of letter-press and of plates, that in the letter-press you strike off the whole number at once, but that as to the plates you supply the demand as it arises?—Yes; and eleven copies of the plates would be printed expressly for the delivery; the expense would not be incurred, unless they were to be delivered.

Very frequently, you say, publishers are deterred from the publication of works of merit, from the circumstance of the expense; you also say, that the expense of eleven copies is confined to the printing of the engravings and the paper for those eleven copies; would the determination of refusing to print a work of some supposed merit be at all affected, from the consideration of the expense of the paper necessary for eleven copies, and printing the copper-plates necessary for those eleven copies?—I cannot consider that the expense incurred on account of the eleven copies is at all confined to the paper, because, in determining the number that shall be printed of a work, we determine upon a round number, 500 or a thousand copies; because we consider this the most advantageous number to be printed, it comprises the whole advantages. If we were to print 989 copies, we should lose the advantages which we gain by printing a thousand; and therefore, I consider, that the expenses attached to the eleven copies comprise that portion of the total expense attached to the whole impression.

Your

Mr. T. N. Longman.

Your answer is upon the supposition, that the 989 copies, or a thousand, are sold?—It had no reference to that question.

When you calculate upon the undertaking of a work, you presume that the whole number of copies will be sold?—Of course we hope so.

When you calculate upon the loss of eleven copies out of the thousand, you calculate upon what you presume will be the sale of the work?—Presuming the whole number to be sold to the public, or at the trade auction.

In point of fact, what is the proportion of works of which the whole impression is sold off, to the number of works printed?—I am afraid the larger proportion do not sell off.

Is it much more than one in twenty of which the whole impression is sold off?—I should apprehend, much more of books of value.

Are editions of fifty copies the one-thousandth part of literature?—Oh dear, no; they are not worth mentioning. Fifty copies are nothing; they are printed probably for an author's private friends.

You mentioned, a little while ago, with respect to the export trade of books; in what state do you conceive that branch of the trade to be; has it increased or diminished of late years?—The principal export of English books is to America, which certainly has considerably diminished; during the war it is altogether at an end, of course.

Prior to the war, how was it?—It was diminished.

What do you apprehend would, under all the circumstances, be the difference of the expense of printing an edition in every respect the same, the same paper and the same types, in this country and in America?—I must speak very generally.

Do you apprehend that they could materially undersell the English trade?—Certainly, very materially.

Do they print English books extensively in America?—Yes, more and more every year. All the standard books are printed in America.

Do they print well there?—Yes, very well, indeed.

Before the intercourse with America was stopped, did you not expect a large vent for English books in America?—Certainly, we sent out to a large amount.

Would not any addition to the price act as a considerable impediment to that vent?—Certainly, in every respect; we have complaints in almost every letter of the price of English books.

Has not the trade been considerably benefited by the Act of 1801, which extended the copy right to Ireland?—Certainly it has.

To a very great extent?—To a considerable extent, certainly.

Although fifty copies are of no importance in your large concern, is not an edition of that number of peculiar importance to the author, who undertakes it?—Certainly.

Can you state what the difference of the expense of publishing an edition of an expensive work would be in England and in France, including engravings and other expenses?—I must speak very generally, as I have not estimated the difference. With engravings the difference would be much greater than without engravings. In such a case, I should not be surprised to find the difference nearly one half; the engravings are so exceedingly expensive in this country.

Do you know the difference of expense of engraving in this country and France?—No, I speak generally; but I hear French booksellers speak of the dearness of our books of art. We are publishing Gil Blas with engravings from designs of Mr. Smirke. A French bookseller observed, that he thought the work would not sell in France, although we had a French edition as well as an English, on account of the great price of it.

In general, in the printing of expensive works, illustrated by engravings, have you not formerly looked for remuneration very much from the foreign market; was not that a considerable object in the speculation?—I believe that has been more the case with printsellers than among booksellers. I can scarcely answer that question; we have not been in the habit ourselves of exporting much to the Continent.

You have not published many expensive works with prints?—Some we have.

How many copies are required to be delivered in America to their public libraries?—Two copies, I believe.

Mr.  
T. A. Longman.

Does it not happen, in small editions, that very often the whole impression is sold, even to the last copy?—Oh, certainly; generally.

More often than not?—Yes.

Then of course the whole eleven copies would be a total loss?—Entirely so.

Would not that be met, by adding to that small number of impressions eleven copies?—To add eleven copies to 250, would be a considerable expense; the printers would charge for 500.

Would not in that case the expense of printing those eleven additional copies, be equal to the printing 250?—Yes.

Where a work meets with a rapid sale, on a first impression of 250 copies, is it not usual immediately to print another edition of 250 copies of the same work?—No, certainly not.

You never print a second edition, till the first is exhausted?—In those cases I should think it rarely happens we print 250, which supplies the market sufficiently.

In that case you do not consider, that the sale of the 250 is any reason for supposing that another 250 will sell?—Certainly not.

What do you estimate to be a fair proportion of your general expenses of business, on every individual work?—We estimate five per cent.

Do you give any longer credit in your business than trade generally bears?—We give particularly long credit.

Does this expose your receipts to any greater risk than any other trade?—Of course the risk is always in proportion to the length of credit.

What do you estimate to be a fair proportion of your expenses for your losses by bad debts?—We estimate the general average of our house at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Do you undertake expensive and hazardous publications?—Certainly, sometimes.

What has the Cyclopædia, by Dr. Rees, cost you?—There has been already expended on the Cyclopædia £.200,000.

How many years has that been selling?—Ten or twelve years.

What profit has yet been divided upon it?—None, as yet.

It is not complete yet?—No, it is not; but two-thirds.

Is there any other work, consisting of both letter-press and prints, upon which you have expended a very large sum?—We have expended a very large sum on a work of art, the British Gallery of Pictures.

Would you object to name the sum?—Many thousand pounds; I cannot precisely say.

Fifteen thousand?—I should suppose so.

Has the work yet repaid your expenses?—It has not yet.

Do you frequently give large sums for copyrights on works which do not succeed?—That happens, certainly, occasionally.

Do you often print works, consisting of any number of volumes, which do not sell?—Certainly.

Would or would not this fact, of large, hazardous, and losing publications, make the delivery of eleven copies upon your whole trade a material grievance to you?—Delivering eleven copies of the whole of our publications, would be a material grievance, certainly.

Would you not take into your account that very expense, in your agreement for a copy right?—In engaging with an author, we certainly should take into consideration the eleven copies in our estimate, which would, of course, be likely to diminish the author's profit.

In that case, would or would not the author be the injured party?—The author, in that case, would be the injured party.

Would not the deduction of those eleven copies from your general trade, diminish that from your profit upon the whole work, which induces you to engage in this vast undertaking?—Certainly, as far as it went it would diminish the fund.

Would the eleven copies delivered, be more free from the general expense of the work, than any other eleven copies of the work?—I cannot so consider it; if a portion of the items is taken off the eleven copies, it would be added to the remainder of the impression, so as to make them cost more than their proportion would otherwise be: if we print a thousand copies of a book, which is the most advantageous number to print, it comprizes all the advantages; if 989 copies

copies are printed, it would cost us the same as if we printed a thousand; and therefore the advantage that we should gain upon those eleven copies is destroyed: we should not wish to print 989, and lose the extra advantages.

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

If two hundred and fifty copies are printed, rather than two hundred and thirty-nine, is there any difference as to the expense of editorship?—No.

Is there any difference as to house-rent, taxes, bad debts, and other expenses?—No.

Does the price of the advertisement depend upon the value of the book?—I should think, certainly it would not, in all cases.

Does not the newspaper charge you according to the number of lines?—Certainly; but the advertisement may require to be repeated oftener; a high priced book would require it to be repeated oftener, most likely.

In the first instance, an advertisement would cost five shillings, or any other sum?—Certainly.

You have already said, there is a certain common profit to booksellers; what proportion does the profit bear to the prime cost of the work?—It is irregular; it is not always the same.

In calculating the price that you ought to receive for a work, to remunerate all the expenses of it, do not you take into the calculation the expense of advertising, editorship, and those other articles you have enumerated, and divide them among the whole number of books you sell?—Certainly.

If there are eleven copies, from which you have excluded three or four of those items, those copies will cost you less?—Certainly, those eleven copies will cost less.

Less by the amount of those items which you have excluded?—Exactly.

What proportion does the paper bear to the other expenses?—It does not always bear the same proportion, it depends upon the number that are printed; in proportion as the number is increased, the proportion of the paper is greater to the print.

Take 500?—Generally speaking, it may be two-thirds of the whole.

What is the difference in expense between what is called best paper and the medium printing paper?—Perhaps it is double the price.

Then works printed upon medium paper, being only half the price, will bear a price to the purchaser, not perhaps in the same proportion, but will be nearly as cheap again to the purchasers?—Perhaps not as cheap again: the usual mode is two-thirds, one-third less; not universally so.

Will not those works, in consequence of being so much cheaper, be more generally sold?—Certainly.

If the work therefore is useful, will it not conduce more to the diffusion of literature?—Certainly, that which circulates the most.

Of late years, the circulating libraries and subscription libraries, in all parts of the kingdom, have very much increased?—They have.

Do you think that this custom has been injurious to the trade of the booksellers?—I think the contrary.

How should you account for that?—It tends to diffuse a taste for reading; having read a book, you have a desire to possess it, in many cases: besides that, the numerous societies which exist, each taking a copy, creates a considerable demand.

Although many persons have access to those libraries, and therefore need not purchase those works, yet, upon the whole, the notoriety given to the works, induces a demand, which is ultimately an advantage to the trade?—I have no doubt of it.

Does it, or not, also prevent other people from purchasing?—It unquestionably prevents some persons from purchasing; but, upon the whole, I should suppose it increases the demand.

Has not the sale of books, generally speaking, considerably increased within the last ten years?—It is rather depressed at present; but putting out of question the temporary depression, the sale has certainly increased; I should doubt whether larger numbers are sold, but there is a greater variety of publications.

Were you concerned in some meetings which were held between the booksellers some years ago, in reference to a Bill which Mr. Villiers brought into Parliament upon this subject?—I was present at those meetings.

As a principal bookseller, and a great purchaser of copy right, did not you consider an extension in the term of copy right, quite equivalent for the loss which

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

which they would sustain by the delivery of the eleven copies?—I did not consider that.

Was that generally thought?—I do not think it was; there were some persons of that opinion.

Does your house deal largely in copy right?—Yes, certainly.

Is there any other house that deals so largely as yours?—That is difficult to say; I should suppose none more so.

Would eleven copies of those works on the common paper, at the selling retail price, cost those sums?—[*showing a list to the witness.*]—These appear to me, as far as I can recollect the prices, to be accurate.

Trade Sale Price in boards; estimate Eleven Copies:

	Per Copy.	TOTAL.
Johnson's Poets, 21 vols. 8vo. in bds.	£. 16. 10. 6.	£. 186 14 6
British Essayists, 45 vols. royal 18°	7. 4. 9.	79 12 3
- - - Novelists, 50 vols. 18°	9. — 10.	99 9 2
Bowles's Pope's Works, 10 vols. 8vo.	3. 15. —	41 5 —
Wakefield's Pope's Homer, 9 vols.	2. 17. —	31 7 —
Dryden's Works, by Scott, 18 vols. 8vo.	6. 15. —	74 5 —
Swift's Works, by Nichols, 10 vols. 8vo.	6. 3. 6.	67 18 6
Camden's Britannia, 4 vols. folio	12. 12. —	138 12 —
Miller's Gardeners' Dictionary, 2 vols. folio	9. 18. —	108 18 —
Buffon's Natural History, 20 vols. 8vo.	8. 10. —	93 10 —
Aikin's Biography, 10 vols. 4to.	11. 17. 6.	130 12 6
Inchbald's Theatre and Farces, 42 vols.	8. 4. 4.	90 7 8
Somers's Tracts, 10 vols. 4to.	23. 5. —	255 15 —
Harleian Miscellany, 10 vols.	23. 10. —	258 10 —
State Trials, 21 vols. royal	25. 4. —	277 4 —
Thus 11 copies of these 15 works, at the lowest wholesale price, would amount to	£.	1,934 — 11

If these editions all sell, the proprietors will lose actually these sums.

Actual Cost of Eleven Copies of the following Works, taken from the Booksellers Account of the Cost to each other, and including merely paper, printing, money paid for copy-right and editorship, plates, and specific advertising:

	Actual Cost.	Cost of each Copy.	Cost of 11 Copies.
	£.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Johnson's Poets, by Chalmers, 1,500 printed	16,031.	10. 8. —	114. 8. —
British Essayists - - - 1,500 d°	5,642.	3. 15. —	41. 5. —
- - - Novelists, - - - 1,000 d°	4,900.	4. 18. —	53. 18. —
Bowles's Pope's Works, - - - 1,500 d°	4,500.	3. — —	33. — —
Wakefield's Pope's Homer 1,000 d°	1,700.	1. 14. —	18. 14. —
Swift's Works - - - 750 d°	2,662.	3. 11. —	39. 11. —
Buffon's Works - - - 1,250 d°	6,781.	5. 8. 6.	59. 13. 6.

In the account of this Work a Copy is charged as given to the Index-maker; and it is actually charged to the Booksellers themselves at £. 7.

The above cost does not include boarding, it is the cost merely in sheets; but the delivery is with boarding.

The above are taken from the Booksellers strict accounts with each other, and include none of the general expenses or risques of trade.

Actual Cost of Eleven Copies of the following Works, estimated the same way:

Aikin's Biography - - - 11 copies	£. 104. 10. —
Inchbald's Theatre - - - d°	50. 15. 8.
State Trials - - - d°	117. 6. 8.
Dryden's Works - - - d°	40. 3. —

Actual Cost of the Paper only of the following Works:

Johnson's Poets - - - 11 copies	£. 49. 14. 9.
British Essayists - - - d°	23. 8. —
D° Novelists - - - d°	27. 14. 8.
Bowles's Pope - - - d°	10. 4. 9.
Wakefield's Pope - - - d°	8. 7. 9.
Buffon - - - d°	23. 16. —
State Trials - - - d°	48. 8. —
Nichols's Swift - - - d°	23. 8. —
British Theatre - - - d°	20. 18. 9.

We

We have not had time to ascertain the cost of the paper of the other works; but it will be a striking injustice not to consider the eleven copies as bearing their proportion of the whole specific expense of the works, like any other eleven copies.

The fact that booksellers charge each other for any copy given to Editors, Index-makers, &c. at nearly the wholesale price, proves that they consider each copy as actually worth more than its proportion of the expense.

Mr.  
T. N. Longman,

That is the price the public would have to pay for them?—It appears to me, as far as I can examine them, to be accurate.

Between the publisher and the retail bookseller, there is a difference of trade sale price?—Yes.

How much is that?—Twenty-five per cent. is the usual allowance.

If those books were delivered, would or would not the difference between the trade sale price, and that retail price, have been lost to the proprietor of those eleven copies?—If every copy had been sold.

Do you happen to know the number of copies printed of each of those works?—I might recollect, probably, some of them.

You might be able to ascertain whether any additional expense is incurred in printing the eleven additional copies?—Certainly not.

There are twelve works mentioned in the petition of the booksellers; are you aware whether some of them consist only of plates, or not; Daniel's Oriental Scenery, of what does that consist?—Only of plates.

Sibthorpe's Flora Græca?—Letter-press and plates.

The British Gallery?—A mixture of engravings and letter-press.

Costumes of the World?—That is a mixture of letter-press and plates.

Hodges's Views in India?—That contains letter-press, I believe.

Salt's views?—I believe that is wholly engravings, or the letter-press is trifling.

Daniel's Voyage to India?—That also has a leaf of letter-press to each engraving.

In those books of which you said there was a mixture, is the letter-press any more than the necessary explanation of the plate?—Nothing more, I believe.

Are not those works which consist of plates, more expensive in their paper and in their printing than letter-press?—Oh yes, very considerably indeed; the paper is much higher, and the printing is also very considerable.

On Dugdale's Monasticon, now publishing, what are the prices of the large and small paper copies?—The large paper 130 guineas, and the small paper 52 guineas.

*Martis, 30<sup>a</sup> die Martii, 1813.*

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

Mr. Thomas Norton Longman, called in; and further Examined.

INDEPENDENTLY of your general expense of business, what do you find to be, upon an average, the actual cost, out of pocket, of every book you publish?—The actual cost is usually nearly one half of the advertised price, of the retail selling price.

Are you able to state what eleven copies of every book you have published during the last three years would have amounted to, calculated at your wholesale price?—We have made an estimate, which amounts to £. 5,600. for three years, upon an average of £. 1,800. a year.

If the whole editions of those books should sell, would that be the actual loss incurred by delivering those copies?—Certainly.

According to the general average of the cost of books, what would be the actual cost out of pocket of those books?—About two-thirds of that amount.

You have stated before, that your average cost was one-half of the selling price; allow me to ask, first, what is the proportion of the wholesale price to the cost out of pocket, of books in general?—The wholesale price is about three-fourths of the retail price.

Then what is the general average of the actual cost out of pocket upon the wholesale price?—About two-thirds.

What is the difference between the prime cost, that is, the expense you are at, and the wholesale price?—The wholesale price is usually about one-half more than the prime cost.

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

What proportion of the books you publish are usually sold for waste paper?—We do not sell one-fiftieth part for waste paper; perhaps not one part in a hundred.

Have you an idea of the proportion of books you sell at your trade auction sales?—I have not examined our books to ascertain that.

Can you tell us what proportion of books in general is sold, of every impression?—I think I stated, on the last day, that about one book in ten sells off entirely.

Consequently, that of ten impressions of different works, nine do not sell off?—I think so; I asked that question of one of my partners, and he said he thought I had overstated it; he thought that more were sold off than one in ten.

If there is a quick sale for a book, of course that book is not sold at the trade auction price at all?—Certainly not.

There are many works which sell so quick, that you have no occasion to resort to a trade auction price?—Many.

When you do, are not the expenses considerably augmented; what expenses arise from a trade auction?—A duty of five per cent. and other expenses, of from two and a half to five per cent.

As a specimen of a particular class of grievance, state the price of eleven copies of Dugdale's *Monasticon*, now printing, on large and common paper?—The price of the large paper is one hundred and thirty guineas a copy; and on common paper fifty guineas.

Are the subscriptions to this work full?—Quite full.

Then what will be the actual loss upon them, if you deliver eleven copies to the Universities?—The whole price, certainly.

Has any of the eleven libraries subscribed to this work?—Trinity College, Dublin, and Trinity College, Cambridge, have subscribed.

What, in your opinion, would relieve the proprietors of books?—Of course the non-delivery of the eleven copies, or to reduce the number, would be one mode; or if a portion of the price were paid.

What proportion of the price would operate as a relief to them?—The least proportion would be one-fourth.

Do you state this one-fourth as what would be an actual relief, or, for any reason, as a compromise of the question; whether it takes off the grievance?—It certainly is not the amount of the grievance.

Is there any other mode of relief you have to suggest?—If the ordinary paper were delivered instead of the large paper, which is usually printed for amateurs; it is conceived the ordinary paper might suit students at the Universities as well as the larger copies.—If no copies were delivered, when impressions so small as two hundred and fifty are printed. This is not a very great object to booksellers, as such a small number occurs comparatively very seldom; still, when it does occur, the grievance is particularly hard. But it perhaps might be more injurious to literature than to the booksellers; because it might, and no doubt would, suppress some valuable works which would otherwise be printed. The regulation may also tend to prevent improvements being made upon the reprint of a work, in order to save the eleven copies.—If the copies were delivered only on demand, and not every publication sent, we conceive that would be a very great relief. If no copies were delivered in cases when the book is not entered at Stationers Hall, when we do not consider the copy right as an object worth eleven copies to protect it.

In the case of so small an impression as two hundred and fifty copies, is it not generally usual to have a subsequent edition?—By no means.

A subsequent edition of perhaps not so splendid a kind?—It is very unusual. Another mode of relief, which I would mention, is, the exception of works consisting of engravings only, such as Flaxman's designs of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* of Homer, his designs from *Eschylus* and from *Dante*; those works have no letter-press.

Do they come within the present law?—Certainly not.

Are they done up as books?—They are done up as books, as a series.

They are not published by engravers or printsellers?—No. Then there are books consisting principally of prints, with perhaps one leaf of description to every print, which would come under the description of a book; such as *Britton's Antiquities of England*, the *Works of Hogarth*, of the *Dilettanti Society*.

Do



Do you mean such books, where prints are the first object, and the letter-press merely by way of explanation of those prints?—Precisely so. The whole expense of printing eleven copies of those works is absolutely incurred. The case is different with a book of letter-press, of which you would print the same number, whether you have the eleven copies to deliver or not; but upon books of prints you incur, besides the expense of paper, which is much dearer than ordinary paper, that of printing, which is incomparably higher than ordinary press-work, purposely for the eleven copies.

Mr. T. N. Longman.

Of such works you only take off a number as they are called for?—Only as they are called for; therefore if we have to deliver eleven copies, they are printed expressly for the purpose.

Still the expense of the letter-press, in those cases, must be incurred at once?—Certainly; there is no distinction in that respect from any other work. Books of prints are frequently published coloured; there again the grievance is increased; colouring of prints is particularly expensive. I allude now to such works as Mr. Daniel's Voyage to India, botanical books, books of natural history, such as Mr. Donovan's, Mr. Gell's Topography of Troy, published with coloured plates: the expense of colouring, as well as of printing the copper-plates, would be incurred expressly for the eleven copies.

Would there be any mode of exactly drawing the line, so as to determine in what works the prints are the first object, and the letter-press a subordinate one; in many books it is perfectly evident?—Such a book as Britton's Antiquities, where the letter-press is a description of the immediate plate attached to it, would perhaps come under the class I am speaking of. I think it would be a sufficient distinction, where the letter-press is a description only of the plates, differing from a book of voyages and travels, where the plates are intended to illustrate the letter-press.

How would you class an Encyclopædia?—I would class an Encyclopædia as I would a book of voyages and travels. I would mention also, the exception of songs and music.

Would not this be a line of distinction; wherever the prints belonging to a book are published separately, and do not necessarily constitute a part of it?—It would.

Which is the case of Lysons's Britannia, where the prints are published separately, and you buy them with the book, or not?—Yes.

Can you state about what is the average number of copies printed of every impression of a work, speaking from your experience in your own concern?—Our house may have printed much less than the usual average of works, of two hundred and fifty in number; I should rather think seven hundred and fifty may be the general average of the works we publish.

Mr. Joseph Mawman, called in, and Examined.

Mr. J. Mawman.

ARE there any books, published by subscription, for charitable purposes?—Yes, there are many.

Will you state an instance or two?—I have published books for charitable purposes, for a Mrs. Irvin, for a Mrs. Clive, and for others.

In such cases, what will be the actual loss to the party, of delivering eleven copies to the Universities?—The loss to those ladies would have been precisely the sum they would otherwise have got for the books, and I believe that would have been the full selling price; for they were published by subscription, and in one or both instances I subscribed myself, and in those instances I gave the full price: there is also, in such instances, usually very little allowance made to the trade.

In those cases, and in the general case also of books, is it probable that eleven copies more will be printed for this delivery?—No, certainly not, as a general rule. If the number should be very small indeed, it might be so, but we print in specific numbers so constantly, that it can hardly ever happen; two hundred and fifty, five hundred, seven hundred and fifty, and so on: to add eleven copies in those cases, would certainly be a great expense, much exceeding the value of the books themselves, even at the full selling price.

Considering the present prices of books, have you any opinion whether an addition to those prices can be safely made in general?—I think it might be safely

Mr. J. Mawman. safely made, but I think it would not usually be made. It would not usually take place, because, when we fix the price of a book, it is generally at half a guinea, fifteen shillings, one guinea, five guineas, and we should not make the charge of £.5. 6s. or so on; so that, in reality, the giving of the eleven copies would, in almost all cases, be so much out of the pocket of the publisher or the author.

You could not increase the price of a book, to meet the fractional increase of expense by the delivery of eleven copies?—No; certainly we should not.

Will the cost of the eleven copies be in any case the cost of the paper only?—No, never. The paper is frequently a very small item; the copy right is often the greatest expense in a book; after that, comes the paper, and the printing, and the advertising, and a variety of other expenses; there is the making of an index, which is not considered the author's business.

Is there a specific expense of advertising upon every new work?—Upon every new work; and a large expense.

Would the delivery of these eleven copies increase the expense of advertising in every instance?—Certainly not.

If you give a copy to an editor or an index-maker, how do you charge it in your accounts with each other?—We invariably charge it upon the expense of the work.

At what price?—At the trade price, always.

Have you ever published any books for the Colleges, or the Fellows of Cambridge?—Yes, I have for both.

Were you ever directed by them to enter or deliver copies of their books?—Never. I published one book for Trinity College, Cambridge; and I have published books for different Fellows of Colleges.

Those books for charitable purposes that you spoke of, I suppose are books of small expense?—Sometimes; in one instance, lately, a guinea.

What book was that?—Letters from Sicily, written by a physician, who died leaving a widow with a family. He had written letters to some friends here, and those friends, for the purpose of assisting the lady, published them by subscription, and we never charged to the trade less than eighteen shillings in boards; in general, the full price.

They are books not published with a view to profit?—Not with a view to profit in the trade, but with a view to great profit by the subscriptions; they are very often much dearer than other books, because they are published with the view of doing a benefit to the family of the authors.

Volumes of sermons are very often published with that view?—Very often.

What effect, in your opinion, will the delivery have upon the literature of the country, as to preventing publications, or not?—I think, in some few instances, it may suppress a book altogether, where the book is very expensive, and where it is of a very scientific nature. Where a book is so likely to drop dead-born from the press, a bookseller will be very loth to risk any thing upon it; the author also will be very unwilling to risk any think upon it; in general they cannot risk. But in ordinary books the delivery will not operate to produce any injury whatever; in school-books and books of little value, certainly it would not prevent publication.

It appears then, from what you state, that no grievance exists in ordinary publications?—In books of low value.

You seem to confine the grievance to works of expense, and where the impression is small?—I do.

Do you think it will ever suppress a work of which so many as 250 copies would be printed?—I think it might.

Would a tax of about five per cent. or less than five per cent. suppress the publication of a work of 250 copies?—I think it would, in many instances; and I think it is quite an erroneous mode of considering it, to take it at no more than five per cent. because it is five per cent. upon the supposition that the 250 copies are sold. Now, when a book of such a number is published, the possibility is, that not fifty will be sold; the probability is, that not one hundred will be sold. There is no such thing as foreseeing whether a book will sell; therefore, if to the risk of not selling the book, is to be added the certain and immediate loss of eleven copies, an author will, in many instances, say, I will not print the book at all.

Does

Does it frequently happen, when you print so small an edition as 250, that not 100 copies are sold?—Frequently; I have known many instances of it. Mr. J. Mawman.

What has been expressed to you by any author, on the effect of the delivery of these copies, upon his intended publication?—An author has declared, though he has a work already in the press, and which he prints with a view to profit, if this legislative regulation should take place for the delivery of eleven copies, he will destroy what he has already printed, and suppress the work altogether.

This person is both author and publisher?—He is a printer, and the author, and has published a great many books.

What number does he print?—He has not stated to me.

Are you acquainted with the nature of the work?—It is a book of antiquities.

Is it a book of printed antiquities or medals, or architectural antiquities?—I do not know.

Is it a book of mere print, or one in which there is a great number of drawings of any kind?—I believe it is merely printed; I believe there are no engravings.

Can you guess what is the price of the book?—It is a folio book.

Would it not happen that authors, who are anxious to publish their works, not with a view to profit, but merely content to bring themselves home, would be deterred from the publication, according to the quantum of loss that necessarily would follow?—Certainly, I have no doubt about it.

That they would be content, if the sale of the copies should just bring them home; but would say, I cannot undertake not only to publish, but to publish at the certainty of a loss?—Certainly.

Will not the taking away of eleven copies affect such a determination?—It would, by adding to the risk.

There are many works published which booksellers will not take the risk of, but which authors are obliged to publish at their own risk?—Certainly, there are.

And those works of merit?—Many.

What, in your opinion, will relieve the proprietors of books?—I think the only way in which the booksellers can be relieved from the oppression, is the payment of a proportion of the retail price of a book.

What proportion do you think would relieve them?—I think, in some very expensive books, about one-half, and in other cases one-fourth; I cannot help fancying the Universities would find that the best mode to be adopted, and the most certain way of procuring the books.

Have you had any conversation with any members of Cambridge University, upon that subject?—Yes, I have; I have had conversation with two or three gentlemen, very principally interested, or rather, who are principally consulted upon this question, members of the University of Cambridge; and they have expressly stated, that they have by no means any wish to oppress literature.

My question went also to ask, whether they had expressed any opinion as to that plan of payment?—One of the members thought that would be the best mode which could be adopted; but I cannot say that I generally consulted them.

You do not happen to know whether the University of Cambridge has any fund for the purchase of books?—I believe they have.

State whether you consented to the Bill which Mr. Villiers brought in some years ago, in 1808, for the purpose of deciding this point, as it has now been decided by the Court of King's Bench?—I believe I did; and I should be exceedingly sorry if any thing I then did, should be considered as denoting my opinion at present. The enquiry at that time was confined to a few booksellers, who were in some such a situation, perhaps, as myself, and I, at that time, was very little acquainted with the exceeding severity with which it will operate upon high priced books; with respect to books of a small price, and school-books, and books that have a great sale, it certainly will have a very trifling operation.

With respect to books of great expense and limited impression, it will have a very severe operation?—The injury of this tax, in my mind, is precisely equal to the quantity of money it will take out of the publisher's pocket. Upon the first edition of a book, there is always great risk, it may or may not sell; therefore this giving of eleven copies is really taken out of the first impression, and that very often is not large; in such cases, if the whole impression is sold, the trade price of the eleven copies must be taken out of the pocket of the publisher or author.

Not if you have a second edition?—It must come out of his pocket at all events, if the whole impression sells.

Mr.  
J. G. Cochrane.

Mr. John George Cochrane, called in, and Examined.

You are a partner in Mr. White's house, in Fleet-street?—Yes.

Have the proprietors of prints twenty-eight years absolute copy right now?—It appears so by the Act of the 7th George III. d. ch. 33.

Do they deliver eleven copies?—It is not required by the Act, certainly.

Do you publish many expensive works?—The majority of our publications are of that nature.

What would have been the grievance sustained by your house, if you had delivered eleven copies of every book you have published during the last twelve years?—I have made out a list of the principal books we have published for the last twelve years, with the selling prices of the large and common paper. If eleven copies of each of those works had been delivered of the common paper, the amount in value would have been £.3,686. 8 s.; this sum, divided by twelve, the number of years, gives an average of above £.300. a year; if large paper copies, where large paper was printed, had been delivered, the amount would be, £.5,289. 7 s. 6 d. making an average of £.440. a year.

Are those works of small impressions?—Generally speaking, very small; in some few instances they are not.

When the impression sells, what will be the actual loss of eleven copies of those works?—It will be exactly eleven times the trade price of every article.

When it does not sell, state the actual loss?—The loss falls in three ways; in the first place, it must operate as an addition to the cost of the work; secondly, it takes away eleven purchasers, of whom we can generally calculate on one-half; and lastly, it takes away from the amount of the sale which the remainder will produce.

The first statement is, the cost of the work; I wish to ask the witness if the cost of the work is not exactly the same, whether the eleven copies are given away, or not?—No, consider it in any way you will, the cost of paper and printing, and engraving, must be taken; and we calculate the cost of those eleven copies the same as of any other eleven copies.

In the case of works which are not sold, the loss upon the copies on hand is precisely the same, whether eleven copies are given to the libraries, or not?—In the first instance we certainly must charge them to the cost of the work.

It is certainly an additional charge upon the books of the publishers, but in point of fact, the giving away those eleven copies of such works is no loss; the loss is the same to them, whether they give the copies away, or not?—I cannot see that.

If a work does not sell, it remains in your warehouse?—Then we have the remaining copies, which will produce a certain price.

The question supposes a case where there is not a sale?—But in the end we always sell the remaining copies for something or other.

The sale upon the remainder is greatly below the original price?—That depends upon the number which remain; if there is only a small number, we get a larger price; if a large number, we get a less price; but the lowest price is infinitely higher than the price of waste paper.

If books remain unsold, not only at the published price, but you do not think proper to sell them at a trade auction price, they remain in your warehouse?—Certainly.

Because you think you have finally a better chance of making more of them, by continuing to sell them only at the published price, than by selling them at an auction price?—Certainly; and we are not in the habit of turning out our books in that way, even after they have been in our warehouse many years.

And while you keep them in your warehouse, you consider the number of copies so remaining as constituting a part of the value of your stock?—Certainly.

If so, eleven copies taken from that stock diminishes the value of your stock to that amount?—Clearly so.

How do you calculate the value of this dead stock; in what way do you estimate it?—We generally calculate it at a certain value below what is called the sale price, which is the price to the trade; we calculate it at ten per cent. five per cent. below, according to the work.

I thought

Mr. J. G. Cochrane.

I thought you said, the fewer the copies which remained of such works the higher the price would be?—If we turn them out to a trade sale, of course the smaller the number remaining, the better price we should be likely to get for them, but a large number remaining is a reason for giving a less price.

There is no addition to be computed to the cost of a work, whether the eleven copies go to the Universities or remain on hand; your first cause of loss amalgamates in the third?—No, suppose one hundred and fifty copies are printed of a work; if we give those eleven copies, whatever may be the cost of them must be an addition to the cost of the remaining one hundred and thirty-nine.

I think you have already stated, that you considered the copies remaining in your warehouse to be of greater value than you could expect to get for them at a trade auction price?—Certainly.

That is the ground of the reserve?—Certainly.

How does it follow that they may not turn out waste paper?—We can always turn them out to waste paper, instead of bringing them to a trade sale, and then we save five per cent. duty, beside other expenses.

In your common experience, after having disposed of a certain quantity at a trade sale, have you not found the value of the remaining copies increase?—Certainly; in many instances we sell a certain number and retain the rest, and sometimes the inducement of a low price operates to the sale of those copies, which, by giving circulation to the work, helps off the remainder; there are many instances in which a work has remained dormant a great number of years, and afterwards a sale has taken place.

Has the largest part of the books contained in this list sold?—It has, certainly, and they are in the course of selling.

What proportion of your books is usually sold for waste paper?—I know of none.

There is always a sale?—We never value them exactly at waste paper.

But is there not a part of every impression that becomes waste paper?—Certainly not, of these expensive works.

More commonly you proceed upon the principle that every impression of every book is sold, sooner or later?—Yes.

You are a publisher, and the works you are engaged in generally, are works of a small impression?—Of small impression and considerable expense.

Is the sale of expensive works certain or uncertain?—Extremely uncertain, particularly at the present time.

Very much confined to a certain class of persons?—It is so confined.

And who are pretty constant and certain in their purchases?—Pretty constant, among whom we may reckon the Bodleian, as one which takes off a considerable number of these works, and the Cambridge University Library we are likewise in the habit of selling to.

Of all the books in your warehouse, were you to take away eleven copies, would it not take away something that you would estimate at a very considerable sum?—Certainly; I do not mean to say the whole impression of every book will sell at the original retail price, but I mean to say, that sooner or later they will all produce a price infinitely above waste paper. It has been made a difficulty, how the taking away these eleven copies should add to the expense of the rest. I mean to say, when from an impression of one hundred and fifty, suppose eleven copies are taken away, they certainly cost at the same rate as the other copies; they cost the paper and the printing; when there are plates, they cost the paper upon which the plates are printed, and the printing of them; consequently, where eleven copies are taken away, the remaining one hundred and thirty-nine must be charged with the expense of those eleven copies; and in no case is a book of this sort ever sold for waste paper.

If the work is not sold, the loss would be the deduction of the price, which the publisher would obtain for the unsold copies, in that mode in which, by the course of the trade, copies of works unsold to the public are disposed of?—I have already stated that, by putting it down as the third cause of loss.

Is that third cause of loss any other than the price which the work would fetch at the trade sales?—I am not stating it at more. Supposing books to be sold at a trade sale, the loss to us is exactly the deduction of the trade sale price of eleven copies.

Does it not frequently happen, that on small impressions of expensive works, and when all are sold except eleven or twelve, that those eleven or twelve will increase

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increase in price?—There is no doubt of it; there is an instance in point in that list, the Book of St. Albans, of which we printed one hundred and fifty. There were a certain number of subscribers at five guineas each; a considerable time previous to the termination of the sale, ourselves and Mr. Triphook, the publishers, had about a dozen copies on hand, and the value so much increased, that several of them sold for seven and eight guineas, and some sold at twelve guineas.

In that case the loss would have been not merely the original selling price of the eleven copies, but what you actually did sell the eleven last copies for?—No doubt it would.

How many copies might have borne this additional price?—I suppose a dozen.

Would you speak of more than a dozen?—I dare say there were not more than a dozen or fourteen between us, because the number subscribed for was very considerable.

In cases of works of which two hundred and fifty have been printed, has it not come within your experience, not only that the whole number has been sold, but, in point of fact, that the last eleven copies have risen in price?—It has; there is another instance in that list.

Does it not sometimes happen, that the last twenty or thirty copies increase in price?—It may so happen; if it is stated, that a certain number only will be printed, in general we have subscribers to that number.

If twenty or thirty copies of such a work remain on hand, may not the publisher increase the price upon them, so as to indemnify himself for the increased cost of the rest of the work occasioned by the delivery of the eleven copies?—The increase of price upon copies which remain on hand is always a matter of option, it is not a matter of constant practice.

I presume, though it would very frequently happen, that when you come to the last eleven copies of a book, it would bear an increase of price, yet it very seldom happens, that when you have twenty or thirty copies on hand, you can increase the price?—Certainly not.

About eleven is generally the number upon which you can venture to increase the price?—It is; and if the work is very expensive, we cannot lay it on at all.

In the works in which you are engaged in the publication of, and in the risk, do you conceive that the demand of these eleven copies, by adding to the certain expense, would have a tendency to discourage persons from undertaking some works which they would otherwise print?—Certainly it would have that effect in many instances; on several of the works which we have published, it would have had that effect.

Have you any reason to believe that the delivery of these eleven copies will prevent the publication of future works?—To judge from past experience, I would say, it will; I have a letter from a gentleman, who has a work in hand now, of considerable importance, in which the idea is completely expressed. It is from the Rev. Mr. Ruding, who is printing a work upon the English Coinage: He proposes to print the History of English Coins, in three quarto volumes, the number two hundred and fifty on small paper, and fifty on large paper. This is his letter.

“ Sir,

“ Maldon, March 27, 1813.

“ I have of late examined the public papers, with much impatience, to discover the determination of the House of Commons respecting the Statute of the 8th of Anne; but in vain; and therefore presume that nothing is as yet resolved upon.

“ That determination is of considerable importance to me, as upon it will depend *certainly* whether I shall print any large paper copies or not; and *possibly*, if my number of subscribers does not materially increase, whether I shall be able to print at all, with so serious a deduction, as that of eleven copies from a very small impression.

“ It appears that nearly all spirit of inquiry into the principles and practice of coinage has vanished, together with the actual coins. In this state of the public mind, I cannot venture to print more than 250 copies of my book; and I leave you to judge, whether I can afford to give eleven, even of small paper, from so limited an impression.

“ A line

" A line from you, as soon as you can give me any information, respecting the manner in which the business is likely to terminate, will greatly oblige,

Mr.  
J. G. Cochrane.

" Sir,  
" your humble Servant,

" Rogers Ruding."

There will be a great number of plates in it; and even when Mr. Ruding sells the whole number, I know the profit will not be a large one to him. Many years ago, he proposed to print the work in two quarto volumes, at the price of four guineas; but the materials increased so much upon his hands, and the subscriptions came in so slowly, that he found he must either give up the idea of printing the work at all, or that he must print it at this expensive price.

Were such works as you publish now commonly published in the days of Queen Anne?—Certainly not.

To show the grievance on works of coloured plates, do you publish Dr. Sibthorpe's *Flora Græca*?—We do.

What would be the actual expense out of pocket of delivering eleven copies of that work?—At the full price it would be £. 277. 4s. 0d.; and it would be actually that loss, because the price of the work is less than it costs.

Do you publish Sowerby's *English Botany*?—We are one of the publishers.

What does that cost colouring, a volume?—So far as I can form an idea, about eighteen shillings per volume.

What is the price of the volume?—I believe about £. 1. 14s. 0d.; there are now thirty-six volumes published. It should be mentioned, that Mr. Sowerby only prepares so many copies as he has a sale for. The expense of colouring must be incurred in the *Flora Græca*, and in the works of Mr. Sowerby, the *English Botany*, and *Mineralogy*, because there are none with uncoloured plates.

Do you publish Lambert's *Genus Pinus*?—We do.

What would be the actual cost of eleven copies of that work?—With the plain plates the trade price is ten guineas; it would be one hundred and ten guineas.

You publish the works of the Dilletanti Society?—The Dilletanti Society's *Specimens of Ancient Sculpture* we publish.

What would be the actual cost of giving eleven copies of that work?—The actual cost of each of the copies of that work is about ten pounds. The fact is, that in the original engagement we made with the Society, the price of the plates was to be three thousand guineas; but it was found impossible at such a price that the work could be published at all, and they took off one thousand.

There are many of these fine works published at a loss, without a view to profit?—In this instance we paid for plates at that rate, it was not the Society's loss.

What would be the actual loss of eleven copies of Mr. Johnes's *Froissart*, the quarto edition?—The actual loss at first would have been eleven times the trade price; and, as Sir Egerton Brydges has stated, the ultimate actual loss would have been greater, for as the sale increased the price increased.

Do you publish Lysons' *Roman Antiquities*?—We do.

How many copies were printed and sold of that work?—There were two hundred printed; but as the work contains coloured prints, he never prepared more than there was an actual demand for.

What would be the author's actual loss upon delivering eleven copies of that work?—It would not be too far-fetched to state it at the actual selling price of the work.

Is the same the case with his *Woodchester*?—The same. It should be stated, there are works of this sort, the principal feature of which is prints, with explanatory letter-press; we should consider the *Ancient Sculpture* as of this description, and as protected by the engraving Act. Mr. Lysons certainly has stated, that he would contest the point, before he would deliver copies of his works.

State how Mr. Lysons considers this delivery of eleven copies will operate upon his future works?—That if he felt himself bound to deliver them, it would prevent his publishing.

Do you know from any facts, whether books with expensive coloured prints, which have been sent to these public libraries, have been always preserved?—I believe so.

Mr.  
J. G. Cochrane.

Was there not one upon?—I have heard of such an instance; but not upon such authority as to induce me to state it.

Do you know whether other works, which have been sent, have been always preserved?—It is a well known fact, that books which have been delivered under the Act have not been preserved; in some instances they have been made waste paper of, in others given away; and in Edinburgh, I know particularly, they have been sold by public auction.

Do you know what is the custom of other countries, as to the delivery of books to public libraries by authors?—In America it appears, that only one copy is required; in France two, and that optional.

How optional?—I have only been able to refer to Mr. Montague's pamphlet, and the words of the regulation are:—"faute de quoi." "Tout citoyen qui mettra au jour un ouvrage, soit de littérature ou de gravures, dans quelque genre que ce soit, sera obligé d'en déposer deux exemplaires à la Bibliothèque Nationale, ou au Cabinet des Estamp de la République, dont il recevra un reçu, signé par le bibliothécaire; faute de quoi, il ne pourra être admis en justice pour la poursuite des contrefacteurs."

Do you know whether any of the eleven libraries have funds applicable to the purchase of books?—We know that some have, and I believe all have. With regard to the Bodleian, I can answer it, because I have the accounts for the three last years; from which it appears, that the curators have received, upon an average of those three years, £. 640. a year.

May I ask you, if this is not raised by taxing themselves?—Clearly so.

Have you heard any thing of the funds of St. Andrew's?—Mr. Longman tells me, he supplies them with books. The University of Aberdeen, either Mr. Mawman, or some other bookseller in London, supplies. Glasgow in their memorial admit they have funds.

Has the Advocates' Library a fund?—Every Advocate pays, upon matriculation £. 200., of which £. 100. goes to the support of the Library.

Do you know any thing of the Dublin libraries?—I do not.

Have any of the Universities, not being supplied with books, become purchasers?—That has frequently been the case.

Did you, at a former meeting of the booksellers, think twenty-eight years copyright a compensation for this delivery?—I was not present at that meeting, nor did I enter into any of the views of it.

What, in your opinion, will relieve the proprietors of books?—Of course, upon that subject, I can only offer a very humble opinion. I see no other way than that of returning to the old principle. The Act for the Encouragement of Literature, by giving copyright and certain penalties in cases of the registration of works, never was supposed to apply to books of a very expensive nature.

Do you think the paying of half price by the Universities would diminish the grievance?—It would certainly diminish it; but it would not take it away. The British Museum, it strikes me, is the only compleatly national library in this kingdom; and upon the same principle, that these eleven libraries should be supplied with books at the expense of booksellers and authors, it seems to me, that every other public library should obtain books in the same way. The British Museum contains the only compleatly national library. I should think, if a statute were enacted, to compel us to give one copy of every book we publish to the British Museum, it would be cheerfully assented to. The right which is now claimed is a right that never has been exercised; and the law has always been understood in the same way by the booksellers and by the universities.

By an Act of Parliament which passed some years ago, every printer is obliged to keep a copy of every book he prints; if, instead of the regulation of that Act, all such copies were collected together in a national library, like the British Museum, would not that, at the same time, take off the burthen of delivering one of these eleven copies?—Certainly.



ON-COPY RIGHT OF PRINTED BOOKS.

LIST of BOOKS in folio and quarto, published within the last Twelve Years, by JOHN WHITE, and by WHITE, COCHRANE & Co. Fleet Street.

Mr. J. G. Cochrane.

(The inner column is the price of eleven copies on common paper; the outer, on large paper.) (Where only one price is mentioned, there was no large paper.)

Table listing books with prices in £. s. d. columns. Includes titles like Astle's Origin and Progress of Writing, Allwood's Literary Antiquities of Greece, etc.

This Sum, divided by 12, would give an average of above £. 300. a year.

Table showing deductions for large or fine paper printed, and the sum will be £. 5,289 7 6. Or an average of £. 440. a year; exclusive of the expense of one copy to the printer.

The above Account has been hastily put together, as it includes no 8vos. or smaller books; although in the course of that time they have published many, and some expensive ones.

Veneris, 2<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis, 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esquire, in The Chair.

The Reverend  
T. F. Dibdin.

The Reverend *Thomas Frognall Dibdin* called in, and Examined  
by *Mr. Turner*.

WHAT was the cost out of pocket of one volume of your *Typographical Antiquities*, in mere paper and print, on common paper and on large?—Upon that question it might be necessary, perhaps, to add the costs of advertisements, before you make up as to what the work would cost; it would be necessary to put the cost of the advertisements to it; and without having made that calculation, I cannot be very close; I should think, I might say from £. 1. 17. to nearly £. 2.

On the small paper?—Yes.

What on the large?—I should think somewhere about £. 5.

What then would have been the actual cost out of pocket of delivering eleven copies of the whole of that work on common paper and on large?—Supposing the work, which at present is not completed, to amount to six volumes, it would be six times eleven copies of each volume, which would come to about £. 120.

On common paper?—Yes.

What on large paper?—I should think about £. 300. and odd.

What was the actual cost of the paper and print of your *Bibliomania*, on common paper?—I should think about fifteen shillings.

State your deliberations on settling the price of that?—Why I deliberated in settling the price on that work was, that it being printed in one octavo volume, I thought the public would not be disposed to give so much for that volume, as I knew, from the time and labour consumed in the composition of that volume, and the expense of the embellishments contained in that volume, I ought to receive from it; and the consequence was, that being fearful that the public would not purchase the book if a large price appeared upon it as one volume octavo, though a thick one, I was then obliged to obtain what I thought my fair profits, by taking from the booksellers something from their usual allowance in the trade.

Are you printing the *Bibliotheca Spenceriana*?—I am.

What will be the loss to you of delivering eleven copies of that?—Do I understand that question in the same way I do the other, as to the real cost in paper and printing, or the price delivered to the public?

What will be the cost to you?—I am not prepared to answer that, because it is not half printed; but I think I could take upon me to say, within the bounds of reason, that it would cost me, perhaps, somewhere about four or five pounds per copy; five pounds, I think, at least.

*Committee.*] This is printed only on one sized paper?—Yes; it is on two papers; but it is at the same price for each copy.

*Mr. Turner.*] Will that be the whole loss to you, or will you lose the cost of the copies?—I do not understand the question.

*Committee.*] Do you mean a copy of the work?—Yes; if ten volumes, it would be of the whole.

And it would be £. 5. a volume?—Yes; that is upon the small paper.

That is at the prime cost?—Yes.

You mean that upon the volume?—Yes; we understand it to be a copy of the work, whether it be one volume or ten; that is on the small paper.

*Mr. Turner.*] Have any of the eleven libraries subscribed to your books?—Yes.

Can you state them?—The Bodleian has not; the Trinity College, Dublin, has only one, the *Typographical Antiquities*.

*Committee.*] Has the University's library of Cambridge?—No.

Has the British Museum?—No.

*Mr. Turner.*] Do you think that the delivery of the eleven copies to those libraries will benefit the sale of a work?—I should think not; because in the first

first place, whenever any work is published, there is such a general diffusion of knowledge, and such an increase of purchasers, to what there was fifty or sixty years ago, and the character of the author of that work is considered, that in general we find a work which is in itself good or useful, or likely so to be, is pretty generally taken within perhaps a twelvemonth or a year and a half of its publication; and the second reason why I draw that conclusion is, that the works delivered in public libraries, as far as I can judge, are very little consulted.

As you have written on the history of printing, and are much conversant with printing, do you believe it possible to alter the present custom of charging for printing by the ratio of 250?—I should think decidedly not.

*Committee.*] Even on an allowance of more money to the printers?—I should think not.

*Mr. Turner.*] Will the compulsory delivery of eleven copies operate, or not, to the injury of literature, in your opinion?—Certainly it is a question that embraces so much, I could not give an opinion upon it; but the only thing I feel on it here is, whether the law is to act retrospectively on any future work; because I know it would, in my own situation, be attended with a direct grievance; but if it is progressively, an author would shape his publication accordingly, and be able to meet that probable drawback.

Will he be able generally to advance his price, without injury to the sale of his work?—I should think, generally speaking; but there is one important exception to it, which is, the nature of the work published, and the number of copies. I will mention one work, which just comes across my mind, Gough's Sepulchral Monuments. There are some works so expensive in the getting up, and upon which there must be a limited number, and on that number an author looks for remuneration; if he prints more than 300 copies, or 250, it is liable to injure him, because there are not purchasers beyond that number.

*Committee.*] What is the price of that work?—I should think it is now, owing to an accident by fire, £. 70. or £. 80.

What was the original price?—About £. 25.

Do you conceive that the operation of the demand of these eleven copies might tend to discourage the publication of several works calculated for only a small number of purchasers?—I should think it might; because works of that nature are generally expensive works, from the plates, and a variety of other things; and the delivery of those eleven copies, even at the cost price, would necessarily be a deterioration to the others.

From your experience, and the conversations you have had with publishers, do you conceive that the expense of those eleven copies would be taken to be of such serious consideration by the publishers, as to make them doubt whether they should or not publish?—Certainly, if the work be of the nature I describe.

Speaking of the works of which there are only 250 copies?—Two hundred and fifty or three hundred copies.

In the instances you give of the Sepulchral Monuments, which you state to be £. 25. a copy, do you imagine, if they had been £. 26. a copy, the sale would be retarded?—I think not; because, when it reaches that magnitude, persons make up their mind; but in works of £. 7. or £. 8. it would make a distinction.

Do you not conceive, that by adding to the price of the whole number of such works brought into the market, it would cause a proportion in the defalcation of some one or other of them?—I should answer that, by saying it might upon some; I am hardly able to answer a question of that sort; I believe I can mention the case of Perry's Conchology, which is a very expensive work.

Have you not observed, in your experience among publishers, that they are very minute calculators of the expense of a work before they will undertake it, and that their opinion is very often turned by a very minute expense, whether they will undertake it?—I believe it is so.

It has been stated, that upon an edition of 250 copies, the tax is 4½ per cent. upon the selling price, and it has also been stated, that the actual cost of a work, is half the selling price; therefore, calculating the tax would be 2½ per cent. do you think that, upon an edition consisting of 250 copies, an additional price of 2½ per cent. would affect or discourage the sale?—I should think; certainly, that small per centage would not affect the sale.

*Mr. W. Davies.*

*Mr. William Davies, called in, and Examined by Mr. Turner.*

What would the delivery of eleven copies of your publications, for the last four years, upon common paper, have amounted to?—Within the last four years I have a memorandum, that eleven of each of our publications, on small paper, at the wholesale price, would have amounted to £. 1,362. 16s. 4d.

I understand you are announcing twenty-two works for publication; what will the delivery of eleven copies of those works amount to?—The different works we have lately announced, would amount to rather more than £. 1,000.

Will the delivery, in your opinion, operate, or not, to prevent future publications?—Of many expensive books most certainly, because it very often becomes a matter of doubt with authors whether they shall publish; they depend very much upon the support of public libraries frequently, whether they shall bring their work forward.

Has your trade any particular risk, distinct from other manufactures?—The great disadvantage of our trade is, that we are obliged, before we know whether 50 copies of our books will be sold, to provide 2 or 300; I conceive no other species of manufacture is liable to so heavy a risk.

Would you print eleven copies more of any of your works, for the sake of the delivery?—Certainly, I conceive not; I do not recollect a single instance, when we have sent our books to Stationers Hall, that eleven books were copied for that purpose.

Will you be able to indemnify yourself for the delivery by increasing the prices of books?—Certainly, I should imagine not: we always put, in the first instance, as high a price as we conceive the public would think reasonable, and to add to that, we conceive, would prevent the sale of the book.

*Committee.]* What is the average number of copies you print of your works?—It must depend on the nature of the work; never less than 500, of works that are likely to sell.

Now, dividing the actual cost of those eleven copies amongst the total number of copies, would the addition of price decrease the sale?—No; my answer was, that we always, without the obligation to deliver the eleven copies, put as high a price as the public would think reasonable, to provide an equivalent for the loss by the delivery of the eleven copies: it might be attempted to produce it by increasing the price of the book; but in adding a shilling, or according to what might be the price of the book, the loss by the eleven copies delivered would be positive, and in the first instance; but if we only sold a hundred copies out of a thousand, or five hundred, or whatever it might be, we then do not produce an equivalent.

In times of peace, you look to a considerable export?—Unquestionably; to America there go a great many.

Is it your opinion, in the event of the intercourse with America being opened again, do you look for a vent for your books in that quarter?—Of certain books, till they begin to print them, instead of sending to us for them.

Do you conceive that an additional price for books will, in your opinion, throw an obstacle in the way of the same vent in your books?—It would lessen the number sold, on this ground; orders from abroad are most commonly limited in their amount, and therefore I conceive, that in sending out twenty-one pounds worth of books, we should only send twenty books at one guinea, instead of twenty-one at one pound.

Would it not also have this effect, by being an additional encouragement to print their own books?—Unquestionably it would.

And to reprint yours?—Unquestionably; the cheaper we send our books to foreign markets, the less encouragement there is for them to print.

*Mr. Turner.]* Are the risks and expenses of your business greater than formerly?—Every part of our expenses are considerably increased, but the most of all, the remuneration to authors; they have increased in an enormous degree; so much, within my own knowledge, it would be astonishing.

*Committee.]* Has the sale of books increased?—Yes.

Have you found, in the experience of your trade, that the great increased expenses of paper and printing have already tended to discourage the publication of the same quantity of works?—I imagine that it has; I think I may safely

safely say, that it has: it must be evident, that the dearer an article is, the fewer will be sold. Mr. W. Davies.

Of course it must follow, that if an additional price were put on, it would still more discourage it?—Yes, it must have that effect; I conceive it is not merely in foreign markets, it is also in our domestic trade it would have that effect; for individuals limit their purchases to particular amounts, particularly book societies.

Do not you conceive the number of purchases of books has much increased within these late years?—Most unquestionably.

Do not you believe, that in the last year and the year preceding, as large a number of works were published in this country as at any time preceding that, within your memory?—I think it has increased.

Then the Committee are to understand, that the increased price of printing and paper has not had an effect, in fact, in diminishing the number of publications in the two last years?—Of the later publications, for the small books, constituting the greater number of the publications; but I conceive, of the works of solid literature, there has not been such an increase; that stands pretty much where it has always done.

Is that the most successful part of your trade?—Unfortunately not; generally speaking, the best books are the least profitable.

You said that you looked to the eleven public libraries as the purchasers of those valuable works; do you think that the deduction of eleven public libraries, from the great number of public libraries in the kingdom, can materially, or at all, affect the demand?—The proportion of public libraries that are looked to for the support of an expensive publication, is not numerous; and to take eleven out of that number, would be a material defalcation.

Do you believe that all those eleven libraries would become purchasers of the expensive works you have spoken of?—If properly conducted, and they had the means of purchasing; if the curators of those libraries were to pay proper attention to them, and they had funds, those books would be purchased, unquestionably.

Have any, and how many of those eleven libraries subscribed to Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, Daniel's Oriental Scenery, or any other expensive works?—We have no interest in those works.

Any works you are concerned in?—They do not go from us to the libraries; they go through other booksellers, and therefore we do not know where they go to.

Have any of those expensive works to which you have alluded gone to any of those eleven public libraries, and to which?—We have no means of knowing that; but Mr. Nichols can give you information of that.

On those works for which you have paid copy right money, have you, or have you not, repaid yourself the purchase?—I have very serious doubts whether, upon the whole, we have received profits on that.

What, in your opinion, would best relieve the grievance complained of?—In answer to that, I would beg leave to state, as far as I can learn from conversations, it is not their wish they should be relieved by the Universities being deprived of their supply; but that instead of its resting with authors and booksellers to supply these copies, they should be derived by the assistance of Parliament. I might venture to add to that, that I am persuaded, that the weight which it bears upon authors and booksellers is not duly appreciated; it is much heavier than the members of this Committee are aware of.

In what way would you expect relief?—By a pecuniary grant; but there are many of the libraries sufficiently endowed already.

Can you mention any of the Universities that are endowed?—Not from my own knowledge. I believe the Library of Trinity College, Dublin; I know they buy books.

Of course, in the course of your large business, you have a large stock of books in your warehouses?—Yes.

Will eleven copies taken away from each of these works, at the price you estimate them to be worth in the warehouse, would it take a very considerable sum away from the stock in your hand?—It would be, perhaps, our whole property.

It

Mr. W. Davies.

It takes an eleventh part of the value away from your stock in trade?—Most unquestionably; it may often be eleven out of fifty, and eleven out of five hundred; in other cases it may very often happen to be an eleventh part of the whole.

Mr. J. Nichols.

Mr. John Nichols called in, and Examined by Mr. Turner.

What would have been your loss on those four works?—[*shewing a paper to the witness.*]—This paper is a statement of the loss. [*It was delivered in, and read as follows:*

Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica, 10 vols. 4to, 250 copies only printed;—eleven copies, at the wholesale price, would be - - - - -	£. 174 6 —
Queen Elizabeth's Progresses, 3 vols. 4to, 250 printed; eleven copies, wholesale price -	46 4 —
History of Leicestershire; eleven copies, at cost price, on common paper - - - -	231 — —
History of Dorsetshire, now printing; eleven copies, common paper - - - - -	138 16 —
	<u>£. 590 6 —</u>

Could you have delivered eleven copies of those works, without being nearly so much out of pocket?—Within ten per cent. of it.

Have any of the eleven libraries subscribed to those works you have mentioned?—Yes, to the History of Leicestershire four of them have subscribed; the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, the Public Library of Cambridge, and the University of Trinity College, Dublin; and some others may have purchased them from their own booksellers. To Sion College I have given many books.

Is there a work which you have been disposed rather to destroy than give the eleven copies?—I have been five years employing myself in printing a second edition of a work which I printed about 20 years ago, entitled the History and Antiquities of Hinckley, in Leicestershire; of that work I have printed no more than 50 copies upon any sort of paper.

On common paper?—Yes, and it is at this moment ready for publication, but I will not publish it till this question is decided; and I shall be inclined rather to give them to my friends, than to sell them, if I must deliver these eleven copies.

Is it from a mere consideration of profit, or a matter of feeling, you would do that?—It is a matter of feeling, because profit is out of the question: this book I had proposed to sell for two guineas and a half, and it has cost me more than a hundred guineas; therefore I should have no profit.

What material objection is there in this case to publish sixty-one copies, rather than fifty?—Five years ago I had no idea of sending copies to the University, when I began to reprint it.

This is a second edition of a work?—Yes.

If you had set about the publication of this work under the understanding that eleven copies were to go to those public libraries, what objection would there have been to print sixty-one instead of fifty copies?—The objection would have been, that the printing a folio volume, with twenty-nine plates, would have made an addition, on the eleven copies, of from fifteen to twenty pounds to my expense.

What objection have you to the delivery of the copies of this work to the public libraries?—Because they have this work in some degree already; it is formed out of my publication of the History of Leicestershire.

What objection have you to the delivery of the copies of this work to the public libraries?—I should make presents of it to my friends.

What objection have you to the delivery of the copies of this work to the public libraries?—Perhaps none, if it were left to my own choice. It is the compulsion to which I object.

In small impressions, of 250 copies, do you conceive that the taking away eleven copies will operate to discourage many works being printed and published?—I think a great many. In my own concerns, I have printed more than 200 volumes, of which I have been the author or editor; some of them at sixpence apiece only, others at five guineas, and all intermediate prices; and it would

would have operated in this way; had the book been successful, I should have lost eleven copies at the full price of the book; if it had not been successful, I should have still sold the remainder for something; if I had not sold a twenty shilling book for sixteen shillings, the usual price, I should have sold it perhaps for half-a-guinca. Had it been unsuccessful, instead of selling 250 copies, I might have sold a hundred; then the remaining hundred and fifty would have sold for half the price, or something less perhaps, because we have a mode of disposing of what is called the remainder of a book; which is by putting it up to auction among the trade, and the person who will give most for it, whether 2s. 3s. or 10s. purchases the remainder; and if the book has been a losing book, the further loss of eleven copies, even at 5s., is some object; it is an addition to the loss.

*Mr. J. Nichols.*

You are a considerable proprietor of publications, as well as a printer?—Not a large one; on a very small scale.

You have warehouses in which you have books deposited, that are your own property?—Yes.

Supposing those to be books which did not find immediate sale, and on that account remained in the warehouses, do not you conceive the taking away eleven copies would considerably diminish the value of that stock of yours?—It would lessen my stock by that amount.

And that, both with yourself, and still more with greater proprietors, it would take away a very considerable property from each possessor?—Most certainly in large books.

*Mr. Thomas Bensley* called in, and Examined by *Mr. Turner.*

*Mr. T. Bensley.*

IS that the cost price of those five volumes? (*handing a paper to the witness.*)  
—I believe it is, as far as I know.

It was delivered in, and read, as follows:

	Nos.	£.
Brookshaw's Pomona Britannica,	30	45.
Thornton's Botany	- - - - -	80.
Lavater's Physiognomy	- - - - -	30.
Macklin's Bible	- - - - -	70.
Bowyer's History of England	- - - - -	70.

Will the delivery of the eleven copies, in your opinion, have any serious effect on your trade?—I have reason to think, from observations I have heard made by the proprietors of books, that it would.

*Mr. Richard Taylor* called in, and Examined by *Mr. Turner.*

*Mr. R. Taylor.*

ARE there any foreign works, which this delivery of eleven copies will prevent being reprinted?—There are many foreign works, with respect to which it is a question, whether they had better be imported from abroad or printed here; and I have no doubt, with respect to some of them, the giving eleven copies would operate in favour of importing them, to printing them here.

Can you state any of them?—I have been applied to in respect of some; there was Schleusner's Lexicon of the New Testament; there was an idea of printing it here, but only a small edition of 250 copies; not more certainly, it was found to be scarcely worth while to print such an edition; and I have no doubt that the having to give away eleven copies would add very much to the discouragement that there is from printing it. I do not think more than 250 or 500 copies could be sold here.

Can you specify any works either in Natural History or Science, in which this taking away eleven copies would operate in the same way?—There are a great many works with respect to which the burthen of publication falls on the author himself, because the booksellers cannot be induced to undertake them, as they do not hold out any prospect of profit, and that class of works is very large and a very valuable class. Treatises very often upon some single point in any of the branches of science, which are not likely to have a great sale, the booksellers therefore cannot be expected to take upon themselves the expence of publishing, and the publication is either prevented, or they are published at the expence of the author; and I know very well, that very frequently, those works do not pay their