

Mr. R. Taylor. their expenses; there are several instances of works of great reputation that have not paid the expense of printing, when printed at the expense of the authors: I remember, in particular, Mr. Marsham's *Entomologia Britannica*, and other works of science, did not pay their expense.

Have you any experience that small additions in expense, do or do not prevent the printing of works; additions so small as the amount of eleven copies?—I have no doubt, the eleven copies would, with respect to the printing of many works, prevent their being undertaken at all.

Do you know, whether previous to the decision of the case of *Beckford v. Hood*, in 1798, it was understood, that the booksellers had a copy-right, unless their books were entered at Stationers Hall?—I am not a bookseller.

Have you been applied to, to print a work, in which £. 5. operated to prevent the publication?—Yes, there was an instance of that kind; I was applied to, to give an estimate of the expence of printing a work, for which an author had got a small number of subscribers, and he abandoned the work for some time on account of the sum of £. 5.; the expense of printing and paper was £. 5. more than he thought he should receive for the sale of the work.

Were you applied to by a person to print a valuable work upon Insects, which the expense deterred him from?—Yes; I was applied to by a man in very low circumstances, for an estimate of a work of that kind, which I am persuaded would be very valuable, and which he has been deterred from publishing by the expense; but a few copies could be expected to be sold; and I have no doubt, that taking away eleven copies might turn the scale, and deter him from publishing; in a very great number of works, the discouragements are already so very great, that any thing added to them, will prevent the publication of such works altogether.

Committee.] Do you consider the loss of eleven copies to the publisher, as any thing more than the loss of the printing and paper?—I am speaking of works printed by the author, who perhaps is in low circumstances.

Do you consider the loss of the eleven copies, any thing more than the loss of the printing and paper?—I think the loss is the loss of the selling price; if he prints a certain edition, he loses all he could have sold those eleven copies for; and if you take it only at the cost of printing and paper, that is very considerable.

In the estimates that you have seen, as to expense of works, before it is determined whether publication shall take place or not, does it not happen, that after estimating the number of copies, that there is a high probability they will be sold, the person who is about the undertaking, also takes into account the value of the remainder, to be turned into property, at a less advantage than those looked upon as capable of immediate sale?—Certainly.

As forming part of the counterbalance to the expense?—Certainly; the author or publisher always hopes to make something of the remainder.

Would not then the subtraction of eleven copies of those that so remain, operate upon his mind in determining the undertaking?—Certainly; and very often it happens, that after a work has had a very slow sale for a number of years, it comes into notice, and the remainder, which has lain by for a considerable time, will then sell and fetch the full price, and sometimes much more, so that after having been a loser for years, he is reimbursed, by having this property to bring to market; whereas if eleven copies had been taken out of that remainder, he would have lost to that extent.

Would not he print more copies, in contemplation of having to deliver these eleven?—If he did, he would add to his expense; and if it happens in the case of a person of very little property, it makes him give up the design of printing.

Mr. Turner.] Would the delivery operate to prevent you from reprinting your ancestor's *Hebrew Concordance*?—I have entertained such a scheme. I know very well, that the work just cleared its expenses to the author, though it now sells for nine or ten guineas a copy; it was the work of fifteen years, and just paid the expense of paper and print; I have had some idea of reprinting it, but the delivery has deterred me, being aware that only a small number would sell.

Committee.] How many copies would you expect to sell?—From 250 to 500.

Would an addition of price of two and a quarter per cent. on 250 copies, or one and a quarter per cent. on 500 copies, discourage the sale of a work like the

the Hebrew Concordance?—If I undertook it, I should conceive it quite just I should receive the highest price it would sell for.

Mr. R. Taylor.

Would an addition of price of two and a quarter per cent. on 250 copies, or one and a quarter per cent. on 500 copies, discourage the sale of a work like the Hebrew Concordance?—It depends upon what the price would be.

Would an addition of price of two and a quarter per cent. on 250 copies, or one and a quarter per cent. on 500 copies, discourage the sale of a work like the Hebrew Concordance?—No doubt, the dearer a work is the slower will be the sale.

Would it discourage the sale of the work?—Certainly, there can be no question, if you make a work dearer you lessen the sale.

Would the addition in price of one per cent. discourage the sale of the work?—It is a question of probability, which I can only answer as matter of opinion.

Mr. Turner.]—What would the paper of an octavo volume of 36 sheets cost?—The price of the paper of one volume octavo, about three shillings or half a crown, it would depend on the quality of the paper.

What would that volume sell for?—About 8s.

What would the printing of eleven copies of that cost beyond any usual number?—About nine or ten pounds; the striking off alone would cost that, if it was over 250 or 500 copies.

You are now printing Rolfe's book on shells?—Yes, there have been a certain number of subscribers got for that work; but scarcely enough to induce the author to go on with the work.

What will the price of that work be?—About 60 guineas a copy.

Will the author be able to go on with that work if this delivery takes place?—I think, unless he gets much greater encouragement than he has already had, I think the giving eleven copies would prevent its going on; it would have a great tendency to do it. There is also Mr. Baber's Fac Simile of the Codex Alexandrinus; he has already printed the Psalms as a specimen, and the subscriptions are only just sufficient to reimburse the expence of the printing, without any thing for his own labour, and I think the giving eleven copies would deter him from going on.

Is it not within your own experience, that there are a great many authors who are willing to publish their works, if they can be brought home through the expenses?—I have printed works for a number of learned men, some of whom have been contented to lose on the sale of the whole impression; to go to press with the work, when they were sure, if that impression all sold, they would not be paid the money they must expend, or with a conviction that they would only just be paid.

In such a case, where without the eleven copies being subtracted they would just be repaid, do you think, if the eleven copies were taken away it would discourage the publication?—In many instances it would; if the authors were affluent, or very zealous for science, they might go to press; but then a great injury would be done to them, by making their love of knowledge still further injurious to their circumstances.

In small impressions of 250 copies, does it not frequently happen, that where any profit is expected, it is not more than equal to the value of the eleven copies?—There are often cases where the profit on the whole sale is not greater than the eleven copies; certainly, in treatises on matters of learning.

But including books of high merits in a literary point of view?—I know, in Mr. Kirby's Monographia Apum, which is spoken of as our best work of the kind, and he is out of pocket by the work.

In cases of this kind, does it not often happen, that fame being the object of the author of the work, though he is content not to gain, he cannot afford to lose?—Yes, that is the case with the shoemaker, whom I mentioned before, with his book on insects.

It was a shoemaker who wrote this valuable book of insects?—Yes.

Then, in that case, the eleven copies being taken away would be a great loss?—Yes.

Then, in that point of view, you think the operation of this claim would really be an impediment to literature in many cases?—I certainly think this case would prevent, in many cases, the publication of those works which are most calculated to advance knowledge.

D.

Mr. R. Taylor.

Do you think that two-pence or three-pence in the pound sterling, would injure the sale of a work?—That is a question any body can judge of as well as myself.

Mr. Turner.] Is it the case, that in the works you speak of it can be so small as that?—Certainly not; in the case of one of the works I have mentioned, there were only one hundred copies printed, therefore it must be more than two-pence or three-pence in a pound.

Committee] Would the addition of sixpence in the pound discourage the publication of any work whatever?—It would discourage the author from printing the work at all, by requiring a greater expenditure, and causing a greater risk; for supposing you take any number, as the number of the edition, say 250 copies, if he knew he could not sell the whole, there would be a discouragement.

Would the addition of sixpence in the pound discourage the publication of any work whatever?—Every increase of price must operate to prevent the sale; my opinion is, that it certainly would, but in a smaller degree than a larger addition.

Martis, 6^o die Aprilis 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

Mr. Turner heard on behalf of the Booksellers.

[Delivers in a Paper marked D.]

“ MODIFICATIONS desired by the Booksellers, and submitted to the consideration of the Committee.

Only five Copies to be given; one to each of the three Kingdoms, and one to each of the two English Universities:

Or, if more,—That

One-third, or one-fourth of the price, as published, be paid for the copies delivered.

MINOR MODIFICATIONS.

Printers copy to be the copy delivered to the British Museum.

Act to have no retrospective operation.

None to be delivered but on demand.

None where the copyright is abandoned.

None where no copies are printed for general sale.

No books with coloured prints.

No books with prints only; or where the letter-press shall be only a description or illustrative of the plates, or not be a continued narrative or treatise.

No Songs or Music.

No Newspapers.

No books printed by subscription, unless afterwards advertised or published for general sale.

No Reprint of foreign works.

No Reprint, unless where the additions shall, in any one part, exceed a page; and to have the option of giving the Additions separately.

No works above ten guineas, selling price, to be delivered, unless half the price be paid; excepting Dictionaries or Cyclopedias.

All books to be entered, where the copyright is meant to be claimed.

Lists of the entries to be sent every month to the Libraries.

Books to be demanded by the Libraries, within three months, and to be sent within one month after demand.

The Libraries to preserve what they shall demand, and neither sell, waste, nor give them away.

Copyright to be made twenty-eight years, absolutely.”

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Mercurii, 28^o die Aprilis 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

CONSIDERED Evidence.

Martis, 4^o die Maii 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

REPORT considered.

Martis, 11^o die Maii, 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

Committee took Report into consideration.

Martis, 18^o die Maii, 1813.

Sir WILLIAM SCOTT, Bart. in The Chair.

REPORT considered.

Mercurii, 16^o die Junii, 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

*Sharon Turner, Esq. called in, and Examined by the Committee,
as follows :*

ARE you aware of any custom, or pretended custom, in the book trade, which operates to the disadvantage of authors; in their dealings with booksellers?—
I am aware of none at all. S. Turner, Esq.

Are you of opinion, that any advantage would result to authors from a division of the term of copy right into two portions, and from an enactment that no sale of the second portion should take place, till after the expiration of the first?—I think no benefit would result to the authors; I think it would be desirable that all contracts for copy right should be in writing, and that the term for which the author disposes of it should be there expressed.

Do you conceive it would be no advantage to an author if he alienated the subsequent part of his copy right, after a certain time had elapsed, five, six, or seven years, which might enable him to judge a little of the demand for and the value of his work?—I give two answers to that question; in some rare cases it would be much more to his advantage to make a contract after the experience of one or two editions; but in the great majority of cases not, because in the great majority of cases books do not sell.

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MINUTES

OF

EVIDENCE

Taken before the Committee on

ACTS RESPECTING

COPY RIGHT OF PRINTED BOOKS.

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

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