

Mr.
John Murray.

if I had to deliver the 11 copies; but as to the other two books, it might perhaps be matter of consideration.

But would the delivery of those 11 copies, make you hesitate?—Certainly; the number to be printed being so limited, even of those, and the expense of the Harleian Miscellany, and Lord Somers's Tracts, so great, I think I should hesitate.

The wholesale price of these 11 copies would amount to a very large sum?—It would be a very serious object.

What may be the amount of the books which you may have delivered at Stationers Hall, since the passing of the Act of 1814?—The amount of the sale price to the public, is about 1,700*l.*; and as those books had a very swift sale, I consider that I am the loser of that sum, deducting 25 per cent, which would be the sum at which the greatest part of those works would have been sold. I would deduct about 420*l.*; the whole loss then would be, about 1,275*l.*

Do you not consider the compulsory delivery of eleven copies of every book that is published, as a very heavy tax on those who speculate in the publication of books, in addition to the very high duty on paper and advertisements?—Very much, indeed.

Many books are doubtless demanded, which can be of no use to the public libraries, and which would be of value to you in your stock?—Certainly, so far as I can form an opinion.

Are the managers of many of the public libraries particularly severe as to the demand of the copies to which they are entitled under the Act, or do they wait your convenience as to the delivery of the books?—The only instance in which I can complain of the severity of the demand, was in the instance of the British Museum. As soon as the Act passed, I directed a particular clerk, without consulting me, to enter every book that I published, and, of course, to send the eleven copies when demanded; and further to show my good disposition towards the British Museum, I immediately acceded to their request, to have all periodical works delivered to them on their publication, instead of delaying till the term allowed by the Act, which would have rendered those works less interesting. Notwithstanding the good disposition thus manifested, I was one day informed, that two gentlemen wished to speak to me. I was particularly engaged at that moment, and I requested that they might acquaint me with their business. They said they did not know me, nor I them, but that they wished to speak to me on particular business. I accordingly went down stairs; and, being introduced to the persons who asked for me, I was immediately served with a writ. The clerk, to whom I confided this business of sending the new publications to the British Museum was out; but as soon as he returned, I inquired whether he had obeyed my instructions; and being informed that he had, I caused him to take an affidavit, and declare upon oath, all that I have now stated; that every individual book published by me had been entered as soon as published, according to my desire, except four books which had come out whilst he was unwell; and that his illness having extended to a fever, he was prevented from entering those particular books. I mention this circumstance, not vindictively, but as one which makes the operation of this Act still more irksome.

Was any note sent to you to inquire why those books were not delivered, before you was served with the writ?—I have not the least knowledge of any such notice, if it had been sent to me.

Do you recollect what those books were?—They were Ellis's "Account of the Embassy to China," and M'Leod's "Account of China;" Mr. Davis on "Poor Laws," and Sir Thomas Bernard's "Duties upon Salt."

Are there not frequently very severe losses sustained by the publication of books?—Yes, when I look to the large sums that are sometimes given for the copyright.

Does not the charge of advertising form a very considerable part of the expenses of the publication of a book?—Very considerable.

In making the demand, do the libraries omit the reprints of such works as they may already have in their libraries, or is their demand a sweeping one of every book entered at Stationers Hall, whether it be a reprint or an entirely new book?—According to my observation, they make a sweeping demand of every book.

Are

Are you not called upon by authors for a number of copies of their works, to give to friends and others who may have been of service to them in the pursuance of their studies, by the loan of manuscripts or books?—Yes.

Are not publishers obliged to give long credit to the trade and others to whom they sell books, and run great risks as to bad debts, incur great expenses in carrying on business, in commissions to agents, &c.?—They run very considerable risks in these points.

You have stated, that you reprinted the edition of Pier's "Ploughman's Visions?"—Yes.

What was the price?—The price of it was five guineas.

Was not a subscription for this book full at the time of publishing?—Yes.

What was the number of copies printed?—The edition printed consisted of 200 copies.

Did they not run short in the number of copies returned from the printers?—Yes; I received only 199 from the printers, the other being allowed to remain in their hands, in pursuance of the Act. That was all I was entitled to have in the printing and delivering a work of that kind.

And that number was sufficient to answer the demand?—Yes.

Had not the right to the eleven copies then subsisted, would you not then have been put to great difficulty, expense, inconvenience and loss, in printing those eleven copies?—Yes.

In that case, you would have printed eleven copies more?—I should not.

But supposing that the number printed did not answer the demand, should you not have been obliged to print 211 copies, and thereby have incurred the same expense that you would have incurred in printing 200 copies?—I believe, in a work of this kind, which was illuminated and very curious, had I found it necessary to increase the number of copies beyond 200, I should have been charged more than usual upon the printing of eleven odd copies.

You are aware of the rule of the trade, that all odd copies, printed above 250, are charged as for 250 more; but if the Committee understand you rightly, you say, that inasmuch as this was a very curious book in the workmanship, the printer would have charged you more than the price of each individual copy, over and above the number ordered?—In curious books of this description, the printer does not, I believe, abide strictly by the general rule of the trade, when the number of 250 is exceeded by odd copies; but I should have paid rather more for the odd copies than I should if I kept within the number ordered.

Then the printer in that case did not abide by the rule of the trade, by which you are charged the same price upon the odd copies as you would have been for another 250?—I mean, that they would have charged me the price of 250 in the first instance, but that if I had printed eleven more, they would have cost me only the mere printing.

They would have charged you more for 211 than 200 copies?—Yes.

The ordinary rule is, as the Committee suppose you know, that when you order 50 copies, for instance, you are charged as for 250, but that in this case the rule was departed from?—This is the only book I ever did publish of such a peculiar description, upon which account, I can only say, I think, but I am not certain, that I should have been charged more for an additional eleven copies.

Did you not publish Mr. Duppa's Life of Michael Angelo?—Yes.

Was not that a work in which the delivery of the eleven copies would have been a great injury and inconvenience to you?—Yes.

You also published D'Isriali's Character of James the First?—Yes.

What number of that book did you publish?—I published 250.

After the sale of the whole of that edition, were you not obliged to buy up or collect some copies of that work, to make up the eleven to be delivered to the public libraries?—I was.

How happened it that that circumstance took place?—The sale of it happened to be more sudden than I calculated upon, as I expected a more limited sale. The number that I sold was greater than I expected, and I did not reserve the eleven copies, from inadvertence.

In the case of an author coming to sell a copyright to you, who was perfectly unknown to the public, can you form any calculation of what the chance is,

Mr.
John Murray.

is, that his book will have a sale after the period of 14 years have expired?—That is a calculation of chances. The book may or may not be permanent in its sale, according to circumstances.

But the Committee suppose the writer to be perfectly unknown to the public?—The Committee must be aware, that even in that case, it is a matter of chance whether the book is likely to take or not. If Mr. Walter Scott offered to me with his first poem, though he was at that time quite unknown, yet as there was intrinsic merit in his poem, independent of any name, I should have undertaken its publication.

Perhaps that is an extraordinary exception; but the Committee are putting the common case of an author coming to you, perfectly unknown to you, and who has no name to recommend his works; can you in that case form any calculation what the chances are of his book having a sale, after the period of 14 years is expired?—The average of chances is, that it would not have any sale beyond the 14 years.

The question in other words is equivalent to this; of books published, how many, generally speaking, or what proportion of those that are published, are valuable after the 14 years are expired?—The number which falls to the individual lot of a bookseller to publish is very few, in proportion to the number of publications they have.

Do you suppose that five out of a hundred retain any value after they have been published 14 years?—Indeed, I should say not.

Do you think there are five in two hundred?—Perhaps I should say that the average would be about one in a hundred, that would be likely to retain any value of copyright after the first 14 years had expired.

The Committee presume that you form that average from your experience as a bookseller; but is it easy to form an average of that kind?—No, it is not.

Generally speaking, in books likely to have a considerable and extensive circulation, is not the copyright of 28 years considered as a more valuable commodity than the 14 years which existed previous to the passing of the Act?—In those few cases where works are calculated to survive the first 14 years, it is certainly of very great value.

Supposing then there be five out of a hundred survive the first 14 years, the Committee would say, that the mode of estimating the value of the 14 years' additional, would be to divide that value over the whole hundred?—Yes.

The gain arising to the proprietor from the prolonging of his term of the 5 out of 100, would then contribute to compensate him for the loss sustained in the unsuccessful books?—Yes.

Works of great merit, that are likely to live the full extent of the 14 years, are considered of great value?—Yes.

But works that are of mere temporary interest, or that are fit to die soon, are not of so much consequence?—Surely not; I do not estimate them at all.

Do you not conceive, that the number of books published annually has increased of late years, and are now increasing?—The average number of annual publications is certainly greater than it used to be.

You also conceive, that the demand for books, and the public appetite for literature, are likewise very considerably increasing?—Yes; but the demands of authors also increase. Their expectations, of course, increase.

That is to say, the price paid to authors for their books has increased of late years?—Yes, and is also increasing.

So that, in spite of this demand of the eleven copies, the profits of authors are greater than they were some years ago, speaking generally, and the sale and circulation of books have also increased?—But it is only in the instances of a few authors who are exceedingly popular, indeed.

You are the publisher of Lord Byron's works?—Yes.

If there is any objection on your part to answer the question which the Committee are going to put, you will of course decline answering it; but supposing there to be no objection, the Committee would ask you, what is the number of Childe Harold that have been sold. If you have any objection to answer the question, the Committee would not press it?—The number is very extensive. I should beg leave to answer that question, by simply stating, that the number is very extensive.

You

You were the publisher of the "Tales of my Landlord?"—Yes.

What might be the number sold of that book?—I think somewhere about from 10,000 to 12,000.

You stated just now, that it was customary for publishers to give to the authors a certain number of copies, for the purpose of distributing amongst their friends; the Committee would wish to know, whether the value of those copies is deducted from the price paid to the author for his copyright?—No.

Are the Committee to understand, that the author does not receive less for his copyright from the publisher on that account, and that it is a free gift?—It is a free gift from the publisher.

And therefore, so far as the amount of these copies goes, it is a deduction from the profits which the publisher makes by the publication?—Yes.

To what extent do these copies usually go; what number of copies are usually given to the author?—From six to twelve.

And the publisher does not consider the loss arising from giving these twelve copies, as of sufficient magnitude to make any alteration in his bargain with the author?—No; because it is considered as a sort of compliment, and thus he receives an equivalent, in the satisfaction arising from liberal behaviour.

Is the value of the eleven copies, which are delivered to the public libraries, deducted by the publisher in his account with the author?—Invariably so, if the author prints a book for himself.

Supposing the author sells the copyright, for a certain sum, to the publisher, is the value of these eleven copies deducted from the sum paid by the publisher to the author?—Supposing the publisher agrees to give an author 1,000*l.* for his copyright, he would receive the whole of that sum, but in very expensive books, the obligation to deliver the eleven copies to the public libraries, would certainly operate upon the price which the publisher would pay the author.

But in ordinary works, the publisher does not give a lower price to the author, in consequence of the delivery of these eleven copies?—No.

Are any of the answers which you have given to the questions put lately by the Committee, applicable to expensive books of any considerable degree?—As far as my own experience goes, certainly not.

It is only to works of no rank or value that you allude?—I allude to popular works, of which large numbers are printed.

Do you think it would be easy to supply the Committee with an account of the proportion which the value of works annually published above the price of five guineas, bears to the amount of all works published annually?—I think there are many booksellers more competent to answer that question than I am. It would be easy for Mr. Rees to answer it.

You have stated, that the demand for books, and the consequent remuneration of authors, is, in many instances, greater than ever it was. The Committee would ask you, whether you think that the remuneration for such works as would demand many years to compose, and of which the sale could not be rapid, has increased in any degree whatever?—As far as my own experience goes, I fear not.

Were a work offered to you, that was calculated only for a small sale, and which required to be illustrated by expensive engravings, and the author were to propose to you, that some of those engravings should be such as were afterwards to be coloured by hand, would it *not* operate upon your mind to decline such arrangement, in consequence of the demand of the eleven copies?—As I rarely engage in a work of that description, I am, therefore, less competent than many others to speak on that point.

Are you aware, that there are many expensive works of that kind, now in the course of publication?—I do not know of any.

It is not in your line of business to publish these expensive works?—No; nor do I sell them.

You stated, that in fixing the price of the book, it was customary to fix the highest price at which it was likely it would sell; the Committee would like to know, whether, supposing the case of an author publishing his book merely for the sake of reputation, without wishing to derive any profit from it himself, the natural course of the trade would not be to fix a price upon that book proportionate to the general price which books bear, without reference to the expense with which that publication might be attended?—I should be induced to recom-

Mr.
John Murray.

mend that price which would most satisfactorily secure the wishes of the author in the sale of the work; that would be my view of such a question. If the money was an object to him, I should recommend such a price as would immediately secure a rapid sale, or recommend that course, by which it would appear to me, his feelings would be gratified; I should take care, however, not to put too low a price on the book, so as not to depreciate the intrinsic merit of it in the estimation of the public, which a higher price would indicate; I would take care to avoid that.

Is a certain amount of price fixed upon a book, considered to be rather creditable to an author, and favourable, rather than unfavourable, to the sale of his work?—Under those circumstances, where the aspect of the book itself, shows that the author of it was entitled to rank upon a footing of credit and respectability, I should think it would be courting too much the public favour to put too low a price upon it.

Upon the whole, you consider the gratuitous delivery of eleven copies to the public libraries is a great grievance?—Yes.

When you spoke your opinion of the increased value of copyright of late years, did you mean to apply that observation generally to all books that are published, or did you chiefly allude to some late popular poems?—In my answer, I think I stated, that I referred merely, or rather at least chiefly, to a few very popular authors.

Do you think that the price given to Gibbon and Dr. Robertson's works, bore a fair proportion to the prices that have been lately given for important works?—I think that the price given to those authors, were they to commence their literary labours now, would not be much greater than at that time, because the public taste appears to be different. The public are more disposed, ordinarily, to read works now of a lighter class, and works of imagination, more than serious ones; but, perhaps, I am wrong in hazarding such an opinion.

You consider this to be the day of the rise of light works, and the extinction of heavy ones?—I did not mean to say so.

But you conceive, that, on the whole, lighter works, in point of remuneration, have advanced in price?—I am speaking of works that have come to my own knowledge, and, certainly, in individual instances, that class of works bears a very high price.

Do you export any books to America?—No.

You are aware that that trade has failed?—Indeed, it is so dangerous in every way, that I have not ventured upon it.

A book of very high price, and adorned with engravings, will not afford much remuneration to the author or editor?—That is a class of books that have so much trouble attending them, that I generally avoid them.

Do you look upon the gain upon works of that description to be very small?—Yes, in proportion to the immense trouble and hazard attending them. In any works of that kind, that I have entered upon, I have always found that to be the case; the gain is by no means commensurate with the trouble.

Pier's Ploughman's Vision was a losing concern?—Yes, it was.

Mr. George Woodfall, called in; and Examined.

YOU are a printer?—Yes, I am.

How many years have you been in that business?—About 35 years, from the time I first came to the business.

Your father was a printer before you?—Yes; my father, my grandfather, and my great grandfather, were printers.

Has the printing trade been increasing or decreasing of late years?—Of late years, it has been very much upon the decrease; I am speaking within the last two or three years, as far as my own experience goes.

What are the average number of overplus copies of an impression of 500?—I should suppose the average number is from two to three copies.

Does it frequently happen, that there are no overplus copies?—Undoubtedly; much will depend upon the paper; some copies are imperfectly printed or spoiled, so that sometimes, we have not any overplus copies at all.

And that is often the case with respect to expensive books?—Undoubtedly.

Have you ever known so many printers out of employ, in your time, as within the last three or four years?—Certainly not.

Mr.
George Woodfall.

Do

Do you think, from your observation, that the necessity of gratuitously supplying those 11 copies, has operated to prevent many books of small circulation being printed?—I should think it had.

Mr.
George Woodfall.

Do any come within your own experience?—I cannot say that any have come within my own immediate knowledge.

Do you consider, that the expensive manner in which books have been published, of late years, is one of the circumstances that have tended to affect the trade of printing?—I should think not; on the contrary, the books that have been better printed, have sold better; we have found, by experience, that books which have been got up better, have been sold better.

What are the circumstances which you conceive have affected, of late years, the trade of printing?—I should presume, it has been very much affected by the state of the country. Books are a luxury, and the purchase of them has been confined to fewer people. In general, those who would be disposed to purchase books, have not the means of so doing, and are obliged to be frugal.

Do you think the printing trade is at all reviving?—I have had less to do in the trade, generally, than I have had for some years; I derive very little now from the trade.

That depression which you allude to, you conceive to arise from the curtailment of individual expenses, amongst certain classes of the community, which has become necessary in consequence of the general depressure of late years?—I do, in a great measure.

You would not be able to make your pressmen work off 261 copies for the same price as 250?—Undoubtedly not; for it frequently happens, that we have occasion for 15 or 20 sheets for those parts of the work which may perhaps have been imperfect, or not quite fit for delivery, and I have been obliged to pay for an extra token of 250 copies, to supply that extra number.

Do you think that charge of the workmen for 250 copies, is reasonable?—Certainly it is the best way of doing it; for if I were to vary the terms, I should have to pay them more, not less; they would charge for time. I have found, by experience, that when you break into old customs, and adopt new ones, you must pay more; and if any alteration was to take place in the present practice, the work in the result would be more expensive.

How are these additional or overplus copies produced?—The origin of the overplus copies was this: the paper was sent in, generally, as I have understood (deriving my information from my ancestors) in a certain specified quantity, but the number of sheets sent in could not be found sufficient to make up the number of copies required. The pressmen, before they could get their form in order for work, would very frequently have occasion to use some of the sheets for various purposes, and consequently, in working the number required, they would not have sufficient paper, and therefore there would not be a perfect number of the work to answer the number ordered. It was found by experience therefore, that it was necessary to send a certain number of sheets over, for the purpose of satisfying the consumption that I have mentioned, which, if not done, it would require ten times more labour and expense to supply the deficient copies.

But in point of fact, there are a certain number of overplus copies printed, and you do not pay for them as if they were 250?—Decidedly not.

The term which you apply to the 250 copies, is a token?—Yes.

Is there any particular limit affixed to the number of overplus copies, from the practice of the trade?—Yes, we limit the number.

How many quires does the ream of paper consist of?—Twenty-one and a half quires.

Is it usual to deliver paper in bundles, consisting of two reams, or 43 quires?—Yes.

How do you provide the paper for the overplus copies?—The bookseller provides it if he prints the book; but I print it on my own account, I of course provide it, and I pay the stationer according to the quality of the paper.

Does the bundle, of 43 quires, contain a sufficient quantity of paper for the overplus copies?—Yes.

Upon an edition of 250 copies, how many overplus copies could you require from the pressman, without his making a charge for 250 more?—He would have the 21 quires and a half, which would afford him sufficient paper, equal to the whole imprint ordered, and 16 sheets over; but a number of these sheets are used

280.

used

Mr.
George Woodfall.

used in making ready the form, pulling revises, and for other purposes; it is difficult to explain to the Committee the technical phrases used in the trade; we seldom consider that we have a right to have above half a dozen sheets over, after consuming the remainder of the 18 for imperfect copies, and for the other purposes I have mentioned; and if we did not give a certain number of sheets over, we should call upon the pressman to make that good which is spoiled.

Then, supposing the paper to be perfect, the printer is liable to supply eighteen surplus copies upon an edition of 250; you give him 18 sheets over?—Eight in 250; but those are to be used for various purposes besides printing; to pull revises, and for various other purposes by which that number is reduced, and they are used to supply those sheets that are spoiled; he does not pull these over the number of 250, though we give the paper over; we give him the paper over, that we may get back a sufficient number of copies, with an average of two to three surplus copies to the 500.

In point of fact, the paper which you give for the purpose of producing the overplus copies, is in addition to the half ream you send him?—Undoubtedly.

So that you are in the habit of delivering to the pressmen a less quantity than half a ream?—That depends upon the number printed; whether 160 or 50 copies; whatever number we propose to print, we always give them a proportionate number of sheets over, for the purpose of getting our number.

You stated, that you gave out the additional paper besides the perfect ream?—Not more than the perfect ream.

Do you mean to state, that no additional paper is given out to the pressmen beyond the perfect ream?—Undoubtedly not.

You have stated, that you give them 18 additional sheets; if that be so, then they must come out of the ream?—Very likely; these additional copies come out of an even ream; the paper, upon which these additional copies are impressed, comes out of an even ream; we receive sufficient paper from the bookseller, to provide for these additional sheets that are consumed in the manner I have mentioned.

To supply imperfect impressions and waste?—Yes.

Does not the number sometimes fall short, notwithstanding these additional sheets?—Certainly, it does sometimes.

Not unfrequently?—Not unfrequently.

Are you obliged to pay frequently for the numbers that are short?—Yes; I have more than once had to pay for numbers that were short.

Are the men sometimes obliged to pay when the numbers run short?—I cannot say that they are, unless one can trace the shortness of the number to their own misconduct.

This surplus paper is made up in the ream originally by the stationer?—Yes.

It is a ream of paper, in fact, with 16 or 18 sheets put in over and above the proper number?—Yes, to provide against imperfect sheets.

How many sheets are there in a quire of paper?—Twenty-four.

How many quires are there in a ream of paper, not perfect for the purpose of the printer?—Twenty.

Then there are 480 sheets in an ordinary ream of paper?—Yes.

But as 500 copies of a work are usually printed, it is necessary that some additional sheets should be put in, to make up that number beyond the ordinary ream?—Yes.

Is it therefore the practice for the stationer to put half a ream to make it a perfect ream?—Not half a ream; but a quire and a half.

There would not be any inconvenience in adding as much paper as would furnish the additional copies?—There would be no trouble whatever.

And, in point of fact, in those cases where the printer prints off 516 copies, he does not charge you more than if he was called upon to print 500?—He does not print off 516, because those 16 odd sheets are used, as I have already said, in various ways; in making ready his press, in pulling revises, &c.

He does not charge for the overplus number of copies?—He does not.

He does not charge you for printing more than 500, upon the principle of the odd numbers breaking into another token?—No; because, as I have already said, that the surplus sheets are supplied to him for the purpose of enabling us to have 500 complete copies; because in the working, a great number of sheets are spoiled, and we should call upon him to make good the number
which

which he spoiled in making ready his press, if we did not supply him with these surplus sheets, which would be a greater loss to him than the amount of the printing.

You in fact give the printer 516 sheets?—Yes.

Do you know of any instance, in the course of your experience, where the printer has returned to you 516 perfect copies?—Certainly not.

But you generally receive 506?—We receive about two or three surplus copies, and of late years they have been rather more, inasmuch as trade being not so good, they are less apt to spoil them than formerly.

If the stationer had added, for instance, two sheets less than he ought to have done, would there be any inconvenience in adding to the number necessary to supply the printer with?—No, it is very easy to add any quantity.

What is the additional number of sheets that the printer receives over and above the 500 copies?—He receives 16 in addition to the 500.

Suppose that the stationer should furnish 30 additional sheets instead of 16, there would, in that case, be no difficulty in the printer printing off 516 copies instead of 505?—If the men found that they had got a sheet more than they were bound to provide, they would reckon it over.

If you were to print 520 copies instead of 516, would you not have to pay for 750?—Certainly, the men would then be entitled to their token.

The Committee presume, that these surplus sheets are provided for the purpose of protecting against the probable deficiency in the number to be printed?—Yes.

And the pressman would not print any more than he was sure was customary and sufficient to guard against that deficiency?—Certainly not; he would not print any more without charging for them.

Therefore, if you were to put in double the number of extra sheets, he would instantly discover it?—Yes, because he calculates that this small surplus number is necessary for his own waste, in carrying on the press work, and in the necessary revisal of proofs; I might mention one circumstance, in illustration of the manner in which the men are paid for extra copies. I have a sale catalogue to print, for some respectable brokers in the city, and they require a single copy to be printed upon a broad sheet of paper, in the reverse way, from which the catalogue is ordinarily printed, and for that single copy I pay the same as for 250.

The single copy only?—Yes.

Is the paper sent in to you in even half quires?—No; in quires.

Martis, 5^o die Maii, 1818.

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

Mr. *Samuel Brooke*, called in; and Examined.

WHAT is your line of business?—Printing and publishing.

In what particular line?—Particularly in the law line.

Have you experienced any inconvenience or injury, from the provisions of the Copyright Act?—I am very much aggrieved by the necessity of delivering eleven copies of the works which I publish, principally law works, on which it falls very hard.

In what manner do you conceive law works are particularly affected by the delivery of the eleven copies?—The temporary nature of their matter, makes it necessary to confine their editions to a comparatively small number of copies, and the expenses of printing and editing are so great, that the deduction of eleven copies is a very serious evil, as attaching to every new edition.

What is the average number printed of law works?—From 500 to 1,000, seldom above that.

Do you upon the average, expect that you can make up the eleven copies from the overplus sheets?—Certainly not; I have frequently been unable to make up the number when 1,000 copies have been printed.

What do you mean by the number?—The exact number of 1,000, 500, 750, 280. S or

Mr.
George Woodfall.

Mr.
Samuel Brooke.

*Mr.
Samuel Brooke.*

or the number the edition should be; I have not been able to make up the number myself, in some instances, although a printer and proprietor.

What number of overplus copies have you had in any instances?—I do not recollect above five or six copies.

In what number?—In any of the numbers I have printed above 750, certainly; in 500 I never expect to make up a copy; I am very glad if I can make up my number.

On an average, on an edition of 500, you have no overplus copies?—I have not; I am very glad to make up my full number.

Have you been threatened with any prosecution, for not delivering any copies of works at Stationers Hall?—I have from the agent to the Scotch Universities, after having delivered copies of the work, for which I was threatened several months before.

On what ground were those threats made?—I cannot possibly say.

Do you mean to say, you had delivered the copies of the same editions?—There was a work which I had published, and delivered the eleven copies, and got a receipt for eleven months before; I had a threatening letter from the agent to the Scotch University, for not having delivered them, that was in consequence of some disarrangement of their own.

You heard no more of it?—No.

Is the publication of books, in the particular branch in which you are concerned, upon the increase or decrease, taking the last four or five months, compared with the same months in the preceding year?—I have not the same opportunity some other persons have of judging; I have not been many years in the law publishing; it is nearly the same with me as since I commenced.

How many books have you published within the last six months?—I have published three within these few months.

The demand is pretty nearly stationary?—Yes.

Be so good as to state the titles of the three last books you published?—An edition of Chitty's Pleadings; an edition of Buller's Nisi Prius; and I think the other was Reports in the time of Lord Hardwicke; I am scarcely certain whether that was within the last six months.

Were there additions to either of those works, so as to bring them within the Act of Parliament?—Very great additions to almost every page.

Every law book must have additions to it continually?—Yes; and that disables us from taking advantage of that clause in the Act, as to printing them separately.

That is a grievance peculiar to law books that you have no option for; no new law books can be published without additions?—Certainly; it must contain references to new cases.

The generality of law books require additions?—Yes.

But not invariably?—Not invariably, certainly.

Mr. Josiah Taylor, called in; and Examined.

*Mr.
Josiah Taylor.*

IN what line of publication are you?—Principally in architecture.

You published Stewart's Athens, did you not?—I published the fourth volume, the former three had been published for several years.

What does that volume sell for?—Seven guineas.

How many copies have the libraries had of that volume?—Eleven of the fourth volume.

Had you previously published a portion of that work?—A portion of that work (the first volume) was published in the year 1757.

Had a portion of the fourth volume been published in the Elgin Marbles?—Yes, it had.

How long before?—The volume of the Elgin Marbles was made up from the second volume of Stewart's Athens, and also from the fourth, an equal portion of the plates; about thirty out of each volume.

From the same plates?—The very same plates.

Does the work on the Elgin Marbles include any other plates?—It includes three plates, which were engraved purposely for that work.

Was that work demanded from you?—Yes, it was.

Did you state that it contained, with the exception of those three only, the plates previously delivered?—Yes; I stated, on its being demanded, that I thought

Mr.
Josiah Taylor.

thought they had had already the portion of the fourth volume which they were entitled to, and the portion which had been published, at least thirty years, of the second volume, I conceived they were not entitled to; but the demand was repeated, and of course I complied, and gave the books.

What was the proportion which the letter-press bore to the plates?—Very small indeed; the principal part of the letter-press was the Report of the Committee of this Honourable House, with respect to the Elgin Marbles.

Did you publish Repton's Landscape Gardening?—Yes, I did.

What was the price of that?—Six guineas.

Did you deliver that work?—I did.

What number of copies did you print of that work?—Three hundred and fifty were printed.

Were they coloured plates?—About half of them were coloured plates.

Were those you delivered to the public bodies coloured?—Doubtless.

Were they coloured by hand?—Yes, they were.

Has the delivery of the eleven copies operated as a grievance upon you?—Doubtless it has; and of the number we intended to print of that book, 350; there were not complete books by four; there were but 346.

Did you pay for the printing of 500?—Yes.

You could not pay for 350 without paying for 500?—No, the 350 cost me as much, saving the paper, as though I had printed 500.

What was the expence of the eleven copies, out of that limited number of 350?—I believe the whole impression of 350 cost between eleven and twelve hundred pounds.

What was, or would have been the additional expense of printing eleven copies on 350, or, taken out of 350, was it any thing more than the addition of the paper?—And the printing.

You paid for the printing exactly the same as if there had been 500?—Yes.

Then there was no additional charge for printing?—No.

Then what was the additional charge for those eleven copies; was it more than the paper and the colouring of the prints?—In that particular case, I am not sure that it was, and the proportionate charge for the whole, if I had had 361 copies, I am not aware that the printer would have charged me more for the printing.

You are aware that he would not?—Certainly he would not; any intermediate number between 250 and 500, as far as the printing went, would have cost the same.

Then there was no additional expense for printing?—There was not.

There is an additional expense in the paper?—Yes.

Is it true, that in printing a smaller number than what you call the token, there is a considerable waste in the paper which constitutes a ream or a half ream?—No, I am not aware of any particular quantity of waste; where there is a large impression there will be a large waste.

In printing so small number as eleven copies, and dividing the half ream, would there be damage and waste?—Yes; it is owing to damage, arising from so small a number, that those four copies are deficient.

You ordered 350 copies to be printed?—Yes.

Do you suppose the printer gave out more paper than would print the 350?—A few sheets over, to guard against contingencies.

In the same manner as the perfect paper was given out for even 500?—Just so.

Although more paper was given out than would print the 350, it turned out, that there were four short?—Yes.

Is that frequently the case?—Yes, certainly, in small numbers.

What was the whole expense of those eleven copies; was it any thing more than the paper, and the colouring of the prints?—Inasmuch as I wanted 350, and could have had 500 printed for the same money, I could have printed eleven without any other expense than the paper for the letter-press; then there would have been paper and printing for the plates and the colouring, because the plates are not printed in exactly the same numbers as the letter-press; we can print a dozen or half a dozen, or whatever number we please, paying the average per hundred.

Then the expense of the printing would be the expense of the paper, and that only?—As to the letter-press it would.

Mr.
Josiah Taylor.

As to the taking off the engravings, there was the paper and the print?—Yes.

And afterwards the hand-colouring of eleven copies of the plates?—Yes.

Were they plates of a kind that wore by taking impressions?—Oh, very materially; they were by done in aqua tinta.

Did the taking off eleven copies at all deteriorate the plates?—Unquestionably; they were all aqua tinta, and the taking off any extra number beyond 250, or sometimes 200, is a great deterioration of the plates.

Do you happen to know how many have been taken off in Stewart's Athens from the plates?—Those are engraven in the line manner.

You stated, that there were only three new ones?—I referred to the Elgin Marbles; there were some which had been used in Stewart's Athens.

Can you state how many of those had been taken off?—Of the second volume I cannot speak, not being the publisher of that; of the 4th volume there were 300.

Those plates were capable of being taken off to a greater extent than three or four hundred?—Certainly, or I could not be remunerated for my expense.

The plates had served for a certain number of copies before?—About half had; about thirty out of sixty.

Do you pay more for printing copper-plates than letter-press?—Oh dear, yes; we oftentimes pay two guineas a hundred, and three guineas a hundred; it depends upon the size of the plate, and the quality of the plate; for instance, there are single prints that are published, that pay five guineas a hundred.

Should you pay more for taking off eleven additional copies of the plates?—Certainly.

If you took 361 instead of 350?—Certainly.

In rolling press printing you pay for each?—Yes; we usually pay by the hundred, because we print by the hundred in general.

The eleven, in point of fact, would occasion a payment for so many more?—Yes, of eleven parts of a hundred, or any given number.

You have stated, that this was a work which mainly consisted of impressions from plates, and not letter-press?—Entirely so; the Elgin Marbles consist of plates, except a very small proportion of letter-press.

In the case of copper-plates you pay for the individual plates?—Yes; if I want 240 I pay for them, and not for 250; or if I want 260, I pay for 260.

In the publication of the Elgin Marbles, although the letter-press bore a very small proportion, in point of expense, to that incurred in the engraving and printing the plates, it was the letter-press, and that alone, which subjected you to the delivery of the eleven copies?—I believe it was; part of the letter-press was made up of the old History of the Parthenon, but the major part was the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons.

When you said, that the eleven additional copies, above the 350, cost only the expense of the paper, you meant to limit that to the expense of the paper on which the letter-press was printed?—Yes.

But the additional expense consisted, first, of the paper; secondly, the striking off of the plates; and thirdly, in the deterioration of the plates?—There is the original cost of the engraving of the plates, without which it cannot be all seen.

But assuming that the plate was already engraven, and that the other expenses were already incurred, still the actual cost of those eleven copies, as applied to the Elgin Marbles, must be first, the cost of the paper upon which those eleven impressions were made; secondly, the cost of the colouring; thirdly, the cost of striking off those eleven copies, except so far as regards the letter-press; and fourthly, the deterioration of the plates?—Certainly, in every instance, except the letter-press; but the colouring of the plates regards Repton's Landscape Gardening, and not the Elgin Marbles; of the Elgin Marbles there were printed 250.

Then in speaking of the Elgin Marbles, if the number was 250, the letter-press for the eleven additional copies, must cost as much as the striking off 250?—Doubtless.

You printed only 250 of the Elgin Marbles?—Only 250.

What is the usual number of books printed in your line?—About 250, rarely exceeding 500; such a book as Repton's Landscape Gardening, I should of course have printed 500, if I could have expected to sell them; but I did not.

You

"You have found 250 to be a sufficient number for books which are usual with you?—Yes.

Have you found the delivery of the eleven copies at Stationers Hall burthen-
some to you?—Yes.

Has that prevented your engaging in any publications?—There are, as I have stated, cases where I have had to deliver eleven copies of a seven guinea book, a six guinea book, and a five guinea book. I am about to publish the plans of the Custom House, which will be a five guinea book; eleven copies of this must go, besides others of a smaller note, and these are all books of small impressions; where there are large impressions it is less an object.

The expense of colouring by hand Repton's Landscape Gardening must be considerable?—It is.

In many of the books you publish, the copper-plates being line engraving, allow a considerable number of impressions being taken off without injury?—Yes.

Are there not many you publish, of which the plates are in aqua tinta, where even a very small number very much deteriorates the plate?—Yes, the number of impressions from all aqua tinta plates is very limited; many aqua tinta plates will wear out at 100.

But even in line engraving, the extending the impression beyond a certain number is injurious to the plate?—Certainly.

What proportion of the expense of those three works do the cost of the paper of the eleven copies, the expense of the striking off the plates of eleven copies, and the deterioration of the plates in striking off those eleven copies, bear to the retail selling price?—I cannot fully answer that question at the instant.

Is it half the selling price?—I should think not.

Is it a third part?—It may be about one-third, not exceeding that I should think, certainly; but I am not prepared to answer that question with accuracy.

Must not it depend upon the number of copies printed off, and the expected sale?—No, I am not aware that it does.

Is your business in architectural publications upon the increase or the decline?—I hardly know; not much upon the increase, because the general circumstances of the times, I conceive, have affected business; it has been very much depressed for the last two or three years, certainly.

Do you conceive it is recovering or beginning to flourish again?—We hope it is, as the circumstances of the country are getting better.

It has only shared in the common depression?—I believe no more; of course it must be known, that there are many books published which never pay their expense.

Mr. John Smith, called in; and Examined.

YOU are the printer of the University press at Cambridge?—I am.

You have been brought up a printer?—Yes, I have.

How many years have you been engaged in the printing business?—More than twenty years.

How many presses has the University?—At this time we have 13 presses employed.

What is the average number of workmen employed by you in the printing office?—About 30 pressmen.

Are they paid for printing by tokens or half reams?—By tokens.

Could your printers be induced to print eleven copies in addition to half a ream, or any other number the edition might require?—I think they might be induced to print off eleven copies in addition to the token.

Would the additional pay given be in proportion to their labour?—In proportion to their labour for the token.

In proportion to the labour; not as if they printed a half ream?—No, for the proportionate part.

Do you believe such an arrangement could be made without much difficulty with the pressmen?—I did not find much difficulty in their acceding, on my proposing it to them.

Do you think such an arrangement might be made with the journeymen in general?—Yes; I think, the masters have, in general, that influence over their journeymen, that they would acquiesce in it, if it were proposed to them by their masters.

Mr. John Smith.

You were brought up as a printer in London?—Not in London.

If a publisher is obliged, besides the number of copies of a work he prints for sale, to print eleven copies to be furnished to certain libraries gratis, what is the expense thereby occasioned to him, supposing the number of copies printed for sale to form an exact half ream, or number of half reams?—At present, he would have to pay for the token, according to the custom of the trade.

If the copies printed for sale do not form an exact half ream, or number of half reams, is the expense of supplying the additional eleven copies more than the expense of the paper?—Not in that case.

Doctor Maltby's edition of "Morell's Greek Thesaurus," was printed at the University press?—Yes.

That was a quarto work?—Yes.

What would the paper for eleven copies of that work have cost?—Seven pounds four shillings.

Have you made a calculation as to other works?—I have.

[The witness delivered in the following Statement, which was read:]

Eleven Copies, estimated at the Cost of Paper, and proportionate for Press Work.			Eleven Copies, estimated at Retail Price.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
<i>Morell's Thesaurus</i> , royal 4to.						
Paper - 11 sheets × 157 signatures = 72	7	4	0	9	3	3
quires, at 2s. per quire - - -						
Press work of 11 extra sheets above the number, 157 signatures at 3d. each -						
						11 copies at £. 5. 5s. = 57 15 —
<i>La Croix's Differ. Calc.</i> demy 8vo.						
Paper - 11 sheets × 46 signatures = 21	1	8	6	1	19	—
quires, at 1s. 4d. per quire - - -						
Press work of 11 extra sheets above the number, 46 signatures at 3d. - - -						
						at 18s. - = - 9 18 —
<i>Slade's Annotations</i> , demy 8vo. 2 vols.						
Paper - 11 sheets × 59 signatures = 27	1	16	—	2	10	9
quires, at 1s. 4d. per quire - - -						
Press work of 11 extra sheets above the number, 59 signatures at 3d. - - -						
						at 16s. - = - 8 16 —
<i>Horace cura Kidd</i> , 18mo. royal.						
Paper - 11 sheets × 15 signatures = 7	—	14	—	—	17	9
quires at 2s. - - - - -						
Press work of 11 extra sheets above the number, 15 signatures at 3d. each -						
						at 7s. 6d. = 4 2 6
	£.	14	10	9		80 11 6

Have you known any instances in which a number of extra copies has been printed beyond the token?—I remember one instance, and, according to the custom of the trade, of course it was paid for as a token.

Upon what do you found your opinion, that the journeymen will be induced to take less?—The question was stated to my own journeymen, to 30 pressmen, stating, that for the supply of public libraries, eleven copies were required; and if they were paid for a proportionate number, would they take a proportionate price; in which they acquiesced.

Have you adopted that?—I have not adopted it.

What number of copies were there printed of "Morell's Thesaurus"?—Fifteen hundred.

Of the translation of "La Croix"?—One thousand, I think.

Of "Kidd's Horace," what number?—A thousand.

Of "Slade's Annotations"?—A thousand.

Can you state the sale price of 11 copies of each?—The sale price of "Morell," five guineas; that is the price to the public.

What is the sale price of "The Differential Calculus"?—Eighteen shillings each copy.

What

What is the sale price of "Slade's Annotations?"—Sixteen shillings.

Of "Kidd's Horace?"—Seven shillings and sixpence, the common paper.

Are your men upon piece-work, or upon an establishment?—Piece-work all of them.

Do you think, that other pressmen, besides those employed in the University, would consent to be paid a proportionate price?—I have no doubt they would acquiesce; on the question being stated to the pressmen, they immediately acquiesced, and signified their assent through the overseer to me.

Do you know of any instance of pressmen being paid for less than a token?—I do not.

Do you not conceive, that in looking out paper for eleven copies extra, there would be a waste of paper?—I should think not.

Do the Universities, in point of fact, take the eleven additional copies off?—Not at present.

Is it within your knowledge, whether they do or do not deliver those copies gratuitously to the other public libraries?—The University publish very few books on their own account; and I believe the publishers or proprietors are required to deliver the works, and not the printers.

Then you understand, that if "Morell's Thesaurus" was published at the University press, the publishers of it consider themselves obliged to deliver the eleven copies?—I think so; for it was not the property of the University; it was printed for Dr. Maltby.

Does not the University of Cambridge retain the property in some of its publications?—They have that privilege; but there are very few classical books published by them, on their own account.

You mean to state, that the University of Cambridge always throws the onus of the eleven copies on the author, whom it professes to patronise?—It has not been their practice to strike off eleven copies extra, to supply their own library and others.

Do you know of any work printed by the University of Cambridge, of which eleven copies have not been delivered to the other public libraries?—I do not; because the major part of those works are printed for private individuals.

The question refers to those which are not printed for private individuals?—There are but few; and I know of none, of late years, which have not been.

What books have the University of Cambridge printed on their own account, since the year 1814?—I can safely say, none, of which they were the proprietors.

None, except bibles and prayer-books?—Yes; there have been single plays of Euripides, but they were for members of the University.

The copyright, in those instances, rested with the editor?—Yes, and not with the University.

The University lent them the accommodation of their printing-press?—Yes.

Are those entered at Stationers Hall?—I cannot speak with certainty, whether they are or not.

In what year was Doctor Maltby's Thesaurus printed?—I think, in the year 1815, if I recollect rightly.

Would there be any difficulty in furnishing the printer with paper for eleven extra copies, with equal security from waste or embezzlement, as in the supply of paper for his tokens?—I conceive, no difficulty at all.

With respect to Slade's Annotations, and La Croix's Differential Calculus, and Kidd's Horace, were not the prices below what those books would have been, if sold ordinarily?—Yes; in the case of Slade's Annotations, the price was lower than it would have been in the ordinary way; the Syndics fixed the price.

The prices fixed on those three books, are calculated not to give any benefit to the University, who wished to give the benefit of their press to the author?—Yes, that was the case as to Slade, but La Croix, as well as Horace, were the property of a bookseller; the University Syndics did not fix those prices; they had nothing to do with them.

What is the customary charge for pulling three proofs?—I think it is three-pence.

What is the customary price for pulling more than three?—I have never had an instance, in my practice, of more than three being pulled, and therefore cannot answer that question.

Mr. John Smith.

Was not the charge for pulling proofs, founded on an agreement between the masters and the men?—I believe it was; because the pressmen had to leave the press at which they were employed, and to go to a separate press in another room, so that there is a loss of time occasioned.

Was Morell's Thesaurus published in two parts?—There were two parts.

Have not the Universities a drawback upon paper?—We have it on all works printed wholly in the Latin, Greek, Oriental or Northern languages (that is, the language of the statute;) as well as the bibles.

In printing Morell's Thesaurus, did the editor enjoy the advantage of that drawback upon paper?—It was expressly claimed for Doctor Maltby, at his instance; he mentioned it to me himself.

You state, that there are some books, which have been published at Cambridge, which were the property of the University?—Those were books printed before the period when I was appointed printer to the University.

How long have you been printer to the University?—Nearly nine years.

Was Porson's Adversaria printed at the University of Cambridge?—Yes.

Did not the University sell that to some bookseller?—It was not their property.

Then, the proprietor of the copyright had the benefit of the privilege the University enjoy, in regard to paper and printing?—No, that cannot be claimed, unless the work is entirely in the languages mentioned in the statute.

Mr. John Matthews, called in; and Examined.

*Mr.
John Matthews.*

ARE you the foreman in the University printing-house?—I am.

How long have you been there?—Between 11 and 12 years.

You have been engaged in printing, in London?—Yes, I have.

For whom did you print?—Mr. Strahan, Mr. Bensley, Mr. Nichols, and Messrs. Bye & Law; they were the four principal persons I was with.

Is it your opinion, that the pressmen would print, for a reasonable compensation, the extra eleven copies, beyond the token?—The question was stated by Mr. Smith to me, and by me put generally to the men; and after explaining to them what the nature of the case was, they said, that considering that the bookseller or publisher was compelled to deliver the eleven copies, and that the charges came very heavy upon them, they had no objection to pull them for a reasonable remuneration; if the question had been put generally, whether they would concede to the advance on so many above the token, they would not have done it.

Do you conceive a similar agreement might be made with pressmen, working in London, upon a similar sort of explanation?—I imagine so, if it was fairly explained to them, that they would have their own interest, and that of their employers in view, and would not object to it, under such a consideration.

Edward Daniel Clarke, LL. D. called in; and Examined.

*E. D. Clarke,
LL. D.*

YOU are the author of travels into Russia, and other parts of the world?—I am.

You sold the first edition, or some editions of that work, to Messrs. Cadell & Davies?—The copyright.

Did they consider the furnishing you, gratuitously, with the copies which were presented by you to your friends, as a burthen upon them, which materially or in any considerable degree affected the advantage of their speculation, in purchasing the copyright?—So far from it, that in every instance that I have ever been acquainted with of that kind, the publisher says to the author, do not mention any thing as to the copies, because that will remain entirely for us; and whatever number you chuse to have, you are perfectly at liberty; for instance, Mr. Davies said, "I will propose, if you like, a certain number of copies to you;" and I believe, the number that Mr. Davies proposed, was greater than that I found necessary; "twelve," I said, "would be sufficient for every friend I had;" and he doubled that number immediately; and I have here, in their original contract, signed by themselves, this condition of their own, to furnish 24 copies free of expense, in the manner I have mentioned; and further, those copies were to be 12 in large paper, and 12 in small; but so little attention was paid to that circumstance, that when the first volume of my work was published, the whole were delivered in large paper, though I did not require

require it, neither was it necessary; Mr. Davies laughed about it afterwards, saying, "they were to have been half in large and half in small, but you are perfectly welcome to them, or any number of copies you may desire;" and I have received (for they have acted with very great liberality) copies for other friends since, if any friend was desirous of a copy.

*E. D. Clarke,
Esq.,
LL.D.*

Those copies were delivered as a compliment to yourself; they were not stated as a matter of deduction from the price paid for the copyright?—Certainly not; neither did I conceive it as any favour to me in particular, but as a usual custom to all authors, for I had no acquaintance with Messrs. Cadell & Davies, till they came to me to endeavour to purchase the copyright; I had never seen either of them before in my life.

You do not conceive, from your own experience, that the obligation of delivering, gratuitously, 10 or 11 copies, would operate to deter a publisher from engaging in the publication of a work?—As far as my knowledge extends, it has never operated in that manner; it is for themselves to judge of that.

Do you happen to know, how many copies were printed of the first edition of the first volume?—I do not recollect the number with accuracy; perhaps, about 1,200, but since, the number has been greatly increased by them; I do not exactly know what quantity they have printed.

You have considerable personal intercourse with authors and literary men?—A good deal; from living in the University, I see a good many of them.

Is it your opinion, and the opinion of those with whom you have communicated upon that subject, that the copyright of works is a property increasing in value?—I am quite ready to answer that question, for I know it to be the case, from intercourse with many gentlemen who have sold copyrights since I have, and have received a higher price than I did.

That increase of value arises, perhaps, first, from the extension of copyright to 28 years, and in some degree, from an increased demand for works on the part of the public?—For my own part, I always considered it from increased demand for the works which have been published in our University, by our members, but particularly books of travels.

You would conceive, that copyright of 28 years, was a more valuable commodity to dispose of to a publisher, than a copyright of 14, coupled with a reversion of 14 beyond, as it stood before the passing of the last Act?—In answering that question, I wish to state, that I am not sufficiently acquainted with the subject, to be able to say at what a bookseller may value a copyright.

From your observation, do you consider that the number of publications which appear annually, to be upon the increase?—Greatly, certainly.

And that the encouragement given to authors, by the price which is given to them for their copyrights, is also increasing rather than diminishing?—So it is considered among us.

You are a librarian of the University of Cambridge?—I am.

Do you consider, from what you have observed in that capacity, that the circumstance of a book being deposited in the library of the University, tends to promote or to prevent its sale?—It tends, unquestionably, to promote it; many proofs may be given of that.

Have you known instances, in which the libraries of individual colleges have been induced to purchase a book, in consequence of its having been placed in the University library?—Yes; I think that, perhaps, it would be proper for me to state that fully to the Committee; we have 16 libraries in our University, besides the public library; a library for every college, with the exception of Downing College, which is not built; when a book is placed in the public library, I suppose, of course, by its being placed there, that it is a book which will be required by other libraries; the other colleges purchase for their libraries a copy of that work; that is continually occurring; a man finds a work in any particular line of mathematics, or any of the sciences, he immediately goes back to his college, seeing it in the public library, and probably not knowing of its existence before, finding it is a work which will be useful, he proposes it to the college; and they buy the book, so that a great many copies have been disposed of by the mere exhibition of it upon the shelves of our library; but there have been other instances have fallen under my knowledge, as librarian, where books have been sold by placing a copy on the shelves of the library; one instance I can state, that of Aikin's Chemical and Mineralogical Dictionary, a work of considerable merit, but which, as I have understood, had had but

H. D. Clarke,
LL. D.

a slow sale in London; I knew the merit of the work, and, as soon as I was librarian, bought it for the library; it is in 2 vols. 4to, the price of it rather high, about 4*l.*; no sooner was it placed on the shelves of the public library, than copies were sold to individuals who did not know of it before. We have an instance of an author who has, in his own hand-writing, stated an acknowledgement, that he places his publication in the public library to promote the sale of it, not having published the work, but, as I understand, simply printed fourteen copies; this work is in 18 volumes; it is a collection of theological writings, by a person of the name of William Davey; and this gentleman states, in a letter which is in the book, and was found in the public library, where it has been some years, that he sends a copy of his work to the University of Cambridge, another to the University of Oxford, to Sion House, to Lambeth, and other places, that if the work meets with encouragement, he may publish it; it was therefore nothing more than an advertisement, and, perhaps, a cheaper mode of advertising than any other.

Did it produce the desired effect?—The work is known at the University.

Did it encourage Mr. Davey to publish his work?—I am not aware; it is a work esteemed among men of learning; the Master of Christ's College, and others, have spoken to me of it.

[*The first volume was produced, with the note referred to in the lid :*]

Have you frequently found, that the placing a book in the University library, promotes its sale among the colleges, and individual members of the University?—Since I have been librarian, which has not been much above a year, instances have occurred in that short time, in which, besides the copies sent to the University library, in the way that they have been lately, another copy has been sent in that manner by the author himself, and in many instances, before I was librarian; for years I recollect the gifts made to the public library, with no other view, as far as I could understand, than on the part of the author, particularly if the work was a small work, and not of any great importance in itself, and likely to be overlooked, to place it upon the shelves of the library, that it might be seen and known.

Does the University cause all new publications, indiscriminately, to be demanded on its behalf, or does it make any selection?—It makes a selection the most strict and rigid, that it is possible to make. I will state the manner in which the books are placed in the public library; when the books arrive from Stationers Hall, for example, this very day, on which I address the Committee, was the day appointed for the meeting of the two librarians, to examine a parcel of such books, Mr. Kerridge, the principal librarian, and myself; those books are placed before us, the two librarians; we never put into the library any work, except those about which there can be no question whatever as to the propriety or impropriety; the other books are reserved to be laid before the Syndicus of the public library, a body of men consisting of the different professors and other officers of the University; they examine all the books, therefore, which we have not put into the library, and, at last, a part is of course set aside, as not being fit for reception there at all; those books are never introduced into the public library, at least that part of the building which is generally open to the perusal of the members of the University.

Is there any order or regulation in the University, to prevent the sale of books which are not placed in the library?—Certainly; the strictest attention has always been paid to that order; not a scrap of any kind has ever been sold.

What is done with the books which are not put in the neighbouring library?—Hitherto they have been disposed of in a place by themselves, under the care of the University, kept apart by themselves, with a view if possible to return them back again; we should be happy if those persons from whom we have received them would take them again; but as all come down to be examined, those books thought not proper for a place in our public library are set apart by themselves, and are kept by themselves; they consist of all sorts of things; sometimes we have received even the advertisements for patent medicines, and little scraps of paper, and children's books, and a great quantity of idle trash.

The return made to the House of Commons came under your inspection probably?—It came from the principal librarian, Mr. Kerridge, during the last summer, while he was at Cromer.

Is

Is every book which has been entered at Stationers Hall, and delivered, and which is not contained in that list, placed in the public library?—We receive a list from Stationers Hall, containing a catalogue of the books that have been published; the first question therefore is, to the principal librarian, what books in that list are to be sent to Cambridge; and as it was determined originally by the Syndicat, that the whole of the books published should come down for examination, they all arrive; we therefore, as a matter of course, send back to this agent, you are requested to send the whole of the books contained in the catalogue; then when they arrive we meet together to examine the books which arrive, and place in the library those about which there can be no question whatever, all the rest going before the general Syndicat of the library, and finally some being thrown out altogether, which are the books we should be so very glad to return.

There are several books which appear from the return from Stationers Hall, to have been sent to Cambridge, and do not appear in the return of books placed in the public library; for instance, Hendred's Cocoa Nut Oil Soap?—I cannot recollect any such book.

Do you exclude all novels?—The librarians always do, as a matter of course, and all books of that kind; but when they go before the Syndicat of the library, there are works of that class which are considered of such merit, that they have been placed in the library.

There is in the list a novel of some celebrity, *The Antiquary*?—That was in the first instance; it may be that a book may escape notice; but if a request were made that it should be placed in the library, and it were found fit it would be attended to; it is only the librarians who do not feel themselves justified in admitting any novels, but the Syndicat do, in the case of works of merit.

What is done with the music?—That also is all by us considered as not a subject that we can decide upon, and therefore it is not of course put in by the librarians, but is carried before the Syndicat, and persons are deputed to examine it; but none of the music is kept in the great library, it is in the law schools, placed below, in cases reserved for that purpose; it is a part of the same building, but in another part, for the reception of valuable music.

Would there be any inconvenience in a previous examination of the list of books before they are claimed?—It is impossible to judge from the title in many instances of the merit of the work; I could mention one, "*The Veracity of Moses as an Historian vindicated*;" and when it came down it turned out to be a work on mineralogy, a work of very great merit; but still nobody from reading the title would imagine that to be the subject.

"*The Laws of Cricket*?"—I do not know of any such work; there is no such work in our library, to our knowledge.

Might not that have been rejected upon its title, without ever sending for it?—After a due consideration of the subject, before all the Syndicat of the library, assembled for the purpose, it was deemed a better plan to have the books first down and duly examined, before any of them were placed in the library, and those found to be unfit finally set aside; those we should be exceedingly glad to get rid of.

Are the books, rejected from the principal library, after their examination by the Syndicat, kept for common circulation at Cambridge amongst the members of the University?—The rules of our library enjoin, that none but Masters of Arts and Bachelors of Law have access to the library.

Have not the Masters of Arts access to the books rejected from the library?—If a Master of Arts chose to examine the cases where the rejected books are placed, he might go and examine them; I have never known an instance of such an application being made; possibly Masters of Arts may have gone there without my knowledge, and have examined those books.

Are the rejected books left in sheets there?—They are put into boards.

You have stated, that your bookseller furnished you with twenty-four copies of your work, of which twelve hundred were printed, and immediately sold?—I am not sure of the number being 1,200.

In your opinion, would not the eleven copies be felt as a very great hardship upon the authors of all the expensive works, of which the popularity would not be likely to be equal to your own?—If there had been any thing of that kind felt, I think my publisher would have mentioned such a circumstance.

The question does not refer to the case of your own work, but to expensive works,

*E. D. Clarke,
LL. D.*

works, in their nature little likely to sell?—If they are not likely to sell, it does not appear to me it can be any loss; it is only when they do sell well; then the public has to pay for them, and not the booksellers. The public pays for all the copies given to the libraries, and not the booksellers.

Expensive works of science, with coloured plates, coloured by hand, for instance?—I will mention the way in which it appears to me the copies are given away. When a volume is to be published, every little circumstance whatever respecting the expense of its publication is collected together, and those several circumstances constitute the ingredients of the price of the volume. All carriage of parcels, letters, every little thing, a bookseller puts into the price, and the eleven copies, of course, too.

Do you not conceive, that a book is less likely to sell in proportion as the price is high?—The Committee may themselves judge of that. I have never found that make any difference. The prices are excessively high, but they seem to sell the better. Some of the booksellers seem to say, it is nothing but the expensive works that do go off well.

With respect to Davey's work on Divinity, it appears that only 14 copies were printed?—I believe the number of copies that he gave to the different libraries.

Has it ever been reprinted, in consequence of that deposit?—I cannot answer to that. I know nothing more of that work than that I found it in the library, in the manner in which it now appears, with the note in it.

How many volumes are there of Mr. Davey's Works?—Eighteen.

Can you conceive, considering the expense of printing eighteen volumes, for the purpose of putting them gratuitously into public libraries, that they may operate as an advertisement for the re-impression of the book, that that is a cheaper mode of advertising than any other that might be resorted to?—I only refer the Committee to the author's own statement; he has so stated. I know, that the expense of advertising is so exceedingly high, and also their practice which accompanies it, of making the book known by communications of another kind in the public papers, that in my own opinion it would be, even with an expensive work, a cheaper mode of advertising the book than the sums they lavish in that way, because those copies go among a set of men who are likely to purchase, if anybody will purchase, whereas the newspapers go into the hands of many who will not purchase.

You consider the expense of printing eleven copies as falling very short, generally, of the expense of advertisement?—I should think, the expense of the eleven copies of a work of considerable expense, would be less to a bookseller than the expense of advertising; but I must at the same time state my inability to give an answer accurately.

You have stated, that there is a great increase in the number of expensive works published, and that the copyright of them has consequently increased in value; do you think that there has been any increase in the number of great works published, either by members of the University, or others, of late years, works of great labour?—A very great increase indeed, as we can show by reference to the books which have appeared.

Do you think that the delivery of eleven copies would or would not be a great obstacle in the way of publishing such collections as Grævius and Gronovius, the Byzantine historians, Ugolino's *Thesaurus Antiquitatum Sacrarum*, Muratori's *Body of Italian Historians*, or the *French Benedictine Historians*?—They are works not very likely to be reprinted, most of them; but supposing they were, and that such an expensive work as the collection by Ugolino, printed at Venice, or that by Muratori or Gronovius, were to be published, a work of science and value coming down to our public library, that in our University alone, the supply of the other libraries would exceed the number the booksellers were bound to deliver.

You state, that the University make the strictest selection in the books it places in its public library; do you not therefore think, that this tax of the eleven copies, be it what it may, falls exclusively on those persons on whom it would be most heavy?—It never falls on them, it falls upon the public; the public pay for it.

If the public do not pay, upon whom does it fall?—If the public do not pay, and a man has published a work which has no sale whatever, it is of no consequence whatever to him what becomes of his copies, for they otherwise remain

E. D. Clarke,
I.L.D.

remain upon his hands. It is only in the case where they sell that it can apply, and then the public will pay it.

Are there not works of which the sale is extremely slow, and consequently where the residuum becomes in process of time of great value to the author or his representatives?—In that case, a great number of copies will remain as a burthen upon his hands, and in general they make what they call upon those occasions a bookseller's sale of them, and there is a meeting for that purpose, which takes place in London; but I am perhaps intruding upon their province in relating this, for they are all acquainted with it. They are put up to auction, and sold at a diminished price and a long credit.

Do you speak of works of the day, or of that species of which the value would remain for ever the same?—I speak generally of all works published, where the booksellers or authors have any interest whatever in the sale of them.

Such a work, for example, if it were to be executed, as a body of the English historians?—Or, for example, the collection by Purchas, his Pilgrims; if in any of those cases the sale should be found very heavy and slow, the person who possesses that property would most likely cause it to be sold at this meeting, at an inferior price to that originally asked, and it would be sent out into the market at an inferior price.

Then, at any rate, the loss is the loss of that which the copies would so sell for at the trade sale?—The copies being of no value to the author, but a burthen, that amounts to nothing.

Are the Committee to understand, that the author pays persons for disposing of his works, instead of obtaining a benefit?—I speak perhaps out of my province, but I have known persons who have been obliged to sell in that mode, and to take whatever price was bidden for them.

At any rate, admitting those copies to be sold, if they are estimated only at the value they would fetch at the trade sale, does it not follow, that the giving them to the University takes away that which would be given at the trade sale?—They have been originally given to the Universities in the first instance; it does not therefore apply to the case of the books remaining upon their hands.

You are greatly acquainted with foreign botanical publications?—Some few of them.

You are aware that certain great botanical works are at present in execution, by the assistance of the French Government?—I know nothing of it, I never heard of it.

You are aware, that botanical works of great value are executed in England, of which the plates are of necessity curiously coloured by hand; do you think the delivery of the eleven copies so painted by hand, is or is not, to the author of those publications, a great hardship?—I think I can satisfy the Committee that it is quite the reverse of a hardship; those books are generally published in numbers, and there was an instance of a publication in this country, very beautifully coloured by Sowerby; we had received the latter part of the publication, a few of the numbers, and the University have been at the expense of purchasing from the author all the previous parts, and that has taken place in the other public libraries; that taking the latter part of a series, they have purchased up the former, and taken off the impression upon their hands.

You consider it a great advantage to have the Universities as purchasers?—To have the Universities as purchasers of what.

You state, that it is of great advantage to have any thing that would cause the Universities to be purchasers of a work?—In the single instance of their sending the few numbers of their work, of which they complain, it has been, instead of a hardship, a patronage.

Because it has forced them to become purchasers?—I must leave the inference to the Committee.

Are works regularly delivered?—No; many of the best works are behind hand.

What do you consider the pecuniary value of the privilege to the University of Cambridge; what would be the pecuniary equivalent for this demand upon all authors?—We should be very much grieved to think that any pecuniary compensation should be made to us; for we want books; we do not want money.

E. D. Clarke,
LL. D.

You do not want money to buy books?—Our funds are so engaged, that the Ruslat fund, which is the richest fund belonging to the library, is not equal to the demand; we have many works standing on the list, which we have not purchased, but should be glad to have.

Your situation would enable you to give a rough estimate of what you consider the pecuniary value of this privilege, would it not?—It would be quite impossible for me to do it, for we have other interests besides the pecuniary consideration; the ancient rights and privileges of our University, which are of incalculable value.

The stipulation made by your publishers to allow you 24 copies, as presents, for your friends, is contained in the same contract as regulates the price for the copyright?—Yes; it is a part of the conditions of the contract, in which those publishers themselves state even more than I had any desire for.

There are sixteen libraries belonging to colleges at Cambridge?—There are, besides the public library.

They are supported by their separate funds?—They are.

Are they amply provided with the greater number of useful publications?—Every library has a different character in this respect; one library is reckoned richer in works on divinity, another in works on law, a third in editions of the ancient classics. Professor Porson considered the library of Jesus College as peculiarly rich in valuable editions of the classics; the fund of Jesus College has been considerably augmented by the care of its members of late years, because they have added a part of a fund which went to the support of their garden, to the increase of their library, and other things have also tended to the increase of the library fund; they are therefore considerable purchasers of books; other libraries I am not so well acquainted with.

You mentioned the circumstance, that your having ordered a mineralogical work for the public library, occasioned the purchase by other public libraries?—By individuals; whether it is in other public libraries also, I cannot state.

Would not the good opinion shown by a very eminent mineralogist, naturally produce that effect?—They never knew that the person alluded to placed the book in the library, or had any thing to do with it; for when a book is placed in the library by the librarians, it is merely placed in the library, the class mark is added, but no person knows whether it was received from the Ruslat fund, or bought by the Vice Chancellor, or from what source it came.

The price of that book is 4*l.*?—It is.

It is natural to suppose, that a smaller number of books is purchased by individuals who reside in the University of Cambridge, than by any other number of well informed individuals residing in other situations?—I think that would not be found to be the case, for when men go to a public library for a book, if it is in the line of reading in which they are engaged, it is sometimes inconvenient to them to attend to the injunctions of the library, that a book shall be returned four times a year to be examined; therefore sooner than take that trouble, and run the risk of its being taken out by another man, and their not getting it again, they purchase it themselves.

Is not that remark applicable to the books which are in the immediate line of reading of the individual?—In the University, every possible subject is included.

The purchase of books for the University, is principally from the Ruslat estate?—I believe so.

What other fund is there for the purchase of books; is there any annual tax laid on the different members of the University?—None whatever; they give their books for the library, as a gift to the University.

There is no pecuniary contribution, as there is at Oxford, laid upon the members of the University?—None at all.

When books, sent down by the Stationers Company, are rejected, is any intimation given to the Stationers Company of their rejection?—I am not sure that any intimation has been given, but there have been instances where books have been returned to their publishers; there was one, I think, an instance of Ackerman; there is a standing order in the book of orders, that that should be done.

When was that order made?—About a month ago.

Is not the public library made accessible to all men of literature and science, who may wish to consult books which it contains, although they may not be members

members of the University of Cambridge?—Universally so, of every description; our library is daily visited by strangers, who have that advantage; all publishers of books, for instance Mr. Dibdin, who so long studied in our library, when he was publishing his topographical work; other instances have occurred, frequently of foreigners; Lysons, when he was publishing his Britannia; and we have had Professor Bernstein, who is now at Oxford, and who had a room and fire allowed him.

Is there any well-digested catalogue printed, or in manuscript, of the University library?—We have two catalogues; the one, the catalogue of the Bodleian library, with the college marks of those placed in our own library; another, a catalogue written in three or four volumes, in folio, written wholly in a very fair and legible hand a long time ago; and it is now in contemplation to have a catalogue published of the whole library, the present Vice Chancellor having proposed it both to the Syndicat of the library and the Senate, and it is agreed to; so that persons are actually engaged at this moment for that purpose.

You never had the catalogue of the University library at Cambridge printed?—Never.

Are they so arranged, that they can be found without difficulty?—I never found any difficulty, and I am not aware of any; Lord Spencer, whose topographical researches are so well known, has been down studying for some time, and expressed his approbation of the manner in which they were kept and arranged; they have never been classed entirely, according to the subjects of the works, but pretty generally, so that persons accustomed to the library would know where to find poetry and classic authors, and so on.

So that those who are conversant with the library, know pretty well all the rare and curious books in it?—They can go to the subject, and find their author; if not, the catalogue would very soon enable them to do it.

Can you state the proportion of the books admitted into the library, to those rejected?—The proportion of those admitted has exceeded the proportion of those rejected very considerably.

You have stated the facilities which are given to persons of literature and science, who wish to consult the books in the library; are those facilities confined simply to giving such persons permission to enter the library, and to read there, or is it possible for them to have books out of the library, to read and consult in their own houses?—Not only in Cambridge, but our books have been sent to Lincoln, to Edinburgh, to York; and so general has been the privilege, that it has been very much abused, and our books have been so much injured by being badly packed, when returned, in trunks, that, since I have been librarian, I have represented to the Syndicat the necessity of taking some step to prevent that injury, for any Master of Arts, being at liberty to take out a book, might send it to any person he wished to accommodate; all that is necessary is, that the book should be returned at the end of the quarter, or that a trifling fine, a shilling for a quarto, or half a crown for a folio, should be paid.

How many books may a Master of Arts take out of the library at a time?—Ten; and if his own number be filled, he has only to apply to a friend for ten more; some exceptions have been made with respect to individuals; Professor Porson, and others, were allowed to take any number they pleased.

During what hours of the day is the library accessible to strangers, who may wish to read in it?—At all hours, and all times; not only at the hours open to the University, but at other hours too, by application to the librarian; the library is open from ten o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon; but if after that time a stranger or a student of any description should wish to have access to the library, he applies to the librarian for permission, and it is always granted.

Edward Christian, Esq. Professor of Law in the University of Cambridge,
called in; and Examined.

YOU were present at a meeting held at Mr. Villiers's, previous to the passing of the last Copyright Act, at which a considerable number of eminent booksellers attended; were you not?—I was present, and will tell the Committee how I was brought there. There was a dispute about eleven years ago, I think in 1807. I read lectures on law at Cambridge, and never had any residence there, and therefore never took down any books with me, but my manuscript books and papers. I frequently want a book to read a quotation of Lord Hardwicke's,
280.

*Edward Christian,
Esq.*

*Edward Christian,
Esq.*

or Lord Kenyon's decision; I make a note, and have the books from the public library. I began to send for books, and the librarian returned, that the book was not in the library; there is the continuation of the Reports, Vesey's Reports and East's Reports were not there; such books as for many years I had constantly found there; that induced me to inquire why those books did not come as usual; I at first concluded, they were engaged by some other gentlemen, and I sent to the attornies and they supplied me. I found that those books were not sent, because Lord Kenyon had decided, that the author had a copyright in his work, though the books were not entered at Stationers Hall; and I found upon inquiry, that attention to this subject had been paid by the British Museum, and that they had taken the opinions of counsel, and that their counsel had advised them, that the libraries had no right to the book unless the author entered the work. I thought it strange, and I sat down to write a lecture upon the subject; I examined the subject for many days and weeks, and drew up all I could find upon the subject on both sides, and my conclusion was, that we were entitled to the privilege under the statute of Anne, though the books were not entered at Stationers Hall; I printed this, though not for sale; I gave it away among my friends. The Honourable Mr. Villiers happened to be at Cambridge, and I gave him one; he wrote to me in a few days, that he was glad I had paid attention to so important a subject, that he considered it of great importance, and he would bring it before Parliament, and try to have it amicably settled; I communicated that to the University of Cambridge, and all the friends of the University and libraries were glad of it. I communicated it afterwards to the booksellers. I said, "we used to have every book, you do not send them now; I am convinced we have the same right to the books as if they were entered;" that produced some inquiry; and I suggested this; "if there is any difficulty upon this, or if you consider it any hardship, increase the extent of copyright, let it be twenty-eight years certain, it is now fourteen, with a contingency if the author lives;" they were all delighted with it; Mr. Butterworth and others were highly pleased with it. I attended several of their meetings at the London Coffee-house, and Mr. Villiers's house, and Mr. Villiers undertook to bring in a bill, that it should be amicably settled; we were all than agreed, if the Universities could induce the House by the influence of their members and their representatives, to get an increase of copyright; the booksellers undertook never to disturb us again, but that we should have a copy of every book which they published, whether it was large or small, no distinction whatever, nor no opposition whatever. Mr. Villiers brought in the bill, he was in a bad state of health, and was obliged to bring it in late in the session, the booksellers and the Universities were all agreed, but unfortunately before it could pass through the House of Commons, the printers petitioned the House, stating, that there was going to be an increase of copyright, giving a monopoly to booksellers, that the copyright would thereby be kept out of the market as common property, and therefore there would be less printing; this was so late in the session, that as they desired to be heard by counsel, consequently it was obliged to be put off till the next session; but I can say certainly, all the most respectable booksellers consented. Mr. Villiers thinks there were some that objected, but I have not a recollection of a single one; I am quite satisfied, that almost all of them were agreed; and one reason they gave was, not only on account of the value, but they stated this as a reason; when an author comes near the end of the fourteen years, we are then in a difficulty, because we are in doubt if he has lived twelve years, whether he will live the other two, and therefore we do not know what extent of impression to make; because, if he dies within the fourteen years, all the world are competitors with us, and we are in doubt what number we should print; that was one of the reasons they stated; but they all agreed, if you do but get an extent of copyright, we shall never disturb the Universities again; they were the most respectable and opulent booksellers in London; I did not take down the names, but it appeared to be the approbation of the whole trade. I was the first person who proposed it, and I never was so much caressed for any suggestion I made, as that of extending the copyright, and it was put off that year merely by the petition of the printers, that there might be no increase of copyright.

Do you consider it an advantage to an author, to have a book sent to the public libraries of the Universities?—I did state that in my publication long ago; for my first publication upon that subject, was eleven years ago, when this discussion

discussion first took place; the reason that it was not followed up the next year, was, that Mr. Villiers was sent as an Ambassador to Portugal. I was anxious to have this matter settled, so were the booksellers, but Mr. Villiers staid there many years.

*Edward Christian,
Esq.*

Are you precise in the year?—It was either 1807 or 1808; I stated as my opinion, that it was an advantage to an author eleven years ago; I remember Mr. Villiers was strongly of that opinion; and indeed some of the words in my book upon that subject are his, that is, he wrote them down, and I adopted them upon that very subject; that it really was an advantage, and the reason that suggested itself to my mind, and which I have stated in my later publication, for it is only a week or a fortnight ago that I published again upon the subject, bringing the proceeding down to the present day, is this; I think it is a great advantage to an author to have his books sent to a public library; for as Dr. Clarke has stated, one book will not satisfy curiosity if it is a book worth having, but it will excite the desire of young noblemen and young men of fortune in the college, and they will purchase the book to take home with them, and we are a perpetually changing body; though there may be three thousand members of the University, not ten in a year perhaps die there; they are perpetually changing; some of the clergymen go and settle in the country parishes; and those clergymen, the fellows of colleges, are not rich men, and cannot buy expensive books, but they are highly gratified, and instructed by those books, and therefore as soon as they go to their livings and settle, they remember the instruction they had from such a book; they want it, and find the loss of it, and will endeavour to buy it, their income being increased; or they will be sure to recommend it to the neighbouring gentlemen; therefore every book put into the public library is advertised in an infinitely better mode than in any other mode; I asked Dr. Clarke, will you authorize me to state, that that which I gave as matter of opinion you know from fact and experience; and he stated to me before what he has to-day stated in evidence; therefore I think it highly beneficial, and particularly to gentlemen purchasing such works as Mr. Taylor's; those are not works which members of the Universities purchase for themselves, but when they go home they recommend gentlemen to buy such works, which they would never see nor know the merit of without the deposit of a copy; therefore I should recommend, whenever there are 350, that 15 or 20 should be printed for the Universities, that promoting the sale of the rest in the most beneficial manner.

You have stated, that the booksellers were greatly pleased with your arrangement, and you have stated, that the printers were not so; had you any communication with authors, and particularly authors of those works, which being accompanied with plates, painted by hand, of great value, were of a nature to which the copyright added no value?—I do not recollect to have had any communication with authors; for I supposed as the Committee may suppose, that if an increased value, which must be at least thirty per cent. or more, was given to the work of an author, that the author could not possibly object to the value of his work being increased by law, we never consulted any author upon that; the booksellers purchase the work; I do not know that the authors have any more interest in it than a man purchasing an estate subject to tithes; the booksellers have always considered that they represented the authors, and the publishers of the most considerable works, certainly assented to it.

Was any author consulted, whose works being of a nature not to be enriched could gain no value from copyright?—I do not recollect that any author was consulted by Mr. Villiers and myself.

Mercurii, 6^o die Maii, 1818.

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

The Reverend *William Webb*, D.D. Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, called in; and Examined.

*Rev.
William Webb, D.D.*

HAVE you been long resident in the University?—Five or six and twenty years.

You are a Syndic of the University library, by your office?—I am a Syndic, as being a Doctor in Divinity; all Doctors are Syndics of the library.

280.

Y

Do

Rev.
William Webb, D.D.

Do you recollect any order of the Syndics, prohibiting the sale or exchange of such books as are not received into the library?—There are a number of orders, which, if the Committee will allow me, I will read from the very commencement of them. Very soon after the passing of the Act of 1814, when there was an accumulation of books, on the 29th of November 1815, the following order was made at a meeting of the Syndics for the University library: “It was agreed, that there should be a meeting of the Syndicat on the first Monday after the division of each term, at twelve o’clock, in the public library, when lists of all books that had been entered at Stationers Hall since the previous meeting, should be laid before the Syndics, for them to determine what books shall be received into the library, and, at the same time, that the printed monthly list of all publications shall be laid before the Syndicat;” it was not then determined what was to be done with the books which were not thought proper to be admitted into the general body of the library, but the consideration of that question was deferred. On the 26th of February 1816, which was within three months after that time, it was agreed, “that the books which are not received into the library, shall not be sold or exchanged;” this was with the idea, that at some future time we should consider what was proper to be done with those books; then, on the 18th of November 1816, there was another order made, “agreed, that copies of the lists from Stationers Hall, together with the monthly printed lists of new publications, be laid in the library a week previous to every regular meeting of the Syndics: Agreed, that the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Kaye, Dr. Webb, Dr. Geldart and Dr. Haviland, be requested to examine the books sent from Stationers Hall, and report their opinion on the propriety of admitting them into the library.” This, perhaps, will require some little explanation: when the number of books that came from Stationers Hall, was great, and the general body of Syndics of the library could not find time within their meeting, to examine every book minutely, whether it was to be admitted or not admitted, there was a select committee of the Syndicat appointed, consisting of the Regius Professor of Divinity, for the divinity books, myself, as having taken a great interest in the library, Dr. Geldart, the Regius Professor of Civil Law, and Dr. Haviland, the Regius Professor of Medicine, in some measure wishing to comprehend the whole of the parts of the Syndicat, and that the lists should be hung up in the library, that every member of the University by drawing a line against any one of the books which had been rejected, that should be admitted into the library; I will state in a general way the mode in which it is done: the lists of books from Stationers Hall are regularly hung up for a week, the librarians receive what books they consider as proper to be admitted, the Syndicat then separate what they think it would be right to admit, and then the lists are marked by any member of the Senate, who being better acquainted with any book than the individuals, may think it a proper book to be admitted into the general body of the library; then those books which were considered as not proper to be admitted into the general body of the library, were put on one side into a room, where they were all kept together till some method of disposing of them should be adopted. Again, “it was agreed on November 17, 1817, that a case be put into the law schools, similar to that which contains the music, in which the books not thought proper to be admitted into the general body of the library, shall be deposited, and a catalogue kept of them, to which all persons entitled to take books out of the library, may refer, except during the time of public disputations in those schools.” It has long been the custom in the University, to have a case, wherein all the music whatever is deposited, and this case is fixed in the law schools, which is a room immediately under the library, and is a part of the library, but only not so conspicuous a place as in the public shelves of the library. Then there was an order made about one month since, “that the University is willing to return such books as may not, upon examination, be considered worthy of a place in the general body of the library, to any authors or publishers who may choose to claim them within one year, and a list of such books shall be regularly transmitted to Stationers Hall;” that was on the 6th April 1818; that is the history of those books, and the manner in which they are disposed of.

The members of the Senate are allowed to take ten books out at a time?—They are; every member, not only of the Senate, but Bachelors of Law, who are not members of the Senate, and yet they are allowed to take such number of books out of the library.

Is

Is it considered regular to take those books out of Cambridge?—Certainly; where persons are publishing works of importance, on application to the Vice-Chancellor, they are allowed to take them to any distance; they are allowed, by a note from the Vice-Chancellor, to send them to any distance; Mr. Whiter had always books out of the library.

To a greater extent than ten?—In those cases any number of books are allowed, with a note from the Vice-Chancellor.

Do the returns sent from the University, include all the books, without exception, received since 1814, as well those admitted into the body of the library as those not admitted?—There are two returns made by the University, one of books admitted into the library, and those books which are not admitted into the library, and the return of the books not admitted into the library, is printed; the return of those books which are admitted into the library, was not printed by the order of the House.

Have you seen the return of the books returned to the House of Commons, as entered at Stationers Hall, since 1815?—Yes, I have it here.

Has the University received all those books?—Not one half of them; I have marked, in the first page, the number of books occurring in that not sent from Stationers Hall to the University.

From the time you have had to compare the lists, you have been able to go through only one page?—We could not go further; but we conceived that would show the Committee the effect, whether we went through the whole or only one page; we took that page because it contained a book referred to by the Committee, in the examinations yesterday; why there is this difference, I cannot at all account; if I had been aware of this a week ago, I would have known from the warehouse-keeper at Stationers Hall, why the books had not been forwarded to the University.

[On examination of the List delivered in, it appeared, that out of sixty-six contained in the page, forty-four were not delivered.]

Do the works not sent, consist of those of least importance?—Yes; most of the principal works have been sent.

Where the University were subscribers to works published in numbers or parts, which commenced previous to 1814, how have they acted since 1814, with respect to the later numbers?—Where the University were subscribers to works which commenced before 1814, they have gone on regularly with their subscriptions, and have put on one side the books which have been received in consequence of the Act.

Can you state any instances?—Mr. Ackerman applied about eight or twelve months ago, for those numbers which had been sent in consequence of the delivery to Stationers Hall; the University immediately gave orders to the librarian, that they should be returned to him, and that all books whatever, which had been received since 1814, and were incomplete, except magazines and reviews, should be completed at the expense of the University, by buying the previous parts.

Or by a continuance of their subscription?—Yes; Lodge's Illustrious Portraits, is another that the University were subscribers for; they continue to purchase them now, and they have received them from Stationers Hall, but they have put them on one side; and Mr. Lodge, if he applied to the University for them, would have them returned.

What funds have the University for the purchase of books?—The funds for the purchase of books, are very small, amounting to about 380*l.* which is called the Ruslat Fund.

Is there any payment imposed upon the students, towards the purchase of books?—There is not, and we have always resisted any payment whatever; it being the wish of the University, that the expense of education should be as small as possible, and therefore all increase to payments for degrees, or in any cases whatever, have been resisted altogether, or any new payments.

How is the Ruslat fund applied?—Almost solely in the purchase of foreign books; that is, the transactions of all the foreign academies are purchased at the expense of this fund, and likewise classical works, or works published in foreign countries, for which the Universities have no claim; and the whole of the fund is absorbed in those purchases, and is not equal to the purchase even of those books.

Before the Act of 1814, with what fund did you purchase foreign books?—The library would, in a very short time, have been of no value whatever; the
complaints

Rev.
William Webb, D.D.

complaints throughout the University were, that there were no books at all; the librarians, to the amount of 10*l.* have a power of purchasing, and 20*l.* or 30*l.* per annum, was the whole extent of the purchases.

At that time, the Ruslat Fund was confined to old books?—At that time, the Ruslat Fund did not amount to 120*l.* for it is an estate situate in Norfolk, which has been by an inclosure very considerably augmented, so that the Ruslat estate did not then produce more than 120*l.* a year, after the University had paid Saint John's College, Oxford, 50*l.*; the estate now produces 430*l.* with some deductions and repairs, and they pay 50*l.* out of that to Saint John's College, leaving about 380*l.* a year.

What catalogues have you of the books in the library?—We have alphabetical catalogues of each library, and also class catalogues of the particular classes contained in each library.

Are all the books in the library of easy reference, by means of those catalogues?—Nothing can be easier, if you know the author of a work; there is a difficulty in knowing only the subject; we are going to have a catalogue *raisonnée* of the library.

Do authors of works, who are themselves not residing in the University, or members of the Senate, frequently resort to the University library for assistance in the prosecution of their studies?—They frequently come to Cambridge, and any Master of Arts has the power of supplying them with books that they may want, in the furtherance of their studies; and there are, I have no doubt, at the present time, great numbers of books out with authors, for their assistance.

Have Under Graduate members of the University, the use of books belonging to the library, in any cases?—They have the use of books by a note given them by a Master of Arts, or a Bachelor of Laws, in general; an Under Graduate, if he is a studious young man, applies to his tutor for any books he may want, and the tutor gives him a note for those books from the library.

Do you consider it of great importance to the studies of the University, and to literature in general, that there should be a constant deposit of all new publications in the library?—I conceive it to be of incalculable importance; as by that means any author, or any person particularly employed upon any branch of science, knows where to refer to for a book to consult and assist him in the promotion of that science on which he is going to publish, or in which he is particularly engaged.

Has the University, at any time, felt the inconvenience of the interruption of this supply?—Very much indeed; before the year 1814 there were few books at all, as Mr. Professor Christian stated yesterday; there were few books came, and that attracted the attention of the University to this subject.

That was in the interval between the decision of the Court of King's Bench, in *Beckford v. Hood*, and the Act of 1814?—Yes, they began to fall off very much before the decision of that cause by Lord Kenyon.

Have you any account of the greatest number of publications received before the case of *Beckford v. Hood*?—No, I do not think there would be any means of getting that account; for when a book came into the library, it was inserted in the catalogue; and we have no date whatever, and cannot refer to the time; at that time the Stationers Company did not send lists down as they do now of the books which are sent to Stationers Hall.

Were not the books before delivered, those only which had been previously entered at Stationers Hall?—I cannot answer that question at all; for I was not a Syndic of the library at that time, nor do I know any thing upon that subject. I should conceive, that many books were sent by individuals for the purpose of being kept in the library, in order to benefit the sale of their books.

The general construction put upon the statute of Anne, was, that the authors and booksellers were not required to deliver copies but of such books as had been entered at Stationers Hall?—I am not certain, but I rather suppose that was the case; but I think a number of books came that were not entered at Stationers Hall; whether they were purchased or not, I cannot say; but there are a great number of books, which are not marked as being entered at Stationers Hall.

What books do the University print at their press on their own account?—Bibles and prayer books only, and psalms.

What other books do they print?—They print for any members of the University who are inclined to publish works; they assist them in the publication of those works.

What

343

Rev.
William Webb, D.D.

What advantage or assistance does the University give to authors printing at their press?—That varies according to the ideas of the Syndics of the value of the work; if the author is poor, and they consider the value of the work great, they will give him both paper and press work; if they consider that the work is not of so much importance, or the author is not very poor, they will then give perhaps only half paper and press work; sometimes they will give only press work.

In such cases in whom is the copyright vested?—I really do not know; but, I presume, in the author; certainly, the University claim no copyright.

In what cases has the University a drawback on paper?—Only in cases of bibles and prayer books, and classical works.

Does not that extend to the Oriental languages?—We have not, since I have been a Syndic, printed any books in the Oriental languages; but I suppose they are included.

What pecuniary compensation should you suppose equivalent to the privilege the University now enjoys?—I do not conceive that a pecuniary compensation would be at all an equivalent; we want books, we do not want money; we want books for the benefit of the University and literature in general; we want a regular supply.

Would not the power of purchasing books be equally beneficial with the supply of the books themselves?—I conceive not; for it is the regular supply of books which is important; and if there was money came into the University chest, the application of that money would depend upon the librarians; if they were old or indolent, no books would be bought; instead of that now we have a regular supply of books.

Would not the Syndicat have the superintendence of that fund as a special fund for the purchase of books?—The Committee must be aware, that where any body of men are not particularly called upon to examine the catalogues, and to examine books, they do not know every book that is published, and they cannot positively, by even every attention to it, purchase those books which would be delivered in the regular course.

You were understood to mention, that there is a regular monthly or quarterly catalogue of all books published?—What is called the Monthly Advertiser, or some such name; but that list does not comprehend, I believe, any thing like all the books which are published; because there are many cases where we have had that list to refer to, to compare with the list from Stationers Hall, and we found not half the books in that literary advertiser which are actually returned to us, and it appears that our return is not any thing like the number of books which are entered at Stationers Hall; therefore I conceive that to be a very imperfect list, and that it depends solely upon the publishers whether they will insert them in that list or not.

Are the books, omitted to be entered in that list, books of value, or merely the publications of the day?—I consider them to be of all kinds; I know there have been great complaints in the University, that a number of valuable books had not been sent to us.

Is it the practice of the University, now, to claim new editions of books already in the University library?—If the book is entered at Stationers Hall, the general order would most probably operate upon those new editions; but if they are not entered, the University would never think of demanding a book of that kind.

Are those books placed in the library, when they have been delivered; new editions of works, of which the University is already possessed?—I do not know any cases of that kind; on reference, perhaps, to the returns made, it would be discovered; I do not know of any new editions that have been published.

There is one common book, Heiderick's Lexicon?—We had not a Heiderick's Lexicon in the University library; it was a book which it appeared an extraordinary thing that the University should not be possessed of; but they had neither Heiderick's nor Schrevelius's; I have no doubt it will appear, that there are a great number of books, which may be called new editions, of which they had not the originals, from the want of funds; Dr. Paley's works were not in the library till within the last year, though a member of the University; from the smallness of the funds of the University; they could not purchase even works of that kind.

When you stated, in your further statement of the Syndics, that the right to

280.

Z

print

Rec.
William Webb, D.D.

print and publish every book was never impaired till the Act of Queen Anne, were you aware of the 9th section of that Act, which provides, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, either to prejudice or confirm any right that the said Universities, or any of them, or any person or persons have or claim to have to the printing or reprinting any book or copy already or hereafter to be printed?—Certainly, I was aware of that; and I construed it in the same way as Professor Christian, in his publication, that that referred not the University's general right of printing, *omnes et omnimodas libros*, but to the right of printing books, such as bibles and prayer-books, and those which they had the sole right of printing, and not the general body of printed books, and that is Professor Christian's explanation of those words in his publication; I believe we were mistaken upon that point.

You have said, that after the determination of the case of Beckford *v.* Hood, you got no books, because none were entered at Stationers Hall?—No; that the numbers were very much diminished; I do not intend to say that we got none.

If it had not been for compulsory deliveries of copies, you say the University would not have notice of the books published from time to time?—No, certainly not; we even now very much complain, that a great number of valuable books escape us, in consequence of not being demanded within a year after publication.

Do you conceive it of importance to have immediate notice of every book published, or does not the reputation of every learned book run down immediately to the University, so as to be purchased in good time?—The principal object is, that we should be acquainted with books; we are not acquainted with all good books; and it is that which makes this right so very advantageous, that we should be acquainted with every book, and every good book which is published.

If all the books published were entered at Stationers Hall, would not the defect which you wish to cure, be obviated, by notice being obtained?—Certainly not; for how should we, by the title of the books, know their contents.

Would you not, as to the greater part of the books omitted to be placed in the library, see from their title that they were books utterly unfit to be placed in a public library?—No, I think not; a great number have been rejected, and have been brought back into the library; the Antiquary was rejected; we were not aware at the time what the book was; it has been brought into the library again; there are a number of books under those circumstances.

Do you apprehend, the Antiquary is a book which is necessary to be in a public library?—I conceive, that as it gives an account of the manners of the times, it is one of those that, to persons a century hence, may be of great value; and that the novelists of the day, a century ago, are perhaps the best to refer to for the manners of that day.

Do not you think, upon the whole, the safest criterion of selection is the public judgment which is pronounced upon books?—No, I think not; for I know a great many books that have come into repute, when, at the first publication of them, they were not books of much repute.

Do you think, many works of merit escape observation?—Yes; I know many authors will state, that there were works which remained unsold for some years; I know one instance, of Dr. Hay's Lectures, which were printed at Cambridge, and were not sold for some years at all; now it cannot be procured; I have no doubt there are a great many authors who find public opinion, on their first appearance, to be a very insufficient criterion.

Upon what ground is it apprehended, that Syntax's Life of Napoleon is placed in the University library?—Syntax's Life of Napoleon is, we presume, written by the man who called himself Dr. Syntax; and Dr. Syntax's Journey being a work of merit, that might render it proper to place this in the library.

Do you consider that, upon a general principle, you would reject novels from the University library?—Perhaps, as a general principle, it might be taken that they should be rejected; but there ought to be a great number of exceptions; as a general principle, perhaps, it would be right to reject them, but there are individual instances where a novel ought to be admitted.

You think, that a work, bespeaking itself upon the face of it to be a novel, is not a reason for rejecting its being sent down; but you wish to see the book itself, that you may judge, whether it is or not proper to be put into the library?

library?—Certainly, we should not reject all novels, for a great number of novels are such as ought to be put into the library.

Are you aware, that at the end of several periodical monthly publications, there is a regular list of the publications immediately preceding, digested under heads?—I am not at all; we have no such lists. In the Edinburgh Review and Quarterly Review, there are lists of a great number of books, which come down to us, but perhaps that Quarterly and that Edinburgh Review do not come to us for six months after the time of publication. I can only state, that there are a great number of books which have escaped us, and I believe a great number escape the Trustees of the British Museum.

Out of what funds are the books you have rejected put into boards?—That is done out of the library fund.

It appears that must come to a good deal of expense, the number being so considerable?—The number of books, apparently, in our rejected list, is, when you come to examine that list very minutely, small, for a great many consist of music, and single sheets, Broomhead's corn tables, for instance, which are trifling, and the greater part of books come not in sheets, but particularly those small works come in boards. I should think the number of volumes in sheets every quarter was very small indeed.

Do the folios and quartos, or large octavos, come in boards?—Generally, almost always. I do not know any instances of a quarto book coming but in boards.

Do you not think that the gratuitous demand of eleven copies, of such works as Walton's Polyglott, Ugolino's Thesaurus Antiquitatum Sacrarum, in 34 volumes folio, the collections of Groœvius and Gronovius, in 40 volumes folio; the Byzantine historians, in 40 volumes folio; likewise, would be a burthen almost insupportable to the undertakers and publishers of such works?—I must say, I do not think, in the present day, such books would be printed; and another thing is, I am sure, the University of Cambridge, if it was for the encouragement of literature, would rather subscribe to that book than demand it. They contributed, in the University library, to Walton's Polyglott. The expense attending the publication of that to the University of Cambridge, was very considerable.

Have they in any instance subscribed to any work since the case of Beckford v. Hood?—A great number.

Is not this gratuitous demand of the eleven copies likely to act preventively, as to the publication of new editions of large historical collections?—No, I do not think it would in the least.

Can you specify any of the instances of books to which they have subscribed since that time?—Lodge's Illustrious Portraits they are subscribers to, and Ackerman's Cambrigia. They took in Rees's Cyclopædia before 1814. I was not so much acquainted with the library as since that; I was not a Syndic of the library before that.

Can you mention any new publications, since 1814, to which they have subscribed?—No, I do not conceive we should, as we have the demand for them; there are a great number of College libraries which have subscribed. I do not conceive the University has subscribed to any since 1814, but since the case of Beckford v. Hood they have to many, that is, more in the department of the librarians than the Syndics. The librarians have the power of subscribing to works.

Do you think, that if there was a work publishing by subscription, which the University deemed of importance to the encouragement of literature, that they would be deterred from subscribing, solely by the right they possessed of receiving a copy?—I do not think they would, if it was for the encouragement of literature. I think they are subscribers to Stephens's Greek Thesaurus.

Did you state, that you have two copies of Lodge's Illustrious Portraits; one which you purchased, and the other which you received gratuitously, but have no objection to return?—Certainly, part of it; we were subscribers before the Act. The parts we have received gratuitously we should have no objection to return. Mr. Ackerman applied by letter, to know whether, as the University were subscribers, they had any objection to return the numbers they received gratuitously, and immediately the librarian was desired to return them, as they were not of any use to the University, and it might render imperfect one of his sets.