

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

THE COPYRIGHT ACTS

OF

8 ANNE, c. 19 ; 15 GEO. III, c. 53 ; 41 GEO. III, c. 107 ;
and 54 GEO. III, c. 116.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
8 May 1818.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

Taken before the Select Committee on the Copyright Acts of 8 Anne, c. 19 ;
15 Geo. III, c. 53 ; 41 Geo. III, c. 107 ; and 54 Geo. III, 116.

Lunæ, 27^o die Aprilis, 1818.

CHARLES WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN; Esquire, in the Chair.

Mr. Owen Rees, called in ; and Examined.

YOU are a bookseller, residing in Paternoster-row ?—I am.

Have the goodness to inform the Committee, what sum has the delivery of the eleven copies under the Copyright Act, cost your house since July 1811 ?—I presume you mean from the date of the passing of the Act in 1814 : From the nearest calculation we are enabled to make, the actual cost of the books delivered upon the whole, since the passing of the Act, is almost 3,000 l.

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Is that the sale price, or the actual cost to you ?—The actual cost to us, and the incidental expenses.

Do you in this include the expense of books, in which you have shares, and are managed by others, or do you mean those published by yourselves ?—Only those published by ourselves.

Have you, in consequence of the burthen of this delivery, declined printing any works which you otherwise would have undertaken ?—Yes ; we have declined printing some works, particularly a work of Non-descript Plants, by Baron Humboldt, from South America ; being obliged to deliver the eleven copies, has also weighed very strongly with us in declining other works.

What number of works have you declined ?—I do not know that I could enumerate more than two, positively on that account, but certainly the matter has weighed strongly with us in other cases.

Have any books been returned to you from the libraries ?—None whatever.

Have they demanded all books promiscuously printed, or have they made any selection ?—Every book entered at Stationers Hall has been sent to them ; no selection has ever been made ; nine copies of all books have been demanded, and eleven of all, with the exception of novels and music, which have not been demanded by two of the libraries.

Were you the printers of Todd's edition of Johnson's Dictionary ?—We are the publishers.

How many copies have you delivered of that ?—We have delivered eleven copies under the Act ; one copy was presented by the editor to Sion College, as a free-will offering from himself ; another copy was demanded under the Act, for the same College, although they had already received a copy.

What is the price of that work ?—Eleven guineas.

What duty do you pay upon paper ?—The duty upon paper used for printing, is from 20 to 25 per cent. on the value of the paper.

Are the English Universities exempted from the duties on paper ?—They are exempted from that duty on all books printed in Latin, Greek, the Oriental, and in the Northern languages, as well as Bibles, Testaments and Common Prayers, printed by themselves at the Universities.

Can they, therefore, undersell you ?—They have it in their power, by not paying the duty on paper, in those instances.

Are there any works which you can mention, in what they have, in fact, undersold you ?—I really have not examined as to the selling price of the books, but they have printed many books similar to those which we and other book-

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sellers print, particularly classical books; such as Virgil, Homer, Greek testaments, and works of that description.

Have you any list of what the delivery of the eleven copies amounts to, of any particular work?—I have a list of a few works.

(Witness here handed in the following Paper:)

		£.	s.	d.
1	Rees's Cyclopaedia, royal, 8 parts, 36s. - - -	145	16	0
10	D° - - - - demy, 8 parts, 20s. - - -	810	0	0
11	Daniell's Voyage to India - - - - -	93	0	0
11	Daniell's Coast Views, 60s. - - - - -	346	10	0
10}	Mort D'Arthur - - - - -	96	12	0
1}				
1}	Cox's Duke of Marlborough, 3 vols. - - -	69	6	0
10}				

These works are printed within what time?—Rees's Cyclopædia is now in course of publication; Daniell's Voyage to India has been published three years; Daniell's Coast Voyage is now in course of publication; Southey's Mort D'Arthur has been published within the last twelve months; and of the Marlborough none of the volumes are yet published, but they are just on the eve of publication.

What would the presswork cost of eleven extra copies of an 8vo. book of thirty sheets, or 480 pages?—A book printed in the usual way, and in the usual style of presswork, would be 7*l.* The presswork alone would be 6*l.* and the paper about 20*s.*

What would be the selling price?—From 9*s.* to 12*s.*

You mean the retail price?—Yes; the cost would be somewhere about 12*s.* 6*d.* per copy. The retail price would be from 9*s.* to 12*s.* and the cost, adding the paper and printing together, would be about 12*s.* 6*d.* per copy.

Are you now speaking with respect to these 11 additional copies?—Yes. Perhaps it may be necessary to explain myself more fully. The fact is, that the presswork of books is estimated according to what the printers call an hour's work, which consists of 250 impressions; so that if you print any number of copies beyond the 250, you pay for the hour's work, or the token, technically so called. In printing, the hour's work answers with the manner in which the paper is made up. A ream, for instance, is two hours work. All paper is made up and sold at the mills, and the duty paid by the ream. The returns of the exciseman are made by reams, and paper is sent into the printing office in the same way.

Then I understand your statement to be, that the presswork of the 11 copies is the same expense as of 250 copies?—Exactly; for we pay the same in every instance where we require any extra number however, small. The cost of 11 books would be about 12*s.* 6*d.* per copy, according to the mode of calculating the presswork.

What is the quantity of paper that 250 copies of a sheet takes in 8vo.?—Half a ream.

Then if you make 261 copies, you must break in upon half a ream?—If we do this, which we endeavour to avoid, we must break in upon a fresh half ream, which would make considerable waste.

You state the presswork at 6*l.* and the paper at 1*l.* Is that the manner in which you make out the 12*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes, it is.

What would be the price of the paper of 250 copies of this 8vo. of 480 pages?—About 22*l.* 10*s.*

Is it known that the pressmen will not strike off the 11 copies, but for the same price as they would strike off 250 copies?—Certainly; I have paid it in many instances; I inquired of Mr. Nichols, who has been in business full 50 years, and who, I believe, is the oldest printer, and the custom had existed before he entered business, or knew any thing of it.

Then you conceive, that this custom has arisen partly out of the circumstance of 250 copies being an hour's work, and partly out of the circumstance of its taking an even portion of paper, say half a ream?—Certainly; I consider that to be the origin.

The whole amount of the cost of an edition of 250 copies of an 8vo. size, would be 28*l.* 10*s.*?—Yes, certainly, independent of the compositor's charge.

About

About two shillings and three-pence each volume for the paper, and presswork?—That may be the case, simply for paper and presswork.

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When all the copies sell, and any extra copies are printed, what then is the loss sustained by the delivery of the 11 copies?—The retail price of a book, in some instances more; the book becomes of greater value when nearly out of print.

In case the edition does not sell, what then is the loss?—What the book might be sold for, either in a trade or at private sale.

Can you state at all, what the average proportion of price at which books sell at trade sales, when the edition is not gone off?—It depends upon the reputation of the book; some will produce nearly the trade price; but the lowest sum they produce, is the value of waste paper.

By the trade price, what do you mean?—The price sold by booksellers, about 25 per cent. below the retail selling price; from 20 to 25 per cent. according to the books.

Is the value greater or less in small editions?—Higher in small editions, considerably.

How does the delivery of the 11 copies to the public libraries, affect the trade in curious books?—It does considerably affect it; a much smaller number of books of that description will be published.

Do the Universities enter the books which they publish, so that the other 10 libraries may have copies?—They do not; they have entered none since the passing of the Act.

What number of works have been published by the Universities, since the passing of this Act?—I have not examined; Oxford University may have published 10 or 12 books, but I have not examined minutely; I have only looked over the list casually.

Do you require any protection of copy right, for high priced books?—That is hardly necessary, but in a very few instances; generally speaking, there are very few expensive books of which the copy right is of any value, after the publication.

Was it not usual, before the passing of this Act, for the public libraries to subscribe to, and frequently to purchase learned and very expensive works; and did not authors calculate on the Universities, as probable purchasers of the work they were about to bring forward?—They certainly have looked to the Universities as subscribers or purchasers of these books, and upon examination, I find it was the custom of some of the libraries, who now claim books under the Act, to subscribe to expensive works, and that within 14 years after the passing of the Act of Anne.

What instance do you refer to; is there any book which you can in particular state?—I find that in 1724, within 14 years of the passing of the Act of Anne, the Bodleian library was a subscriber for a large paper copy of Fiddle's Life of Wolsey, and in the same year, to Dart's Westminster.

Is Dart's Westminster a large paper copy?—I have not marked it down as such. I do not report it as such. Of later years, I find the Bodleian library, the Public Library at Cambridge, Trinity College Dublin, and the British Museum, subscribers to Nichol's History of Leicestershire.

Have you looked at Hearne's works?—No; I merely made the election from about half a dozen books, which I took down from our shelves. The Public Library at Cambridge, the British Museum, and the Advocates Library at Edinburgh, were subscribers to the new edition of Wood's Athenæ Oxoniensis; the first volume was published before the passing of the Act of 1814; the 2d and 3d volumes, they have since had gratis, under the Act.

And have discontinued their subscription?—Yes.

Have public libraries, in any instance since the passing of the Act, subscribed to the publication of any work, within your knowledge?—I know of none. I will just hand in a few particulars to the Committee, in illustration of what I have said.

[Witness handed in the following Document:]

Cambridge; subscribed to Wood's Athenæ, paid for vol. 1, and have received the 2d and 3d gratis.

British Museum; subscribed to Wood's Athenæ, paid for vol. 1, and have had vols. 2d and 3d gratis.

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B

Advocates;

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Advocates; subscribed to Wood's Athenæ, L. P. and had vol. 1; after the Act passed, vol. 1 was returned, and they have had subsequent volumes, S. P. gratis.

Trinity College Dublin:—Subscribed to Dugdale's Monasticon, and ceased after taking 4 parts, when the Act passed.

Bodleian:—Subscribed to Dugdale's Monasticon, after the subscription was full; have not had the book, but the Act now entitling them to a copy gratis, the order has not been renewed.

British Museum:—Subscribed to Lodge's British Portraits, S. P. which they continue, but take an L. P. under the Act also.

Are there not many extra expenses to the publication of a work, beyond paper and printing?—Yes, there are; besides the 11 copies which we are compelled to give under the Copyright Act, it is necessary to supply authors with a number of copies to present to their friends and others, who have granted them the use of books and manuscripts, to assist them in bringing forward and completing their works; there is also the charge of engraving when the books have plates, and colouring, besides the expense of carrying on business, risk of debts, &c.

Have not some valuable works been discontinued, from want of sufficient subscribers?—Yes, there have been important works which have been abandoned for want of sufficient encouragement:—

Rev. Mr. Boucher's Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial Works.

Dr. Murray's (the editor of Bruce's Travels) History of Languages.

Translations of Mathew Paris, and other Latin historians; William of Malmsbury only published. One more has been translated, but not published.

An extensive British Biography, arranged in periods; a considerable portion of this work has been written by some of the first writers of the present day.

The collected Works of Sir Isaac Newton.

Hearne's (the Antiquary) Works.

Collections of the Irish Historians.

Bawdwen's Translation of the Domesday Book, after the translation was finished, and one volume and a half printed.

What do you apprehend to be the effect of the delivery of these copies to the public libraries?—The effect I conceive to be, that they interfere with the sale of books, from persons who would otherwise be purchasers having access to these libraries, and being enabled to borrow the books, some of them being circulating libraries, as is the case with the Advocates Library at Edinburgh, and the Aberdeen Library. From Aberdeen I have had complaints from booksellers, that they find their trade considerably injured by such books being in circulation, and that formerly they supplied the King's College with books to a considerable amount; that their accounts at present are a mere trifle, and that some of their books have been sold to a circulating library; I apply that fact more particularly to music.

Do you apprehend that, in the most expensive books of which the 11 copies have been delivered, the copyright has been of any value?—That very rarely happens with very expensive books; in those cases the copyright is scarcely of any value.

Would you have preferred abandoning the copyright to giving the 11 copies?—In most instances of expensive books we would do it, particularly in books of limited numbers.

It follows, from the calculation made, that the actual cost of presswork and paper of an 8vo. volume, is two shillings and three-pence?—Paper, and presswork simply, not including composition, is about that; the charge of composition depends entirely upon the quantity of letter in the page.

Upon an ordinary 8vo. of 480 pages?—The expense of printing 250 copies might amount, together with the paper, to 22*l.* 10*s.*; the printing, and the paper and composition 30*s.* a sheet, would amount to about 45*l.*

Does that include the 28*l.* 10*s.*?—No, exclusive of it.

What would be the prime cost of the 8vo. per volume?—Some less, and some more.

In the case of an edition of 250 copies, is it the practice of the trade to set apart 11 copies out of the 250, which makes 239 for the public; or is it the practice

practice to print the whole of the 250 for the public, and to go to the expense of the 6*l.* for the 11 copies for the Universities?—I believe I stated before, that the custom was to print editions of 250, 500, 750, and so forth.

Then in an edition of 250, there are 239 copies for the public, and 11 for the Universities?—Yes.

But you do not incur the expense of presswork for the 11 copies for the Universities merely?—The number we give to the Universities is always taken out of the edition.

If you print beyond the 250, you charge for another 250?—Yes.

Where is the difficulty of departing from this custom?—It has been the regulation of the trade time immemorial to print and pay for tokens of 250, which is an hour's work for two men; 250 forms half a ream of paper, and it is the custom of paper-makers and stationers to sell their paper in reams. A ream prints 500 sheets, and consequently 250 forms half a ream. Were a smaller number printed, there would be necessarily a considerable waste of paper from the negligence of the printers, warehousemen, pressmen, &c. We therefore endeavour, in all instances, to order such a number to be printed as will occupy a ream or half a ream of paper, or an even quantity. Were any regulation attempted in the mode of charging, the confusion among the pressmen would be so great, that a rise in the price of printing would necessarily follow.

Do I understand you to say, that the consequence of breaking in upon an even portion of paper made up in the office, that the consequence of that is, that the remainder would be liable to dilapidation and confusion, and great loss in consequence of waste?—Yes.

Is the duty payable upon a smaller quantity than a ream?—The excise laws forbid a paper-maker to send a smaller quantity from his mill.

How far back do you trace the existence of this custom of not printing in less than 250 copies?—Mr. Nichols, I believe, the oldest printer in the trade, has informed me, as I stated before, that the custom existed before he knew the business; and he, I believe, has been in business upwards of 50 years.

Does the stationer supply the paper to the printer?—He does.

You have stated, that the paper in the printer's work-shop is liable to confusion; is it not in the power of the publisher to prevent that portion of the ream not used in the edition from being embezzled, and to preserve it for the next work in hand?—I conceive it to be totally out of his power.

Have the booksellers, for every smaller number of any work, required the printers to charge for less than 250 copies?—I do not know of an instance; I have not required it myself.

Would you not have done this, if you had judged it reasonable?—I certainly would.

Have booksellers sometimes printed 100 or 150 copies of any work?—We have done it.

And paid for 250?—Yes.

You say, that a ream of paper will do for 250; if the publisher, who has the paper in his office, was to divide 250 by 11, would there be any waste if he sent one division to print 11 copies?—I am satisfied it could not be done without waste.

Do you mean, that the confusion would arise, during the change or after the new regulation had been adopted?—After the new regulation had been adopted.

Do you think that pressmen would consent to make a less charge than upon 250 copies?—I do not conceive that they would.

Do I understand you to say, that you think the workmen in printing would not be prevailed upon to comply with the change in the custom?—Yes, that is my meaning.

No master printer would have influence enough over his men to print the 11 copies without paying them to the amount of 250?—No, particularly in the present scarcity of pressmen; and if any alteration of that description were attempted, the consequence would be an immediate rise in the price of printing. This I speak from the inquiries I have made.

Then this depends upon the ordinary principle of supply and demand. If a demand upon the part of the pressmen instead of the publishers existed, then that difficulty would be done away with?—The demand on the part of the pressmen would be an increase of wages.

You do not seem to understand my question. If there were more pressmen wanting

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wanting work, than publishers wanting pressmen, the pressmen would not be able to prevent the custom being done away with?—If they were in a state of poverty they must do as well as they can. The journeymen printers are a very intelligent set of men, and are difficult to be managed.

Did you ever hear of any pressmen, in consequence of want of employment, being induced to break through that rule?—No.

Is the custom now established more advantageous to journeymen printers than any change could be?—No, I cannot say it is; because a change might be more profitable.

Would any change be called more profitable which did not give them an increase of wages?—I think not.

Does it not take up a considerable portion of time to change what are called the forms in printing, and would it answer the purpose of journeymen to be paid for every sole impression under 250, but in proportion?—If they were paid only in the same proportion for numbers under 250, as they are over 250, it would be greatly to their disadvantage.

They would lose much time in changing their forms?—Yes.

Does that inconvenience arise in printing the smaller numbers?—Yes. If any alteration were made as to the present mode of charging, we should consider it more to our advantage to take the 11 copies out of the 250, rather than having them printed beyond that number.

If a smaller price were paid to the journeymen printers than for the 250 copies, would it not lead to endless disputes between the master printer and the journeymen printers, as to what time they lost in changing forms; and could this be regulated by any knowledge which the master might possess?—I conceive there would be a constant dispute between the master and the printer?—Would there be any change of forms between 250 and 261 copies?—No, it does not apply.

How long have you been in the business?—For 30 years.

You recollect the state of the trade before 1801?—Yes.

There was a very considerable printing business carried on in Ireland before that time?—Yes.

What has been the consequence of the Act of 1801, with regard to the printing business in Ireland?—I cannot speak from my own information. I conceive that the printing business in Ireland is not so great now as it was then.

It has very considerably diminished?—Yes.

Can you make any calculation upon the subject?—No, I cannot.

Do you know before 1801, what was the extent of the trade between Ireland and America?—I do not know. I do not know that I can collect the information.

Do you know how many printers there were?—No, I do not.

You mentioned in your description of expensive works, that the trade would rather give up the advantage of the Act of Parliament as to the copyright, than be obliged to furnish 11 copies to the Universities; would the trade give up the advantage of the Act of 1801, with respect to Ireland, leaving her in the situation she was previous to 1801, rather than furnish the copies to the Universities?—I think I cannot decidedly answer that question; there was an advantage certainly, both to this country and to Ireland, by the Act of 1801, for the advantage was mutual to Ireland. I admit there was an advantage gained by that Act.

In what manner, prior to the year 1801, were you in the habit of protecting works from being reprinted in Ireland?—No copyright whatever, by statute, existed in Ireland prior to 1801; any bookseller might reprint the works of another with impunity. I conceive that Irish authors have gained very much by the copyright laws as established in 1801, which they did not possess before; many authors would prefer printing their works in their own country.

That was a material advantage, you think?—Yes.

Before the Union, what did the printing of works consist of; of original works written there, or reprints of works originally printed in England?—Principally of the reprints of works originally printed in England.

Was it not the practice in Ireland, previous to the Act of the 41 Geo. III, for the printers in Ireland to reprint almost every saleable work printed in this country,

country, and to smuggle them into England, to the great detriment of authors, and to the great injury of the revenue, which derives so large an income from the excise duty upon paper?—It certainly was.

Do you not consider it of great advantage to the authors and booksellers to have got rid of that illegal practice?—Certainly; the practice was decreasing prior to the Union, for the Americans having increased their printing establishment very considerably, they reprinted almost every work which was likely to have any sale whatever, so that if the Act of 1801 had not passed, the exportation trade from Ireland to America, would have been, perhaps, totally done away with by this time.

Do you know in point of fact, whether the principal printer in Dublin did not, upon the passing of that Act, emigrate to America, and there carry on a considerable trade?—I know that fact.

Do you know that the book trade with America and Ireland is almost entirely abandoned, in consequence of the emigration of Irish booksellers to the United States?—Very much, certainly.

Do they not reprint almost every good English publication in America?—Yes.

How long has that practice prevailed?—It has been gradually increasing for 20 or 30 years.

With the prosperity of the country?—Yes.

Are there many instances of republications in Ireland of expensive English works?—Very few.

Are there many instances of republications of English books in Ireland, of which a considerable part of the value depended upon engravings?—Very few.

Do you recollect any particular work?—I recollect there was Pennant's London, and its publisher in Ireland sustained a great loss.

Was the state of the arts in Dublin, such as to afford a chance of a successful competition to such works?—It was in a very low state indeed.

Before the Act of 1801, they printed law books as well other books?—Yes, they did.

You have given to the Committee, an account of several works, among which was Daniel's India; in case the Act of 1801, had not passed, do you conceive it would have answered to Ireland to reprint any of these books?—I think some of them.

Which of them?—I think Cox's Marlborough.

But not Daniel's India or his Coast Voyages, or Southey's Mort D'Arthur?—Certainly not; it might have answered to have reprinted the Marlborough.

Rather than pay the 11 copies, would you surrender the 14 years copyright given by the Act?—Yes, we would; upon that point, I have made some calculations; I have found, out of 76 authors, whose books we published in the years 1803-4, now just 14 years having expired, only 12 of them have died within the period, and I do not believe there is one of the copyrights of those twelve, which we consider of any value whatever, so that we should certainly prefer being placed in that situation than deliver out 11 copies.

The copyright of 14 years then, has been of no great avail to you?—No.

Have you formed any estimate of the proportion of copyrights, which have any value, after the first few years, of the works which you published?—To form a rough calculation, I should think not above a fourth.

How many copyrights retain any considerable value, 27 years after publication?—Not one in fifty.

Has the execution of the works printed in Ireland, since the Union, improved, in comparison to those works printed before the Union?—Very much.

Were not the books, previously printed, usually extremely incorrect, and generally ill executed?—They were, generally, I believe, considered to be so.

Do you not think, that the custom of reprinting English books in Ireland, was for the purpose of underselling the original editions?—I do.

Do you think, such large sums could have been paid for the copyright of some modern works, had the practice of reprinting these works in Ireland, and smuggling them into this country, been continued?—Certainly not, of small works; but heavy works, especially those with prints, would not have been executed in Ireland.

Were not authors most materially injured by that practice, previous to the Union?—They were considerably injured.

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Do you not apprehend, that the works of Miss Edgworth would have been particularly the object of such piracy?—No doubt of it.

Would it not have materially diminished the price which any publisher can now pay for the copyright of any of our works?—It would.

What number of copies could be expected to be sold of Daniel's Voyage to India?—Perhaps 400.

Or take the most expensive of the publications you have mentioned?—Of the two, the Coast Views are the most expensive; I might also name Rees's Cyclopædia.

Do you recollect printing an edition of Mr. Smeaton's (the engineer) Reports, in 3 vols. 4to.?—I recollect publishing them.

Have you any recollection of any thing relative to the copyright, or by whom it was given?—It was given by the Society of Engineers.

At whose expense was that work printed?—At our expense.

Do you recollect any complaint which was made of the price at which that work was charged to the members of the Society of Civil Engineers?—I do not personally recollect the complaint; it might have been made to one of my partners.

Did not the members of that society, after having given the copyright, purchase the book themselves?—I really do not recollect the terms of the agreement; I believe the terms of the agreement entered into with Mr. Rennie, were duly complied with; the work, whatever price was charged to the engineers, has not paid its expenses up to this moment.

In printing an edition of a book, are there not always some copies printed to meet casualties, termed "waste," beyond the number specified?—Sometimes there are none beyond the number required; at other times there are a few, but very few.

In an edition of 1,000 copies, how many would be then over-printed?—In some instances, we have had some surplus copies, and none at other times, Sometimes we have one, two, three, four, five and six.

What do you mean by waste copies in the trade?—They arise in this way: a ream of paper consists of 516 sheets; some of those sheets are destroyed in the printing, therefore these extra 16 sheets are provided to meet that danger of waste; and when there are over copies, it arises from some of these sheets not having been destroyed.

In printing, then, half a ream, which you stated would make 250 impressions, supposing a sheet should be spoiled, what would you do?—Then the numbers of copies made perfect is the less in consequence.

When you print but half a ream, you must replace some of the spoiled copies by taking a portion out of the other half ream?—That is never done; there are eight sheets in the half ream provided for wear and tear.

When you speak of a ream of paper, you mean what is called a perfect ream, which consists of how many quires?—Twenty-one quires and a half.

Is it not the custom to reserve some copies, to be given to authors and other persons who have assisted in the works?—Yes.

Do you give these copies out of the 250?—Invariably.

Take an edition of 500 copies, how many of this would you preserve for the purpose of presents?—More or less, according to circumstances; some authors may not require above two or three copies, and others have required as many as 20.

Are there other persons, besides authors, to whom presents are sometimes made?—Yes, the gentlemen who give authors the use of their libraries and manuscripts; for instance, Mr. Heber, whose valuable and extensive library is always open to gentlemen, in a most liberal way.

Are copies of the works given to other persons, such as printers or other persons, in part or in lieu of payment in money?—Never by us.

Have you ever heard that such is sometimes the practice?—By some distressed booksellers, it may be.

Does a respectable bookseller do so?—Never.

Besides the books given as presents to authors and others, the publisher has no copies out of the 250, excepting for the purpose of sale?—None; there is a copy retained by the printer under the Sedition Act.

Are not all these reserves matter of mere arrangement between the author and the publisher?—Certainly.

If

If the publisher contemplates the necessity of giving copies, he takes it into the consideration of the expenses?—Yes.

Does he charge or calculate upon the retail selling price, in the consideration of the expenses?—He deducts it from the amount of the returns of the produce of the whole edition; for instance, if 500 copies are printed, he accounts for 489 in his statement of returns.

Supposing he charges the copies to the author, in that case, in deducting the eleven, would he deduct the retail selling price, or not?—The trade price is usually charged.

You stated, that the perfect ream allows a few copies over the actual 500, but does it not often happen that several sheets are spoiled in the printing, and that the number is deficient?—It does not unfrequently happen; in this case we expect the printer to make good the deficiency, although they have already printed the specified number of the copies.

Whenever a deficiency happens, is the printer disposed to reprint the defective sheets, or to make a deduction from his bill?—He prefers making a deduction from his bill; of two evils, he chooses the least.

If a work has a good sale, is it not the practice to strike off again the sheets damaged, so as to make a complete work from the waste?—It rarely happens that books are made up from the waste; the waste consists of imperfect or damaged sheets.

You have stated, that half a ream is an hour's work?—That is one side of half a ream, and the other side is considered as another hour's work.

Has not the printing been very much accelerated by the improvements in the printing press of late years?—That is the case in two or three printing offices.

So that the time which would have been required to print off a ream before this improvement, is greater than the time which would now be required for that purpose, therefore a ream can be printed in less time than before this improvement?—Certainly.

Then do you mean to say, that 250 copies in half an hour is now the proportion, since the improvement?—This improvement has only been introduced into two or three offices.

Then in these offices, where the improvement is introduced, there is a new arrangement made with the printers?—What are commonly called pressmen are not employed at all at those presses.

I speak of Lord Stanhope's improvement?—If the question refers to Lord Stanhope's press, the art of printing is not made more rapid by these presses being used than by the presses before in use; but if it refers to the press of Messrs. Bensley & Taylor, printing is certainly performed with greater rapidity by the steam engine.

Is there no improvement in the machinery not by steam, by which the process of printing has been accelerated?—Mr. Hansard has a press which prints paper of double the ordinary size.

The effect of this improvement is, that the printer will strike off more copies in a given time, than he could before the improvement?—Certainly; but this press is solely used by Mr. Hansard.

Do you know whether the steam-engine press chiefly applies to large impressions of works?—They certainly do, and are only calculated, in my opinion, for large impressions.

If small impressions of works were printed by the newly invented machines, would not the loss of time in changing the forms still apply to the usual number of 250?—I conceive it would nearly frustrate the advantage of the improvement.

Do you think that a less price than for the 250 could be charged by a person using the new machine, in these instances?—I think not.

Martis, 28^o die Aprilis, 1818.

CHARLES W. W. WYNN, Esq. in the Chair.

Mr. Owen Rees, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr.
Owen Rees.

WHAT would be the price of the presswork of eleven extra copies of a quarto book of seventy-four sheets and a half, containing 592 pages?—The presswork would cost 26*l.* 16*s.*

Of the eleven copies?—Yes, of the eleven copies; and the paper 2*l.* 2*s.* which amounts together to 2*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* per copy.

What is the selling price?—Two guineas.

What would the paper cost for 250 copies?—55*l.* 10*s.*

When you said the selling price do you mean the retail price?—The retail price.

55*l.* 10*l.* you say would be the price of the paper, for 250 copies of such a quarto?—Yes; 55*l.* 10*s.* about.

What have you reckoned the paper at per ream?—I have taken it at thirty shillings, merely for the shortness of calculating, but we pay more for it than that price.

What kind of paper is it?—Printing demy.

The usual paper upon which quartos are printed?—Yes.

Suppose a gentleman to publish a work on his own account, and to incur all the various expenses, could he get the paper at thirty shillings a ream?—I presume not; I presume a stationer would not sell the paper at the same price to an indifferent gentleman as to the trade.

What would be the charge of the compositor, and the other incidental expenses, such as you stated for the octavo in your former evidence?—I have brought the actual expenses as they appear in our books of the cost of Dubois's India. In the incidental expenses of that book, we put sixty pounds for advertising; the boarding of 750 copies, the number of which the edition consists, would be about 56*l.*; I have taken this upon the actual impression of the book.

Have the goodness to state the proportion upon 250 copies?—The advertisements would be the same, the boarding upon 250 copies would be 19*l.* the paper 55*l.* 10*s.* the printing 26*l.* 10*s.* the compositor's expenses would be about 80*l.* that is a total of 240*l.*

Please to state particulars with respect to folios?—We very seldom print them; they are generally very expensive books, consisting of plates, when they are published.

The Committee asked you, if a private gentleman was to publish a work on his own account, if he would not pay more for the paper than persons in the trade; the Committee wish to be informed, whether a printer does not charge a gentleman at a higher rate than to a publisher?—I conceive they generally charge a profit upon the paper.

Do not the printers charge a higher price for printing also, than they do to the trade?—I always understood that they do.

It was stated by Mr. Longman, that 750 is the average number of copies of a work; is that your opinion?—It is my opinion, as being an average estimate.

You are speaking of the first edition?—Yes, of the first edition.

Before it is ascertained whether the book will be sold or not?—Yes.

It was also stated, by Mr. Longman, that the actual cost of a work is nearly half the retail price; is that your opinion?—I think it is very nearly that, taking books in a very general way; more upon some, and less upon others.

If only 500 copies were printed, would they not exceed the half of the retail price?—Generally, they would.

Is 500 the usual number of the first impression?—From 500 to 750, and from that to 1000, is the usual numbers of the first print.

Do you think a tax of three-fourths per cent. which would be the amount of eleven copies upon 750, taking the price at the actual cost, could operate in any instance to prevent the publication of a work?—I think the charges already upon

upon paper and printing, and advertising, are so very great, that any addition to that would tend to decrease the sale of the book.

What charges do you include when you speak of the actual cost of a work?—We include printing, paper, and editing or translating, and advertising; these are all the charges which I included in the cost, according to the account which I gave in my evidence yesterday; in addition to that, there is the charge of boarding or binding the books, which follows, that I did not include.

You gave in yesterday the actual cost of the books delivered at Stationers' Hall, since the passing of the Act, at 3,000 *l.*?—Yes, at 3000 *l.*

In what way did you estimate the actual cost of the printing, at the price of the 250 copies, or of the eleven?—At the price of the actual impression of the book, taking the proportion which eleven copies would bear to the number actually printed.

Did you take the actual cost at one-half of the selling price?—In some instances we did; in general we took the proportion from the trade price, and from thence formed a general average, which we made about 3,000 *l.*

What was your reason for not taking the actual cost at the same rate in all instances?—From the difficulty of ascertaining the actual cost.

Have you always taken more than the actual cost, by taking sometimes the trade price?—We estimated what we conceived to be the actual cost.

You stated yesterday, in your evidence, that you had declined Baron Humboldt's Description of Non-descript Plants of South America, in consequence of the obligation of having to deliver eleven copies?—That was the case.

Did you calculate how many copies you should have printed, had you engaged in that work?—We made an estimate, and from my recollection, at present, the number was 250.

Eleven copies out of 250 would be about four per cent.; but the actual cost being one-half, it would be but two per cent.; could the difference of two per cent. alone have influenced you in rejecting that publication?—The delivery of the books, in that instance, would have considerably influenced us in declining the publication, for it would have been a work of coloured plates, the colouring of which is an expense only incurred as copies are demanded, and the expense of those eleven copies must have been incurred in the first instance.

Were you to have purchased the copyright of that work?—I really do not recollect the terms upon which we were to have published it, that was a consideration certainly to be made to the editor, but I do not recollect the particulars, or whether it was to have been published on the plan of dividing the profits with the editor, which has been a usual practice.

Was there any engagement intended as to the copyright?—Some consideration to the editor, certainly.

Did you, in estimating the advantage which you should derive from the copyright, include the extended term of twenty-eight years, as a reason for giving more for the copyright than for only fourteen years?—In that instance, certainly not.

Would not the delivery of eleven copies upon small editions of expensive works, say 250 copies, operate as a prohibition to the printing?—It certainly would.

Did you include the sum paid to authors in the estimate given in of the printing the quarto?—No; no charge of that nature.

In considering whether you would or would not undertake to run the hazard of printing and publishing Baron Humboldt's Non-descript Plants of South America, did you not, in considering the necessity of delivering eleven copies, include not only the cost of those eleven copies, but whether it would not take away some parties that otherwise would have been purchasers?—We certainly did, and we have certainly considered that in every view we have taken of the question.

Did you not consider, that if it had not been for the necessity of such gratuities to such libraries as the Bodleian, and other libraries of that nature, they would have been purchasers of the work?—We have always looked towards those libraries as purchasers of expensive works.

Did you ever know an instance of a piracy of a botanical work with plates, like Baron Humboldt's Non-descript Plants of South America?—Never.

Are there many instances of second editions of such works?—Very rarely; indeed, I hardly know such an instance of expensive works.

Mr.
Owen Rees.

So that in such works, the Committee understand you to say, the prolonged copyright or security against piracy, are of little or no value to the author?—Of very little importance.

Do you recollect any instance of the republication of a great botanical work in your time?—I know but of one instance, the *Flora Londinensis*, a work which was discontinued for some years, and has been attempted to be continued of late, but I am sorry to say with very indifferent success.

The question did not refer to the continuation of works, but to the republications or new editions?—I know of no complete work of that description that has been republished.

In the course of thirty years?—No, not in the course of thirty years.

Have you reason to believe that there would have been a demand for the 239 copies of that botanical work you have mentioned?—I should have hoped so eventually.

Then the loss of three purchasers, namely, the Bodleian and the two Universities, must have been a very inconsiderable loss to you, would they not?—The Advocates Library was in the habit of purchasing a great number of expensive books, as well as libraries which have not been mentioned.

You mean subscribers to new works?—Yes; yes, subscribers to new works.

Are you aware, that the University of Oxford applies all its disposable funds to the purchase of new books?—I am not aware that they do; if we had been sure of the sale of the 239 copies, the loss of three subscribers would certainly not have been of much importance; but when the loss of some subscribers, and the compulsion of the delivery of eleven copies, are together taken into consideration, it would fall peculiarly heavy on works of so limited an edition.

If you are not sure of selling the 239 copies, and if in fact you could not sell the 239 copies, then the loss to you in that case of supplying the eleven copies, would not be the retail price of the eleven copies, but only the trade price?—Not more than the trade price, certainly.

In your opinion, what is the effect of a book being put into a public library, to which people may have gratuitous access, with regard to taking people out of the market?—Certainly, I think it occasions a prevention of the sale of a great number of copies.

Would not the same prevention exactly arise if the parties were purchasers?—Certainly.

Is not Mr. Longman your partner?—Yes.

He is a gentleman of considerable experience; is he not?—Yes.

Now the Committee wish to call your attention to what he says, “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 of advantage to the trade?—I have no doubt of it. Does it or not prevent other people from purchasing?—It unquestionably prevents some persons from purchasing, but upon the whole I should suppose it increases the demand?”—Those libraries were purchasers of books.

But he mentions, that it is calculated to diffuse a knowledge of the work, or a desire to have it; now, do you not think that would take place with respect to the Universities, where four or five hundred gentlemen have thereby an opportunity of becoming acquainted with a work, and then be able to carry home an account of the book to their families?—I conceive that every thing that tends to promote knowledge, tends to the success of literature.

Do you think, that there would be so much injury done, for instance, by the University of Oxford, and thus one purchaser be drawn from the market, as would be gained by the number of persons who would be enabled to become acquainted with the work?—I do conceive, that the advantage would not be equal to the disadvantage.

The Committee presume, especially in very expensive publications, no such effect at all could be answered by the very great number of persons made acquainted

acquainted with the book?—I think the disadvantage would be greater upon expensive publications.

Can you form any estimate of the number of reading societies, of book clubs, and of circulating libraries in England?—I cannot; but there is scarcely a town of any note throughout the kingdom, generally speaking, when there is not one.

The Committee understand Mr. Longman to have meant, that those libraries tended to the advantage of the booksellers, more than by the mere sale of one work to each of them, namely, by communicating a general knowledge of the value of books; if so, would not the same effect be produced by the same communication to the eleven bodies?—I conceive, that the principal advantage that would be derived to authors and publishers, would be, that such libraries and societies would be customers for the different works that are published.

Is the advantage greater than by the sale of the books, merely looking upon the subscription libraries as customers?—The principal advantage I conceive to arise from the sale of the books.

What is the present duty upon paper?—The present duty upon paper is 3*d.* per pound weight.

How much per ream?—Generally from 5*s.* 3*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* per ream.

Of the common printing paper?—Yes, of the common printing paper; 5*s.* 3*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*

The Committee wish to be informed, whether you would consider a small increase of that duty a less inconvenience to the trade than the present custom of giving eleven copies; suppose, for instance, a penny per ream?—I should prefer an additional duty of a penny per ream, to the delivery of the eleven copies; but the duty on paper is so exceedingly high at present, that any addition must be detrimental; besides, the duty upon advertisements also is very heavy.

Can you speak as to the comparative expenses of publications on the Continent and America with those of England?—In France, paper is but little more than half the price that it is in this country; but as to the printing, I am not enabled to speak; in America, I understand, books can be printed cheaper than in this country.

If an additional per centage were put upon the price of the remaining copies, to cover the expense of the eleven copies, must not that per centage be laid on the copies that were sold only, and not upon the total remainder of the impression; for instance, taking from an edition of 250 the eleven copies, there will be left 239, of course; and suppose only 150 were sold, must not the per centage be laid on those which remain?—It must fall upon the copies that were sold, certainly.

Are there paper manufactories in America?—Great numbers; they supply themselves with paper; they have prohibited the importation of printing paper from this country.

They have no duty on paper, because they have no internal taxes?—No, there is no duty.

Can you state, in any given period, what you have paid for advertising books?—In the last twelve months, we paid for advertising in newspapers alone, 4,638*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*

Do you know what proportion of that goes to Government?—I should conceive about 1,500*l.* of that goes to Government.

That is, about one-third?—Yes, about one-third; perhaps rather more than one-third.

What proportion do you take the expense of advertising to bear to the other expenses of the book; it varies very much, according to the nature of the work.

The average only?—It fluctuates very much; I should presume, from one-third to a tenth of the whole expense.

Is it not the greatest proportion upon the books of which there are the smallest impression?—Of course; and it is the heaviest upon the most expensive books.

Before the Copyright Act of 1814, was it ever understood, that reprints of books which had been first printed prior to the Act of Queen Anne, were ever demanded or demandable?—They were never demanded, and we never considered them as demandable, in any way.

At the time the Copyright Act of 1814, passed, did you understand it would include a demand for the reprints of old books?—We certainly did not expect it.

Mr.
Owen Rees.

Was it not some time after the Act had passed, that you were surprized by a demand being made for such reprints?—It was; it was not until we had counsel's opinion of the Act, that we delivered those books.

You had not the smallest suspicion that the Act included those books?—We had not; the Act requires, that all books which are printed, that have not been entered at Stationers Hall, are to be delivered according to the Act.

In point of fact, according to the Act in 1814, having been passed, have you not been obliged to deliver some very expensive works of old English literature, which otherwise would not have been demandable?—We have.

Has not that demand had an effect, among other reasons, of inducing you not to embark in other reprints of the same nature?—It has.

Are not many of those prints, verbatim, reprints of works already in the respectable libraries, or some of them?—They are.

Have you any paper, showing the loss which the delivery of the eleven copies have been to you?—I have a general list of a limited number of books, but I could not immediately point out, whether those were reprinted without additions.

Have you ever examined the catalogues of those libraries, to know whether they have previously possessed copies of those works which they now require?—I have not myself examined the catalogues, but I was informed by a gentleman who saw Bates's works, in the public library at Cambridge, which is one of the books demanded by that library under the Act.

Do you not know, that in the British Museum, several of the books of reprints were already in the Museum?—I have not examined it myself, but I have no doubt of the fact.

With regard to those reprints, many of which were reprints of extremely rare books, do you not conceive that class of literature to whom those works were addressed, would have been obliged to purchase those works, if they had not seen them in those public libraries?—I do consider that that would have been the case.

You have stated, that you did not consider that reprints of books were demandable under the Act of Anne, the words being these, "That nine copies of each book or books, upon the best paper, that from and after the 10th of April 1810, shall be printed and published as aforesaid, or reprinted and published with additions, shall be delivered according to the provisions of the Act;" if that Act had been adverted to, could there have been a doubt upon the minds of the publishers, that they were liable to have delivered reprints as well as new books?—I do not feel myself competent to give an answer to that question, it being entirely a question of legal construction.

You were concerned in the reprint of Holinshead, and other chronicles of English history?—I had the direction of that publication.

Did not the series commence previously to the Act of 1814?—It did.

Can you state the peculiar injury to you in that series of publications, in consequence of the delivery of the 11 copies?—I believe not above one of that series of chronicles was published, after the passing of the Act; it would have been very heavy, had they been published subsequently to the Act.

Do you consider the tax of the 11 copies, a great prevention to future undertakings of such series of ancient English historians?—I certainly do.

You have stated the prevention of the publication of Baron Humboldt's work, with botanical plates?—I have.

Are there not works of botany, zoology and anatomy, and frequently of antiquities, accompanied with plates?—Most frequently, particularly on botany.

Have you published more works in about four years, since the passing of the Act in 1814, or in the four years before that time?—I have not taken an account, but I think rather more than before, our business being an increasing business; but the difference must be very trifling as to number.

Do you consider the state of the publishing trade generally to be upon the increase, or to be upon the decrease, comparing the last four years with the four years preceding?—I think it has been rather upon the decline, but is now reviving.

To what causes do you attribute that partial decline and the present apparent rise in the trade?—Principally to the general depression that has been in all trades.

Do you attribute any part of that to the inconvenience felt in consequence of the

the Act in 1814?—I certainly do; particularly as to the limited number of the books.

With regard to expensive works, of which but a few numbers of copies are edited, do you consider the trade to be increasing or to have been decreasing, comparing the trade of the last four years with the former four years?—I think they have been rather decreasing.

Do you consider it now to be upon the increase or the decline?—I think upon the decline, the limited numbers.

Do you recollect any particular year which you should state as that of the greatest number of publications?—I should think, from the best of my recollection, the year 1814; but it is merely from general recollection.

Mr. *William Daniel*, called in; and Examined.

HAS the Act, directing the delivery of 11 copies to the public libraries, had any effect upon any publications which you have made, or which you had intended to make?—Checking many.

Will you be so good as to state what effect it has had upon you, individually?—It has prevented the continuation of a large folio work, intituled, “Oriental Scenery.” It has prevented also, a reduced edition of an African work; another of Ceylon, “A Series of Scenes and Figures, illustrative of the Customs of India, and of Persons and Animals peculiar to that Country.” I believe those are the chief works which the Act has checked me in proceeding with.

Would those works have required letter-press for explanation?—Yes.

If there was no letter-press accompanying those views, could you not publish them without being obliged to deliver the 11 copies?—I am given to understand that to be the case.

What has been the effect with respect to the publications which you have already made?—They took from me that which an artist can ill afford to give, the amount of 11 copies.

Did not the publications consist generally of coloured prints?—Yes, they consisted generally of coloured prints.

Were they coloured by yourself, or did you employ other persons to colour them?—Assistance is obtained, but there is a great deal of personal labour given.

What do you apprehend to be the actual expense of the 11 copies which you have delivered to the public libraries?—There are two publications which have been published since the Act of 1814, the one, entitled, “The Coast of Great Britain,” of which the cost of the 11 copies amounted to 77 guineas; the other, a reduced edition from the large “Oriental Scenery,” the cost of the 11 copies amounted to 218*l*; those are the two chief works that I have published since the Act, of which the 11 copies have been demanded.

Have you any specimens of those works here?—Yes, I have a specimen of the large work, which I shall be happy to show to the Committee, to which I should have proceeded to add very materially, but for the Act.

Previous to the passing of the Act, it answered your purpose to go on with the publication, but since, you have discontinued it?—Yes, I have.

But since the Act, the Committee understand you to say, you thought it necessary to discontinue the publication of that work?—Yes.

The Committee has understood you to say, that it required a great deal of hand work to colour the prints, which is very expensive?—Yes.

So that the preparation of the 11 copies would come to a great deal of money?—Yes, it would.

Each copy, after the paper and the plate have been prepared, before it is in that state which the public libraries would have required of you, upon each volume, would come to a great deal of money?—It would come to 10*l*. to 15*l*.

And that is specifically and exclusively for each copy?—Yes, out of my own pocket. In the specimens before the Committee, there are 24, I think I may say, very highly finished prints.

Have you understood that you are liable to deliver copies of works of this description, under the Act?—Yes, I have understood so, in consequence of the letter-press.

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Mr.
Owen Rees.

Mr.
William Daniel.

Mr.
William Daniel.

Have they been demanded?—No, they have not; they were published before the year 1814.

Do you know of any instance in which a demand has been made of any publication of coloured plates, where the letter-press was merely explanatory of those prints?—I do not immediately recollect any, because my attention has been confined to my own concerns; but I have not the smallest doubt, that many works have been demanded.

Can you tell how many impressions were struck off of the “African Scenery,” to which more might be added, of which 11 copies, as you understood, were demandable?—Certainly, more copies might be added.

You preserve the copperplate for that purpose?—Yes.

Then, supposing 11 copies to be demandable, the cost to you would have been simply the wear of the plate and the value of the paper?—Not exactly so, but something more than the printing and the paper; there is the more expensive operation of colouring; those are the three chief expenses.

Then the expense to you of the 11 copies, if demandable, would have been the value of the paper, the wear of the plate, the printing and the colouring?—Exactly so.

When you stated, that the 11 copies of the “Coast of England” would amount to 77 guineas, did you take that estimate upon the selling price?—Yes.

What would be the difference of the cost, estimated as above, and the retail selling price upon the 11 copies?—It is a work that has been published by Longman & Co.’s house, for me; the retail selling price is a reduction of one-fourth of the subscription price.

The cost, estimated as above, would be materially different from the subscription price?—Yes.

In the “Views of the Coast of Britain,” was the letter-press subservient to the print?—There was not more than sufficient to illustrate them.

How many pages to each?—Sometimes two, and sometimes four; it was necessary to connect the subject by the means of the letter-press.

Do you think that the actual cost of the 11 copies would be one half of the retail selling price?—Not quite a half.

Would it be more than one-third?—I suspect it would, generally speaking, upon works of that kind.

What difference do you apprehend it would make in the value of “Coast Scenery,” as delivered to the privileged bodies, whether the prints were coloured afterwards by hand, in the same manner as they are sold, or whether they were delivered without being coloured?—They would not be delivered without being coloured.

The Committee mean, suppose that the right did not extend to their being coloured, but merely to have the impressions taken from the engravings; what difference would it make?—It would only take off the difference of the colouring; it is hard to say; but that part is the most expensive part of the work; nor would an artist permit an incomplete or unfinished impression to go out into the world, if he had any regard to his character. Those plates are prepared for the purpose of colouring the impressions after they are struck off, and therefore would be incomplete without such addition.

An artist, for his own sake, therefore, would not send them out incomplete?—Certainly not; they are mere preparations of what is to be done after; they are prepared for the reception of the colouring, which is to take place afterwards.

Is not an engraving liable to be hurt by any additional number of impressions?—Certainly the greater number of impressions taken from a plate renders it so much the worse.

Do you conceive 11 additional plates of any consequence?—Yes, in large plates, but not in small ones.

Do you work off the impression of the plates only as demanded?—No.

What number at a time?—That depends entirely upon the probable demand, or actual demand.

But is it probable that you would work off 11 for the Universities, unless demanded?—Certainly not.

The Committee understand you to say, that plates, like yours, which are prepared for colouring, would appear in an unfinished state, if they were to

to appear without their colouring?—They would so, because they are unfinished; and it is the colouring that gives them their finish.

They are left in a peculiar state of engraving, to receive the colour afterwards?—Yes, they are left in a peculiar state, for the purpose of receiving the colouring afterwards.

Therefore plates in that state will appear like an imperfect work?—Certainly; nor would any artist allow any such plates to go out into the world in an unfinished state.

Is not the paper upon which good engravings are worked off considerably more expensive than that upon which letter-press is worked off?—Certainly, considerably more.

Therefore, in large prints the expense of the paper is very considerable upon the 11 copies?—Yes, very considerable.

Suppose a volume to consist of 20 plates, of which 11 copies were taken, the paper of those 11 copies of 20 prints would be something not very slight?—It would be something very serious.

Mr. *William Bernard Cooke*, called in; and Examined.

THE Committee understand you are an engraver and publisher?—I am.

Are you not publishing a work upon the Ruins of Pompeii?—I am.

What would be the price of a complete copy of that work?—A complete copy would be 16 guineas, and the price of the copies upon India paper, 32 guineas.

Is that the retail price?—Yes, the retail price to the public.

Then what will be the amount of 11 copies at the retail price?—201*l.* 12*s.* because the finest copies are claimed by the British Museum.

What would be the amount of 11 copies at the trade price?—161*l.* 4*s.*

Which of those prices would you lose by delivery of the 11 copies?—As a publisher, I should lose the 201*l.* 12*s.* the full price.

If the Act of 1814 had not passed, should you have expected any of the libraries to have been subscribers to the work?—I certainly should; because the British Museum had purchased the 1st edition of the Thames, and have discontinued purchasing any other work since.

What would be the lowest possible loss of the 11 copies of the work in the working off those plates?—I am quite unprepared to give an answer to this question, I have not made any calculations.

What other works of this sort do you mean to publish?—I am also publishing a work called the Thames, and the work of the Southern Coast of England, from drawings by Turner.

How will the delivery affect you upon them?—The loss sustained by delivering the Thames will be 88*l.* 4*s.*; that of the Southern Coast, 134*l.*

Is that the retail or the trade price?—The retail price.

The Committee understand you to say, that you sell a great many direct to various persons, and therefore not subject to any intermediate allowance?—Yes.

Has the delivery of the 11 copies, in your opinion, operated to discourage such publications?—Most certainly.

Are works like yours improved or not by the addition of letter press, describing the subject of the plates?—A work could never be considered complete, without a few pages of letter press description. It would be utterly impossible to give the description in engraved writing under the views, that would be adequate to the purpose.

If it could, would not such copper plate writing disfigure the view?—It would take away entirely the effect of a good engraving.

What number do you usually print of your works?—We print 750 altogether of the Southern Coast; the proofs are always printed first; they always are printed as wanted, perhaps 250 are printed at once.

Do you print less than 750 of any of your works?—I printed less of Pompeii, it being a very expensive work; I merely have printed at present 250.

Had you any hesitation in undertaking the work of Pompeii?—I certainly had, in consequence of those 11 copies.

The liability of the demand of the 11 copies seriously entered into your mind, when you made the calculation, whether you should or should not undertake that work?—It certainly did.

Mr.
William Daniel.

Mr.
W. B. Cooke.

Mr.
W. B. Cooke.

Were you upon doubt, whether you should or should not undertake the work, upon that occasion?—Yes, I was.

Would the value of the 11 copies have been considered by you in itself a remuneration for your trouble, over and above your expenses?—Certainly not.

If you could have contemplated no other remuneration than that sum, which is equal to the value of 11 copies, would that alone have induced you to undertake it?—Certainly not; 161*l.* would not have been a sufficient inducement to have undertaken a work of such labour.

Have you finished your impression of Pompeii?—It is published in four parts, and one part is just published.

Do you propose striking off more engravings of the first part?—I hope so.

Then 11 impressions struck off, would cost you the wear of the plate and the value of the paper, the printer's hire, and no more?—They are very splendidly got up, which of course must be included; they are put into folios, made on purpose.

What expense do the preparation of the printing, the wear of the plate, and the value of the paper, bear to the price of the 11 copies?—I have not made a calculation.

Would it be one-half of the selling price?—Not quite one-half, on account of the engravings.

Do you publish on your own account?—Yes; but Mr. Murray publishes for me besides.

What is the number of prints in that work, which would be given up in consequence of the Act of 1814?—Pompeii will contain 100 engravings; the consequence is, that there will be 1,100 engravings given up, which are already protected by a separate Act of Parliament.

It was not necessary to deliver those engravings, previous to the Act of 1814?—No, it was not.

What is the quantity of letter-press in the work?—In the whole, I think there will not be above 20 or 30 pages of letter-press, and that merely explanatory of the plates, but the work would not be perfect without it.

Would the value of the paper, upon which those 1,100 prints are taken off, be any thing considerable?—Yes, it would; but nothing in comparison with the engravings; it would be a considerable loss to me.

Can you state, what the amount of that loss would be?—It would be a very considerable amount.

The Committee think you said, that taking off 11 additional engravings may injure a highly finished plate?—Very materially.

Therefore the 11 impressions which you are obliged to take, sometimes has a tendency very materially to deteriorate the plates?—Yes, there are two views in Pompeii, of very highly finished engravings, from drawings by Turner; the finish will be so exquisite, that every five impressions taken off will make a very material difference to the plate, the finish is so very fine.

Would the expense be very considerable to have the description engraved?—It would not answer at all, and it would be attended with a very considerable expense.

But not near so much as the expense of the 11 copies?—I do not think it would, exactly.

Would a copper-plate be much more expensive than letter-press?—Yes, considerably more so.

And you conceive a work so done, would not answer to the public?—It would not, certainly; it would not do.

The Committee understood you to say, that the copies delivered to the ten libraries were 16 guineas each, and that the value of the copy delivered to the British Museum was 32 guineas; does that difference in value arise from the difference of the quality of the paper?—No; for there are but 25 of the first proof impressions taken off upon India paper, which renders them very scarce, and that is a standard of value; they are the most superior impressions that can possibly be got; they are the very first impressions of the plate.

Can you say, in round numbers, what is the difference of expense to yourself, between the copy furnished to the British Museum, and one of the ten copies furnished to the other libraries?—They cost about half as much again as the others; the printing is done so very nicely upon India paper, and they charge more for printing than for the others.

How

How many impressions may be taken off without injuring the plate?—Every impression injures the plate in some degree, but some engravings will sustain more injury than others, it depends entirely upon the nature of the subject; those highly finished engravings from Turner's drawings would be injured very much.

Mr.
W. B. Cooke.

Generally speaking, do you not calculate a plate to last for more than 750 copies, or at least for that number?—Many plates will require repair even to do that; a bold landscape will print a greater number than that which is engraved in a fine and delicate way; of the three works I am engaged on, which have been mentioned, this giving up of the eleven copies will absorb nearly 3,000 engravings, and these 3,000 engravings are already protected by Act of Parliament; but for a few pages of letter-press, it is a hard thing that they should be demandable.

Do you think that the delivery of eleven copies of a very expensive work, of which a small number will be printed, would operate as a prohibition to the undertaking such a work?—That is my decided opinion; I have perfected two great works, which are now put by on that account, having even engraved a few of the plates, which is a great loss to me.

You did not expect the sale to be considerable, of course?—No, I expected the sale to be limited.

And having to deliver eleven copies, it would make such an inroad upon your probable profits, that you discontinued from doing it?—I did.

Then you think it tends to discourage artists being employed to decorate printed works?—Great works of all kinds are loaded with such vast expense in getting up, that very few publishers can undertake them the risk is so great; the consequence is, that artists of great talent engrave works on a small scale, for which booksellers find a readier sale; unless an artist is enabled to speculate by possessing independent property, of course the giving up of eleven copies must damp the publishing of any works still more so, the expenses are already so great.

You have stated, that you have discontinued two works on the ground of the delivery of eleven copies, do you mean that the actual cost of the striking off of the eleven plates, was sufficient to deter you of itself from the publication?—Yes; the wear of the plates, and the expense of the paper, certainly would on such works as I had projected, so little letter-press was required.

Then there being only so little letter-press required, would not your substituting copper-plate for that, the difference being only the difference of expense between the letter-press and the engraving, be sufficient to induce you to undertake the work?—The copper-plate would look so bad, it would take away the effect of a fine work, that I had rather not undertake the thing at all than publish it in that way.

Are not the sale of those expensive works very precarious?—Very much so, and any large expense added to the risk, must operate to prevent the undertaking of such works.

Were you not aware of the delivery of those works before you had perfected this work?—I had perfected them before the Act of Parliament was passed.

Should you have gone on with this work, if that Act had not passed in 1814?—I certainly should.

Mercurii, 29^o die Aprilis, 1818.

CHARLES W. W. WYNN, Esq. in the Chair.

Mr. *Richard Taylor*, called in; and Examined.

YOU are a printer?—Yes.

How many years have you been in the trade?—Nearly twenty years.

Are you in partnership with any person; and if you are, describe the firm?

—I am in partnership with my brother, Mr. Arthur Taylor,

What is it the custom of the trade to charge for printing eleven, or any number of extra copies of a work beyond 250, 500, or any such successive numbers?

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numbers?

Mr.
Richard Taylor.

Mr.
Richard Taylor.

numbers?—Whenever we print eleven copies, or any number of extra copies above 250, or 500, or 750, we charge at the same rate as for another 250. I should more properly say, we charge as for 250 copies.

Can this custom of the trade be changed, in your opinion?—I do not apprehend that it could, without very great inconvenience. For extra copies above any of the given numbers I have mentioned, we always pay as for 250, and not after the rate of 250.

What would be the price of presswork and paper for eleven copies of an 8vo. work of 80 sheets, or 480 pages?—Eleven copies of an 8vo. work of 80 sheets, the presswork and paper only, not including the composition, would cost from 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 27*l.* according to the quality of the paper, and of the presswork.

What would be the price of presswork and paper, for eleven copies of a 4to. volume of 80 sheets, and what would it sell for, supposing the volume to contain from 500 to 600 pages?—The price of presswork and paper for eleven copies of such a volume (which would contain 640 pages) would be about 36*l.*

From 36*l.* to what?—My calculation is upon an average. In my estimate for the 8vo. I calculated for the most common mode of printing, and the most expensive.

Then you had better give us the price of the 4to. in the same way. You do not print 4tos. in the most common mode?—Sometimes; but the 4tos. are more usually printed in the more expensive way. I should estimate the price of presswork and paper for eleven copies of a 4to. volume, at from 20*l.* to 60*l.*

What would it sell for; what would be the selling price?—That is a question which I am not very well able to answer, not being a bookseller. Perhaps the price would be four guineas.

What facts do you know, as to the operation of the delivery of the eleven copies to the Universities and public libraries, on the publication and sale of books?—I have often been applied to, in the course of my business, by gentlemen who have had works to print, which seemed to me very important, and for which they wished to find a publisher; but the probability of sale was so small, and the expense of publication so considerable, that no publisher could be found, after the greatest pains had been taken to find one, who would undertake the expense of the work. In such cases, certainly, the author has then the choice only of abandoning the publication altogether, or of publishing his work at his own expense, with almost a certainty of loss. When that is determined upon, we are called upon sometimes to make an exact estimate of what the cost would be of printing the smallest number of copies; such a number of copies as there would be any probability of selling. This number of copies being very small, of course the work is printed at a very great disadvantage, because there is but a small number of copies upon which to subdivide the whole of the expense of printing. In these cases, an author is sometimes induced to undertake the printing of the work at his own risk, if he thinks there is any probability of selling just as many as will cover this cost. In some instances, he may be content to print when there is not a probability even of that, and if he thinks he can come off with a certain loss, say of 20*l.* 30*l.* or 50*l.* But the certainty that he shall moreover have to give up eleven copies of such work to the libraries, and lose them as customers, must operate (and I have known it operate in some cases) to deter him from publication.

What works have you printed for Mr. Hooker?—We are at present printing a periodical work for Mr. Hooker, called *Musci Exotici*, containing figures and descriptions of new or little known exotic mosses, and other cryptogamic plants, which contains, among other collections of non-descript plants, from various parts of the world, descriptions of those, I believe, which were collected by Baron Humbolt, and the publication of which was declined by Messrs. Longman & Co. Mr. Hooker is a botanist of great eminence, and especially for his knowledge of that class of plants called *Cryptogamous*, the study of which is the most difficult, and confined but to few; his zeal for this pursuit, induces him to publish the produce of his researches, at a very considerable expense; the whole of which he bears, without, I think, any prospect of being remunerated, as of the five numbers which have been already published, only 34 copies have been sold. Mr. Hooker lately published another work, *Muscologia Britannica*, in conjunction with Dr. Taylor of Dublin, which we likewise printed for them. They applied to me to endeavour to find any publisher who would undertake to publish

publish this work, being furnished with the copy for nothing, and the whole of the drawings, amounting to about 300, on condition of his paying the expenses of the paper and printing, of the engraving and the working of the plates, and giving to the authors 30 copies between them. I applied to some of the most respectable publishers, especially to those who were accustomed to publish works of natural history, but I could not find one who would undertake the expense of the work on those terms. Mr. Hooker and Dr. Taylor therefore employed us, to print the work for them, at their own risk. Another work, published by Mr. Hooker, was a monograph of the *Jungermannia*.

What is the *Jungermannia*?—A family of *Cryptogamous* plants. This work has gained him great celebrity, both in England on the Continent; and was published, I think, at least ten years ago. It is a very expensive work, from the number of coloured plates in it; and I have understood from him, that he is considerably out of pocket by that work, though the sale still goes on to some extent.

Is it your opinion, that the necessity of delivering the eleven copies to the public libraries operated strongly, as one of the reasons why the publishers you applied to, declined undertaking *that work*?—It is my opinion, that it must have operated considerably in inducing them to decline it; for where the sale is not expected to amount to more than 100 or 200 copies, the loss of 11 probable purchasers, and the necessity of giving away 11 copies, must have had considerable influence in discouraging any publisher from undertaking the work.

You stated, that the sale of Mr. Hooker's work on Exotic Mosses, amounted only to 34 copies?—Yes, I did so.

Hitherto your evidence as to the effect of the delivery of the 11 copies to the public libraries, in discouraging publishers to undertake works, has rather been matter of argument than of fact; do you, of your own knowledge, know, in point of fact, whether the delivery of the 11 copies has operated, in any instance, as a discouragement of these publications; confine your answer to matters of fact, and not to matter of opinion?—Perhaps that is a question, with respect to which it is difficult to come at the fact; because it is difficult to ascertain how far that particular consideration may operate upon the minds of the publishers or others. But having been for a great many years in the printing business, and in the habits of very frequent intercourse with literary men, and men of science, I have always heard them express great dissatisfaction at the obligation to give this number of copies; and I believe, that the disgust occasioned by what they consider an act of rapacity on the part of the Universities, discourages them from carrying into effect many literary projects which would be highly beneficial, as far as I can judge, to literature; but by which, even if they had the assistance which would be derived from these libraries all purchasing copies, they would be likely to gain little or nothing.

Of your own knowledge, has any contract between a man of science and a publisher ever been stopped or broken off, from the man of science or the publisher objecting to this delivery of the 11 copies; you will recollect that you are to speak of your own knowledge?—I do not recollect that I can positively state, of my own knowledge, that any negociation of that sort has been broken off upon that ground alone; but I know a great many instances of valuable works which have been offered to the publishers, and which they have declined undertaking, from a persuasion that the sale would not repay the expense of publication. Now, in a case where the probable sale must be only 100 or 200 copies, it is quite evident, that the loss of 11 copies must turn the scale in expensive works.

Are you not the secretary of the Linnæan Society?—I am one of the secretaries.

Has not that situation given to you many opportunities of intercourse with persons who have had in contemplation the publication of their works in natural history?—It has.

Is not your opinion upon this subject formed from that intercourse, so repeatedly had with persons in that situation?—It is, in part. I have very frequently heard the men of science, with whom I have had intercourse, allege this as a very great discouragement to publications which they would be inclined to undertake.

Mr.
Richard Taylor.

If you yourself had it proposed to you, to undertake the risk of a publication of the nature of those that you have described, of which, at the utmost, you could not expect to sell more than 200, and probably not more than 100, would not the circumstance of the delivery of 11 copies to the public libraries, have operated materially on your mind to decline the risk?—Certainly it would; perhaps I may explain what I mean, merely by stating, that there are many works, many highly important works, for which there might probably be a sale of 50 or 100 or 200 copies; these works are published under the greatest disadvantage, because the sale is necessarily so small; and I think it very evident, that in a case where the number which would probably be sold would not exceed 100, the number of 11 to be given away must weigh very considerably in the question as to the expediency of publishing, especially when the same number of probable customers is also taken away.

Are you of opinion, that whatever might be the value of the copyright, for a considerable number of years, to the bookseller, that an additional security of the copyright would be any compensation which would induce an author, under the circumstances you have mentioned, to print any work at his own expense, where the sum risked was large, and the expectancy of profit extremely small?—I certainly consider the authors or publishers of works of the kind of which I have been speaking, to be quite a different class, and under totally different circumstances from the authors and publishers of books generally. I do not think, that any addition to the term of copyright, or any thing done for securing copyright, is of the least pecuniary value to such authors. It is of no further value, than as it prevents their feelings from being hurt by their works being republished in an inferior and imperfect manner by other persons, or extracts from their works being published without any authority. The copyright cannot, from the nature of their undertaking, be of the slightest pecuniary value to them, as works which are attended with loss, can never afford temptation to any bookseller to republish them.

Have you been long in the printing business?—I have been in it for 20 years.

Do you consider it a declining business; the Committee mean the general business of a printer?—The business during the last six or seven years, has been very much declining; a great number of men are out of employment, and a much smaller number of presses are employed.

To what do you attribute this decrease in the business; do you attribute it to the times in general?—Partly to the times; partly to the very great expense of publications; and I should think that the regulations established by this Act of Parliament under consideration, must have had its share in stifling a great many considerable undertakings.

Has it fallen within your own knowledge, that a great number of printers have been out of employment for some years past?—Certainly.

Have the provisions of the statute of Anne contributed to the depreciation of the printing business?—I am not able to answer that question.

Has the number of works published by the Linnæan Society increased or not of late years?—The Linnæan Society does not print any works, except its own transactions.

Has the number of botanical works, which you know of, written by members of the Linnæan Society, increased of late years?—I do not think that I am furnished with any means of answering that question.

Has the publication of botanical works increased of late years, since you have been in business as a printer?—The publication of works of natural history has, in an extraordinary number of instances of late years, been attended with loss, and especially those which are of the most value; I mean in a scientific view.

That is not a precise answer to the question put by the Committee, which was, whether the publication of botanical works had increased of late years, since you have been in the business of a printer?—I should think, that the number has decreased; and those which have been published have been published at a loss. But I do not mean to limit my evidence to botanical works, or works in natural history. I can speak to works of every description.

What description of books do you apprehend to be principally affected by the delivery of the eleven copies to the public libraries; state the different kinds of books that you think are most affected by this law?—I think, that all the most important works which furnish the materials for the advancement of the sciences, are those by which the least is gained, or I should say rather, the most.

Mr.
Richard Taylor.

most is lost, by those who undertake them; such as records of experiments in chemistry, and other branches of physics; astronomical observations. Such works as Bradley's Observations, and Dr. Maskelyne's, if they had been published at private expense, must have been published at a loss, because the demand for them is very limited, and the expense of printing would be very great. Bradley's Astronomical Observations are published in two volumes folio, and Dr. Maskelyne's in four or five volumes. I should observe, that all table and figure work costs twice as much as common printing, on account of the greater trouble in composing such work. Such works as these furnish all the materials from which the science of astronomy can be advanced. All these works are of infinite value to science, and cost the authors an immense deal of labour, as they are frequently the result of their observations during a great portion of their lives. Elementary or popular works of astronomy may be objects of gain to the booksellers, but no bookseller could be induced to publish the astronomical observations of any gentleman who might have an observatory of his own, and who might have been making observations for many years. Of mathematical works, the most profound are the least likely to attain a considerable sale. A gentleman whom I have known for many years, as one of the most munificent patrons of science, who has expended, perhaps, more than any man in publishing and enabling others to publish valuable mathematical treatises, I mean Baron Maseres, the Cursitor Baron of the Exchequer, once told me, that the produce of the whole sale of his *Scriptores Logarithmici* (which is a collection of the most valuable mathematical tracts, reprinted at his expense) did not pay for the binding of the presentation copies which he gave away.

That was a two-guinea book?—I do not recollect the price; there are several volumes in quarto. Such a book also as Taylor's Logarithms, which is a five-guinea book, and which no public library could well be without, I understand has never paid the expense of printing.

Have you ever at all turned your attention to the possibility of the publication of a *Corpus Scriptorum rerum Anglicarum*?—That is a thing that I have often wished to see undertaken, and I wish that I could undertake it; but the probability of sale is so small, that most likely it would be attended with loss.

Would it be possible that such a work could be undertaken without the aid of very large pecuniary assistance, beyond what would be produced by the sale of the copies?—I should think the sale would be very small, perhaps not exceeding 200 copies, and consequently the price to be fixed upon each copy must be very high. Probably we might labour many years to get subscribers enough to cover the cost, and we might expend several years in getting eleven subscribers, or at least a year or two, and eleven subscribers would be just the number of copies which the public libraries would take.

Would not the public libraries be the subscribers upon whom you would most naturally depend, if the Act of 1814 had not passed?—Certainly. Works of that kind, and such other works as I have mentioned, must depend principally upon the public libraries for their sale.

Had you not an ancestor eminent for biblical learning?—Dr. John Taylor, author of the Hebrew Concordance; and I was about to mention, with the leave of the Committee, that, to that work, which I believe was published about 1750, almost all these public libraries subscribed. I see among the list of subscribers for that work, the College of Christ Church, Oxford, Exeter College, Caius College, St. John's College, the University Library, St. Peter's, Queen's, Corpus Christi and Trinity. The very reverend the Principal of the University of Edinburgh, the Bursar of Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Glasgow, who subscribed to it for the use of their libraries. The University of Glasgow not only did not take a copy of his book without payment, but also sent him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, by the hands of the Divinity Professor, who was going to England.

State the success of Dr. Taylor's book?—He was engaged upon the work for more than fourteen years, and it barely paid the expense of publication. Its original price was three guineas, and it now sells for eleven or twelve guineas.

How many copies were taken at the University of Cambridge?—Nine copies.

So that the possession of one copy did not prevent the other eight from being disposed of?—No.

Mr.
Richard Taylor.

Do you think that a presentation copy would be more likely to prevent the sale of others than a bought copy?—No; I should think it would neither prevent nor advance the sale of a work of that sort. Public libraries will have them.

Do you happen to know whether, since the Copyright Act of 1814 has passed, the other public libraries, not entitled to this demand of gratuitous copies, have been purchasers, in general, of books. The Committee mean those public libraries that are not entitled to this gratuitous supply?—I do not know, I have not examined into that point. In this case of Dr. Taylor's Hebrew Concordance, the subscriptions were given before the work was printed, the names at least.

Generally speaking, is not the risk upon expensive works much greater, and the losses more frequent, than upon all private publications of a minor description?—Certainly.

Could a publisher print and publish, with advantage to himself, the following books: Grævius and Gronovius, 40 volumes folio; the Byzantine Historians, 40 volumes folio; Ugolino's Thesaurus Antiquitatum Sacrarum, 34 volumes folio; Muratori's Italian Historians; the Benedictines French Historians; Du Cange's Works, or *l'Art de verifier les Dates*?—It would be ruin to any individual to publish these works.

Why would it be ruinous to publish these works?—If any publisher was to undertake such a work as any of these, without being secured by previous subscriptions, I think he would be most likely ruined by the great expense of such a book.

But you do not think that his ruin would be hastened by the eleven copies to be delivered to the public libraries?—The only way in which such a work could be undertaken, would be by making an exact calculation of the expense, and by procuring a sufficient number of subscribers to cover it.

Supposing the eleven copies were not to be delivered, do you think that such a work as the *Corpus Scriptorum rerum Anglicarum* could be undertaken?—I do not know how far it would be practicable, or what demand there might be for such a work in this country.

Mention any of the works which have already been named, that would not be undertaken, if the eleven copies were not given up?—I could mention many other works of a similar nature that would not be undertaken.

Mention any of the works contained in the list which has been given you, which would be undertaken if the eleven copies were not demanded?—They are works that bear a very high price; but whether the difficulty of procuring them is so great as to make it desirable to reprint them, it is impossible for me to say.

Is there any one of them that would be undertaken in this country if the eleven copies were given up?—That is merely matter of opinion. Unless I made more inquiry as to the demand for, and the circumstances that relate to these works, I could not exactly answer that question.

You cannot say, that there is any one of them that would be undertaken, if the claim to the eleven copies, by the libraries, was given up?—No.

Taking for granted, that independently of this gratuitous supply to the public libraries, these particular works were wanted, either in consequence of an increased demand for these works, or from the circumstance of the former editions having disappeared, in your judgment, would such a supposition, if well founded, operate as a sufficient inducement to a publisher to undertake them, if these gratuitous copies were not to be supplied; or if such a demand existed, would the continuance of these gratuitous copies tend to suspend the undertaking?—Answering the last part of the question, I should say, certainly. I take the question put to me to be thus, whether works of a similar character to those mentioned in the list enumerated by the Committee, such, for instance, as a collection of materials for English history, such as Muratori's is for Italian history, whether the obligation to give eleven copies to the public libraries, would not have a tendency to prevent such a work being undertaken in this country.

That is the question?—I have no doubt at all that it would have that tendency. Taking the probable sale of such a work to be 200 copies, which is, perhaps, quite as much as one could think of calculating upon, it would have the tendency to prevent such an undertaking in the same proportion as 11 is

is to 200, besides the loss of these libraries as customers, which they probably might be under other circumstances, and then it would make it a discouragement to the same extent at 22 is to 200, and that proportion varies with the want of probability of sale.

Do you think that the knowledge on the part of the public libraries of the different colleges of Cambridge and Oxford, that each of them are entitled to a copy of every work, and that, therefore, such works must appear as soon as published, has a tendency, in the first instance, to prevent the libraries in private colleges from purchasing these works, knowing that they would be deposited in the University library by the compulsory operation of the law?—I think it has that tendency, and I know a very strong case in point, which was the case of some tables for determining the value of life annuities and securities, composed by Mr. George Barrett, who had employed himself for many years in calculating them, and for whom we printed the prospectus. The work was considered as very valuable by persons acquainted with the subject, and it was thought advisable to have it printed, but the expense was so considerable as scarcely to make it worth while. It would have made two quarto volumes of table work, which is very expensive work, as I have already mentioned. It was a work to which he thought it probable he should easily get subscriptions from the University libraries, because the colleges having considerable landed property, and having to grant leases for lives, these tables would be very useful to them, and to the agents of all those who had great landed property, which they let on lease. He applied, through some friend, to those connected with the University library at Oxford, for a subscription, and the answer he received was, "*that the University had a right to a copy gratis; and as it was only a book of reference, this one would serve all the colleges.*"

Then you think that the knowledge on the part of the college libraries, that there would be a copy of such works in the public library of the University, and knowing that they would have an opportunity of referring to them, would prevent those libraries from purchasing copies for themselves?—I think so.

You have stated in your evidence, that there are some books of which only a hundred or a hundred and fifty copies are printed; how do you manage to secure yourself from loss, as to the paper which is delivered to the printers and pressmen, for the purpose of printing that limited number?—There is always much greater waste upon small numbers than upon large, which adds very much to the expense of printing works of small number, because we have to break into reams of paper. Instead of giving out the paper for each signature, or sheet of the book, in even reams, or even tokens as they are called, we have to break into the even quantity, and there are often mistakes in counting small quantities, and some sheets are wasted or dirtied.

Half a ream prints 250 copies of an octavo volume?—Half a ream prints 250 copies of one sheet or signature of an octavo volume. A work consists of a certain number of signatures or sheets; and of every one of these signatures or sheets, a ream of paper is sufficient to print 500 copies, and half a ream, 250 copies.

Then when a composition consists of only 200 copies, how do you secure the remaining part of the ream, and what proportion of waste do you reckon upon?—I do not know that I can tell exactly the proportion of waste. I know that upon all small editions, instead of having an overplus in the number, we generally run short of the number ordered, unless we give a considerable quantity of paper over as a security against waste; beside which, there is an additional expense in the loss of the time of the warehouseman, in counting out odd quantities of paper.

Do your pressmen work by the hour; are they paid by the hour?—They are paid by the number of sheets. The hour, as it is technically called with printers, does not mean an hour's work, but the word hour is used as it is in travelling. What the pressmen call an hour is 250 copies to print, which on one side will require one press, worked by two pressmen; so that, in fact, it is four hours work; it is the work of four men for an hour, I should say, and not that exactly, for it depends upon the quality of the work, as in the finer kinds of work, they require the time of an hour to do a quarter of an hour's work; but we call 250 copies an hour, and the quantity of paper required, a token, or half a ream.

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When you speak of an edition of a 100 or 150 copies, are there not some copies printed above that number, for presents or otherwise?—The ream includes enough for 500 copies, with a certain allowance for waste, which is the average for waste. In some cases, there is sufficient to produce the number ordered, supposing it to be 500 for instance, besides some few copies over; but in some cases, the impression runs short.

In contracting with an author, do you take into the account, the value of the copies which the author may be provided with over and above the specified number of the impression?—In contracting to print a work for an author, or when we are employed by an author to print a work, to the number of 500, we give him the overplus of other copies that happen to exceed the specified quantity, except the copy which it has always been the custom for a printer to keep for himself.

From your experience of the working of an edition of 500 copies, how many overplus copies may there be?—Perhaps the average number of overplus copies may be seven or eight, but it is just as likely that there should be none at all.

There may sometimes be more than seven or eight?—If there is an overplus of half the sheets or signatures of which the work is composed, or even of three quarters, still, if the remaining sheets run short, then all that overplus is waste, and is good for nothing but waste paper, or is preserved to change any sheets that are torn or dirtied by the binder.

What is the difference of expense between 200 and 211 copies?—The difference between printing 200 and 211 copies, would only be the difference of the paper; the difference between 250 and 261 is a very different question.

You stated, early in your examination, that Mr. Hooker had sold only five numbers of his botanical work on Exotic Moss?—Only 34 copies of the five or six numbers published.

Do you attribute the few purchasers of that work, in any degree to the want of means of notoriety, and advertising the work?—Yes, certainly; if advertising was a great deal cheaper, the probability is, as far as I can judge, that Mr. Hooker would have advertised much more frequently. If he had published a greater number of advertisements, it is most likely that the sale of his book would have been increased; I only say that it is very likely, but whether it would or not, is merely matter of opinion. Undoubtedly, in the case of books of a more popular description than the work of Mr. Hooker, advertising would certainly produce a considerable effect upon the sale.

Do you think, that if a few copies of this work, of which only five numbers were published, and 34 copies sold, were judiciously distributed, by way of advertisement, would have been a loss to the publisher?—I think, that the expense of the work is so great, that it never could answer to distribute copies for the sake of advertising. If it could answer the purpose of the author of a work in natural history, to distribute copies gratuitously for the sake of notoriety, I should certainly think, that his purpose would be more effectually answered by sending copies to the library of the Linnæan Society, to Sir Joseph Bankes's library, or, if it was a work of antiquities, to the library of the Antiquarian Society, than to such libraries as those of the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh, or Sion College in London. I think, that to send such a work as Mr. Hooker's to any of these libraries, would be absolutely useless for the purpose of advertising.

Do you know what became of the remaining copies, beyond the 34, of the five numbers of Mr. Hooker's work which were published?—The remainder lies by, the author hoping that it will some time or other sell.

Did he experience any loss in distributing some of those remaining copies to different distant public institutions?—Certainly.

Explain in what way?—Of course, in determining upon the number that it may be right to print, he has fixed upon such a number as he thinks may some time or other, sell; and works of this nature are of very slow sale; but still the author always remains in hope that they will sell some time or other. So that if eleven copies are taken from him, there is great probability that he will be thereby deprived of the amount for which they would sell at some time or other; and it is often the case with a work, that after a number of years, when it comes to be known amongst the booksellers, and the public understand that the impression is getting low, the remaining copies sell for a much greater price, perhaps double or treble the price at which it was originally published; but the 11 copies are demanded of the author or publisher by

N. B.—From subsequent examination, I find the average overplus upon 500 to be between 2 and 3.

by these public institutions, without waiting 10 or 20 years to see whether they will eventually sell.

How many copies of this work have been printed, of which 34 only were sold?—I think the number was 250 copies; but I am not sure.

Taking together the probability of his not being able to sell the remaining 216 copies, and the probable advantage from notoriety, do you think, upon the whole, the loss of the 11 copies could be reckoned at all considerable?—I do not think the advantage from notoriety would be any thing at all that is to be derived from sending copies to these libraries. Seven shillings spent upon an advertisement in "The Times" newspaper would go further in producing notoriety, than giving away the whole impression to such libraries as that of the Faculty of Advocates, Sion College, or to all the libraries of all the Universities.

What is the proportion of the expense of advertising works in general?—I do not think a fair proportion can be given, because it costs as much to advertise a work which sells very little, as one that sells a great deal. But it is common to spend 10*l.* or 20*l.* in advertising works which are likely to be of great sale. In other cases, it would not be worth while to spend near so much.

In works, either of science or curiosity, of which you have been principally speaking, and which are addressed to and calculated for small classes and orders of purchasers, speaking generally, does it not happen that those classes already know of the undertaking and publication of such works, without any advertisement at all; is there not that community amongst small classes of people, who are the purchasers of such classes of works, as would dispense with the necessity of advertising?—With respect to works on botany, and other branches of natural history, it is generally known to all the fellows of the Linnæan Society, who are in the habit of attending its meetings, that such and such works are ready for publication.

Do you not think, that every person to whom Mr. Hooker's work is at all interesting, already knew at the time of publication, of the publication of such a work?—I think a very great proportion of such persons did know of it.

Is it not within your knowledge, that Mr. Hooker's "Jungermanniæ," his "Muscologia Britannica," and his "Musci Exotici," are painted by hand with very singular delicacy?—I believe that the copies of the "Jungermanniæ" are all coloured; of the other two works, there is one coloured edition, and one edition that is not coloured. Those that are coloured, are coloured by hand, with very great accuracy.

Is it within your knowledge, that the University libraries have claimed the painted copies?—Indeed I have not heard that.

Is it within your knowledge, that in the arrangement which was made with the publishers of Mr. Hooker's "Muscologia Britannica," the 11 copies were deducted from the money arrangement made with them?—I do not recollect having heard that. An arrangement has been made between Mr. Hooker and the house of Messrs. Longman & Co. subsequent to the printing of this work, by which they had become the publishers.

Is it not your opinion, that authors who cannot persuade publishers to undertake some work of science that they wish to have published, because of the small probability of purchasers, are frequently willing to undertake the risk themselves, if they can be brought home without loss, but are not willing to risk the publication at their own expense, in case they should be losers?—Certainly.

And does not the deduction of the eleven copies often create that positive loss?—I have certainly known instances where I have had to calculate very closely upon the subject, and where the price of the eleven copies would have turned the scale, so as to make the author a loser by the publication. I have known cases where authors were willing to publish important works, the sale of which would just repay them; but they said they could not afford to lose the eleven copies; and these works have appeared to me of the greatest importance for the advancement of knowledge. I find it has been said by Fuller, in his Holy State, that "Learning hath gained most by those works by which the printers have lost." With respect to one class of works, which furnish the materials for history, such as memorials, and histories of particular periods, state-papers,

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and official papers; they all come under the class of works of the greatest importance, but of which the sale to be calculated upon is very small. The materials also for the constitutional history of the country, and the history of the constitution of parliament, come under this description. Prynne, in the preface to his *Parliamentary Writts*, folio 7, speaks of the papers which he had collected, as follows: "which, though very useful, seasonable, profitable, containing sundry rarities in them, were looked upon by most men with contempt, like old almanacks, clothes, or fashions quite out of date; whence most of them lie mouldering in warehouses for want of sale." He adds, at folio 35, "that if they continued to be neglected, he would cast no more pearls before swine, but keep his discoveries for his own use." Certainly, it would have been a great misfortune to the public, if such works had not been printed. With respect to Taylor's *Hebrew Concordance*, the number taken by public libraries constituted so great a part of the whole number subscribed for, that I think it very probable the loss of them must have delayed, if not wholly prevented the publication of the work. I beg leave to mention the case of another work, which we have lately printed, a most laborious work, by Mr. Upcott, the librarian of the London Institution; a very accurate *Collation and Catalogue of all the Works of British Topography*. He has been employed many years upon this work, of which we have printed for him 250 copies, and though the whole have sold, I have understood from him, that he does not get as a recompence for his labour, upon the sale of the whole, more than 200*l.* I believe that the price of a copy is 4*l.*; therefore the eleven taken by the public libraries make a reduction in his profit of 200*l.* to the amount of 44*l.* the whole being sold; and this was a work of three or four years labour, and published in three octavo volumes. The expense of printing the work was full 800*l.*

Mr. Joseph Harding, called in; and Examined.

Mr.
Joseph Harding.

ARE you a bookseller?—Yes.

And a partner in the House of Lackington, Hughes, Harding, Mavor and Jones, in Finsbury-square?—Yes.

Are you at present engaged in the publication of any works of considerable expense?—Yes.

What works are you publishing of that description?—We are publishing an edition of Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, in four or five folio volumes; Dugdale's *History of Saint Paul's Cathedral*; *Portraits of illustrious Personages of Great Britain*, in two folio volumes, with 120 portraits, and memoirs; Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*; Wood's *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, in six volumes, quarto; they are the principal works we are publishing at this time.

What will the delivery of eleven copies of these works amount to?—The delivery of eleven copies of these works will amount to 2,198*l.* 14*s.*

Have you a list of them, stating the amount of each separately?—Eleven copies of Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, will be an absolute loss of 819*l.*; the loss upon Dugdale's *History of Saint Paul's Cathedral*, will be 189*l.*; the loss upon the *Portraits of illustrious Personages of Great Britain*, will be 630*l.*; the loss upon Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, will be 283*l.* 10*s.* These four sums amount to 1,921*l.* 10*s.*; and the loss upon Wood's *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, will be 277*l.* 4*s.*

How do you make these calculations?—These calculations are made upon the prices we could obtain for them, if we had eleven copies to sell, with the exception of the last item alone.

With respect to the *Portraits of illustrious Personages*, why could you not give the description of the portraits upon copper-plate instead of letter-press?—Because it would not be approved by the public; and in the second place, it would be much more expensive; the expense of engraving a folio sheet of writing, would be three or four times the amount of printing it in letter-press.

Why could not the Lives have been printed separately, as a separate book, independent of the *Portraits*; and why could you not have sold the *Portraits* as one work, and the Lives as another?—Because it would be extremely disadvantageous and vexatious to us; if we had published them separately, we should have a considerable number of imperfect sets, and we should be at double the expense of delivering the work; some purchasers would have taken the *Portraits*, and others would not; and we should have rather not published the book at

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at all, than have been subject to the unpleasant dilemma of having imperfect copies remaining on our hands.

Might you not have published the plates separately, in the same manner as Lysons's *Illustrations of Magna Britannia*?—They are distinct works; the *Illustrations*, which Mr. Lysons considers necessary for his book, are delivered with the work; but the work of *County Views* is quite a separate publication.

What loss was sustained by the delivery of eleven extra copies of Mr. Ruding's *History of Coinage*?—The loss upon eleven copies of Ruding's *History of Coinage*, amounted to 154*l.*; it was an actual loss of that sum, because, within six months after the publication of the book, every copy was sold at 14*l.* a copy; and if he had had those eleven copies to sell, he would have had 154*l.* more to receive.

Would the delivery of eleven copies, have any effect in preventing Mr. Ruding from improving his work, and publishing a new edition?—It would, provided any addition was made to the book; we are now in treaty with Mr. Ruding for printing a new octavo edition, provided there are to be no additions; if he makes any additions to the book, then they must be printed separately, and thereby avoid any delivery of the whole original work to the public libraries; if we cannot evade, or avoid that, we certainly shall not print a second edition.

Can you state the comparative prices of English books printed in London, and the same works printed abroad?—I have the prices of some English books, printed on the Continent, which may throw light upon that question. Gibbon's *Miscellaneous Works*, with his *Memoirs*, printed at Basle, in 7 volumes, octavo, are sold retail, for 25 francs, which, in English money, amounts to about a guinea; the price of the London edition of the same book, in 5 volumes, octavo, is 3*l.* 5*s.* Hume's *History of England*, from the Invasion of Julius Cæsar to the Revolution in 1688, published in 12 volumes, octavo, is sold at 45 francs, retail price, which is about 38*s.*; the price in London is 3*l.* 12*s.* small paper, and 5*l.* 12*s.* if printed on large paper. Robertson's *History of Scotland*, published in three 8vo. volumes, is printed, and sells for 12 francs, about 10*s.*; the price of the London edition, in three 8vo. volumes, is 1*l.* 1*s.* Roscoe's *History of the Medici Family*, published in four volumes, 8vo, is sold for 16 francs, about 13*s.* 4*d.*; the London price is 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* Pope's *Works*, with Notes by Warton, published in nine 8vo. volumes, are sold for 25 francs, about a guinea; the London price, in 10 volumes, 8vo. is five guineas. The price of Johnson and Stevens's *Shakespear*, published in 23 volumes, 8vo. with 60 plates, is 60 francs, about 2*l.* 10*s.*; the London edition, published in 21 volumes, 8vo. without any plates at all, is sold at 12 guineas on small paper, and on large paper for 18 guineas.

What is the price of Lord Clarendon's "*History of the Rebellion*," taking with you that the book belongs to the University of Oxford, and cannot be printed by any other than the University printer?—The London price of the only edition which the Clarendon press has printed for the market, amounts to 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* small, and 15 guineas large. There is not a small edition of the work to sell, though greatly demanded. The price of an octavo edition, consisting of 12 volumes, printed on the Continent, sells abroad for 36 francs, or about 1*l.* 10*s.*

And it probably contains also the *Life of Lord Clarendon*?—No, it is without the *Life of Lord Clarendon*.

Have you declined publishing any works, from the pressure of delivering eleven copies, besides Mr. Ruding's "*History of the Coinage*?"—Yes, we have.

Is there any inconvenience in stating what they are?—We have declined republishing Alexander Barclay's "*Ship of Fools*," a folio volume, of great rarity and high price. Our probable demand would not have been more than for a 100 copies, at the price of 12 guineas each. The delivery of 11 copies to the public libraries, decided us against entering into the speculation. There is another work which we have declined printing, materially from the pressure of the 11 copies, which is a work of great value; it is "*A Series of Views, relating to the Architectural Antiquities of Normandy*," by Mr. Cotman, of Yarmouth. It is a work peculiarly interesting to antiquaries and to architects, but to few other classes of society; it relates to the architectural antiquities of Normandy.