

Thomas Platt,  
Esq.

and which he afterwards gives to the University of Oxford: and these two works being completed and published, he directs the rents to be applied in the establishment of a Professorship of Rural Œconomy; 200*l.* of the rents to be paid annually to the Professor for his salary, and the remainder to purchase books for the Professor's library.

Have any steps been taken towards the publication of those works?—Dr. Sibthorp died in the spring of the year of the year 1796, twenty-two years ago, and with the assistance of the rents we have been enabled to complete the *Prodromus Floræ Græciæ*, and two volumes of the *Flora Græca*. We very lately published the second part of the second volume of the *Flora Græca*. The two volumes consist of 200 plates, executed in a way which perhaps is not to be rivalled.

Is there any prospect of the continuation of that work?—Yes, certainly; it is going on as fast as the funds will permit.

In what manner does the provision in the Copyright Act, for the delivery of eleven copies, operate upon this work?—I never yet have been called upon myself for any copy. I understand that the British Museum lately intimated a claim to Messrs. Payne and Foss, who deliver the work merely as agents, who referred to me; but no application has since been made to me. The work does not go into the hands of a bookseller in the common way. I pay for every thing as it is done, and send the work to the bookseller, who has only a commission for the delivery, otherwise the subscribers would be loaded with an additional and unnecessary expense. The fact is, that I cannot deliver any copy, except to purchasers. If this work was to come under the provisions of the Copyright Act, it could not go on, at the rate at which I have hitherto paid for each copy; as far as it has gone, including the copper-plates, and taking the number prepared at fifty copies, the whole work, when complete in ten volumes, will actually cost above 800*l.* each copy, exclusive of the editing; including the editing it would cost 350*l.* each copy. The rents of the estate, which I have hitherto received from the University, have very little exceeded 200*l.* a year, which are dedicated to defray part of the expenses of publication. The number of copies prepared have been fifty, all of which are not yet sold.

How many are sold?—About forty; we have 250 of the letter-press descriptions of the plates; but only fifty copies of the plates have been prepared and coloured; the letter-press is a mere adjunct, about one page to a plate.

How many copies of the plates have been struck off?—No more, to my knowledge, than have been coloured.

You work off the plates, and colour them as you want them?—The plate is no more than an outline; they are coloured in a peculiar way.

You colour them as there is a demand for them?—We coloured fifty copies, presuming we should sell so many, from the number of subscribers we had, and we have sold about forty. We have coloured some additional plates since, in order to make some parts on hand complete; certain of the subscribers having died, or retired from the country, or refused to continue their subscriptions. It is so expensive, that it can of course fall into the hands of very few. As the estate has hitherto produced not more than 200*l.* a year, the expense of eleven copies of the work would amount to sixteen years rent of the estate, and of course the giving eleven copies would be an insurmountable difficulty. I could not, as executor, pursue it: I should throw it upon the hands of the University. We deliver each volume at twenty-four guineas, it being thought to have been the intention of Dr. Sibthorp that the rents should be applied in easement of the work. At that price, our subscription is very limited.

This is the case of a work which is delivered at a less price than the actual cost?—Yes, if it was delivered at the actual cost. It is natural to suppose that the number of our subscribers would be much less, the price would be so enormous. We conceive, that in fixing the price we fulfil the intention of my late friend, Dr. Sibthorp.

Do you know what each impression costs in colouring?—I think the title pages do not cost much less than a guinea a piece, and the other plates nearly 4*s.* each.

How many plates are there in a volume?—One hundred in a volume; we deliver it in half volumes; we deliver 50 plates at 12 guineas.

This undertaking never looked to pecuniary profit?—No, a great loss.

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That was the intention of the founder?—The very intention of leaving the estate was to provide against that loss.

It was to be considered as a benefaction to the public and to science?—I conceive it was the intention of Dr. Sibthorp, by leaving the estate to assist in the publication, that that estate should pay part of the expense; and as the mere copper and engraving of the plates will cost 5,000*l.* I first of all, in my own mind, apply the rents of the estate to that expense, and the editing the work.

There being 100 plates in a volume, the colouring of them would come to 17*l.* 10*s.* per volume?—More; I pay upwards of 14*l.* for the engraving, and for 50 coloured impressions of each plate, independently of very expensive letter-press, half binders, and other incidental charges.

Did you ever know an instance similar to this in the whole course of your experience?—Never.

It is of a very peculiar kind?—Yes, certainly. It is material to observe, that there is an ultimate and certainly beneficial object intended; by giving the estate to the University, is the establishing of a professorship of a new denomination, and perhaps highly useful; and that the work must be completed before the rents can be applied to that end, of course the giving eleven copies would tend to delay the establishment of that professorship 16 years; it might be said you may raise the price of the work, but if it was raised, the sale would be lessened; the price was fixed on due deliberation.

According to your experience in the publication of this work of Dr. Sibthorp, do you not conceive, that the gratuitous delivery of eleven copies would render any work of that magnitude entirely impossible to be published by any individual, with expectation of covering his expenses?—Yes, I do verily believe it; a work of half that value I should consider it impossible to publish. The right of exacting eleven copies, appears to me an extinguisher upon splendid and expensive works.

The same rule applies, in a less degree, to other works of the same nature, but less expensive?—Beyond all doubt it does; it is apparent that there are several of the bodies to whom we might justly look for subscriptions for this work; few private individuals can be expected to purchase it; but it must find its way to great and public libraries.

The Reverend *Lancelot Sharpe*, called in; and Examined.

YOU are one of the Court of Governors of Sion College?—Yes.

Of whom does that court consist?—The court consists of the president, two deans, and four assistants.

Of whom does the corporation consist?—Of the rectors, vicars, curates and lecturers of the city of London.

When was the college library opened for use?—In the year 1631.

Have any other persons, beside the corporation, access to this library?—Every person of character; I conceive that it is a public library, in the most extensive sense of the word.

On what days is it opened for use?—Every day in the week, with the exception of Sundays, of course, and Good Friday and Christmas Day, and for about one month in the year, when it is closed for the purpose of examining the library and arranging the books, and similar purposes.

What do you do with the books you receive from the Stationers Company?—They are all preserved in the library, or in an adjacent room; I suppose three-fourths of them are put upon the shelves, and the others are easy of access, by means of an alphabetical index, and an application to the librarian.

Do you receive regularly the books which are entered at Stationers Hall?—I have never heard any complaint to the contrary; I conceive we receive them all.

Do any authors of eminence avail themselves of the use of the library?—Many; if the Committee wish me to mention a few, the late Dean of Westminster, Dr. Vincent; Dr. Goddard, the late Master of Winchester; Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Malcolm, and indeed I could mention so many, that it would be a waste of time.

Are all the copies of books delivered to you from the Stationers Company complete, or are some delivered defective?—Some are certainly delivered defective.



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To what cause do you attribute that?—I trust it is merely from oversight; I can hardly ascertain the cause.

Have you any, and what fund, belonging to the library, for the purchase of books?—We have two sums, one of 20 s. and the other of 6 l.; and those are the only funds applicable to the purchase of books, with the exception of the guinea that each incumbent pays on his admission into his living, and the fines that arise from gentlemen declining to serve the college offices; those are not strictly applicable, perhaps, to the purchase of books; the 20 s. and the 6 l. are what we consider funds for that purpose.

Are you of opinion, that the delivery of eleven copies, to the library, tends to the promotion of literature?—I conceive it highly tends to the promotion of literature; it is a kind of constant advertisement, if I may so say, of what is going forward in the literary world; I think that, in the present day, when the inclination or the passion for literature is such, that every one who has opulence to purchase a library, thinks it a necessary part of his establishment; the clergy are frequently applied to by persons who have not had a literary education, to assist them in the recommendation of books; I certainly myself have frequently recommended books, which I should not have had an opportunity of seeing, except at Sion College, or some other public library.

Do you think books of science, being on the shelves of Sion College library, has a tendency favourable to the promotion of literature?—Certainly, it has; the greater part of the clergy are not able to purchase those books for themselves, and at the same time are very anxious to have reference to them.

You mentioned, that it is open to every person of character?—Yes.

In what way is access procured?—By the recommendation of any member of the court, or indeed of any Fellow.

It is necessary to have the recommendation of some member?—Certainly; that I conceive necessary to every public library.

Has the librarian a discretion to admit any person who applies?—Certainly.

Where is this library situate?—In London Wall.

What distance do you apprehend that to be from the British Museum?—I should think, between two and three miles.

Might not the clergy of London make use of the British Museum for any purpose?—I will state my own case: I may wish to refer to a book; I am engaged the greater part of the day in a public school; Sion College is about ten minutes walk from me, the British Museum nearly an hour; and that must be the case with many others of the London clergy.

What is the number of the London clergy?—I really cannot at present say; I should think about 150.

In what manner do you dispose of those books which you have not put upon the shelves?—There are very few books which are otherwise disposed of than put upon the shelves; I believe all otherwise disposed of are put into a room opening from the library; and the librarian has an alphabetical index, and can immediately refer to any one book which may be wanted.

Did the College receive a copy of Mr. Todd's edition of Johnson's Dictionary, as a present from the author?—Yes.

Did it afterwards claim another copy under the Copyright Act?—Yes, it certainly did.

Was any application made by Mr. Todd to the College, to relinquish that claim?—I really am not aware that there was; but I conceive, that had an application been made by Mr. Todd, the claim would have been relinquished; but I should doubt whether, had the application been made from any other quarter, it would.

State upon what ground you conceive it necessary, that there should be two copies of the same edition of the same book in the library?—On this ground; being a book of reference, had we had only one copy, it would not have been permitted to go out, we were therefore very glad to have another copy of so valuable a work, that might occasionally be lent, if required.

Have the College, in any instances, receded from the demand for copies of works they were entitled to?—Yes, they have in the instance of Schweighæuser's Herodotus; it was entered by the London publishers, by mistake, certainly, at Stationers Hall; they fancied that by so doing, it secured to them their copyright; and when they found their mistake, they applied to us and requested that we would not enforce our claim, and we did not; and in another instance,

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of Holmes's Septuagint, where we subscribed, we did not claim the copy granted to us under the Act.

When had you subscribed to Holmes's Septuagint?—I really cannot say, but I should suppose in the year 1796, or about that time.

You would have been obliged at any rate, to pay your subscription for that copy for which you had subscribed?—No, the subscription was paid immediately; it was 12 guineas; the subscription for the Septuagint, was immediately paid.

You state, that the members of the College, are clergymen; do you put novels into the library, or into a separate room?—Of course, some are put into the library; I conceive it is not at all derogatory to a clergyman, after having laboured through the day, in an hour of relaxation to read a good novel.

Is your library much used?—It is, comparatively, well frequented; it cannot be expected that our library should be frequented in the same proportion as the Museum, but it is very well.

Have you any idea of the daily number of persons frequenting it?—It is impossible for me even to guess.

Ten or twelve in a day?—I should think, fully that; but I am so much engaged at Merchant Taylors School, that I am not a fit person, perhaps, to ascertain the average number; but there is another reason why our library may not be so much frequented, for our books are lent out; any person wishing to have a book out, by application to a Fellow, can have it.

Perhaps you may be able to state, what is the average number of persons at any given time, having books out of the library?—It is impossible for me to state that; I cannot form the slightest conjecture; I only know that every Fellow of the College may have as many books out as he pleases, with the exception of books of reference, which of course must be kept there.

Do you consider the reception of all works, good, bad and indifferent, necessary for your library?—Certainly I do, for it is impossible to say what book may be called bad or indifferent; a book, which at one time has appeared trash, has appeared afterwards to be of value; I will give an instance of a book, that of course in its day was considered but trifling; Green's Groat's Worth of Wit; the author, himself, by the title, seemed to ascertain its value; that book now is worth from four to six guineas.

Have you that in your library?—I really do not know; if we have not, I wish we had.

You have mentioned the names of different authors of eminence, who have made researches at Sion College, can you state whether those authors were making their researches in any book received under this privilege?—It is impossible for me to answer that question; when I recollect the names of the gentlemen who have been there, it is very probable that they may.

Have you a printed catalogue of your books?—Yes, we have.

How did you do for a supply of the books precedent to the Act of 1814?—We had some from the Stationers Company, but very few; and our small fund bought, as the Committee may suppose, but few.

Your library has received considerable improvements since 1814?—Considerable.

What size is your library?—It is sufficiently large to hold 20,000 volumes; at the present moment there are nearly that, and it would hold considerably more than that.

What proportion more, do you apprehend?—By putting shelves upon those which are now erected, I should suppose, double.

You say that books may be taken out of your library; do not you think that that has the same effect as a circulating library would have, in hurting the sale of books?—No, surely not; I cannot conceive it will hurt the sale.

The Rev. *Henry Hervey Baber*, called in; and Examined.

HAS the British Museum been regularly supplied from Stationers Hall, with a copy of every book published since the Act of 1814?—By no means.

Have you had occasion to make frequent calls on the publishers of books to enforce their compliance with that Act?—Yes, we have.

Have you brought any actions against any publishers, for their failure to comply with the regulations of that Act?—Rivingtons were served with a writ;

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terms were made with them, they paid the expenses and delivered the books that were demanded, and all arrears, as far as we knew of them, and became, in some degree, more regular for the future; there are two more writs now issued, one to Mr. Murray, of Albemarle-street, the other to Mr. Baynes, of Paternoster-row.

How long since have those two last writs been issued?—In February.

Do you recollect what particular works occasioned those writs?—The writ issued to Murray, was for Ellis's "China;" the writ issued to Baynes, was for new edition of Lewis's "English Translation of the Scriptures."

Was there any other work which Mr. Murray had failed to deliver, in consequence of which a writ was issued?—That writ was issued for that express work; there were other works that were not entered at that time.

Was any notice given to Mr. Murray, previous to issuing this writ?—Not in this instance.

Why was not some previous notice given to him?—Soon after the Act passed, a general notice was circulated through the trade, which Mr. Murray received very ungraciously, and used very intemperate language towards me; I thought it not necessary therefore, to give him any further notice upon a fresh occasion; the Act did not require it, and, by his former incivility, he had forfeited it.

Do you recollect any thing respecting Mr. Davison's "Poor Laws," and Sir Thomas Bernard's "Treatises on Salt?"—Yes, there are two such books entered by Murray, but not delivered, although they have been demanded; all the other books, entered at the same time, have been delivered, except seven works Mr. Murray has entered.

Within what time, after the publication of books, are they usually delivered to the British Museum?—Every book ought to be entered within a month after publication, and delivered within a month after demand; the Act intended that a copy should be delivered at the time of entry, for the use of the British Museum; unhappily no penalty was attached to the non-delivery, and we now stand upon the same footing with the other public libraries.

Is it, therefore, left in a great degree optional to the publisher how long after the first publication, they may deliver?—They are bound to deliver within a month, or are subject to prosecution.

Do you know what number of persons usually come to read in the reading-room?—They fluctuate from 10 to 30 per day; sometimes the room is overcrowded, and we want an additional room for them; in short, we are, under our present circumstances, unable to accommodate conveniently the numbers that occasionally come to the reading-room. The whole number admitted to the Museum, by the regulations of the trustees, may amount to 200; and a still further number of persons are allowed access, who want only a temporary accommodation for an hour a day a week; a person will, who may come to town for a short time, request to be permitted to consult the library, and if we are satisfied of his being a proper person to be admitted, no officer of the Museum will refuse to take that responsibility upon himself.

Is great facility given to all persons who are desirous of being benefitted by the collection in the British Museum?—I must say, not so great as I could wish.

In what respects is that indulgence not so great as you could wish?—Formerly the admissions were given on any person bringing a proper recommendatory letter with him, the principal librarian being satisfied that the letter was authentic; in consequence of the misconduct of one man, who was extremely troublesome in the place, it was deemed expedient to make an alteration; and ever since the regulation is, that no person shall be admitted unless known to a trustee or a librarian, but this rule is not very rigidly acted up to; the librarians feel themselves in a painful situation to be obliged to refuse persons, and they therefore take the responsibility of recommending for admission upon themselves; and I believe in no instance has it yet been abused.

Do the persons who come to read, state to what particular class of literature it is that they wish to direct their attention?—Not unless they want any particular information, and then they apply to one of the librarians; a considerable portion of our time is occupied in referring them to works where they are likely to find what they want; that is not generally the case, but there are many instances in which it is so.

Are there many persons who come to the British Museum, as to a circulating library,



library, for the purpose of looking at the new publications?—Few persons come to the Museum merely to amuse themselves with the modern publications; the larger portion of readers are engaged in accumulating materials for literary works, which make their appearance in due time.

Do not the tickets that admit to the reading-room, expire every six months?—They do; but upon a person requesting leave of re-admission, I never knew but one instance in which it was refused, and that was a person who misbehaved himself.

Where persons are very well known, does not that create a good deal of trouble?—They have nothing to do but to write a line on a scrap of paper, stating that they request their ticket to be renewed, and it is always granted; a privilege of that kind cannot be enjoyed with less trouble, I think.

Do you receive from Mr. Murray the Quarterly Review, before the time desired by the Act?—We receive the Quarterly, and all the other Reviews, before the time desired by the Act, and it is in consequence of an agreement made by ourselves with the publishers; they were asked to consent to it for the accommodation of both parties; we could not demand it; they did it, as we requested it for mutual accommodation; we send a man round at the beginning of every month, one day east and the other west, to collect the periodical publications; and the publishers, though not bound by the Act to deliver them before the expiration of a month after publication, seldom refuse to comply with our wishes.

Have not the house of Messrs. Longman delivered their books regularly when demanded?—Yes, when demanded, always.

Perhaps, in some of the things mentioned, where there has been no delivery, there has been some doubt about the liability?—There has been a doubt; the books that were questioned were two collections of tracts, one entitled “Archaica,” the other “Heliconia;” after due consideration on the part of the publishers, they judged it expedient to deliver them to the British Museum in due time.

You mentioned, that a writ was delivered for Lewis’s English translation of the Scriptures, is that an improved edition?—It professes to be so, but is, I apprehend, an imposition; it is a reprint of Lewis’s work, with a list of the English editions of the Bible, printed from that prefixed to Wilson’s Bible.

Are not editions of most of the tracts, reprinted in the Archaica, already in your library?—I never examined them very accurately, but I should think there are not a great many of them there.

You have lamented, that the reading-room of the British Museum is not quite so accessible as it ought to be?—It is not; nor are the accommodations so convenient as required.

Would it not be a great accommodation to those who frequent the Museum library, and also a great case to the librarians, were the reading-room, as far as it would allow, furnished with a large number of the books of reference which each person might have access to, without the trouble of applying to the librarians to furnish them?—It possibly might; we have attended to it, as far as we could, by putting in a number of dictionaries.

Would it not be desirable that the whole room should be fitted up so?—There are many obligations to be urged against a room of public access being so fitted up; for the benefit of the reader, there is a case filled with all the most useful dictionaries.

Those do not amount to above 50 or 60 volumes that every person can get access to?—No, they do not.

Would there be any additional expense necessary for establishing a second reading-room, and, probably, an additional assistant to attend there?—There must be the expense of an additional attendant; that would be all, I apprehend.

You are now employed in a great work; publishing a fac simile of the Alexandrian manuscript?—I am.

Do you not consider, that the gratuitous delivery of 11 copies of a work similar to that, is a great hardship upon an author?—It is no hardship upon that work.

Upon works of similar labour?—Yes, I do, because they are published in a limited number, and the purchasers are few.

Do you not think, that that regulation is likely to prevent the undertaking of such works?—I know of but one work of which it was said it would prevent



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the undertaking, and the author of the work conceded to the amount of 60% to induce the publisher to print it, paying the price of what the publisher said would be the amount of the copies to be delivered to the public libraries; but the book has not been entered, nor a copy delivered to any library.

Is the book published?—Sixteen numbers of the book are published.

There are many gentlemen of your body, who have been employed in the publication of the public records?—There are two gentlemen, Mr. Planta and Mr. Ellis.

Do you not think, that the delivery of the 11 copies would have been a serious discouragement to the undertaking of any such works by private individuals?—I do not think that, putting the Act out of the question, any individual could have engaged in such a work; the expense would have been so enormous, that no one could ever have expected to have been repaid. Had twenty times the selling price been charged upon the books published by that useful commission, the necessary expenses of the publications would have been barely cleared.

If any one were to undertake the publication of the body of English historians, in the same form as it has been executed in most of the nations of Europe, would not the gratuitous delivery of eleven copies be a most serious hardship to such individuals?—It certainly would; I do not think any individual could undertake such a work.

Whether the 11 copies were demanded or not?—Yes.

Do you not think, if it was the necessary condition of his undertaking the work, he would be deterred from the enterprize?—He possibly might; but I think the plea, that the delivery of 11 copies would prevent the sale, is more frequently urged than there is any reason for it.

In some cases you think it would?—Yes; but booksellers seldom calculate so closely as to refuse to engage in the publication of a work, merely from the consideration of the legal delivery of 11 copies to public libraries.

You have stated, that there are some few instances in which the delivery of the 11 copies does bear hard upon the publication, do you conceive those bear any considerable proportion to the publications coming from the British press?—A very trifling proportion; though the splendid publications are numerous, yet their number is not to be compared with the quantity of books daily issuing from the press, in the course of a twelvemonth.

Do you conceive a bookseller might not easily reimburse himself for the amount of this tax, by a small addition to the sale price?—I do not know whether I can answer that question; he does put on an addition, I suppose, and takes that into his calculation in estimating the price.

The tax falls on the purchaser, and not upon the author, or the bookseller?—It certainly falls upon the purchaser.

Being conversant with the literary world in general, have publications of works of value increased or decreased since the Act of 1814?—Within the present year, they have not increased, but within the last three or four years a vast number of very valuable works have been published; the *Monasticon*, Cadell's *Arabian Antiquities*, and many others of a similar description.

Have you compared the number of expensive works published within the last two or three years, with any former period?—Within the last three or four years they have increased, as compared with any former period of equal extent.

The *Monasticon* had commenced before the passing of the Act of 1814?—A portion of it had been published; two parts.

When did the *Arabian Antiquities* begin to appear?—They were never entered at Stationers Hall, but delivered to the Museum, on application, two years ago; there is another expensive work Cadell & Davies have published, which they have never entered, nor can we get it; we must purchase it now at 18 guineas; the *Apocrypha* to Maclin's Bible.

Were they liable for that?—Yes, they were.

You would have been purchasers of the *Monasticon*, had you not been entitled to the supply of it gratuitously?—We were, and continue to be subscribers for a copy on small paper.

You did purchase the parts preceding?—We purchased two parts upon large paper; there was a question between the Museum and Messrs. Lackington, whether we could claim the two preceding numbers; as I had a doubt about it before,



before, the Attorney and Solicitor General's opinion was taken. I therefore thought it right, previous to taking the opinion, to secure the two parts that were already out; by a rare opportunity occurring I did so; but upon a due consideration, Mr. Lackington very handsomely presented us with the whole work upon large paper, without its coming to a contest.

In your opinion, is the advantage given to authors, and purchasers of copyright, by the extension of the period from fourteen years contingent upon the life of the author, to twenty-eight years certain, a greater benefit than the obligation to deliver 11 copies, is a disadvantage?—To books that are likely to be popular, it is a very considerable advantage, but not to all books.

Not to expensive works?—Not to expensive works.

The expense of those works protects them?—They do.

Do you conceive, that with respect to expensive works, the power of the author to reprint to a later period is not of advantage?—I do not know any instance of a very expensive work being reprinted.

Did you ever hear of the copyright of any very expensive work being invaded?—No.

Are expensive works never popular?—They are seldom popular, in the common acceptation of the word, which means that the book has almost as many purchasers as admirers; but from their peculiar attractions, they may be popular, by bringing a great number of persons to look at them in public depositories, or in the libraries of the rich.

The author would chuse to retain with him a power of reprinting, if the work should be popular?—That would depend upon the nature of the publication; if he thought a second edition would be called for, he would wish to protect it.

Is Doctor Johnson's Dictionary a popular work?—Yes.

*Edward Christian, Esq.* again called in; and Examined.

DO you conceive, that the loss arising from the delivery of the eleven copies falls on authors or booksellers?—My answer would be, that in general it falls on neither one nor the other; if they all sell that is made up in the price, and the public pays it; and I imagine I may go on to say, whether it ever discourages the publication of any book. I have had great knowledge of the publication of law books, and I was astonished to hear that two gentlemen with whom I deal for law books, said they were discouraged in publishing law books; I think they deceive themselves, and that no law book was ever prevented from being published, from the consideration of eleven copies; I refer to the evidence of Mr. Clark and Mr. Brooke. What I am now going to state, I state in the hearing of many, who are perfectly well acquainted with law books; for many years I have been a publisher myself of law books, and I never took the 11 copies into consideration. I have been frequently consulted by young men, whether they should be the editors of law books, and never in one instance did we take into consideration the expense of the eleven copies. The first consideration in the publication of a law book, is, whether it is a book of that utility or interest, that it will sell to such a degree, as that the editor, the author, and the bookseller, shall get the expense back; that is the first consideration. If there is any thing beyond that it will give a profit; but there are many books in the law, say the year books, if they were to be published in their original, it would be a long time probably before the expense would be brought back again; but if any gentleman was to translate them, write good notes, and show how the law, from the time of Henry VIII, or Edward VI, was brought down to the present day, it might make a good book, and it might sell; but neither I nor any gentleman he would consult upon the subject, would ever consider the disadvantage of the eleven copies. I will now state the fact, how I published myself: here is a work I lately published at my own expense; my printer's bill was 109*l.* for 750 copies; this is a book upon the Game Laws lately published, and this will bear a proportion to all other books.

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What is the price of the book?—Ten shillings; we never thought of the 11 copies that were to be delivered, and did not strike off 11 additional copies; then what will be the cost of the 11 copies, when they are delivered; this is the way I calculate it; if 750 copies cost 109*l.* what will 11 copies cost; that is the way in which I consider the expense.

Did you reckon any copyright money in that estimate?—It is my own. If

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*Edward Christian,  
Esq.*

instead of 10s. it had been charged at 10s. 6d. the sale would have been pretty much the same; I got 739 copies, for 109*l.*; the 11 copies, when calculated, will be 1*l.* 12s.; this book runs just through the printer's alphabet, 336 pages, and therefore the expense to me, for giving away 11 copies, is exactly 1*l.* 12s.; whether the book is large, or whether it is small, there will be exactly the same proportion; if I had another volume, with another 336 pages, it would have cost me another 109*l.*, and the expense of another delivery, would have been another 1*l.* 12s.; therefore, this may be taken to be the proportion, whatever is the size of the book. I have now in my hand, two volumes, also published by me, but which I publish in partnership. I wish to prove, that neither authors nor booksellers were ever deterred from the publication of a work, by the liability to the delivery of the 11 copies; as to this book, we all know the price of books is a little arbitrary. Law books are now dear; but suppose I put sixpence upon this book, I am sure it would have sold just as well, and have gone through many editions, without any notes or additions; then for my 1*l.* 12s. I should have got 739 sixpences. I published these two large volumes lately, in partnership with a very honourable bookseller, now present. There are three ways of publishing books; sometimes the author publishes entirely on his own account, sometimes in partnership, and sometimes he disposes of his copyright to the bookseller. I am as well acquainted with making books and publishing them, as any man whatever. I am satisfied the trade deceive themselves and the public, when they say they are ever deterred by the delivery of 11 copies.

You do not think, that the addition of sixpence, would deter from the purchase of the book?—No; here is a book four times as large as the others, therefore this would be just four times 1*l.* 12s.

What book is that?—The Origin, Progress, and present Practice of the Bankrupt Laws; this sells for 1*l.* 18s.; and to show the Committee how arbitrary the prices of books are, the first edition we sold for 1*l.* 14s.; and as I made great additions, being from London, and not being able to consult with Mr. Clarke, my publisher, and I publishing at Cambridge a little book upon this very subject, I thought I would add an advertisement of this very book; I thought what would be the price Mr. Clarke would charge, for I leave that to the gentlemen in the trade, with whom I am in partnership; I thought it might be 2*l.* 2s. and I put that price; Mr. Clarke said, "I have been rather more economical, and have charged the public but 1*l.* 18s.;" if it had been sold at my price, there would have been 150*l.* more profit upon it, and I think, without being exorbitant, charging for my labour, I might have put that.

The bookseller puts the highest price that he thinks it can sell at?—Mostly; but as there are several works upon the bankrupt laws, probably Mr. Clarke thought it best to print Mr. Christian's work cheap, that it might not be said he sold a dearer work than Mr. Cooke, or Mr. any body else.

Did the University receive a great many books before the case of Beckford v. Hood, in 1798?—They certainly did, and I thought they received all books; that is clearly our right, as it has been ascertained by the judgment of a court of law; we all thought so, and it was the prevailing opinion of every barrister, that we had a right to every book which was published; it has been ascertained since, and it was the prevailing opinion, that no one had a copyright till he entered his book; therefore every author, sooner than lose the chance of his copyright, which has been since enlarged fortunately by the contest, and by the suggestion of myself, and which is made much more valuable, they entered their books because they thought they had no remedy against any person who pirated their copyright; it did so happen, that one pirated another's copyright, and the author, whose right was pirated, had not entered his book, and therefore of course, he must have consulted counsel, and upon the examination of the subject, that counsel must have said, you have a remedy though you have not entered your book; and it was tried before Lord Kenyon, in the Court of King's Bench; and Lord Kenyon, and the Court of King's Bench, in the case of Beckford v. Hood, decided, that the author had a remedy of action for the violation of his book, though it was not entered; now up to that time every law book came down to the University of Cambridge; for I read lectures upon law many years before that case; all the term reports and those books that I wanted, I always found there; I never had a residence there, and never took down more than my manuscript notes; I found there every author that I wanted to  
cite;



cite; therefore I can speak decidedly upon that subject; I have published my opinions, and if there is one page that gentlemen can find fault with in my opinions, I wish to answer for it; I do not write as an advocate; I have very little interest in the University of Cambridge; as soon as I have read my 24 lectures I retire.

*Edward Christian,  
Esq.*

You have expressed an opinion in that book, to which you refer, that the University of Cambridge receive the gratuitous supply of books in exchange, for having given up a right which they possessed up to that day, of interfering with every person's copyright, and having a concurrent right with every author in the publication of his own work; are you aware of the ninth section of the Act of Anne, which reserves to Cambridge all its rights in full possession?—When one writes a book, there may be errors, but certainly there was no intentional error in my book; I was aware of that section, but I thought it referred to private rights; I believe the University have Clarendon's History; I thought that referred to those rights; but as the subject is now mentioned, I wish to say that the University of Cambridge was particularly favoured upon this subject by grants from the Crown, more than any other University either in England or any part of the world; there was such a grant made in the time of Charles the Second, but we had one in the reign of Henry the Eighth, that we might publish every book, and sell it, though I did not know till the other day, that that grant had been confirmed by an Act of Parliament; Dr. Webb, the present Vice-Chancellor, by his zeal, was led to examine all the archives of the University, which I confess I never did; and when I stated in this book that the University of Cambridge was particularly favoured in the reign of Henry the Eighth, the knowledge of that was communicated to me only by attending in Saint Mary's Church, and hearing there that Henry the Eighth was very favourable to the University, and granted us rights. We do not want to stand alone, and make a special claim; we wish to stand or fall, perish or flourish with others.

Does not the University of Cambridge, under the 9th section of the Act of Queen Anne, still possess all the rights it possessed up to that day, whatever they were?—That is a matter of opinion; it is a matter of fact, that we were particularly favoured; and, if I may answer how far we were particularly favoured, I am ready to answer. Whether that power of printing books was taken away from us or not, by the statute of Queen Anne, we clearly had it before, and it is certainly taken away by the last Act of Parliament. We only wish for what we had originally, by the charter of the King, confirmed by Parliament, or to have one copy of every new book published.

You conceive, that the University of Cambridge was peculiarly favoured by old charters, confirmed by Act of Parliament, prior to the 9th of Anne?—Yes, we had charters previous to those granted to any other body.

Of course, you do not mean to say, that there is any analogy between the impression of a law book, consisting of 750 copies; for instance, like that on the "Game Laws," and such a work as "Hatsell's Precedents," of which a limited number only was printed, only 250; with regard to the grievance of the eleven copies?—I see no difference whatever; for "Hatsell's Precedents" would, I think, always be a popular book, and always on sale; I have myself lately published, on parliamentary law, 500 copies; it was immediately out of print, bought up in a few weeks, and I have never republished it, from an idea that I could make great additions, and make the book more valuable to the public and more beneficial to myself; that book would have sold many thousand copies without one line of addition from me. I should think "Hatsell's Precedents" one of the most valuable works that could be published.

Are there in any of those works to which you have referred any plates?—No; my name is to an edition of Blackstone's Commentaries, to which my partners thought, to my shame and disgrace, it was necessary to add a number of pictures of the judges; the publication of those plates was never by my consent; but I do not think they at all affected the delivery of the eleven copies in any way whatever; many thousands of Blackstone's Commentaries have been sold with my name, and I am sorry to say, they have been reprinted too without my authority, or any additions or corrections made by me; but in the reprint of that, the eleven copies are never taken into the account; I am sorry to say, I had to pay my share of the plates, for Mr. Alderman Cadell charged me with my proportion of the expense.



*Edward Christian,  
Esq.*

What is the number of copies of your work on the bankrupt laws?—One thousand; let a book be large or small, fifty volumes or one volume, the proportion in every case will be the same; no man living can deny that. I asked my printer to-day, supposing you had printed me 20 such volumes, or five or six times the quantity in one volume, would the price have been in proportion? Exactly in proportion.

Whether the number was 250 or 1,000?—Yes; but the calculation as to the eleven copies is different, according to the number among which the expense is to be divided; but in my opinion, they never once discouraged the publication of a law book; I am very often consulted by young men, do you think I had better edit any old reporter, and bring it down to the present time? the first question is, does it sell well, and will it repay the expense?

To professors of the law of England, reading lectures, the delivery of law books is important?—The delivery to myself is of very little importance, for I can get any books I want from a law library in the town, to which I have free access; but I consider it of infinite importance to a body like the University, that they should be furnished with copies of the law books. I would not thank Lord Spencer for his library, and he has the best in the kingdom, for my purpose, because it is a private library, and I am sure I should find it necessary to refer to many which are not in his library; a man must have all books of science collected together. Yesterday I called at a gentleman's room, who is one of the best scholars we have in mathematics, Mr. Woodhouse, of King's College, who said, here is a book which cost 20 guineas; I believe it is a foreign book; I observed that it was Latin; I did not see the title. He said, how should I be able to purchase this for the purpose of my works; I only want to examine it for one page. I have seen one gentleman, who states, that it cost him 3,000*l.* in four years, to deliver the eleven copies. Now, on any principle of calculation, in that four years, the profits of that house must have been 450,000*l.*; it could not possibly be otherwise; if the loss is 3,000*l.* upon any proportion of profit, they must have made, on those books, 450,000*l.* in the course of the four years. The printseller receives an important benefit under the late Act, by selling his prints without any press-work; by former Acts he had 28 years; but now, if he sells them in a book, by the present Act of Parliament, he has 28 years, and for his life,



# MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

C O M M I T T E E

ON

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

For the Encouragement of Learning, by vesting the COPIES of  
PRINTED BOOKS in the Authors or Purchasers of such Copies.

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 20 July 1813 ;*

*And to be Re-printed, 13 April*

1818.

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# MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Committee on ACTS respecting Copy Rights of printed Books.

*Martis, 16° die Martii, 1813.*

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. called to The Chair.

Adjourned.

*Martis, 23° die Martii, 1813.*

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

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

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

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

*Mr. Parry.*

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

[Delivered in a Paper marked A.]

Books printed in small numbers, if 11 copies are delivered to Stationers Hall,

of 50	- - - -	it is	- - - -	22 per cent.
100	- - - -		- - - -	11
250	- - - -		- - - -	4½
500	- - - -		- - - -	2⅓
1,000	- - - -		- - - -	1⅛
2,000	- - - -		- - - -	½
5,000	- - - -		- - - -	¼

*H. Parry.*

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

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

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

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

Is that likely to affect the revenue?—Certainly, the duty on paper is very considerable, being from ¼ to 1-9th of the value. The duty on Rees's Cyclopaedia, if completed in 36 volumes, would amount to £.10,000, and the duty on advertisements would amount to at least £.2,000.

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



*Mr. Parry.*

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

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

How long was this selling?—Nine years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

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

ARE you a bookseller and publisher?—Yes.

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

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

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

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

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Mr. Parry.

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.



Mr.  
F. N. Longman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your auction is confined to the trade?—Yes.

The trade bid one against another?—Yes.

The prices vary very much?—Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your



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

Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

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

More often than not?—Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fifteen thousand?—I should suppose so.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Trade Sale Price in boards; estimate Eleven Copies:

	Per Copy.	TOTAL.
Johnson's Poets, 21 vols. 8vo. in bds. - - -	£. 16. 19. 6.	£. 186 14 6
British Essayists, 45 vols. royal 18° - - -	7. 4. 9.	79 12 3
- - - Novelists, 50 vols. 18° - - -	9. — 10.	99 9 2
Bowles's Pope's Works, 10 vols. 8vo. - - -	3. 15. —	41 5 —
Wakefield's Pope's Homer, 9 vols. - - -	2. 17. —	31 7 —
Dryden's Works, by Scott, 18 vols. 8vo. - - -	6. 15. —	74 5 —
Swift's Works, by Nichols, 19 vols. 8vo. - - -	6. 3. 6.	67 18 6
Camden's Britannia, 4 vols. folio - - -	12. 12. —	138 12 —
Miller's Gardeners' Dictionary, 2 vols. folio - - -	9. 18. —	108 18 —
Buffon's Natural History, 20 vols. 8vo. - - -	8. 10. —	93 10 —
Aikin's Biography, 10 vols. 4to. - - -	11. 17. 6.	130 12 6
Inchbald's Theatre and Farces, 42 vols. - - -	8. 4. 4.	90 7 8
Somers's Tracts, 10 vols. 4to. - - -	23. 5. —	255 15 —
Harleian Miscellany, 10 vols. - - -	23. 10. —	258 10 —
State Trials, 21 vols. royal - - -	25. 4. —	277 4 —
Thus 11 copies of these 15 works, at the lowest wholesale price, would amount to - - - - -	£.	1,934 — 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Actual Cost of the Paper only of the following Works:

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

We



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

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

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Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mr.  
T. N. Longman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do



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

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Mr.  
T.N. Longman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Joseph Mawman, called in; and Examined.

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

Mr. J. Mawman.

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

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

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

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



Mr. J. Mawman.

safely made, but I think it would not usually be made. It would not usually take place, because, when we fix the price of a book, it is generally at half a guinea, fifteen shillings, one guinea, five guineas, and we should not make the charge of £. 5. 0s. or so on; so that, in reality, the giving of the eleven copies would, in almost all cases, be so much out of the pocket of the publisher or the author.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Does



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And those works of merit?—Many.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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