

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

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

Mr.
J. G. Cochrane.

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

Have the proprietors of prints twenty-eight years absolute copy right now?—It appears so by the Act of the 7th George III^d, ch. 38.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I thought

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

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

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

That is the ground of the reserve?—Certainly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“ Sir,

“ Maldon, March 27, 1813.

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

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

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

“ A line

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

" Sir,
" your humble Servant,

" *Rogers Ruding.*"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ON COPY RIGHT OF PRINTED BOOKS.

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

Mr. J. G. Cochrane.

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

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Astle's Origin and Progress of Writing, 4to. and folio (100) - -	28 17 6 - -	69 6 - -
Allwood's Literary Antiquities of Greece, &c. 4to. - - -	19 16 - -	- - -
Banks's Dormant and Extinct English Peerage, 3 vols. 4to. (250) -	69 6 - -	103 19 - -
Botanist's Repository, by Andrews, 9 vols. 4to. - - -	297 - - -	- - -
Brookshaw's Pomona Britannica, large folio (100) - - -	495 - - -	- - -
Coxe's Northern Tour, 3 vols. 4to. 6th edition (50) - - -	75 12 - -	- - -
Daniel's Rural Sports, 3 vols. imperial 4to. (100) - - -	173 5 - -	- - -
Dilettanti Specimens of Sculpture, folio (350) - - -	207 18 - -	- - -
Forbes's Oriental Memoirs, 4 vols. royal 4to. - - -	184 16 - -	- - -
Froissart, by Johnes, 5 vols. 4to. (300) and 5 vols. folio (20) -	196 7 - - -	660 - - -
Hooker's British Jengermannia, calculated at 20 Nos. 4to. and folio	82 10 - - -	132 - - -
Joinville's Memoirs, by Johnes, 2 vols. 4to. - - -	48 4 - -	- - -
King's Munimenta Antiqua, 4 vols. folio (250) - - -	184 16 - -	- - -
Knapp's Gramina Britannica, royal 4to. (100) - - -	92 8 - -	- - -
Knight's Pomona Herefordiensis - d° - - -	49 10 - -	- - -
Lambert's Description of the } folio, plain (175) and coloured (25)	138 12 - - -	577 10 - -
Genus Pinus - - -	- - -	- - -
Lysons's Reliquiæ Romana, 3 parts - - -	116 10 - -	- - -
Letter from Athens, royal 4to. (350) - - -	13 15 - -	- - -
Martyn's Derbyshire Petrifications, 4to. - - -	28 17 6	- - -
Maurice's Modern History of Hindostan, 2 vols. 4to. - - -	57 15 - -	- - -
Montagu's Testacea Britannica, 2 vols. 4to. plain and coloured -	33 - - -	66 - - -
Manning's History of Surrey, 3 vols. folio (350 and 150) - -	138 12 - - -	207 18 - -
Monstrelet's Chronicles, by } 5 vols. 4to. (300) and 5 vols. folio (20)	231 - - -	577 10 - -
Johnes - - -	- - -	- - -
Pennant's Outlines of the Globe, 4 vols. 4to. - - -	50 13 6	- - -
Sibthorpe Flora Græca cura Smith, vol. I. folio (to consist of 9 more } volumes) (50) - - -	277 4 - -	- - -
Smith's Tour to, and Description of Hafod, folio (100) - - -	138 12 - -	- - -
Strutt's English Sports and Pastimes, 4to. (500 and 25) - - -	34 13 - - -	69 6 - -
Shaw's History of Staffordshire, 2 vols. folio - - -	69 6 - - -	103 19 - -
St. Alban's, Book of, sm. folio (150) - - -	57 15 - -	- - -
Wilmot's Life of Bp. Hough, royal 4to. - - -	17 6 6 - - -	23 2 - -
Willyams's Voyage up the Mediterranean with } 4to. and folio (100)	40 8 6 - - -	92 8 - -
Lord Nelson - - -	- - -	- - -
Hooker's Paradisus Londinensis, 4to. - - -	66 - - -	- - -
Amount of copies on common paper - - - £.	3,686 8 - - -	2,682 18 - -

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

But if the amount of the small paper copies, of which there are large or fine paper printed, be deducted - - - - -	1,079 18 6
	<hr/>
	2,606 9 6
And the large paper copies added - - - - -	2,682 18 - -
	<hr/>
The sum will be - - - - -	5,289 7 6: Or an average.

of £. 440. a year; exclusive of the expense of one copy to the printer.

The above Account has been hastily put together, as it includes no 8vos. or smaller books; although in the course of that time they have published many, and some expensive ones. Nor does it include several large works; such as Miller's Gardener's Dictionary, 4 vols. folio, and the plates to ditto, 2 vols. folio; Richardson's Persian Dictionary, 2 vols. 4to.; Fenton's Pembrokeshire, 4to.; Harleian Miscellany; Somers's Tracts, &c.; in many of which they have large shares, and of course, must pay their proportion of the tax.

Veneris, 2^o die Aprilis, 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esquire, in The Chair.

The Reverend
T. F. Dibdin.

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

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

On the small paper?—Yes.

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

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

On common paper?—Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That is at the prime cost?—Yes.

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

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

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

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

Has the British Museum?—No.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It has been stated, that upon an edition of 250 copies, the tax is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the selling price, and it has also been stated, that the actual cost of a work, is half the selling price; therefore, calculating the tax would be $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. do you think that, upon an edition consisting of 250 copies, an additional price of $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. would affect or discourage the sale?—I should think, certainly, that small per centage would not affect the sale.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. W. Davies.

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

M. J. Nichols.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was delivered in, and read, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. J. Nichols.

Mr. T. Bensley.

Mr. R. Taylor.

Mr. R. Taylor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. R. Taylor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. R. Taylor.

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

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

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

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

Martis, 6^o die Aprilis, 1813,

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

Mr. Turner heard on behalf of the Booksellers.

[Delivers in a Paper marked D.]

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

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

Or, if more,—That

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

MINOR MODIFICATIONS.

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

Act to have no retrospective operation.

None to be delivered but on demand.

None where the copyright is abandoned.

None where no copies are printed for general sale.

No books with coloured prints.

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

No Songs or Music.

No Newspapers.

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

No Reprint of foreign works.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mercurii, 28° die Aprilis, 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

CONSIDERED Evidence.

Martis, 4° die Maii, 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

REPORT considered.

Martis, 11° die Maii, 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

Committee took Report into consideration.

Martis, 18° die Maii, 1813.

Sir WILLIAM SCOTT, Bart. in The Chair.

REPORT considered.

Mercurii, 16° die Junii, 1813.

DAVIES GIDDY, Esq. in The Chair.

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

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

S. Turner, Esq.

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

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