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THE LAW

RELATING TO

Works of Literature and Art:

EMBRACING THE

LAW OF COPYRIGHT,

THE

LAW RELATING TO NEWSPAPERS,

THE

LAW RELATING TO CONTRACTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &c.,

AND THE

LAW OF LIBEL.

WITH THE STATUTES RELATING THERETO,
FORMS OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, &c.,
AND
FORMS OF PLEADINGS.

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"Ut monitus caveas, ne forte negoti
Incutiat tibi quid sanctarum inscitia legum."—HORACE.

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PREFACE.

About four years ago it was proposed to the author that he should collect in one book the various branches of law relating to works of literature and art, with a view of supplying not only the legal profession with such a work, but also those engaged in literary and artistic pursuits, whether as authors, editors, or, publishers, with a complete statement of the law bearing on the subjects of their important labours. The work then begun has from time to time occupied the author's attention ever since, and the present volume is the result of labours which other business has frequently and for long periods interrupted.

It was originally not the intention of the author to deal with the subject of Copyright in Designs; but, in order that the book might contain a complete treatise on the law of copyright, a supplementary chapter has been added (pp. 602—628), in which this department of law is fully treated.

Special attention has been paid to the collection, in the appendix, of a number of precedents in pleading, the utility of which can hardly fail to be appreciated, more particularly by junior members of the profession; and the index has been compiled with a view of furnishing, to a considerable extent, an analysis of the entire work.

3, Essex Court, Temple,
July 18, 1871.

TO

SIR ROUNDELL PALMER, Q.C., M.P.,

IN SINCERE ADMIRATION

OF

DISTINGUISHED ATTAINMENTS COMBINED WITH LOFTY CHARACTER,

THIS WORK

IS

(WITH PERMISSION)

DEDICATED BY

THE AUTHOR.

CONTENTS.

TABLE OF CASES ... ... ix.—xxv.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA ... ... xxvii.—xxxii.

PART I.—LAW OF COPYRIGHT ... ... 1—249, 602—628

Chapter I. Literary Property 1, 2

" II. In what Works Copyright exists .. 3—22

" III. Who may possess Copyright ... ... 22—36

" IV. Crown and College Copyright in Books 36—48

" V. Property in Unpublished Works ... 48—61

" VI. Copyright after Publication ... ... 61—75

" VII. Copyright in Books ... ... 75—97

" VIII. " Periodical Publications ... 97—106

" IX. Engravings or Prints ... ... 106—114

" X. Dramatic and Musical Compositions ... 114—118

" XI. Paintings, Drawings, and Photographs 119—123

" XII. Sculpture, Models, and Busts ... ... 124—126

" XIII. Colonial Copyright ... ... 126—130

" XIV. International Copyright ... ... 130—148

" XV. Transfer of Copyright ... ... 148—168

" XVI. Piracy ... ... 168—216

" XVII. Remedies for Infringement of Copyright 216—241

" XVIII. American Law of Copyright ... ... 242—249

Supplementary Chapter: Copyright in Designs ... 602—628

PART II.—LAW RELATING TO NEWSPAPERS ... ... 250—267

PART III.—CONTRACTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &C. ... ... 268—295

PART IV.—LAW OF LIBEL		296—601
Chapter	I. Introductory	296, 297
,,	II. Blasphemous Libels	297—311
,,	III. Obscene Libels	311—319
,,	IV. Seditious Libels	319—344
,,	V. Other Libels not of a private Character	344—382
,,	VI. Libels on Individuals	382—426
,,	VII. Privileged Publications...	427—433
,,	VIII. Comments on Matters of Public Interest	433—457
,,	IX. Newspaper Reports	459—492
,,	X. Publication of Parliamentary Papers...	492—499
,,	XI. Criminal Prosecutions for Libel ...	499—537
,,	XII. Civil Remedy of the Libelled	538—575
,,	XIII. Proceeding at and after Trial of Action	575—601
APPENDIX—		
Statutes		629—708
Directions issued by Board of Trade for Registration of Copyright of Designs		709—718
Forms of Agreement between Authors, Publishers, &c.		719—722
Forms of Pleadings (Copyright)		723—731
Forms of Pleadings in Proceedings for Libel (Criminal)		732—742
Forms of Pleadings in Proceedings for Libel (Civil) .		743—745
INDEX		747—780

TABLE OF CASES.

A.

Abbott, Burdett *v.* 347, 351, 359
Abernethy *v.* Hutchinson, 19, 217
Abingdon (Lord), Rex *v.* 487, 488, 525
Adam, Wood *v.* 544
Adams *v.* Kelly, 421
Adams, Whiteley *v.* 428, 429
Adlard *v.* Booth, 290, 293
Affleck, Child *v.* 430
Aikin, Wilkins *v.* 109, 171, 231
Aikman, Blackie *v.* 281
Ainslie, Tidman *v.* 565
Albert (Prince) *v.* Strange, 2, 36, 49, 50, 57, 58, 181, 216
Alewin, Tutty *v.* 407, 412
Alexander, Angle *v.* 543, 550
Alexander *v.* McKenzie, 88, 170, 172, 174
Alexander *v.* North-Eastern Railway Company, 398, 541. 564, 571, 585
Alfred *v.* Farlow, 400, 413
Algar, Hunt *v.* 426, 449
Allday, Lumby *v.* 404, 408
Allen, Bankes *v.* 405
Allen, Barnett *v.* 413, 578
Allen, Behrens *v.* 472, 560, 589
Allen, Bowden *v.* 574
Allen, Richardson *v.* 413
Allen, Southam *v.* 409
Almon, Bankes *v.* 405
Almon, Rex *v.* 329, 363, 517, 525
Amerton, Spencer *v.* 430
Anderson *v.* Dunn, 348, 355
Anderson *v.* Hamilton, 577
Andrews *v.* Chapman, 458, 473, 476
Angle *v.* Alexander, 549, 550
Anglo-Egyptian Cotton Company, Lawless *v.* 582
Applegate, Lane *v.* 557, 568
Appleton, Heine *v.* 236, 246
Archbold, Sweet *v.* 221
Archbold *v.* Sweet, 281
Archer, Rex *v.* 534, 535
Arkingsal *v.* Dinny, 543
Armstrong *v.* Lewis, 595
Armstrong, *re*, 514
Arne *v.* Johnson, 410
Arthur, Hotten *v.* 84, 171
Arthur, Prideaux *v.* 505
Ashbee, Morris *v.* 176, 177, 178
Ashby *v.* White, 216
Ashford, Graves *v.* 107, 112, 205, 725, 730
Ashley *v.* Harrison, 584
Askew, Rex *v.* 532
Astley *v.* Younge, 427, 428
Aston *v.* Blagrave, 408, 412
Atcherley *v.* Vernon, 149
Atkins' case, 41
Attorney-General *v.* Bradbury, 262
Attorney-General *v.* Strange, 50
Atwill *v.* Ferrett, 78, 79, 245
Atwood's case, 299
Austen *v.* Culpepper, 297, 384, 388, 414
Austen, Young *v.* 556
Avanzo *v.* Mudie, 189
Axtell, Zenobio *v.* 515, 547
Ayre *v.* Craven, 408

B.

Babonneau *v.* Farrell, 408, 413
Bach *v.* Longman, 76, 113
Badger, Reg. *v.* 512
Bagg, King *v.* 385
Bailey, Bracegirdle *v.* 594
Bailey, Newman *v.* 559
Bailey *v.* Taylor, 84, 236, 237
Baker *v.* Lane, 572
Baker *v.* Pierce, 339
Baldwin *v.* Elphinston, 543
Baldwin, Jeffreys *v.* 79
Baldwin, *re*, 150
Baldwin, Reg. *v.* 505, 507, 508
Ball, Gambart *v.* 205, 206
Bancroft *v.* Mitchell, 228, 229
Bankes *v.* Allen, 405
Banks, Gould *v.* 280
Barclay, Barry *v.* 574
Barfield *v.* Nicholson, 84, 98, 282
Barker, Floyd *v.* 427
Barlow, Hedley *v.* 435, 445, 591
Barnard, Thompson *v.* 401
Barnard, Wyatt *v.* 79, 98, 109, 180
Barnett *v.* Allen, 413, 578
Barratt *v.* Collins, 538
Barret, Baumont *v.* 351
Barrett *v.* Long, 516, 554, 580
Barry *v.* Barclay, 574
Barry, Phillimore *v.* 269
Bartlett *v.* Critteuden, 49, 56, 58, 59, 243, 244, 246
Bartley, Malony *v.* 428
Basket *v.* Cunningham, 41, 42
Basket *v.* University of Cambridge, 41
Bastow, *ex parte*, 93
Bate, Saunders *v.* 578
Bathurst *v.* Coxe, 370

Bathurst *v.* Kearsley, 43
Bayley, King *v.* 429
Baylis *v.* Lawrence, 390, 530, 535
Beach, Rex *v.* 522
Beal, *ex parte*, 121, 202, 209, 210, 219
Beatson *v.* Skene, 488, 552
Beauclerk, *ex parte*, 505
Beaumont *v.* Barret, 351
Beaumont, Williams *v.* 389, 538
Becket, Donaldson *v.* 37, 63, 110, 254
Beckford *v.* Hood, 90
Beere (or Beare), Rex *v.* 332, 518, 522
Begg *v.* Forbes, 540
Behrens *v.* Allen, 472, 560, 589
Belcher, Morrison *v.* 440, 449
Bell *v.* Byrne, 546
Bell, Clarke *v.* 222
Bell, Edwards *v.* 398, 564
Bell, Keighley *v.* 428
Bell *v.* Stone, 414
Bell *v.* Walker, 189
Bell *v.* Whitehead, 238
Benbow, Murray *v.* 8
Bendish *v.* Lindsay, 400, 418
Benfield, Rex *v.* 532
Bennett *v.* Deacon, 430
Benning *v.* Dove, 279
Benning, Sweet *v.* 106, 194, 259, 723, 731
Benning, Stevens *v.* 160, 161, 270, 272, 275, 278
Bensley *v.* Bignold, 289, 295
Bentinck, Home *v.* 428
Bentinck, Oliver *v.* 428
Bentley *v.* Foster, 23, 24
Bentley, Reade *v.* 161, 270, 271, 272, 275
Bentley, Wadsworth *v.* 394
Beresford, Du Bost *v.* 6, 11, 388, 523, 578
Berkeley, Fraser *v.* 456
Berryman *v.* Wise, 528, 585
Bessell, Reg. *v.* 603, 604
Betts, Upsheer *v.* 393
Bewicke, Jones *v.* 561
Bickerton, Rex *v.* 504
Bigg, Dunman *v.* 430, 439
Bigg, Seaman *v.* 407, 412
Biggs *v.* Great Eastern Railway Company, 392, 564
Bignold, Bensley *v.* 289, 295
Bilby, Hankisson *v.* 401
Bill *v.* Neal, 402
Binns *v.* Woodruff, 79
Birchley's case, 404, 405
Bird, Turnbull *v.* 407, 594
Bishop *v.* Latimer, 406, 481
Bishop, Rex *v.* 505
Blaby, Tarpley *v.* 580, 585, 594
Black, Ollendorf *v.* 25
Black, Stewart *v.* 202, 228
Black, Thombleson *v.* 280
Blackburn, Fray *v.* 427
Blackie *v.* Aikman, 231
Blackwell *v.* Harper, 110, 113
Blackwell, Robson *v.* 540
Blackwood *v.* Brewster, 274
Blackwood, Helsham *v.* 392, 562
Blagg *v.* Sturt, 406, 432, 579
Blagrave, Aston *v.* 403, 412
Blair, Manners *v.* 37, 38, 39, 41
Blake *v.* Nicholson, 290
Blake *v.* Stevens, 479
Blanchard, Brooks *v.* 430
Bleadon *v.* Hancock, 290
Bliss, Rex *v.* 332
Bloodworth *v.* Gray, 401, 412
Blunt *v.* Patten, 174, 245
Bogue, Bohn *v.* 160, 184, 185, 234
Bogue *v.* Houlston, 85, 196, 207
Bogue, Murray *v.* 92, 172, 181, 239, 241
Bohn *v.* Bogue, 160, 184, 185, 234
Bohn, Davidson *v.* 151, 152, 154
Bolts, Craft *v.* 538
Bolton *v.* Dean, 388
Bond, Cory *v.* 587
Bonner *v.* Field, 111
Boodle, Fountain *v.* 430, 594
Boosey, D'Almaine *v.* 23, 118, 203
Boosey *v.* Davidson, 24, 220, 221, 723, 731
Boosey, Jeffreys *v.* 23, 25-32, 56, 65, 130, 132, 150, 151, 153, 154, 244, 724
Boosey *v.* Tolkien, 219
Boosey *v.* Purday, 24, 220, 221, 724
Boosey *v.* Wood, 568
Boosey, Wood *v.* 78, 85, 89, 118, 184, 157, 203
Booth, Adlard *v.* 290, 293
Boston, James *v.* 430
Boston *v.* Tatam, 413
Boucicault *v.* Delafield, 35, 56, 132
Bourke, England *v.* 588
Bowden *v.* Allen, 574
Bowles, Carnan *v.* 188, 239
Bowman, Goodburne *v.* 393, 563
Boydell *v.* Drummond, 269, 270
Boydell *v.* Jones, 385, 405, 417, 551
Bracegirdle *v.* Bailey, 594
Bradbury, Attorney-General *v.* 262
Bradley, Rex *v.* 534
Braham, Planché *v.* 215
Bramwell *v.* Halcomb, 173
Bramwell, Maitland *v.* 430, 433
Brand *v.* Roberts, 413
Brandreth *v.* Lance, 13
Brandwood, Irwin *v.* 408, 413
Brass Crosbys' case, 350
Brayne *v.* Cooper, 399
Bream, Day *v.* 525, 586
Brereton, Rex *v.* 544
Bremridge *v.* Latimer, 555, 565
Brewster, Blackwood *v.* 274
Brewster, Constable *v.* 282
Brewster, Rex *v.* 342
Briant, Russell *v.* 213
Brice, Rex *v.* 503
Bridson *v.* Benecke, 236
Brigg's case, 400
Briscoe, Head *v.* 541
Briscoe *v.* Hollis, 402
British Museum *v.* Payne, 96
Brittlebank, Tomlinson *v.* 399, 401, 413
Britton *v.* Cole, 350
Brogden, Walker *v.* 406
Bromage *v.* Prosser, 389, 459
Brook *v.* Evans, 377

Brook, James *v.* 408
Brook *v.* Wentworth, 281
Brook, Wharton *v.* 406
Brooke *v.* Chitty, 283
Brooke *v.* Milliken, 219
Brooke, Rex *v.* 509
Brooks *v.* Blanshard, 480
Brooks *v.* Cock, 111
Brooks, De Witt *v.* 78
Broome *v.* Gosden, 578, 599
Broomhead, Henderson *v.* 427, 428
Brown, *ex parte*, 358
Brown *v.* Cooke, 98, 105
Brown *v.* Croome, 433, 594
Brown *v.* Kennedy, 406
Brown, Lowndes *v.* 608, 609
Brown, May *v.* 594
Brown, Reg. *v.* 342, 387
Brown, Rex *v.* 551
Brown, Roberts *v.* 474
Brown *v.* Smith, 409, 413
Brown, Wood *v.* 544
Brown, Spiers *v.* 179, 180, 289
Browne *v.* Murray, 585
Brownlow, Egerton *v.* 4
Browning, Forster *v.* 385
Brunswick (Duke of) *v.* Harmer, 540, 569, 578, 586
Brunswick (Duke of) *v.* Pepper, 571
Brunton, Coffeen *v.* 76
Bryant *v.* Laxton, 407
Bryant, O'Brien *v.* 394, 563
Buckingham *v.* Murray, 545
Budd, Rex *v.* 522
Bulhead, Stuckley *v.* 403
Buller, Day *v.* 405
Bunts, Rex *v.* 533
Burdett *v.* Abbott, 347, 351, 353
Burdett *v.* Colman, 349
Burdett, Rex *v.* 306, 331, 336, 514, 515, 516, 523
Burke, Rex *v.* 524
Burn, Rex *v.* 507
Burnett *v.* Chetwood, 5, 181
Bush, Harrison *v.* 429, 431, 438, 598, 600
Butt *v.* Conant, 511, 512, 514
Butterworth *v.* Robinson, 44, 195
Butterworth, Seymour *v.* 444, 446
Button *v.* Haward, 385, 399
Button, Platt *v.* 236
Buxton *v.* James, 226, 238
Byrne, Bell *v.* 546
Byron (Lord) *v.* Johnston, 199

C.

Cadell *v.* Stewart, 14
Cady, Stevens *v.* 149, 237, 244
Cæsar *v.* Cursany, 404
Calvin's case, 23
Cambridge, University of, *v.* Basket, 41
Camden, Roberts *v.* 385, 400, 413, 555
Campbell *v.* Scott, 182, 188
Campbell *v.* Spottiswoode, 392, 435, 437, 438, 439, 440
Capel *v.* Jones, 550
Capel *v.* Powell, 541
Carey *v.* Collier, 244
Carlile, Rex *v.* 302, 303, 310, 459, 460, 517
Carnan *v.* Bowles, 188, 239
Carnan, Eyre *v.* 37, 39, 41
Carnan, Stationers' Company *v.* 39
Carpenter, Parrat *v.* 412
Carpenter *v.* Tarrant, 399, 413
Carr *v.* Duckett, 395, 556
Carr *v.* Hood, 450
Carslake *v.* Mapledorum, 401, 412
Carson, Kielley *v.* 352, 353
Carter *v.* Jones, 575
Cartwright *v.* Wright, 546
Carusi, Reed *v.* 79
Cary *v.* Faden, 81
Cary *v.* Kearsley, 172, 181, 184, 186, 187
Case, Hancock *v.* 429
Case, Talbot *v.* 400
Cassell *v.* Stiff, 92, 138, 147
Cater, Sweet *v.* 160, 165, 185, 234
Catesby, Holmes *v.* 559
Catherall, Harle *v.* 433, 437
Cator, Rex *v.* 439, 587
Caulfield *v.* Whitworth, 582
Cawdry *v.* Highley, 404
Ceeley *v.* Hoskins, 400
Chadwick *v.* Herepath, 566
Challands, Storey *v.* 430
Challercomb's case, 823
Chalmers *v.* Payne, 391, 480
Chalmers *v.* Shackell, 395, 587
Chambers, Tempest *v.* 401
Chantler *v.* Lindsay, 569
Chapman, Andrews *v.* 458, 473, 476
Chapman, Green *v.* 450
Chapman, Greville *v.* 417
Chapman *v.* Lampshire, 409
Chapman, Lewis *v.* 236
Chappell *v.* Davidson, 91, 196, 239, 265, 724
Chappell *v.* Purday, 24, 159, 234
Chapman, Rutter *v.* 595
Charlton *v.* Watton, 492
Charlton's (Lechmere) case, 365, 379
Charnel's case, 401
Chart, Wood *v.* 141, 142
Cheese *v.* Scales, 425
Cheltenham and Swansea Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, *re*, 378
Chetwood, Burnett *v.* 5, 181
Child *v.* Affleck, 430
Chitty, Brooke *v.* 283
Chivis, Clement *v.* 384, 412, 416
Christie *v.* Powell, 401
Christie, Reg. *v.* 502
Chubb *v.* Flanagan, 586
Chubb, Long *v.* 585
Churchill *v.* Hunt, 412, 416
Churton, Thomas *v.* 427
Claridge, M'Dougall *v.* 430
Clark, Spottiswoode *v.* 196, 233
Clarke *v.* Bell, 222
Clarke *v.* Freeman, 5
Clarke, Moore *v.* 206
Clarke *v.* Price, 277, 282
Clarke *v.* Taylor, 392, 393, 562

Clarkson *v.* Lawson, 392, 393, 563
Clay *v.* Roberts, 405, 570
Clay *v.* Yates, 289, 294
Clayton *v.* Stone, 243, 245
Cleaver *v.* Senande, 430
Clement *v.* Chivis, 3C4, 412, 416
Clement, Fisher *v.* 385, 390, 544, 595
Clement *v.* Lewis, 406, 481, 601
Clement, Manning *v.* 584, 587
Clement *v.* Maddick, 182, 197
Clement, O'Brien *v.* 390, 414, 556, 560, 567
Clement, The King *v.* 45, 372, 379
Clement, Yrisarri *v.* 523, 584
Clementi *v.* Goulding, 76
Clementi *v.* Walker, 23, 55, 56, 152, 724
Clements, Wright *v.* 544
Clendon, Rex *v.* 299
Clerk, Rex *v.* 327
Clissold *v.* Clissold, 540
Closs, Reg. v. 208
Coates, Sheriff *v.* 238
Cobbett, Rex *v.* 320, 331, 334
Cock, Brooks *v.* 111
Cockaine's (Lady) case, 401
Cockayne *v.* Hodgkisson, 391, 430
Cocks *v.* Purday, 23, 56, 724
Cockshaw, Rex *v.* 503
Coffeen *v.* Brunton, 76
Cohen and Jacob, Rex *v.* 530
Colburn *v.* Duncombe, 234
Colburn, Planchè *v.* 268, 278
Colburn *v.* Patmore, 537
Cole, Britten *v.* 350
Coleman *v.* Goodwin, 401
Coleman *v.* Wathen, 57, 114, 169, 170, 183
Coleman *v.* West Hartlepool Harbour and Railway Company, 375
Collier, Carey *v.* 244
Collins, Barratt *v.* 538
Collins, Pinkney *v.* 540
Collins, Rex *v.* 337
Collins, Touson *v.* 62
Collins *v.* Yates, 574
Colls, Pemberton *v.* 406
Colman, Burdett *v.* 349
Colman *v.* Godwin, 413
Colman, Morris *v.* 277, 282
Colnaghi *v.* Ward, 112, 278
Commonwealth *v.* Updegraph, 304
Conant, Butt *v.* 511, 512, 514
Conquest, Marsh *v.* 165, 215
Conquest, Reade *v.* 170, 727
Conquest, Shepherd *v.* 84, 164, 727
Constable *v.* Brewster, 282
Constable *v.* Robison's Trustees, 277
Cook *v.* Cox, 544
Cook *v.* Field, 587, 588
Cook *v.* Leonard, 223
Cook *v.* Ward, 417, 578, 583, 586
Cooke, Brown *v.* 98, 105
Cooke *v.* Hughes, 591
Cooke, Wakley *v.* 589
Cooke *v.* Wildes, 429, 433, 579
Cooker, Smith *v.* 554
Cooper, Brayne *v.* 399
Cooper, Cox *v.* 547, 551, 570
Cooper, Gahagan *v.* 124
Cooper *v.* Lawson, 461, 473, 475, 565
Cooper, Reg. *v.* 416, 421, 422, 425, 518, 520
Cooper, Tighe *v.* 391, 395, 564
Cooper *v.* Wakley, 575, 588
Copeland, Cumberland *v.* 152, 155, 727
Copeland, Moreton *v.* 165, 211, 227
Corbet *v.* Hill, 554
Cornish *v.* Upton, 176
Cornwall *v.* Richardson, 594
Correspondent Newspaper Company *v.* Saunders, 88, 100, 102
Corsar *v.* Reed, 595
Cory *v.* Bond, 587
Cotes *v.* Michill, 349
Cotton *v.* James, 575
Coupland, Parmiter *v.* 404, 412, 434, 595, 599
Cowan *v.* Milbourn, 9, 302, 306
Cowie, Newton *v.* 109, 111, 113
Cowles *v.* Potts, 428
Cox, Cook *v.* 544
Cox *v.* Cooper, 547, 551, 570
Cox *v.* Cox, 60, 281
Cox *v.* Feeney, 440, 443
Cox *v.* Land and Water Journal Company, 76, 90, 178, 180, 238, 239, 250
Cox *v.* Lee, 410, 418
Coxe, Bathurst *v.* 370
Coxhead *v.* Richards, 408
Craft *v.* Boite, 538
Craven, Ayre *v.* 408
Craven *v.* Smith, 596
Crawford's case, 363
Creevey, Rex *v.* 459, 487, 488
Critchley, Rex *v.* 420
Crittenden, Bartlett *v.* 49, 56, 58, 59, 243, 244, 246
Crichmore, Theobald *v.* 223
Croft *v.* Stevens, 428
Cromwell's case, 564
Croome, Brown *v.* 433, 594
Cropp *v.* Tilney, 388
Crossley *v.* Derby Gaslight Company, 237
Cruchley, Lewknor *v.* 401
Crunden, Rex *v.* 312
Cuddington *v.* Wilkins, 393, 413, 571
Culpepper, Austen *v.* 207, 384, 388, 414
Cumberland *v.* Copeland, 152, 155, 727
Cumberland *v.* Planché, 163
Cunningham, Basket *v.* 41, 42
Cunningham *v.* Fonblanque, 291
Curl, Pope *v.* 12, 14, 217
Curl, Rex *v.* 312
Curry *v.* Walter, 460, 464, 467, 469, 474
Curseny, Cæsar *v.* 404
Cuthell, Rex *v.* 321, 344
Curtis *v.* Curtis, 399

D.

Daines *v.* Hartley, 401, 578
Dale, Hime *v.* 8, 76

Dalglish *v.* Jarvie, 610
D'Almaine *v.* Boosey, 23, 112, 203
Daniel, Napier *v.* 600
Daniell, Duncombe *v.* 432
Daniels, McPherson *v.* 391, 426, 565
Darby *v.* Ouseley, 390, 583, 591, 594
Davey *v.* Pemberton, 574
Davidson *v.* Bohn, 151, 152, 154
Davidson, Boosey *v.* 24, 220, 221, 723, 731
Davidson, Chappell *v.* 91, 196, 198, 295, 724
Davidson, *ex parte*, 93, 123
Davidson, Lover *v.* 85, 91
Davies, Defries *v.* 541
Davies, Emerson *v.* 79, 84, 173, 174, 180, 245
Davis *v.* Lewis, 409
Davison *v.* Duncan, 458, 438, 489, 491
Davison, Rex *v.* 370
Day *v.* Bream, 525, 586
Day *v.* Buller, 405
Day *v.* Robinson, 596
Day *v.* Simpson, 117
Daw *v.* Eley, 373
Dawkins *v.* Paulett, 428
Deacon, Bennett *v.* 430
Dean, Bolton *v.* 388
De Berenger, Rex *v.* 382
De Berenger *v.* Wheble, 119
De Crespigny *v.* Wellesley, 425
Defries *v.* Davies, 541
Delafield, Boucicault *v.* 35, 56, 132
D'Eon, Rex *v.* 381
De la Branchardière *v.* Elvery, 612
Delany *v.* Jones, 386, 399, 431
Delondre *v.* Shaw, 25
Denny, Arkingsal *v.* 543
Denny, Southee *v.* 404, 412
De Pinna *v.* Polhill, 152
Derby, Pulte *v.* 275, 276
Derby Gaslight Company, Crossley *v.* 237
Derby, Story's Executors *v.* 239
De Witt *v.* Brooks, 78
Dibden *v.* Swan, 450
Dicas *v.* Lawson, 391, 480
Dickens *v.* Lee, 193, 234
Dickson, Earl of Wilton *v.* 428, 429
Digby *v.* Thompson, 417
Dill *v.* Murphy, 354, 355
Dilly *v.* Doig, 234
Dinorben (Lady), Hughes *v.* 580
Dixon, Harris *v.* 400
Dixon *v.* Parsons, 430
Dixon, Scarll *v.* 429
Dobniet, Weston *v.* 427
Dobson *v.* Thornstone, 409
Dodgson, Johnson *v.* 269
Dodsley *v.* Kinnersley, 186, 193
Doherty, Reg. *v.* 507
Doig, Dilly *v.* 234
Donaldson *v.* Becket, 37, 63, 100, 254
Dove, Benning *v.* 279
Dowdney, Fowler *v.* 399, 413
Downie and Arrindell, *re*, 369
Downs, Simpson *v.* 433
Dowsing, Woodard *v.* 415
Doyle *v.* Falconer, 353
Doyle *v.* O'Doherty, 428
Doyley *v.* Roberts, 408
Drake *v.* Drake, 406
Draper, Rex *v.* 504
Driver, Rogers *v.* 604
Drummond, Boydell *v.* 269, 270
Du Bost *v.* Beresford, 6, 11, 388, 523, 578
Duckett, Carr *v.* 395, 556
Dudley *v.* Mayhew, 243
Duffy, Reg. *v.* 528, 537
Dugdale's case, 318
Duncan, Davison *v.* 458, 488, 489, 491
Duncan *v.* Thwaites, 467, 562
Duncombe, Colburn *v.* 234
Duncombe *v.* Daniell, 432
Duncombe, Jeffries *v.* 388
Duncombe, Lowndes *v.* 232
Dunker, Leycroft *v.* 410
Dunkin, Earl of Grauard *v.* 14
Dunman *v.* Bigg, 430, 439
Dunn, Anderson *v.* 348, 355
Dutton, Slowman *v.* 399

E.

Eastwood *v.* Holmes, 438, 446, 587
Eaton *v.* Jones, 564
Eaton, Rex *v.* 301
Edgar, Rex *v.* 386
Edmonds, Rowcliffe *v.* 399
Edmondson *v.* Stevenson, 430, 439
Edmunds *v.* Greenwood, 573
Edsall *v.* Russell, 407
Edwards *v.* Bell, 398, 564
Egerton *v.* Brownlow, 4
Eley, Daw *v.* 373
Ellis, Pierce *v.* 425, 490
Elliston, Murray *v.* 58, 114, 169
Elphinston, Baldwin *v.* 541
Elston, Wilby *v.* 413
Elvery, De la Branchardière *v.* 612
Emerson *v.* Davies, 79, 84, 173, 174, 180, 245
Emond's case, 368
England *v.* Bourke, 588
Evans, Brook *v.* 377
Evans *v.* Harlow, 411
Evans *v.* Harries, 584
Evans, Johnson *v.* 430
Evans, Marchant *v.* 294
Evans, Rutherford *v.* 544, 545, 585
Evans, Tuson *v.* 579
Eve, Rex *v.* 508
Eyre *v.* Carnan, 37, 39, 41
Eyre *v.* Higbee, 12
Eyre *v.* Walker, 62

F.

Faden, Cary *v.* 31
Faden *v.* Stockdale, 235

Fairman *v.* Ives, 429
Falconer, Doyle *v.* 353
Farley's (Mrs.) case, 377
Farlow, Alfred *v.* 400, 413
Farrell, Babonneau *v.* 408, 413
Faulkner, Motte *v.* 62
Faulkner, Rex *v.* 361, 366
Feeney, Cox *v.* 440, 443
Felkin *v.* Herbert, 372
Fenton *v.* Hampton, 353
Fergusson, Earl of Kinnoul *v.* 389, 523
Fernandez, *ex parte*, 379
Ferrett, Atwill *v.* 78, 79, 245
Field, Bonner *v.* 111
Field, Cook *v.* 587, 588
Fielder, Rex *v.* 532
Filgate, Turner *v.* 349
Finnerty *v.* Tipper, 594
Firman, Reg. *v.* 606, 607
Fisher *v.* Clement, 385, 390
Fisher, Clement *v.* 544, 595
Fisher, Earl of Lincoln *v.* 307
Fisher, Rex *v.* 465
Fisher, Seeley *v.* 196, 241
Flannagan, Chubb *v.* 586
Fleet, Rex *v.* 467
Fleming *v.* Newton, 461
Flint *v.* Pike, 477, 565
Flowers' case, 406
Floyd *v.* Barker, 427
Folsom *v.* Marsh, 18, 168, 185, 190, 192, 217, 248
Fonblanque, Cunningham *v.* 291
Foot, McCabe *v.* 413
Forbes, Begg *v.* 540
Forbes *v.* King, 551
Ford *v.* Primrose, 399
Fores *v.* Johnes, 11, 294
Forrester *v.* Waller, 54, 217
Forsdike *v.* Stone, 597, 600
Forster *v.* Browning, 385
Forster *v.* Lawson, 528, 570
Foss, *ex parte*, 255, 256, 285
Foss, Goldstein *v.* 551, 600
Foster, Bentley *v.* 23, 24
Foster, Moor, *v.* 400, 413
Foster *v.* Pointer, 578, 597
Foulger *v.* Newcomb, 402, 407, 408
Fountain *v.* Boodle, 430, 594
Fowle, Pierpoint *v.* 79, 234, 245, 249
Fowler *v.* Dowdney, 399, 413
Fowler, Gilpin *v.* 579
Fowler, Reg. *v.* 532
Francis *v.* Rose, 401
Francis, Strauss *v.* 453, 591
Francis, West *v.* 204
Francklin, Rex *v.* 333
Fraser *v.* Berkeley, 456
Fraser, Watts *v.* 544, 595
Fray *v.* Blackburn, 427
Fray *v.* Fray, 417
Freeman, Clark *v.* 5
French, Harvey *v.* 401, 418, 516, 555
Frescoe *v.* May, 540, 583
Fryer *v.* Kinnersley, 433, 579
Fullarton, Lewis *v.* 236, 239
Fullarton *v.* McPhun, 202, 241

G.

Gaby *v.* The Wilts, &c. Canal Company, 223
Gahagan *v.* Cooper, 124
Gainford *v.* Tuke, 399, 413
Gale *v.* Leckie, 278, 279, 294
Gambart *v.* Ball, 205, 206
Gambart *v.* Lee, 726
Gambier, Moyell *v.* 600
Gardner, Reg. *v.* 502
Gardner *v.* Slade, 430, 600
Garvan, Roach *v.* 372
Gasson, Hemmings *v.* 544, 554, 581
Gathercole *v.* Miall, 439, 443, 456, 576, 583
Gathercole, Palin *v.* 19
Gathercole, Reg. *v.* 303, 382, 385, 386, 389
Gee *v.* Pritchard, 13, 14, 16, 217
Gee, Snag *v.* 400
George *v.* Goddard, 430
Germaine's case, 323
Gerock, White *v.* 58
Gibbons *v.* Ogden, 242
Gilbert, Richardson *v.* 106
Gilham, Rex *v.* 378
Gillett, Mawman *v.* 280, 290, 291, 293
Gilliver *v.* Snagg, 232
Gilpin *v.* Fowler, 579
Gitting, Johns *v.* 393, 562, 566
Gladding, Stevens *v.* 149, 287, 288
Gladwin, Whittington *v.* 409
Goddard, George *v.* 430
Godwin, Colman *v.* 413
Goldney, Maitland *v.* 538
Goldstein *v.* Foss, 551, 600
Goldstein, Rex *v.* 515, 547
Goodburne *v.* Bowman, 393, 563
Goodlake, Pinero *v.* 470
Goodlake, Wright *v.* 222
Goodwin, Colman *v.* 401
Gordon, Rex *v.* 358, 381
Gosden, Broome *v.* 578, 599
Gosling, Justice *v.* 588
Gosset, Howard *v.* 349, 350, 351
Gould *v.* Banks, 280
Gould *v.* Hulme, 432
Gould, Little *v.* 234
Goulding, Clementi *v.* 76
Graham, Strahan, *v.* 163, 167, 253
Granard (Earl of) *v.* Dunkin, 14
Grant, Rex *v.* 533
Gratrex, Prickett *v.* 536
Gravat, Rogers *v.* 400
Graves *v.* Ashford, 107, 112, 205, 725, 730
Graves' case, 94, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 167
Graves, *ex parte*, 228
Graves *v.* Logan, 225
Gray, Bloodworth *v.* 401, 412
Gray *v.* Russell, 79, 84, 245
Gray *v.* West, 596
Green *v.* Chapman, 450
Green, Harwood *v.* 408, 432
Greenbank, Winsmore *v.* 216
Greening, Harding *v.* 575

Greenwood, Edmunds *v.* 573
Gregory, M'Gregor *v.* 549, 563
Gregory, Reg. *v.* 504, 515
Gregory *v.* Reg. 536
Great Eastern Railway Company, Biggs *v.* 392, 564
Greville *v.* Chapman, 417
Grierson *v.* Jackson, 37, 41
Griffin, Hedderwick *v.* 55, 79
Griffin, Bishop of Hereford *v.* 104, 202
Griffith, Stace *v.* 577, 579, 582
Griffiths *v.* Lewis, 407
Guiana (Judges of British), M'Dermott *v.* 369
Gunn, Howard *v.* 17, 18
Gurney *v.* Longman, 48
Gutchard *v.* Mori, 55
Gutch, Rex *v.* 526
Gutsole *v.* Mathers, 544
Gwilt, Reg. *v.* 505
Gyles *v.* Wilcox, 189, 239

H.

Haire *v.* Wilson, 390
Hakewell *v.* Ingram, 598
Halcomb, Bramwell *v.* 173
Hall, Howitt *v.* 275
Hall, Rex *v.* 299
Hall, Watkin *v.* 426, 555, 563
Halpin, Rex *v.* 534
Hamel, Sarazin *v.* 611, 612
Hamilton, Anderson *v.* 577
Hammond *v.* Kingsmill, 402
Hampton, Fenton *v.* 353
Hancock, Bleaden *v.* 290
Hancock *v.* Case, 429
Hankisson *v.* Bilby, 401
Hansard, Stockdale *v.* 351, 355, 492, 496, 498
Harding *v.* Greening, 576
Hare *v.* Meller, 423
Harle *v.* Catherall, 433, 437
Harlow, Evans *v.* 411
Harmer, Duke of Brunswick *v.* 540, 569, 578, 586
Harmer, Morrison *v.* 395, 396, 564, 601,
Harmer, Wilmett *v.* 587
Harper, Blackwell *v.* 110, 113
Harper, Monk *v.* 237
Harries, Evans *v.* 584
Harris *v.* Dixon, 400
Harris, Keene *v.* 255
Harris *v.* Thompson, 430
Harrison, Ashley *v.* 584
Harrison *v.* Bush, 429, 431, 438, 598, 600
Harrison *v.* Hogg, 111
Harrison *v.* Pearce, 540, 583, 584
Harrison, Rex *v.* 342
Harrison, Smith *v.* 588
Harrison *v.* Taylor, 605, 606, 607
Harrison *v.* Thornborough, 385, 400, 409
Harrod, Matthieson *v.* 89, 251
Hart, Rex *v.* 522
Hart and White, Rex *v.* 536
Hartley, Daines *v.* 401, 578
Hartwell *v.* Vesey, 430
Harvey *v.* French, 401, 418, 516, 555
Harvey, Rex *v.* 524, 528
Harwood *v.* Green, 408, 432
Haswell and Bate, Rex *v.* 504, 506
Hatton *v.* Kean, 117, 781
Haward, Button *v.* 385, 399
Hawkins, Metropolitan Saloon Omnibus Company *v.* 389, 539, 574
Hawkins, Somerville *v.* 428, 579, 582
Hawkins, Taylor *v.* 429, 459, 579, 582
Hawkins, Todd *v.* 430
Hawkins, Weatherston *v.* 437
Haylock *v.* Sparke, 513
Haynes, Tibbott *v.* 401
Haythorn *v.* Lawson, 389, 538
Hayward, Rendall *v.* 600
Hazlitt *v.* Templeman, 163, 277
Head *v.* Briscoe, 541
Healy, Wakley *v.* 555, 584
Hearne *v.* Stowell, 403, 490, 570, 600
Heath, Murray *v.* 207
Hedderwick *v.* Griffin, 55, 79
Hedley *v.* Barlow, 435, 445, 591
Heine *v.* Appleton, 236, 246
Helsham *v.* Blackwood, 392, 562
Hemming *v.* Power, 386, 399
Hemmings *v.* Gasson, 544, 554, 581
Henderson *v.* Broomhead, 427, 428
Herbert, Felkin *v.* 372
Herbert, Wallerstein *v.* 117
Hereford (Bishop of) *v.* Griffin, 104, 202
Herepath, Chadwick *v.* 566
Herle *v.* Osgood, 412
Herne, Jones *v.* 399
Hetherington, Reg. *v.* 301, 310
Hext, Reg. *v.* 505
Hext *v.* Yeomans, 400
Heywood *v.* Potter, 612
Hibbins *v.* Lee, 445, 470
Hibbs *v.* Wilkinson, 447
Hickinbotham *v.* Leach, 559
Hicklin, Reg. *v.* 307, 309, 312, 315, 316
Higbee, Eyre *v.* 12
Higbey, Mayall *v.* 229
Highley, Cawdry *v.* 404
Hill, Corbet *v.* 554
Hill *v.* Levey, 291
Hilsden *v.* Mercer, 393, 562
Hime *v.* Dale, 8, 76
Hine, Warman *v.* 399, 415, 589
Hoare *v.* Silverlock, 385, 416, 418, 460, 461, 516, 549, 551, 556, 578
Hobart *v.* Wilkins, 540
Hobhouse, Reg. *v.* 351
Hodgkisson, Cockayne *v.* 391, 430
Hodgson *v.* Scarlett, 478
Hogg, Harrison *v.* 111
Hogg *v.* Kirby, 81, 101, 197, 282
Hogg, Maxwell *v.* 5, 100
Hogg *v.* Maxwell, 99, 103
Hoggins, Holcroft *v.* 295
Holcombe, Story's Executors *v.* 169, 184, 188, 190, 248
Holcroft *v.* Hoggins, 295
Holdsworth *v.* M'Crae, 605, 610, 624, 729

Holland *v.* Stoner, 385
Hollis, Briscoe *v.* 402
Holmes *v.* Catesby, 559
Holmes, Eastwood *v.* 438, 446, 587
Holmes, Reg. *v.* 312
Holmes, Strode *v.* 406
Holt, Rex *v.* 523, 582
Holt *v.* Scholefield, 400, 413
Home *v.* Bentinck, 428
Homer *v.* Taunton, 551, 578
Honess *v.* Stubbs, 560
Hood, Beckford *v.* 90
Hood, Carr *v.* 450
Hooper, *re*, 233
Hooper, Terry *v.* 407
Hope, Miller *v.* 427
Hopper, *ex parte*, 505
Hopwood *v.* Thorn, 408, 431
Horne, Onslow *v.* 403, 404
Horne, Rex *v.* 334, 385, 516
Hoskins, Ceeley *v.* 400
Hotten *v.* Arthur, 84, 171
Houlston, Bogue *v.* 85, 196, 207
Houlston, Jarrold *v.* 82, 172, 239
House, Somers *v.* 385, 399
Houston *v.* Mills, 295
Howard *v.* Gossett, 349, 350, 351
Howard *v.* Gunn, 17, 18
How *v.* Prin, 402, 412
Howitt *v.* Hall, 275
Hoyt *v.* McKenzie, 49, 243
Huckle *v.* Reynolds, 399, 418
Hudson and Morgan, Johnson *v.* 576, 577
Hughes, Cook *v.* 591
Hughes *v.* Dinorben (Lady), 580
Hughes *v.* Porral, 369
Hughes *v.* Rees, 547
Huggonson, Read *v.* 388
Hulme, Gould *v.* 432
Hunt *v.* Algar, 426, 449
Hunt, Churchill *v.* 412, 416
Hunt, Rex *v.* 335
Hunt *v.* Thimblethorpe, 386
Hunter *v.* Sharp, 437, 446, 455, 557
Hutchinson, Abernethy *v.* 19, 217
Hutchinson, Strother *v.* 595
Hutton, Kelly *v.* 255, 283, 284

I.

I'Anson *v.* Stuart, 413, 414, 558, 559, 560
Ingram, Hakewell *v.* 598
Ingram *v.* Lawson, 408, 562, 582, 584
Ingram *v.* Stiff, 197
Inman *v.* Jenkins, 573, 743
Irwin *v.* Brandwood, 408, 413
Isham *v.* York, 403
Ives, Fairman *v.* 429

J.

Jackson, Grierson *v.* 37, 41
Jackson *v.* Lowe, 269
Jackson, Saunderson *v.* 269
Jackson, Thomas *v.* 407, 412
James *v.* Boston, 430
James *v.* Brook, 408
James, Buxton *v.* 236, 238
James, Cotton *v.* 575
James, Rex *v.* 379
Jaques, Jollie *v.* 100, 245
Jardine, Saville *v.* 413
Jarrold *v.* Houlston, 82, 172, 239
Jarvie, Dalglish *v.* 610
Jeffreys *v.* Baldwin, 79
Jeffreys *v.* Boosey, 23, 25–32, 56, 65, 130, 132, 150, 151, 153, 154, 244, 724
Jeffreys, Kyle *v.* 153, 154
Jeffries *v.* Duncombe, 388
Jekyll *v.* Moore, 427, 428
Jenkins, Inman *v.* 573, 743
Jenkins *v.* Smith, 405
Jesse, Sweetapple *v.* 401, 550
Jewett, Rogers *v.* 248
Johnson, Arne *v.* 410
Johnes, Fores *v.* 11, 294
Johns *v.* Gittings, 393, 562, 566
Johns, Squire *v.* 409
Johnson *v.* Dodgson, 269
Johnson *v.* Evans, 430
Johnson, *ex parte*, 228
Johnson *v.* Hudson and Morgan, 576, 577
Johnson, Rex *v.* 335, 521
Johnson, Smith *v.* 104, 202
Johnson, Wakley *v.* 594
Johnston, Lord Byron *v.* 199
Johnstone, Risk Allah Bey *v.* 590
Jollie *v.* Jaques, 100, 245
Jollie, Rex *v.* 505
Jolliffe, Rex *v.* 502
Jones *v.* Bewicke, 561
Jones, Boydell *v.* 385, 405, 417, 551
Jones, Capel *v.* 550
Jones, Carter *v.* 575
Jones, Delany *v.* 386, 399, 431
Jones, Eaton *v.* 564
Jones, *ex parte*, 366
Jones *v.* Herne, 399
Jones *v.* Littler, 409
Jones *v.* Mackie, 567, 590, 596, 745
Jones, Pattison *v.* 430
Jones, Peard *v.* 405, 412
Jones *v.* Pritchard, 541
Jones, Stanton *v.* 413
Jones *v.* Stevens, 523, 560, 584, 585, 593
Jones *v.* Thorn, 243
Judd, Woolsey *v.* 17, 243, 249
Justice *v.* Gosling, 588

K.

Kean, Hatton *v.* 117, 731
Kearsley, Bathurst *v.* 43
Kearsley, Cary *v.* 172, 181, 184, 186, 187
Keene *v.* Harris, 255
Keene *v.* Wheatley, 86, 117, 244, 248, 249
Keighley *v.* Bell, 428
Kelly, Adams *v.* 421

Kelly *v.* Hutton, 255, 283, 284
Kelly *v.* Morris, 82, 174, 177
Kelly, Morris *v.* 54, 152
Kelly, Rooney *v.* 221
Kelly *v.* Sherlock, 406, 594, 597, 600
Kelly *v.* Tinling, 445
Kendillon *v.* Maltby, 427
Kerle *v.* Osgood, 402, 403
Kerry (Lord), Thorley *v.* 383, 413, 416, 538
Kielley *v.* Carson, 352, 353
King *v.* Bagg, 385
King *v.* Bayley, 429
King, Forbes *v.* 551
King, Lake *v.* 428
King (The) *v.* Clement, 45
King *v.* Lake, 384
King *v.* Watts, 430
Kingsmill, Hammond *v.* 402
Kinnersley, Dodsley *v.* 186, 193
Kinnersley, Fryer *v.* 433, 579
Kinnoul (Earl of), Ferguson *v.* 389, 523
Kennedy, Brown *v.* 406
Kirby, Hogg *v.* 81, 101, 197, 232
Knight, Lynch *v.* 418
Knight, Soane *v.* 457
Knowles, Lyons *v.* 214, 215
Koenig *v.* Ritchie, 432.
Kyle *v.* Jeffreys, 153, 154

L.

Lacy, Reade *v.* 181, 183
Lacy *v.* Rhys, 164, 165
Lacy, Tinsley *v.* 170, 188, 233, 236, 238
Lacy *v.* Toole, 165
Lafone *v.* Smith, 567, 590, 596
Lake *v.* King, 428
Lake, King *v.* 384
Lakeman, Smith *v.* 366
Lamb's case, 517
Lambert and Perry, Rex *v.* 324, 340, 527, 733
Lampshire, Chapman *v.* 409
Lancashire (Justices), Rex *v.* 503
Lance, Brandreth *v.* 13
Land and Water Journal Company, Cox *v.* 76, 90, 178, 180, 238, 239, 250
Lander, Woodward *v.* 480
Lane *v.* Applegate, 557, 568
Lane, Baker *v.* 572
Langdale, Morris *v.* 409, 412
Lansing, Yates *v.* 427
Larkin, Reg. *v.* 532
Latimer, Bishop *v.* 406, 481
Latimer, Bromridge *v.* 555, 565
Latimer, Reg. *v.* 537, 736
Laurence, Rex *v.* 332
Lawless *v.* Anglo-Egyptian Cotton Company, 582
Lawrence, Bayliss *v.* 390, 530, 595
Lawrence, Ross *v.* 547
Lawrence *v.* Smith, 3, 6, 7
Lawson, Clarkson *v.* 392, 393, 563
Lawson, Cooper *v.* 461, 473, 475, 565
Lawson, Dicas *v.* 391, 480
Lawson, Forster *v.* 538, 570
Lawson, Haythorn *v.* 389, 538
Lawson, Lay *v.* 395, 431
Lawson, Ingram *v.* 408, 562, 582, 584
Lawson, Pisani *v.* 26, 539
Lawson, Reg. *v.* 505
Lawson, Solomon *v.* 544, 547, 551, 553
Laxton, Bryant *v.* 407
Lay *v.* Lawson, 395, 431
Leach, Hickinbotham *v.* 559
Leader *v.* Purday, 85, 220, 731
Leader, Ryalls *v.* 461, 472
Leader *v.* Strange, 201
Leckie, Gale *v.* 278, 279, 294
Lee, Cox *v.* 410, 418
Lee, Dickens *v.* 193, 234
Lee, Gambart *v.* 726
Lee, Hibbins *v.* 445, 470
Lee, Rex *v.* 465, 468
Lee *v.* Simpson, 117, 184, 212
Lee, Stannard *v.* 113, 226
Lee, Sweet *v.* 269
Le Fanu *v.* Malcomson, 386, 389, 446, 552
Leicester (Earl of) *v.* Walter, 592, 593
Le Maitre, Pearson *v.* 580, 588, 591
Leng, Reg. *v.* 506
Lennie *v.* Pillans, 84
Leonard, Cook *v.* 223
Levey, Hill *v.* 291
Levi *v.* Milne, 599
Levy *v.* Moylan, 370
Levy, Lewis *v.* 458, 461, 463, 468, 469, 470, 472, 478, 481, 565, 600
Levy, Paris *v.* 437, 439, 455, 456
Lewis, Armstrong *v.* 595
Lewis *v.* Chapman, 236
Lewis *v.* Clement, 406, 481
Lewis, Clement *v.* 601
Lewis, Davis *v.* 409
Lewis *v.* Fullarton, 236, 239
Lewis, Griffiths *v.* 407
Lewis *v.* Levy, 458, 461, 463, 468, 469 470, 472, 478, 481, 565, 600
Lewis *v.* Walter, 478, 565
Lewknor *v.* Cruchley, 401
Leycroft *v.* Dunker, 410
Lillie *v.* Price, 556, 557
Lincoln (Earl of) *v.* Fisher, 370
Lindsay, Bendish *v* 400, 413
Lindsay, Chantler *v.* 569
Lingen, Morgan *v.* 406, 408
Little *v.* Gould, 234
Littler, Jones *v.* 409
Littler *v.* Thompson, 371
Livingston *v.* Van Ingen, 242
Lloyd, Parsons *v.* 349
Lloyd, Weaver *v.* 391, 562, 587
Lofield, Rex *v.* 480
Logan, Graves *v.* 225
London and South Western Railway Company, Smith *v.* 237, 238
Long, Barrett *v.* 516, 554, 580
Long *v.* Chubb, 585
Longman, Bach *v.* 76, 116
Longman, Gurney *v.* 43
Longman *v.* Tripp, 150, 255, 285

Longman *v.* Winchester, 82, 176, 180, 197
Lovell, Stuart *v.* 524, 594
Lover *v.* Davidson, 85, 91
Lovett, Reg. *v.* 518
Lovett, Rex *v.* 331, 337
Low, Routledge *v.* 27, 31, 33, 85, 180
Low *v.* Routledge, 89, 90, 91, 244
Low *v.* Warde, 86
Lowe, Jackson *v.* 269
Lowndes *v.* Brown, 603, 609
Lowndes *v.* Duncombe, 282
Lucan (Earl of) *v.* Smith, 556
Lumby *v.* Allday, 404, 408
Lynch *v.* Knight, 413
Lyons *v.* Knowles, 214, 215

M.

Macaulay *v.* Shackell, 574, 575
Macaulay, Thorpe *v.* 574
Macgill's case, 366
Mackenzie, Alexander *v.* 83, 170, 172, 174
Mackie, Jones *v.* 567, 590, 596, 745
Mackie, Sampson *v.* 596
Macklin *v.* Richardson, 55, 57, 114
Maclean *v.* Moody, 77, 78, 89
Maddick, Clement *v.* 182, 197
Maitland *v.* Bramwell, 430, 438
Maitland *v.* Goldney, 538
Malcomson, Le Faun *v.* 386, 389, 446, 551
Maloney *v.* Bartley, 428
Maltby, Kendillon *v.* 427
Manley *v.* Owen, 54, 217
Mann, Rex *v.* 530
Manners *v.* Blair, 37, 38, 39, 41
Mapledorum, Carslake *v.* 401, 412
Manning *v.* Clement, 584, 587
Marchant *v.* Evans, 294
Marchant, Robinson *v.* 409, 412, 570
Margetson *v.* Wright, 605
Marryat, Sims *v.* 280
Marsden, Rex *v.* 502, 515
Marsh *v.* Conquest, 165, 215
Marsh, Folsom *v.* 18, 168, 185, 190, 192, 217, 248
Marshall, Rex *v.* 505
Martin, Rex *v.* 522
Martin *v.* Wright, 186, 207
Martin's case, 366
Mathers, Gutsole *v.* 544
Mathieson *v.* Harrod, 89, 251
Matthewson *v.* Stockdale, 84, 176, 232, 238, 239
Maugham, Sweet *v.* 160, 241
Maule, Spill *v.* 582
Mawman *v.* Gillett, 280, 290, 291, 298
Mawman *v* Togg, 159, 160, 184, 234, 236, 239, 240
Maxwell *v.* Hogg, 5, 100
Maxwell, Hogg *v.* 99, 102
Maxwell, Mayhew *v.* 90, 103, 104, 202, 252
Maxwell, Murray *v.* 90, 103, 202
May *v.* Brown, 594
May, Frescoe *v.* 540, 583
Mayall *v.* Higbey, 229
Mayhew, Dudley *v.* 243
Mayhew *v.* Maxwell, 90, 103, 104, 202, 252
Mayo, Rex *v.* 379
M'Cabe, *v.* Foot, 418
M'Cleod *v.* Wakley, 451, 576
M'Cormick *v.* M'Cubbin, 256
M'Crae, Holdsworth *v.* 605, 610, 624, 729
M'Crae, Young *v.* 411
M'Cubbin, M'Cormick *v.* 256
M'Dermott *v.* The Judges of British Guiana, 369
M'Dougall *v.* Claridge, 430
M'Gregor *v.* Gregory, 549, 563
M'Gregor *v.* Thwaites, 426, 428, 470
M'Kenzie, Hoyt *v.* 49, 243
M'Nally *v.* Oldham, 462
M'Pherson *v.* Daniels, 391, 426, 565
M'Phun, Fullarton *v.* 202, 241
Mead, Rex *v.* 505
Meadows, Woolnoth *v.* 385, 386, 401
Meller, Hare *v.* 428
Mercer, Hilsden *v.* 393, 562
Mercer *v.* Sparks, 543
Mercer *v.* Whall, 575
Merryweather, Turner *v.* 553
Metropolitan Saloon Omnibus Company *v.* Hawkins, 389, 539, 574
Miall, Gathercole *v.* 439, 443, 456, 576, 583
Michill, Cotes *v.* 349
Milbourn, Cowan *v.* 9, 302, 306
Millar *v.* Taylor, 2, 21, 36, 37, 55, 58, 59, 62, 159, 181
Miller *v.* Hope, 427
Millett *v.* Snowden, 182, 248
Milliken, Brooke *v.* 219
Millington *v.* Picken, 605
Mills, Houston *v.* 295
Mills, Saunders *v.* 477, 591
Milne, Lloyd *v.* 599
Mitchell, Bancroft *v.* 228, 229
Mitchell, Walden *v.* 403
Monk *v.* Harper, 237
Mousley, Villiers *v.* 412, 413, 414
Moody, Maclean *v.* 77, 78, 89
Moor, —— *v.* 592
Moor *v.* Foster, 400, 413
Moore *v.* Clarke, 206
Moore, Jekyll *v.* 427, 428
Moore *v.* Terrell, 406
Moorhouse, Wright *v.* 406
Moreton *v.* Copeland, 165, 211, 227
Morgan *v.* Lingen, 406, 408
Mori, Guichard *v.* 55
Morris *v.* Ashbee, 176, 177, 178
Morris *v.* Colman, 277, 282
Morris *v.* Kelly, 54
Morris, Kelly *v.* 82, 152, 174, 177
Morris *v.* Langdale, 409, 412
Morris *v.* Wright, 177
Morrison *v.* Belcher, 440, 449
Morrison *v.* Harmer, 395, 396, 564, 601
Mortimer, Prescott *v.* 197
Mostyn, Fitzborne *v.* 371

Motto *v.* Faulkner, 62
Mountney *v.* Watton, 395, 563
Moyell *v.* Gambier, 600
Moylan, Levy *v.* 870
Mudie, Avanzo *v.* 139
Mulloney *v.* Stevens, 606
Mulock, *re*, 366
Murphy, Dill *v.* 354, 355
Murray *v.* Benbow, 8
Murray *v.* Bogue, 92, 172, 181, 239, 241
Murray, Browne *v.* 585
Murray, Buckingham *v.* 545
Murray *v.* Elliston, 58, 114, 169
Murray *v.* Heath, 207
Murray *v.* Maxwell, 90, 103, 202
Murray, Rex *v.* 505
Murray, Rundell *v.* 159, 236
Murray, Trusler *v.* 84
Myers, Roberts *v.* 79

N.

Napier *v.* Daniel, 600
Neal, Bill *v.* 402
Newcomb, Foulger *v.* 402, 407, 408
Newman *v.* Bailey, 559
Newman, Reg. *v.* 528, 532, 535
Newton *v.* Cowie, 109, 111, 113
Newton, Fleming *v.* 461
Nicholas, Pike *v.* 171, 173, 177, 178, 233, 239, 241
Nicholls, Norton *v.* 606, 607, 617, 624
Nicholson, Barfield *v.* 84, 98, 282
Nicholson, Blake *v.* 290
Nicol *v.* Stockdale, 40, 239
Nokes, Stiles *v.* 474, 475
Norbury, Rawlings *v.* 550
Northampton's (Earl of) case, 386, 565
North-Eastern Railway Company, Alexander *v.* 398, 541, 564 571, 588
Norton *v.* Nicholls, 606, 607, 617, 624
Nottingham Journal (Proprietors of) Reg. *v.* 505, 509
Novello *v.* Sudlow, 75, 92, 170, 218, 724
Nutt, Rex *v.* 328, 342, 502, 525
Nye, Thompson *v.* 594

O.

O'Brien *v.* Bryant, 394, 563,
O'Brien *v.* Clement, 390, 394, 414, 556, 560, 567
O'Brien, Smith *v.* 540
O'Connell *v.* Reg. 536
O'Doherty, Doyle *v.* 428
Ogden, Gibbons *v.* 242
Ogden *v.* Turner, 413
Oldham, McNally *v.* 462
Oldham, Peake *v.* 399
Oliver *v.* Bentinck, 428
Ollendorf *v.* Black, 25
Onslow *v.* Horne, 403, 404
Onwhyn, Stockdale *v.* 9
Osborne, Rex *v.* 382, 502
Osgood, Horle *v.* 412
Osgood, Korle *v.* 402, 403
Ousoley, Darby *v.* 390, 583, 591, 594
Owen, Manley *v.* 54, 217
Owen, Rex *v.* 355
Oxford and Cambridge, Universities of, *v.* Richardson, 37

P.

Page *v.* Townsend, 55, 114, 205
Paine, Rex *v.* 348, 525
Palin *v.* Gathercole, 19
Paris *v.* Levy, 437, 439, 455, 456
Parker, Smith *v.* 568
Parker, Stationers' Company *v.* 41
Parkes *v.* Prescott, 422, 423, 424, 425, 519
Parmiter *v.* Coupland, 404, 412, 434, 595, 599
Parrat *v.* Carpenter, 412
Parsons, Dixon *v.* 430
Parsons *v.* Lloyd, 349
Partridge, Stationers' Company *v.* 39
Pater, *re*, 370
Paterson's case, 309, 310
Patmore, Colburn *v.* 537
Patten, Blunt *v.* 174, 245
Pattison *v.* Jones, 430
Paty, Reg. *v.* 350
Paulett, Dawkins *v.* 428
Payne, British Museum *v.* 96
Payne, Chalmers *v.* 391, 480
Peake *v.* Oldham, 399
Pearce, Harrison *v.* 540, 583, 584
Peard *v.* Jones, 405, 412
Pearson *v.* Le Maitre, 580, 583, 591
Pemberton *v.* Colls, 406
Pemberton, Davey *v.* 574
Penny, Rex *v.* 370
People (The) *v.* Ruggles, 304
Pepper, Duke of Brunswick *v.* 571
Percival *v.* Phipps, 12, 14, 15, 217
Peters, Wheaton *v.* 49, 243
Phillimore *v.* Barry, 269
Phillips, Rex *v.* 500
Phipps, Percival *v.* 12, 14, 15, 217
Pickburn, Popham *v.* 458, 490
Picken, Millingen *v.* 605
Pierce, Baker *v.* 399
Pierce *v.* Ellis, 425, 490
Pierpoint *v.* Fowle, 79, 234, 245, 249
Pigot, Reg. *v.* 339, 340
Pike, Flint *v.* 477, 565
Pike *v.* Nicholas, 171, 173, 177, 178, 233, 239, 241
Pillans, Lennie *v.* 84
Pillow, Taylor *v.* 158, 262
Pinero *v.* Goodlake, 470
Pinkerton, Rex *v.* 535
Pinkney *v.* Collins, 540
Pisani *v.* Lawson, 26, 539
Planché, Braham *v.* 215
Planché, Cumberland *v.* 168
Planché *v.* Colburn, 268, 278
Platt *v.* Button, 236

Platt *v.* Walter, 88, 255, 256, 286
Pocock, Rex *v.* 370
Pointer, Foster *v.* 578, 597
Polhill, De Pinna *v.* 152
Pollard, re, 369
Pool *v.* Sacheverel, 377
Poole *v.* Whitcomb, 597
Poor *v.* Web, 400
Pope *v.* Curl, 12, 14, 217
Popham *v.* Pickburn, 458, 490
Poplett *v.* Stockdale, 9, 293, 294
Porral, Hughes *v.* 369
Potter, Heywood *v.* 612
Potts, Cowles *v.* 428
Powell, Capel *v.* 541
Powell, Christie *v.* 401
Powell, Robertson *v.* 413
Power, Hemming *v.* 386, 399
Power *v.* Walker, 152, 154, 155
Powers, Webb *v.* 240
Prescott, Parkes *v.* 422, 423, 424, 425, 519
Price, Clarke *v.* 277, 282
Price, Lillie *v.* 556, 557
Prickett *v.* Gratrex, 536
Prideaux *v.* Arthur, 505
Primrose, Ford *v.* 399
Prin, How *v.* 402, 412
Pritchard, Gee *v.* 13, 14, 16, 217
Pritchard, Jones *v.* 541
Prosser, Bromage *v.* 389, 459
Prosser *v.* Rowe, 587
Prowett *v.* Mortimer, 197
Pryce's case, 500
Pulte *v.* Derby, 275, 276
Purday, Rooney *v.* 24, 220, 221, 724
Purday, Cocks *v.* 23, 56, 724
Purday, Chappell *v.* 24, 159, 234
Purday, Leader *v.* 85, 220, 731
Purdy *v.* Stacey, 400

Q.

Queensberry (Duke of) *v.* Shebbeare, 54, 217
Quick's (Juliana) case, 322

R.

Rainer, Rex *v.* 355
Rainy *v.* The Justices of Sierra Leone, 369
Rawlings *v.* Norbury, 550
Read *v.* Huggonson, 383
Read, Rex *v.* 530
Reade *v.* Bentley, 161, 270, 271, 272, 273
Reade *v.* Conquest, 170, 727
Reade *v.* Lacy, 181, 183
Reed *v.* Carusi, 79
Reed, Corsar *v.* 595
Reed, Wilson *v.* 389, 448
Rees, Hughes *v.* 547
Reeves, Rex *v.* 321, 322, 355
Reeves *v.* Templar, 570
Reg. *v.* Badger, 512
Reg. *v.* Baldwin, 505, 507, 508
Reg. *v.* Bessell, 603, 604
Reg. *v.* Brown, 342, 387
Reg. *v.* Christie, 502
Reg. *v.* Closs, 208
Reg. *v.* Cooper, 416, 421, 422, 425, 518, 520
Reg. *v.* Doherty, 507
Reg. *v.* Duffy, 528, 537
Reg. *v.* Firman, 606, 607
Reg. *v.* Fowler, 532
Reg. *v.* Gardner, 502
Reg. *v.* Gathercole, 303, 382, 385, 386, 389, 502
Reg. *v.* Gregory, 504, 515
Reg. Gregory *v.* 536
Reg. *v.* Gwilt, 505
Reg. *v.* Grey, 502
Reg. *v.* Hetherington, 301, 307, 310
Reg. *v.* Hext, 505
Reg. *v.* Hicklin, 307, 309, 312, 315, 316
Reg. *v.* Hobhouse, 351
Reg. *v.* Holmes, 312
Reg. *v.* Larkin, 532
Reg. *v.* Latimer, 537, 736
Reg. *v.* Lawson, 505
Reg. *v.* Leng, 506
Reg. *v.* Lovett, 517
Reg. *v.* Newman, 528, 532, 535
Reg. *v.* *Nottingham Journal* (Proprietors of), 505, 509
Reg. O'Connell *v.* 536
Reg. *v.* Paty, 350
Reg. *v.* Pigot, 339, 340
Reg. *v.* Recorder of Wolverhampton, 307
Reg. *v.* Richardson, 532, 535
Reg. *v.* Russell, 530
Reg. *v.* Shimmin, 534, 733
Reg. *v.* Sullivan, 321, 322, 339, 362
Reg. *v.* Taylor, 502
Reg. *v.* Toakley, 502
Reg. *v.* Waters, 518
Reg. *v.* Watson, 312
Reg. *v.* Webb, 312
Reg. *v.* West, 609
Reg. *v.* Whitehouse, 532
Reg. *v.* Woolmer, 508
Reg. *v.* Wrightson, 370
Rendall *v.* Hayward, 600
Revel, Rex *v.* 370
Revis *v.* Smith, 427, 428
Rex *v.* Abingdon, 487, 488, 525
Rex *v.* Almon, 329, 363, 517, 525
Rex *v.* Archer, 534, 535
Rex *v.* Askew, 532
Rex *v.* Beach, 522
Rex *v.* Beere (or Boare), 332, 518, 522
Rex *v.* Benfield, 532
Rex *v.* Bickerton, 504
Rex *v.* Bishop, 505
Rex *v.* Bliss, 332
Rex *v.* Bradley, 534
Rex *v.* Brereton, 544
Rex *v.* Brewster, 342
Rex *v.* Brice, 503
Rex *v.* Brook, 509
Rex *v.* Brown, 551

Rex v. Budd, 322
Rex v. Bunts, 533
Rex v. Burdett, 306, 331, 336 514, 515, 517
Rex v. Burke, 524
Rex v. Burn, 507
Rex v. Carlisle, 302, 303, 310, 459, 460, 517
Rex v. Cator, 439, 537
Rex v. Clement, 45, 372, 379
Rex v. Clendon, 299
Rex v. Clerk, 327
Rex v. Cobbett, 320, 331, 334
Rex v. Cockshaw, 503
Rex v. Coben and Jacob, 530
Rex v. Collins, 337
Rex v. Creevey, 459, 487, 488
Rex v. Critchley, 420
Rex v. Crunden, 312
Rex v. Curl, 312
Rex v. Cuthell, 321, 344
Rex v. Davison, 370
Rex v. Dean of St. Asaph, 320
Rex v. De Berenger, 382
Rex v. D'Eon, 381
Rex v. Draper, 504
Rex v. Eaton, 301
Rex v. Edgar, 386
Rex v. Eve, 508
Rex v. Faulkner, 361, 366
Rex v. Fielder, 532
Rex v. Fisher, 465
Rex v. Fleet, 467
Rex v. Francklin, 333
Rex v. Gilham, 378
Rex v. Goldstein, 515, 547
Rex v. Gordon, 358, 381
Rex v. Grant, 533
Rex v. Gutch, 526
Rex v. Hall, 299
Rex v. Halpin, 534
Rex v. Harrison, 342
Rex v. Hart, 522
Rex v. Hart and White, 536
Rex v. Harvey, 324, 523
Rex v. Haswell and Bate, 504, 506
Rex v. Holt, 523, 532
Rex v. Horne, 334, 385, 516
Rex v. Hunt, 335
Rex v. James, 379
Rex v. Johnson, 335, 521
Rex v. Jollie, 505
Rex v. Jolliffe, 502
Rex v. Lambert and Perry, 324, 340, 527, 733
Rex v. Lancashire (Justices), 503
Rex v. Laurence, 332
Rex v. Lee, 435, 468
Rex v. Lofield, 480
Rex v. Lovett, 331, 337
Rex v. Mann, 530
Rex v. Marsden, 502, 515
Rex v. Marshall, 505
Rex v. Martin, 522
Rex v. Mayo, 370
Rex v. Mead, 505
Rex v. Murray, 505
Rex v. Nutt, 328, 342, 502, 525
Rex v. Osborne, 382, 502
Rex v. Owen, 355
Rex v. Paine, 343, 525
Rex v. Peltier, 379
Rex v. Penny, 370
Rex v. Phillips, 500
Rex v. Pinkerton, 535
Rex v. Pocock, 370
Rex v. Rainer, 355
Rex v. Read, 530
Rex v. Reeves, 321, 322, 357
Rex v. Revel, 370
Rex v. Robinson, 302, 502, 503, 505
Rex v. Rouverard, 312
Rex v. Selby, 370
Rex v. Shebbeare, 343
Rex v. Skinner, 427
Rex v. Slaney, 518, 521
Rex v. Smithson, 509
Rex v. Staples, 502
Rex v. Steward, 506
Rex v. Stockdale, 322, 356
Rex v. Stratton, 501
Rex v. Taylor, 299, 310
Rex v. Thicknesse, 502
Rex v. Topham, 420, 421, 523, 525, 532
Rex v. Tutchin, 332, 335
Rex v. Veley, 432
Rex v. Vint and others, 380
Rex v. Waddington, 301, 302, 306, 310, 382, 530, 532
Rex v. Wakefield, 502
Rex v. Wandsworth, 530
Rex v. Watson, 364, 385, 502, 521
Rex v. Walter, 526
Rex v. Waring, 585
Rex v. Weltje, 370
Rex v. White and another, 362
Rex v. Wilkes, 328, 501
Rex v. Willett, 505
Rex v. Williams, 300, 302, 498, 504, 522, 534
Rex v. Wilson, 534
Rex v. Withers, 535
Rex v. Woodfall, 329, 533
Rex v. Woolston, 300, 305
Rex v. Wright, 458, 467, 484, 498, 501
Rex v. Wyatt, 379
Reynolds, Huckle v. 399, 413
Rhys, Lacy v. 164, 165
Richardson v. Allen, 413
Richardson, Universities of Oxford and Cambridge v. 87
Richards, Coxhead v. 408
Richards v. Richards, 592
Richardson, Cornwall v. 594
Richardson, Macklin v. 55, 57, 114
Richardson v. Gilbert, 106
Richardson, Reg. v. 532, 535
Rideout, Woodgate v. 385, 419, 444, 445
Riley, Springhead Spinning Company v. 5, 6
Risk Allah Bey v. Johnstone, 590
Ritchie, Koenig v. 432
Roach v. Garvan, 372
Roach, Rowe v. 548
Roberts, Brand v. 418
Roberts v. Brown, 474

Roberts *v.* Camden, 385, 400, 413, 555
Roberts, Clay *v.* 405, 570
Roberts, Doyley *v.* 408
Roberts *v.* Myers, 79
Roberts *v.* Roberts, 413
Robertson *v.* Powell, 413
Robertson *v.* Wylde, 580
Robinson, Butterworth *v.* 44, 105
Robinson, Day *v.* 596
Robinson, Macklin *v.* 57
Robinson *v.* Marchent, 409, 412, 570
Robinson, Rex *v.* 302, 502, 503, 505
Robinson, Simpson *v.* 558, 579, 581, 582
Robinson, Turner *v.* 56
Robinson, Wilson *v.* 558, 579, 581
Robinson's case, 309
Robison, Archbishop of Tuam *v.* 383, 384, 412, 414
Robison's Trustees, Constable *v.* 277
Robson *v.* Blackwell, 540
Rogers *v.* Driver, 604
Rogers *v.* Gravat, 400
Rogers *v.* Jowett, 248
Rooney *v.* Kelly, 221
Roose, Francis *v.* 401
Roper *v.* Streater, 41
Rose, Webb *v.* 54, 217
Ross *v.* Lawrence, 547
Routledge *v.* Low, 27, 31, 33, 35
Routledge, Low *v.* 89, 90, 91, 130, 244
Rouverard, R. *v.* 312
Rowcliffe *v.* Edmonds, 399
Rowe, Prosser *v.* 587
Rowe *v.* Roach, 543
Roworth *v.* Wilkes, 109, 110, 168, 184
Ruggles, The People *v.* 304
Randall *v.* Murray, 159, 286
Russell *v.* Briant, 213
Russell *v.* Edsall, 407
Russell, Gray *v.* 79, 84. 245
Russell, Reg. *v.* 580
Russell *v.* Smith, 211, 212, 213, 227
Rutherford *v.* Evans, 544, 545, 585
Rutland's (Countess of) case, 349
Rutter *v.* Chapman, 595
Ryalls *v.* Leader, 461, 472

S.

Sacheverel, Pool *v.* 377
Sampson *v.* Mackie, 596
Sarazin *v.* Flamel, 611, 612
Saunders *v.* Bate, 578
Saunders, *Correspondent* Newspaper Company *v.* 88, 100, 102
Saunders *v.* Mills, 477, 691
Saunders *v.* Smith, 44, 186, 235
Saunders *v.* Wakefield, 268
Saunderson *v.* Jackson, 269
Saville *v.* Jardine, 413
St. Asaph (Dean of), Rex *v.* 320
Scales, Cheese *v.* 415
Scarlett, Hodgson *v.* 478
Scarll *v.* Dixon, 429
Scholefield, Holt *v.* 400, 413
Scott, Campbell *v.* 182, 188
Scott *v.* Standfield, 427
Scott *v.* Stanford, 182, 184
Scoville, Wetmore *v.* 17
Seaman *v.* Bigg, 407, 412
Sedley's case, 312
Seeley *v.* Fisher, 196, 241
Selby, Rex *v.* 370
Senande, Cleaver *v.* 430
Serrell, Vines *v* 583
Sevastopulo, Stern *v.* 573
Seven Bishops' case, 576
Seymour *v.* Butterworth, 444, 446
Seymour, Stationer's Company *v.* 89
Shackell, Chalmers *v.* 395, 587
Shackell, Macaulay *v.* 574, 575
Shackell, Thompson *v.* 454, 456
Sharp, Delondre *v.* 25
Sharp, Hunter *v.* 437, 446, 455, 557
Shaw *v.* Shaw, 366
Shaw, Smith *v.* 223
Shaw, Sweet *v.* 159, 185, 234
Shebbeare, Duke of Queensberry *v.* 54, 217
Shebbeare, Rex *v.* 348
Shellato, Surman *v.* 407
Shepherd *v.* Conquest, 84, 164, 727
Sheriff *v.* Coates, 238
Sherlock, Kelly *v.* 406, 594, 597, 600
Sherwood, Southey *v.* 3, 5, 6, 59, 181, 236
Shimmin, Reg. *v.* 584, 733
Sibley *v.* Tomlins, 408
Sicilies (King of the Two) *v.* Wilcox, 574
Sierra Leone (Justices of), Rainy *v.* 369
Silverlock, Hoare *v.* 385, 416, 418, 460, 461, 516, 549, 551, 556, 578
Simmons *v.* Sweete, 370
Simpson, Day *v.* 117
Simpson *v.* Downs, 433
Simpson, Lee *v.* 117, 184, 212
Simpson *v.* Robinson, 558, 579, 581, 582
Sims *v.* Marryat, 280
Skene, Beatson *v.* 488, 582
Skinner, Rex *v.* 427
Slade, Garduer *v.* 430, 600
Slaney, Rex *v.* 518, 521
Slowman *v.* Dutton, 399
Smith, Brown *v.* 409, 413
Smith *v.* Cooker, 554
Smith, Craven *v.* 596
Smith *v.* Harrison, 585
Smith, Jenkins *v.* 405
Smith *v.* Johnson, 104, 202
Smith, Lafone *v.* 567, 590, 596
Smith *v.* Lakeman, 366
Smith, Lawrence *v.* 3, 6, 7
Smith *v.* London and South-Western Railway Company, 237, 238
Smith, Lucan (Earl of) *v.* 556
Smith *v.* O'Brien, 540
Smith *v.* Parker, 563
Smith, Revis *v.* 427, 428
Smith, Russell *v.* 211, 212, 213, 227
Smith, Saunders *v.* 44, 186, 235
Smith *v.* Shaw, 223
Smith, Snowden *v.* 593
Smith, Stanton *v.* 409

Smith *v.* Thomas, 565
Smith, Ward *v.* 389
Smith, Windover *v.* 605
Smith *v.* Wisdome, 400
Smith *v.* Wood, 586
Smithson, Rex *v.* 509
Snag *v.* Gee, 400
Snagg, Gilliver *v.* 232
Snowden, Millett *v.* 182, 248
Snowden *v.* Smith, 593
Soane *v.* Knight, 457
Solomon *v.* Lawson, 544, 547, 552, 553
Somers *v.* House, 385, 399
Somerville *v.* Hawkins, 428, 579, 582
Southam *v.* Allen, 409
South-Eastern Railway Company, Whitfield *v.* 389, 541
Southee *v.* Denny, 404, 412
Southey *v.* Sherwood, 3, 5, 6, 59, 181, 236
Sparke, Haylock *v.* 513
Sparks, Mercer *v.* 543
Spencer *v.* Amerton, 430
Spiers *v.* Brown, 179, 180, 239
Spill *v.* Maule, 582
Spottiswoode, Campbell *v.* 392, 435, 437, 438, 439, 440
Spottiswoode *v.* Clark, 196, 233
Springhead Spinning Company *v.* Riley, 5, 6
Spyring, Toogood *v.* 428, 429, 433
Squire *v.* Johns, 409
Stace *v.* Griffith, 577, 579, 582
Stacey, Purdy *v.* 400
Stainton *v.* Jones, 413
Stamp *v.* White, 401
Stanfield, Scott *v.* 427
Stanford, Scott *v.* 182, 184
Stanhope, Thompson *v.* 12, 217
Stannard *v.* Lee, 113, 226
Stanton *v.* Smith, 409
Staples, Rex *v.* 502
Starkey, Taylor *v.* 405
Stationers' Company *v.* Parker, 41
Stationers' Company *v.* Carnan, 39
Stationers' Company *v.* Partridge, 39
Stationers' Company *v.* Seymour, 39
Stebbing *v.* Warner, 400
Stern *v.* Sevastopulo, 573
Stevens *v.* Benning, 160, 161, 270, 272, 275, 278
Stevens, Blake *v.* 479
Stevens *v.* Cady, 149, 237, 244
Stevens, Croft *v.* 428
Stevens *v.* Gladding, 149, 237, 238
Stevens, Jones *v.* 523, 560, 584, 585, 593
Stevens, Mulloney *v.* 606
Stevens *v.* Wildy, 39, 234
Stevenson, Edmondson *v.* 430, 439
Steward, Rex *v.* 506
Stewart *v.* Black, 202, 223
Stewart, Cadell *v.* 14
Stiff, Cassell *v.* 92, 138, 147
Stiff, Ingram *v.* 197
Stiles *v.* Nokes, 474, 475
Stockdale, Fadon *v.* 285
Stockdale *v.* Hansard, 351, 355, 492, 496, 498
Stockdale, Matthewson *v.* 84, 176, 283, 288, 289
Stockdale, Nicol *v.* 40, 289
Stockdale *v.* Onwhyn, 9
Stockdale, Poplett *v.* 9, 293, 294
Stockdale, Rex *v.* 322, 356
Stockdale *v.* Tarte, 479
Stone, Bell *v.* 414
Stone, Clayton *v.* 243, 245
Stone, Forsdike *v.* 597, 600
Stoner, Holland *v.* 385
Storey *v.* Challands, 430
Story's Executors *v.* Derby, 239
Story's Executors *v.* Holcombe, 169, 184, 188, 190, 248
Stott, Williams *v.* 399, 413, 516, 555
Stowe *v.* Thomas, 169, 173, 248
Stowell, Hearne *v.* 406, 490, 570, 600
Strahan *v.* Graham, 163, 167, 253
Strange, Attorney-General *v.* 50
Strange, Leader *v.* 201
Strange, Prince Albert *v.* 2, 36, 49, 50, 57, 58, 181, 216
Stratton, Rex *v.* 501
Strauss *v.* Francis, 453, 591
Streater, Roper *v.* 41
Strode *v.* Holmes, 406
Strother *v.* Hutchinson, 595
Stuart, D'Arson *v.* 413, 414, 558, 559, 560
Stuart *v.* Lovell, 524, 594
Stubbs, Honess *v.* 560
Stuckley *v.* Bulhead, 403
Sturt, Blagg *v.* 406, 432, 579
Sudlow, Novello *v.* 75, 92, 170, 218, 724
Sullivan, Reg. *v.* 321, 322, 339, 362
Sullivan *v.* Turner, 477
Surman *v.* Shelleto, 407
Surrey, *re* High Sheriff of, 366
Swan, Dibdin *v.* 450
Sweet *v.* Archbold, 221
Sweet, Archbold *v.* 281
Sweet *v.* Benning, 106, 194, 253, 723, 731
Sweet *v.* Cater, 160, 161, 185, 234
Sweet *v.* Lee, 269
Sweet *v.* Maugham, 160, 241
Sweet *v.* Shaw, 159, 185, 234
Sweetapple *v.* Jesse, 401, 550
Sykes *v.* Sykes, 199
Symonds, Thomjson *v.* 111, 166, 223

T.

Tabart *v.* Tipper, 450, 454, 545, 545
Talbot *v.* Case, 400
Tallis, Wright *v.* 10
Tarpley *v.* Blaby, 580, 585, 594
Tarrant, Carpenter *v.* 399, 413
Tarte, Stockdale *v.* 479
Tatam, Boston *v.* 418
Taunton, Homer *v.* 551, 578
Taylor, Baily *v.* 84, 236, 237
Taylor, Clarke *v.* 392, 393, 562
Taylor, Harrison *v.* 605, 606, 607
Taylor *v.* Hawkins, 429, 459, 579, 582

Taylor, Millar *v.* 2, 21, 36, 37, 55, 58, 59, 62, 159, 181
Taylor *v.* Pillow, 158, 202
Taylor, Reg. *v.* 502
Taylor, Rex *v.* 299, 310
Taylor *v.* Starkey, 405
Tegg, Mawman *v.* 159, 160, 184, 234, 236, 239, 240
Tempest *v.* Chambers, 401
Templar, Reeves *v.* 570
Templeman, Hazlitt *v.* 163, 277
Terrell, Moore *v.* 406
Terry *v.* Hooper, 407
Theobald *v.* Crichmore, 223
Thicknesse, Rex *v.* 502
Thimblethorpe, Hunt *v.* 386
Thomas *v.* Churton, 427
Thomas *v.* Jackson, 407, 412
Thomas, Smith *v.* 565
Thomas, Stowe *v.* 169, 173, 248
Thomas, Tripp *v.* 582
Thombleson *v.* Black, 278
Thompson *v.* Barnard, 401
Thompson, Digby *v.* 417
Thompson, Harris *v.* 430
Thompson, Littler *v.* 371
Thompson *v.* Nye, 594
Thompson *v.* Shackell, 454, 456
Thompson *v.* Stanhope, 12, 217
Thompson *v.* Symonds, 111, 166, 223
Thorley *v.* Lord Kerry, 383, 413, 416, 538
Thorn, Hopwood *v.* 408, 431
Thornborough, Harrison *v.* 385, 400, 409
Thorne, Jones *v.* 243
Thornistone, Dobson *v.* 409
Thorpe *v.* Macaulay, 574
Thwaites, Duncan *v.* 467, 562
Thwaites, M'Gregor *v.* 426, 428, 470
Tibbot *v.* Haynes, 401
Tichborne *v.* Mostyn, 371
Tichborne *v.* Tichborne, 45, 372
Tidman *v.* Ainslie, 565
Tighe *v.* Cooper, 391, 395, 564
Tilney, Cropp *v.* 388
Tinling, Kelly *v.* 445
Tinsley *v.* Lacy, 170, 188, 233, 236, 238
Tipper, Finnerty *v.* 594
Tipper, Tabart *v.* 450, 454, 545, 546
Toakley, Reg. *v.* 502
Todd *v.* Hawkins, 430
Tolkien, Boosey *v.* 219
Tomlins, Sibley *v.* 408
Tomlinson *v.* Brittlebank, 399, 401, 413
Touson *v.* Collins, 62
Tonson *v.* Walker, 62, 188, 189
Toogood *v.* Spyring, 428, 429, 433
Toole, Lacy *v.* 165
Topham, Rex *v.* 420, 421, 523, 525, 532
Townsend, Page *v.* 55, 114, 205
Tripp, Longman *v.* 150, 255, 285
Tripp *v.* Thomas, 582
Trusler *v.* Murray, 84
Tuam (Archbishop of) *v.* Robison, 383, 384, 412, 414
Tuke, Gainford *v.* 399, 413
Tupling *v.* Ward, 572
Turnbull *v.* Bird, 437, 594
Turner, *ex parte*, 365, 378, 379
Turner *v.* Filgate, 349
Turner *v.* Merryweather, 553
Turner, Ogden *v.* 413
Turner *v.* Robinson, 56
Turner, Van Sandau *v.* 363
Turner *v.* Sullivan, 477
Tutchin, Rex *v.* 332, 335
Tutty *v.* Alewin, 407, 412
Tuson *v.* Evans, 579

U.

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge *v.* Richardson, 37
University of Cambridge, Basket *v.* 41
Updegraph, Commonwealth *v.* 304
Upsheer *v.* Betts, 393
Upton, Cornish *v.* 176

V.

Van Ingen, Livingston *v.* 242
Van Sandau *v.* Turner, 363
Veley, Rex *v.* 432
Vernon, Atcherley *v.* 149
Vernon *v.* Vernon, 375
Vesey, Hartwell *v.* 430
Vicars *v.* Wilcocks, 585
Villers *v.* Monsley, 412, 413, 414
Vines *v.* Serrell, 583
Vint and others, Rex *v.* 380

W.

Waddington, Rex *v.* 301, 302, 306, 310, 382, 530, 532
Wadsworth *v.* Bentley, 394
Wain *v.* Warlters, 268
Waithman *v.* Weever, 594
Wakefield, Rex *v.* 502
Wakefield, Saunders *v.* 268
Wakley *v.* Cooke, 589
Wakley, Cooper *v.* 575, 588
Wakley *v.* Healy, 555, 584
Wakley *v.* Johnson, 594
Wakley, M'Leod, *v.* 451, 576
Walcot *v.* Walker, 4, 7
Walden *v.* Mitchell, 403
Walker, Bell *v.* 189
Walker *v.* Brogden, 406
Walker, Clementi *v.* 23, 55, 56, 152, 724,
Walker, Eyre *v.* 62
Walker, Power *v.* 152, 154, 155
Walker, Touson *v.* 62, 188, 189
Walker, Walcot *v.* 4, 7
Walker, Walthoe *v.* 62
Wallace, *re*, 369
Waller, Forrester *v.* 54, 217
Wallerstein *v.* Herbert, 117
Walter, Curry *v.* 460, 464, 467, 469, 474
Walter, Earl of Leicester *v.* 592, 593

Walter, Lewis *v.* 478, 565
Walter, Platt *v.* 88, 255, 256, 286
Walter, Rex *v.* 526
Walter, Wason *v.* 435, 440, 459, 469, 483, 487, 488, 493, 495, 556, 595
Walthoe *v.* Walker, 62
Wandsworth, Rex *v.* 530
Ward, Colnaghi *v.* 112, 278
Ward, Cook *v.* 417, 578, 583, 586
Ward, Low *v.* 86
Ward *v.* Smith, 389
Ward, Tupling *v.* 572
Waring, Rex *v.* 585
Warlters, Wain *v.* 268
Warman *v.* Hine, 399, 415, 589
Warner, Stebbing *v.* 400
Wason *v.* Walter, 435, 440, 459, 469, 483, 487, 488, 493, 495, 556, 595
Watkin *v.* Hall, 426, 555, 565
Watson, Reg. *v.* 312
Watson, Rex *v.* 364, 385, 502, 521
Waters, Reg. *v.* 518
Wathen, Coleman *v.* 57, 114, 169, 170, 183
Watton, Charlton *v.* 492
Watton, Mountney *v.* 395, 563
Watts *v.* Fraser, 544, 595
Watts, King *v.* 430
Weatherston *v.* Hawkins, 439
Weaver *v.* Lloyd, 391, 562, 587
Web *v.* Poor, 400
Webb *v.* Powers, 240
Webb, Reg. *v.* 312
Webb *v.* Rose, 54, 217
Weever, Waithman *v.* 594
Wellesley, De Crespigny *v.* 425
Weltje, Rex *v.* 370
Wentworth, Brook *v.* 281
Weoley, Woodruff *v.* 406
West *v.* Francis, 204
West, Gray *v.* 596
West, Reg. *v.* 609
West Hartlepool Harbour and Railway Company, Coleman *v.* 375
Weston *v.* Dobniet, 427
Wetmore *v.* Scoville, 17
Whall, Mercer *v.* 575
Wharton *v.* Brook, 406
Wheatley, Keene *v.* 36, 117, 244, 248, 249
Wheatson *v.* Peters, 49, 243
Wheble, De Berenger *v.* 119
Whitcomb, Poole *v.* 597
White, Ashby *v.* 216
White *v.* Gerocu, 58
White, Rex *v.* 362, 502
White, Stamp *v.* 401
Whitehead, Bell *v.* 238
Whitehouse, Reg. *v.* 532
Whiteley *v.* Adams, 428, 429
Whitfield *v.* South-Eastern Railway Company, 389, 541
Whittingham *v.* Wooler, 185, 239
Whittington *v.* Gladwin, 409
Whitworth, Caulfield *v.* 582
Wilby *v.* Elston, 413
Wilcocks, Vicars *v.* 585
Wilcox, Gyles *v.* 189, 239
Wilcox, King of the Two Sicilies *v.* 574
Wildes, Cooke *v.* 429, 433, 579
Wildy, Stevens *v.* 89, 234
Wilkes, Rex *v.* 328, 501
Wilkes, Roworth *v.* 109, 110, 168, 184
Wilkins *v.* Aikin, 109, 171, 231
Wilkins, Cuddington *v.* 393, 413, 571
Wilkins, Hobart *v.* 540
Wilkinson, Hibbs *v.* 447
Willett, Rex *v.* 505
Williams *v.* Beaumont, 389, 538
Williams, *ex parte*, 505
Williams, Rex *v.* 300, 302, 498, 504, 522, 534
Williams *v.* Stott, 399, 413, 516, 555
Williams's case, 324
Wilmott *v.* Harmer, 587
Wilson's (Carus) case, 370
Wilson, Haire *v.* 390
Wilson *v.* Reed, 389, 448
Wilson, Rex *v.* 534
Wilson *v.* Robinson, 558, 579, 581
Wilton (Earl of) Dickson, *v.* 428, 429
Wilts, &c. Canal Company, Gaby *v.* 223
Winchester, Longman *v.* 82, 176, 180, 197
Windover *v.* Smith, 605
Winsmere *v.* Greenbank, 216
Wisdome, Smith *v.* 400
Wise, Berryman *v.* 523, 585
Wiseman *v.* Wiseman, 400
Withers, Rex *v.* 535
Wood *v.* Adam, 544
Wood *v.* Boosey, 78, 85, 89, 118, 134, 157, 203
Wood, Boosey *v.* 568
Wood *v.* Brown, 544
Wood *v.* Chart, 141, 142
Wood, Smith *v.* 586
Woodard *v.* Dowsing, 415
Woodfall, Rex *v.* 329, 533
Woodgate *v.* Rideout, 385, 419, 444, 445
Woodgate, Wright *v.* 428, 433, 579
Woodruff, Binns *v.* 79
Woodruff *v.* Wooley, 406
Woodward *v.* Lander, 430
Wooler, Whittingham *v.* 185, 239
Woolmer, Reg. *v.* 508
Woolnoth, Meadows *v.* 385, 386, 401
Woolsey *v.* Judd, 17, 243, 249
Woolston, Rex *v.* 300, 305
Wright, Cartwright *v.* 546
Wright *v.* Clements, 544
Wright *v.* Goodlake, 222
Wright, Margetson *v.* 605
Wright, Martin *v.* 186, 207
Wright *v.* Moorhouse, 406
Wright, Morris *v.* 177
Wright, Rex *v.* 458, 467, 484, 498, 504
Wright *v.* Tallis, 10
Wright *v.* Woodgate, 428, 433, 579
Wrightson, Reg. *v.* 370
Wyatt *v.* Barnard, 79, 98, 109, 180
Wyatt, Rex *v.* 379
Wylde, Robertson *v.* 580

Y.

Yarmouth, *ex parte* the Mayor of, 370
Yates, Clay *v.* 289, 294
Yates, Collius *v.* 574
Yates *v.* Lansing, 427
Yeomans, Hoxt *v.* 400
York, Isham *v.* 405
Young *v.* Auston, 566
Young *v.* Macrae, 411
Younge, Astley *v.* 427, 428
Yrisarri *v.* Clement, 523, 584

Z.

Zenobio *v.* Axtell, 515, 547

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

PAGE 3, line 5, after 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, *add* "sculpture, models, and casts (54 Geo. 3, c. 56)."

PAGE 65, line 26, *for* "Act" *read* "Acts."

PAGE 84, after line 12, *insert*:

New edition with notes.

The Scotch Court of Session has held in the recent case of *Black* v. *Murray* (9 Scotch Sess. Cas. 341, 3rd Series), that a person may, by publishing a reprint of a work of which the copyright has expired, with notes and illustrations from other works, create a new copyright which will be protected from piracy; and that it is a piratical use of such copyright work to borrow from it any considerable number of those illustrations.

It was contended on behalf of the defenders in this case (an action for infringing the pursuers' copyright in the works of Sir Walter Scott by publishing what purported to be a reprint of the original edition of the "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border") that the copyright claimed by the pursuers was a copyright of an edition of a work, not of the original text, the copyright in which had admittedly long since expired; that the pursuers' claim to copyright was chiefly based on notes contributed to their alleged copyright edition; that to make notes the subject of copyright, they must in a reasonable sense form a "book," and must constitute the value of the new edition; that that was not the case with the pursuers' edition, the notes added by their edition being 200 in all, many of them unimportant, and not extending to 25 small pages; that only 40 were taken by the defenders, 10 of them being found in editions not copyright; and finally, that it was open to the defenders to quote even from copyright books for the purpose of illustration; but the Court of Session, affirming the interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary, held the defenders liable for piracy.

Some valuable observations were made by the court, in this case, on the question—what constitutes a new edition of a book? "Questions of great nicety and difficulty," said the Lord President, "may arise as to how far a new edition of a work is a proper subject of copyright at all; but that must always depend upon circumstances. A new edition of a book may be a mere reprint of an old edition, and plainly that would not entitle the author to a new term of copyright running from the date of the new edition. On the other hand, a new edition of a book may be so enlarged and improved as to constitute in reality a new work, and that just as clearly will entitle the author to a copyright running from the date of the new edition. Take for example, in illustration of that, a new edition of a scientific work which is published twenty or thirty years after the date of the first edition. The progress of science in the interval necessarily leads to the new edition being a very different book from the old. That old edition will probably, in the course of these twenty or thirty years, have become comparatively worthless, while the new edition, particularly if it is the production of the original author himself, will be as valuable at the later period as the original edition of the book was at the time when it was published. But there are many cases between these two extremes; and the difficulty will be to lay down any general rule as to what amount of addition or alteration or new matter will entitle a second or a new edition of a book to the privilege of copyright, or whether the copyright extends to the book as amended or improved, or is confined only to the additions or improvements themselves, as distinguished from the rest of the book. I think in the present case that we shall not find that we are in reality much troubled with such difficulties."

"It is not necessary," observed Lord Ardmillan, "that a work shall be entirely a new work in order to be the subject of copyright. A new edition is not necessarily a subject of copyright, but it may be so. There must be some originality in it; it may be in new thought or in new illustration, or in new explanatory and illustrative annotation, or even, in some peculiar instances, in simply new arrangement. If, in any of those respects, there is independent mental effort, then in the result of that mental effort, there may be copyright."

Lord Kinloch said: "I think it clear that it will not create copyright in a new edition of a work, of which the copyright has expired, merely to make a few emendations of the text, or to add a few unimportant notes. To create a copyright by alterations of the text, these must be extensive and substantial, practically making a new book. With regard to notes, in like manner, they must exhibit an addition to the work which is not superficial or colourable, but imparts to the book a true and real value, over and above that belonging to the text. This value may, perhaps, be rightly expressed by saying that the book will procure purchasers in the market on special account of these notes. When notes to this extent and of this value are added, I cannot doubt that they attach to the edition the privilege of copyright. The principle of the law of copyright directly applies. There is involved in such annotation, and often in a very eminent degree, an exercise of intellect and an application of learning, which place the annotator in the position and character of author, in the most proper sense of the word. The skill and labour of such an annotator have often been procured at a price which cries shame on the miserable dole which formed to the author of the text his only remuneration. In every view, the addition of such notes as I have figured, puts the stamp of copyright on the edition to which they are attached. It will still, of course, remain open to publish the text, which, *ex hypothesi*, is the same as in the original edition; but to take and publish the notes will be a clear infringement of copyright."

Notes need not be original.

It is not necessary that the notes should be original: if skill and labour are bestowed in their selection and application, the annotator is entitled to copyright in them.

"Of the 200 notes," said the Lord President, in the case just referred to, "the defenders' counsel tells us further that 15 only consist of original matter and are the composition of Mr. Lockhart himself, while the remaining 185 are quotations from other books and authors. Now this seems to be considered also to be a sort of disparagement of the value of the notes, in which I cannot at all agree. It seems to me that notes of this kind are almost chiefly valuable in bringing together, and in combination, the thoughts of the same author in different places, or the thoughts of other authors or of critics bearing upon the point that is under consideration; and nothing could better illustrate it than a number of the notes which we see in these very volumes, and which are exceedingly interesting and valuable as matter of literary and critical taste and judgment. The quotations are in many places most apposite, and highly illustrative of the text, and exceedingly interesting to the reader; and certainly the selection and application of such quotations from other books may exercise as high literary faculties as the composition of original matter. They may be the result both of skill and of labour and of great literary taste; and, therefore, I think the circumstance that the notes consist to a great extent of quotations is anything but a disparagement of their value." So Lord Kinloch: "It was, perhaps, thought that to repeat quotations from well-known authors was not piracy. If so, I think a great mistake was committed. In the adaptation of the quotation to the ballad which it illustrates—the literary research which discovered it—the critical skill which applied it—there was, I think, an act of authorship performed of which no one was entitled to take the benefit for his own publication, and thereby to save the labour, the learning, and the expenditure, necessary even for this part of the annotation."

PAGE 117, marginal note, *for* "authorship of" *read* "copyright in."

PAGE 118, before line 3, *add*:—It has recently been decided that joint authorship in a dramatic composition is not constituted by one person's altering the work of another without his consent, even though an entirely new scene should thereby be added: (*Levy* v.

Joint authorship.

Rutley, L. T. June 3, 1871, p. 85; Weekly Notes, June 3, 1871, p. 122; Notes of Cases, June 9, 1871, p. 127.) The Court of Common Pleas considered that joint authorship consisted in the co-operation of two or more authors in a common design, and that where there was no joint concert as to the general design and arrangement of the play, the person at whose request it was written, and who, besides making several alterations of an unimportant character, had introduced one entirely new scene, was not, as joint author, entitled, after the death of the writer, to sue for penalties for the unauthorised performance of the piece, although the deceased writer had given him a receipt for a sum of money on account, expressed to be for his "share as joint author:" (*Ibid.*) The court said that, to hold otherwise would give a copyright to many lives instead of to one life, as the statute contemplated; and if the contributor of an alteration or scene were held to be a co-author, the consequence would be that as many authors as had written a scene or made an alteration in a dramatic piece might each of them bring an action for penalties.

PAGE 127, before the last line, *insert*:

Canadian copyright.

An Act respecting copyrights in Canada was passed in 1868 (31 Vict. c. 54, being the first session of the first Parliament of Canada) by the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, and assented to by Her Majesty.

Publication in Canada necessary.

The most important provision of this Act is contained in the 9th section, which enacts that to entitle any literary production or engraving, which is the work of a person resident in Great Britain or Ireland, to the protection of the Act, the work must be "printed and published in Canada," and must contain, in addition to a notice of having been entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, and immediately after it, "the name and place of abode or business in Canada of the printer and publisher thereof."

Who may have copyright in Canada.

The persons who may possess copyright, and the works in which it may be enjoyed, are dealt with by the 3rd section. It provides that "any person resident in Canada, or any person being a British subject, and resident in Great Britain or Ireland, who is the author of any book, map, chart, or musical composition, or of any original painting, drawing, statuary, sculpture, or photograph, or who invents, designs, etches, engraves, or causes to be engraved, etched, or made from his own design, any print or engraving, and the legal representatives of such persons shall have the sole right and liberty of printing, reprinting, publishing, reproducing, and vending such literary, scientific, or artistical works or compositions, in whole or in part, and of allowing translations to be made of such literary works from one language into other languages, for the term of 28 years from the time of recording the title thereof in the manner hereinafter directed; but no immoral or licentious, treasonable or seditious, book, or any other such literary, scientific, or artistical work, or composition, shall be the subject of such registration or copyright."

Renewal of term.

If at the expiration of the terms of 28 years the author or any of them (if originally more than one) is still living and residing in Canada or Great Britain, or, if dead, has left a widow, child, or children living, the term is to be continued for 14 years more to such author, widow, child, or children; but the title of the work secured must be, within a year after the expiration of the first term, recorded, and the same regulations must be observed as in the case of original copyrights: (sect. 4.)

Publication of record of renewal.

In all cases of renewal of copyright under the Act, the author or proprietor must, within two months from the date of the renewal, cause a copy of the record of it to be published once in the *Canada Gazette*: (sect. 5.)

No copyright in any scene or object.

Nothing contained in the Act is to prejudice the right of any person to represent any scene or object, notwithstanding that there may be copyright in some other representation of such scene or object: (sect. 14.)

Copyright of work made to order, &c.

Whenever the work has been executed by the author for another person, or has been sold to another person for due consideration, the author is not to be entitled to obtain or retain

the proprietorship of the copyright, which is by the said transaction virtually transferred to the purchaser, who may avail himself of the privilege, unless such privilege is specially reserved by the author or artist in a deed duly executed: (sect. 15.)

Requisites to copyright.

The requisites to copyright are: (1) Recording title; (2) Deposit of copies; (3) Insertion of notice of copyright in the work; and (4) In the case of works of British subjects residing in Great Britain or Ireland, publication in Canada, and insertion in the work, immediately after the ordinary notice of copyright, of the name and place of abode or business in Canada of the printer and publisher of it.

Register of copyrights.

The Minister of Agriculture is to cause to be kept in his office a book called the "Register of copyrights," in which proprietors of literary, scientific, and artistic works may have them registered: (Sect. 1.) He may also, from time to time, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, make rules, regulations, and forms for the purposes of the Act; such regulations and forms being circulated in print for the use of the public, are to be deemed correct for the purposes of the Act; and all documents executed according to the same and accepted by him, are to be held valid so far as relates to all official proceedings under the Act: (sect. 2.)

Deposit of copies.

No person is to be entitled to the benefit of the Act, unless he has deposited in the office of the Minister of Agriculture two copies of the book, map, chart, musical composition, photograph, print, cut, or engraving, and in case of paintings, drawings, statuary, and sculptures, unless he has furnished a written description of such works of art, and the Minister of Agriculture is forthwith to cause the same to be recorded in the book kept for the purpose, and in manner prescribed, for which record a payment of one dollar is to be made, and the like sum for every copy given to the person claiming the right, or his representatives, the sums so paid to be paid over to the Receiver-General, to form part of the Consolidated Revenue of Canada: (sect. 6.) The Minister of Agriculture is to cause one of the two copies to be deposited in the Library of the Parliament of Canada: (sect. 7.)

Notice of copyright to appear in work.

Nor is any person to be entitled to the benefit of the Act unless he gives information of the copyright being secured, by causing to be inserted in the several copies of every edition published during the term secured, on the title-page, or the page immediately following, if it be a book, or if a map, chart, musical composition, print, cut, engraving, or photograph, by causing it to be impressed on the face thereof, or if a volume of maps, charts, music, or engravings, upon the title or frontispiece, the following words: "Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year , by A. B., in the office of the Minister of Agriculture:" (sect. 8.)

In the case of paintings, drawings, statuary, and sculpture, the signature of the artist is to be deemed a sufficient notice of proprietorship: (*Ib.*)

Temporary registration to secure copyright.

A literary work intended to be published in pamphlet or book form, but which is first published in separate articles in a newspaper or periodical, may be the subject of registration within the Act, whilst so preliminarily published, provided the title of the MS. and a short analysis of the work are deposited in the office of the Minister of Agriculture, the registration fee be duly paid, and every separate article so published, be preceded by the words "Registered in accordance with the Copyright Act of 1868;" but the work, when published in book or pamphlet form, is to be subject, besides, to the other requirements of the Act: (sect. 13.)

Penalty for infringement of copyright in books;

It is piracy for any other person, after the recording of the title of any book according to the Act, within the term or terms therein limited, to print, publish, or import, or cause to be printed, published, or imported, any copy or translation of such book, without the consent of the person legally entitled to the copyright first had and obtained by deed duly executed, or knowing the same to be so printed or imported, to publish, sell, or expose to sale, or cause to be published, sold, or exposed to sale, any copy of such book without such consent in writing. The offender is to forfeit every copy of the book to the person legally entitled to the

copyright, and two dollars for every copy found in his possession, either printed or printing, published, imported, or exposed to sale, contrary to the intent of the Act; one moiety of the penalty to be to the use of Her Majesty, the other to the legal owner of the copyright, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction: (sect. 13.)

In painting, drawing, or sculpture;

Whoever, within the term limited, and after the recording of any painting, drawing, statuary, or sculpture, reproduces in any manner, or causes to be reproduced, made, or sold, in whole or part, copies of those works of art without the consent of the proprietor or proprietors, is to forfeit the plate or plates on which such reproduction has been made, and also every sheet thereof so copied, printed, or photographed, to the proprietor of the copyright, and also two dollars for every sheet of the same reproduction so published or exposed to sale, contrary to the intent of the Act, the penalty to be divisible and recoverable as in the case of piracy of books: (sect. 11.)

In prints, maps, charts, musical compositions, or photographs.

If any person, within the time limited, and after the recording of any print, cut or engraving, map, chart, musical composition, or photograph, according to the provisions of the Act, engraves, etches, or works, sells or copies, or causes to be engraved, etched, or copied, made or sold, either in the whole, or by varying, adding to, or diminishing the main design, with intent to evade the law, or prints or imports for sale, or causes to be printed or imported for sale, any such map, chart, &c., or any parts thereof, without the consent of the proprietor of the copyright, first obtained as aforesaid, or knowing the same to be so printed or imported without such consent, publishes, sells or exposes to sale, or in any manner disposes of any such map, chart, &c., without such consent, he is to forfeit the plate or plates on which such map, chart, &c., has been copied, and also every sheet thereof, so copied or printed, to the proprietor of the copyright, and also two dollars for every sheet of such map, musical composition, &c., found in his possession, printed or published or exposed to sale, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the Act; the penalty to be divisible and recoverable as in the preceding cases: (sect. 12.)

Damages for infringement of copyright.

If any person prints or publishes any MS. whatever in Canada, or, the same having been printed or published elsewhere, offers it or causes it to be offered for sale in Canada, without the consent of the author or legal proprietor first obtained, such author or proprietor being resident in Canada, or being a British subject resident in Great Britain or Ireland, such person is to be liable to the author or proprietor for all damages occasioned by such injury, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction: (sect. 16.)

Penalty for falsely pretending to have copyright.

If any person prints, publishes, or reproduces any book, map, chart, musical composition, print, cut, or engraving, or other work of art, or photograph, and, not having legally acquired the copyright thereof, inserts therein, or impresses thereon, that it has been entered according to the Act, or words to that effect, he is to incur a penalty not exceeding 60 dollars, to be divisible and recoverable as in preceding cases: (sect. 17.)

Limitation of actions.

All proceedings for the recovery of penalties under the Act must be commenced within two years from the cause of action arising: (sect. 18.)

Repeal of former Acts.

The Act repeals former Copyright Acts, saving in respect of unexpired terms thereunder: (sects. 19, 20.)

PAGE 165, before line 19, *add:* But a receipt for money on account, given by the writer of a play to the person for whom he writes it on commission, does not amount to an assignment: (*Levy* v. *Rutley*, L. T. June 3, 1871, p. 85; Weekly Notes, June 3, 1871, p. 122; Notes of Cases, June 9, 1871, p. 127).

PAGE 265, second marginal note, *for* "stamped" *read* "stamp."

PAGE 267, lines 23, 24, *for* "property" *read* "penalty."

PAGE 323, line 15, *for* "Charles" *read* "James."

PAGE 353, line 18, *for* "and" *read* "or."

PAGE 379, note (*d*), *for* "Clements" *read* "Clement."

PAGE 412, note (*j*), line 1, *for* "Herle" *read* "Kelo."

PAGE 413, note (*a*), line 8, *for* "Stowart" *read* "Stuart."

PAGE 428, line 7, *for* "Dixon" *read* "Dickson."

PAGE 465, line 6, *for* "came" *read* "come."

PAGE 488, marginal note, and lines 18, 25, and 42, *for* "Creevy" *read* "Creevey."

PAGE 506, before line 40, *add:* In the case of *Reg.* v. *Stanger* (L. Rep. 6 Q. B. 352; 40 L. J. 96, Q. B.) affidavits stating that a copy of the newspaper in which the libel appeared had been purchased from a salesman in the office of the newspaper, and that by a footnote to the newspaper the defendant was stated to be the printer and publisher of it, and that deponent believed him to be so, were held not to disclose legal evidence of publication entitling to a rule for a criminal information. In the same case the court doubted whether recourse could be had to the affidavits of the defendant used in showing cause against the rule *nisi*, in order to supply the defects in those for the prosecution.

PAGE 508, note (*a*), *for* "Rex" *read* "Reg."

PAGE 515, note (*b*), *for* "Reg." *read* "Rex."

THE LAW

RELATING TO

Works of Literature and Art.

PART I.—LAW OF COPYRIGHT.

CHAPTER I.

LITERARY PROPERTY.

THE foundation of Literary property is the same as that of all other property. "La propriété," says Bentham,(*a*) "n'est qu'une base d'attente; l'attente de retirer certains avantages de la chose qu'on dit posséder en conséquence des rapports où l'on est déjà placé vis-à-vis d'elle;" and this expectation of advantages to be derived is altogether the work of law. In the right of property are two elements involved, first, the power of using indefinitely the subject of the right, or of applying it to uses or purposes which are not positively and exactly circumscribed; and, secondly, a power of excluding others from using the same subject.(*b*) These are the advantages which the possessor of literary as well as other property enjoys, and which the law of the land secures to him. The sole right of originally giving to the world the results of his mental labours, and the power to hinder the infringement by others of his property therein, are guaranteed to every British subject by law, so far as law can accomplish that object; for the mental experiences of all of us have so much in common, the thoughts of most men resemble each other to so large an extent, that to determine and guard specific property in ideas merely—ideas which have not embodied themselves in a material form—is a task which no law makers

(*a*) "Traités de Legislation," par Dumont, p. 95.
(*b*) Austin Jur. iii. 19.

PART I. CHAPTER I.

not pretending to omniscience could undertake to perform. Hence our law takes no cognisance of any claims to the ownership of ideas which have not found a material clothing, and refuses to preserve the most original of men from the annoyance of having published abroad, either by writing or by word of mouth, his most original ideas, which have been communicated to another in the course of conversation. The original ideas of a man on any subject, though they exist not out of relation to his mind, in one sense really belong as entirely to him as if they were reduced by him to writing, and hence it might be thought that he ought to be enabled to assert an equal claim to them in the one case as in the other. But the practical impossibility referred to, of dealing by means of legal proof with the former case, has rendered necessary the distinction which the law makes between the two. The intangible and incorporeal products of his mind, so long as they remain in that condition, are beyond the protection of law; when reduced into any material form, which can be produced in a court of justice, or be identified by proofs of a satisfactory kind, the author's right to them (called copyright) becomes enforceable by law.(*a*) And that right is twofold: first, he has a right to them, and a property in them whilst the materials embodying them remain unpublished in his possession; and, secondly, after they are published he has a statutory exclusive property in them limited in point of duration.(*b*) This obvious division of the subject will be followed in dealing with the copyright belonging to individuals, and we shall treat separately of the property in unpublished works, or copyright before publication, and in published works, or copyright after publication. Before doing so, however, it will be advisable to determine the answers to two other questions, namely: first, in what works this right of property exists? and secondly, what class of persons are entitled to claim and enjoy the right? With these we shall now proceed to deal in order.

(*a*) "It is a well-known and established maxim (which, I apprehend, holds as true now as it did 2000 years ago) 'that nothing can be the *object* of property which has not a *corporeal* substance':" (Yates, J., in *Millar* v. *Taylor*, 4 Burr. 2361.)

(*b*) "Copyright is not of a simple but a complex nature, involving two conditions, one of publication and the other of exclusion. An author claims the right of multiplying the copies of his work, and of thus securing to himself present reputation and distant fame; and he also claims the advantage of excluding by statute law, other persons from multiplying copies of the same work:" (*Arguendo* in *Prince Albert* v. *Strange*, 2 De G. & Sm. 674.)

CHAPTER II.

IN WHAT WORKS COPYRIGHT EXISTS.

Enumeration of works.

COPYRIGHT may exist with regard to every original composition or work of literature, science, or art, which is innocent in its nature, including every volume, part or division of a volume, map, chart, or plan separately published (5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 2), lectures (5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65), engravings (8 Geo. 2, c. 13; 7 Geo. 3, c. 38; 17 Geo. 3, c. 57), lithographs (15 & 16 Vict. c. 12, s. 14), paintings, drawings, and photographs (25 & 26 Vict. c. 68).

Work must be innocent.

If the work be not innocent in its nature, there is no right of property in it which the law will enforce or protect. In what respect, then, may a work not be innocent? The test of the innocence of a work, where the Court of Chancery is asked to interfere, laid down by Lord Eldon in the case of *Southey* v. *Sherwood*,(*a*) is the possibility of making it the foundation of a successful action at law. "If this publication is an innocent one," said his lordship, "I apprehend that I am authorised by decided cases to say that, whether the author did or did not intend to make a profit by its publication, he has a right to an injunction to prevent any other person from publishing it. If, on the other hand, this is not an innocent publication, in such a sense as that an action would not lie in case of its having been published by the author and subsequently pirated, I apprehend that this Court will not grant an injunction." And the same judge observes, "If the doctrine of Lord Chief Justice Eyre(*b*) is right, and I think it is, that publications may be of such a nature that the author can maintain no action at law, it is not the business of this court, even upon the submission in the answer [as to one edition of the book in question which the defendants acknowledged that they had pirated] to decree either an injunction or an account of the profits of works of such a nature that the author can maintain no action at law for the invasion of that which he calls his property, but which the policy of the law will not permit him to consider his property."(*c*) And again, "This court interferes by injunction; but not in cases where an action cannot be maintained."(*d*)

Now it is a fundamental principle of our common law that no action can be maintained on any contract, express or implied, parol or under seal, which is in direct violation of

(*a*) 2 Meriv. 437.
(*b*) See next page.
(*c*) *Southey* v. *Sherwood* (*ubi supra*).
(*d*) *Laurence* v. *Smith* (Jac. 472).

PART I. CHAPTER II.

law—whether statutory or unwritten—which is of an immoral tendency or contrary to sound policy.(*a*)

When a contract is said to be void and incapable of being enforced as "opposed to sound or public policy," this is in accordance with the principle of law that "no subject can lawfully do that which has a tendency to be injurious to the public or against the public good—which may be termed, as it sometimes has been, the policy of the law, or 'public policy' in relation to the administration of the law."(*b*) The legal maxim on the subject is, *Nihil quod est inconvenions est licitum*.(*c*)

A work, then, may lack the character of innocence by being opposed to any law, either unwritten or statutory, by being of an immoral tendency (a test, as applied, of a very comprehensive character) or by being contrary to what is called sound or public policy. If it offends against innocence in any of these respects no action at law would lie to enforce any alleged right with reference to it, and, as a consequence, no court of equity would interfere to hinder any infringement of such alleged right.

The opinion of Lord Chief Justice Eyre, already referred to(*d*) by Lord Eldon, was expressed by him on the trial of an action brought by Dr. Priestley against a hundred to recover damages sustained by him in consequence of the riotous proceedings of a mob at Birmingham. Amongst other property alleged to have been destroyed, and for the loss of which he claimed compensation, were certain unpublished MSS. It was alleged, by way of defence, on behalf of the hundred, that the plaintiff was in the habit of publishing works injurious to the government of the State, but no evidence was produced in support of that allegation. The Lord Chief Justice observed that if such evidence had been produced, he should have held it was fit to be received as against the claim made by the plaintiff.(*e*)

In *Walcot* v. *Walker*,(*f*) it was held that a court of equity would not act, either by giving an injunction or an account, even upon a submission in the defendant's answer, in the case of an unauthorised publication of a literary work of such a nature that an action at law could not be maintained in respect of it. "It is no answer," said Lord Eldon, "that the defendants are as criminal. It is the duty of the court to know whether an action at law would lie; for if not, the

(*a*) Broom's Com. p. 354, 3rd edit.
(*b*) Per Lord Truro in *Egerton* v. *Brownlow* (4 H. L. Cas. 196).
(*c*) Co. Litt. 66*a*. (*d*) *Ante*, p. 3. (*e*) Cited 2 Meriv. 437.
(*f*) 7 Ves. 1.

court ought not to give an account of the unhallowed profits of libellous publications. At present I am in total ignorance of the nature of this work, and whether the plaintiff can have a property in it or not. . . . Before I uphold any injunction I will see these publications and determine upon the nature of them, whether there is question enough to send to law as to the property in those copies; for, if not, I will not act upon the submission in the answer. If, upon inspection, the work appears innocent, I will act upon that submission; if criminal, I will not act at all; and if doubtful, I will send that question to law."

Where the work is of a criminal character the Court of Chancery, not being a court of criminal jurisdiction, simply refuses to interfere in any way. It punishes the author of a criminal, libellous, or immoral production no otherwise than by denying him any assistance in the assertion of a right of property in his work, or in the attempt to hinder the piracy of it. Courts of equity stand quite neutral. "The Court does not interfere in the way of injunction to punish or to prevent injuries done to the character of individuals; but it leaves the party to his remedy at law."(*a*) One Lord Chancellor (Macclesfield), indeed, seems to have taken a different and much more lofty view of the province of courts of equity in dealing with books of the character above mentioned, being of opinion "that the Court of Chancery had a superintendency over all books, and might in a summary way restrain the printing or publishing any that contained reflections on religion or morality;"(*b*) and his lordship granted an injunction to restrain the publication of a translation of two Latin works ("Archæologia Philosophica" and "De Statu Mortuorum et Resurgentium") written by Dr. Burnett, on the sole ground that "inasmuch as the book contained to his (the Chancellor's) knowledge (he having read it in his study) strange notions intended by the author to be concealed from the vulgar in the Latin language—in which language it could not do much hurt, the learned being better able to judge of it—it was proper to grant an injunction to the printing and publishing it in English." And Lord Ellenborough, in dealing with the case of a libellous picture

(*a*) Per Lord Eldon (*Southey* v. *Sherwood*, 2 Meriv. 438); see also the opinion of Lord Langdale, M.R., in *Clark* v. *Freeman* (11 Beav. 117, 119), but as to the decision in the latter case, see the remarks of Lord Cairns in *Maxwell* v. *Hogg* (L. Rep. 2 Ch. App. 310; 16 L. T. N. S. 130; 36 L. J. 433, Ch.), and of Malins, V.C. in *Springhead Spinning Company* v. *Riley* (L. Rep. 6 Eq. 561; 19 L. T. N. S. 64; 37 L. J. 889, Ch).

(*b*) *Burnett* v. *Chetwood*, cited from a manuscript volume of cases, in a note, by the learned reporter to *Southey* v. *Sherwood* (*ubi supra*).

PART I. CHAPTER II.

said, that "upon an application to the Lord Chancellor, he would have granted an injunction against its exhibition."(a) These opinions with regard to the extent of the jurisdiction of courts of equity in dealing with non-innocent publications have, as the cases already cited show, been long since abandoned, and courts of equity now simply refuse to interfere in the matter at all. Lord Eldon, in *Lawrence* v. *Smith*,(b) in express words repudiates the jurisdiction asserted by Lord Macclesfield. In the judgment pronounced by him in that case, he says: "As this Court has no jurisdiction in matters of crime,(c) it has been said that if the injunction be refused it has the effect of increasing the number of copies. The answer to that is, I have nothing to do with it as a crime. The question relates only to a civil right of property. If the one party has that right, the other must not invade it; if he has not that right the Court cannot give him the consequences that belong to it." There are other means of punishing the authors of criminal and libellous works, which will be treated of in a subsequent portion of this work.(d)

In *Southey* v. *Sherwood* (e) a motion was made on the part of the poet Southey to restrain the defendants from printing or publishing a poem called "Wat Tyler," which had been composed by the plaintiff about twenty-three years previously, and had lain unpublished during the whole of that period in the hands of the bookseller to whom Southey had first sent it for his perusal and consideration as to the advisability of

(a) *Du Bost* v. *Beresford* (2 Camp. 511). Referring to this dictum of Lord Ellenborough, the editor of Howell's State Trials says (vol. xx. p. 799): "I have been informed by very high authority, that the promulgation of this doctrine relating to the Lord Chancellor's injunction excited great astonishment in the minds of all the practitioners in the Courts of Equity, and I had apprehended that this must have happened; since, I believe there is not to be found in the books any decision or any dictum, posterior to the days of the Star Chamber, from which such doctrine can be deduced, either directly, or by inference, or analogy; unless, indeed, we are to except the proceedings of Lord Ellenborough's predecessor Scroggs, and his associates, in the case of Henry Care, in which case 'Ordinatum est quòd liber intitulat' The Weekly Packet of Advice from Rome, or the History of Popery, non ulterius imprimatur vel publicetur per aliquam personam quamcunque.'" The learned editor does not appear to have known of the decision of Lord Macclesfield in *Burnett* v. *Chetwood*, above cited.

(b) Jac. 471. *Vide post*, pp. 7, 8.

(c) If a publication, which is criminal, tends also to the destruction or deterioration of property, the Court of Chancery has, according to the decision of Malins, V.C., in *The Springhead Spinning Company* v. *Riley* (L. Rep. 6 Eq. 551; 19 L. T. N. S. 64; 37 L. J. 889, Ch.), jurisdiction to restrain the publication by injunction.

(d.) See the chapters on "Libel," *post*.

(e) 2 Meriv. 435.

publishing it. On the part of the defendant it was contended that the poem in question, from its libellous tendency, was of such a nature that there could be no copyright in it; and the case of *Dr. Priestley* and that of *Walcot* v. *Walker* were referred to. Lord Eldon, in refusing the injunction, stated that he remained of the same opinion as that which he entertained in deciding the case of *Walcot* v. *Walker*. "It is very true," he proceeded, "that in some cases it may operate so as to multiply copies of mischievous publications by the refusal of the Court to interfere by restraining them; but to this my answer is, that, sitting here as a judge upon a mere question of property, I have nothing to do with the nature of the property, nor with the conduct of the parties, except as relates to their civil interests; and if the publication be mischievous, either on the part of the author or of the bookseller, it is not my business to interfere with it." (*a*)

One of the most important cases decided on this subject came before Lord Eldon in 1822. In *Lawrence* v. *Smith*,(*b*) the Lord Chancellor dissolved an injunction which had been obtained upon an *ex parte* motion, to hinder the publication of a pirated edition of certain "Lectures on Physiology,

(*a*) An American writer (Curtis) on Copyright urges some weighty objections to the doctrine laid down by Lord Eldon in the above case. In the case of *Dr. Priestley* the owner of the manuscript was seeking damages for the destruction of what might have been the source of pecuniary profit, and the case goes only to this, that a work existing in manuscript may be of such a character that the author cannot make lawful profits by its publication; and in this sense it may be said that there can be no property in such a work. But this cannot justify the very different doctrine that the author of an unpublished manuscript of a character not innocent or doubtful cannot have the interposition of a court of equity to restrain its publication by a person who is about to publish it against his will. There is a wide difference between seeking protection for a published work of a non-innocent character and the mere assertion of a right to possess and control, to publish or not to publish one's own manuscript. There are two kinds or degrees of property in a literary work, one consisting in the right to take the profits of a book when published, the other in the right to the exclusive possession and control of a manuscript, or the right to publish or withhold from publication altogether. In no case has it been considered that the author's right depends on his intention to publish and to make a profit; but the cases proceed upon the ground of a *right of property*, by which seems to be intended a right to the possession and control of the manuscript, and to publish or to withhold it from publication; and this holds equally in the case of a non-innocent and an innocent work. When, therefore, an author has not published, or does not intend to publish a work existing in manuscript, but, on the contrary, desires and intends to withhold it from publication, the question as to its innocence does not arise, because that question affects only so much of his right of property as consists in the right to take the *profits* of the publication.

(*b*) Jac. 471.

PART I.
CHAPTER II.

Zoology, and the Natural History of Man," which had been delivered by the plaintiff at the College of Surgeons, and afterwards published by him. In support of the motion to dissolve the injunction, it was urged that the nature and general tendency of the work were such, that it could not be the subject of copyright, as it contained several passages hostile to natural and revealed religion, impugning the doctrines of the immateriality and immortality of the soul. And on this ground Lord Eldon refused to continue the injunction, and left the plaintiff to bring his action at law, if he considered that he had any chance of succeeding there. "Looking," said his lordship, "at the general tenor of the work, and at many particular parts of it, recollecting that the immortality of the soul is one of the doctrines of the Scriptures, considering that the law does not give protection to those who contradict the Scriptures, and entertaining a doubt—I think a rational doubt—whether this book does not violate that law, I cannot continue the injunction. The plaintiff may bring an action, and when that is decided he may apply again." As to the injunction originally granted, *ex parte*, Lord Eldon said, "I take it for granted that when the motion for the injunction was made, it was opened as quite of course; nothing probably was said as to the general nature of the work, or of any part of it; for we must look *not only at the general tenor, but at the different parts;* and the question is to be decided, not merely by seeing what is said of materialism, of the immortality of the soul, and of the Scriptures, but by looking at the different parts and inquiring whether there be *any* which deny, or which appear to deny, the truth of Scripture, or which raises a fair question for a court of law to determine whether they do or do not deny it."

Two later instances of the application of the same doctrine are mentioned in Mr. Jacob's note to the case last cited. In *Murray* v. *Benbow* (February, 1822), the Lord Chancellor (Eldon) refused an injunction to restrain the defendant from publishing a pirated edition of Lord Byron's poem "Cain," on the ground of a doubt whether the poem was not intended to bring into discredit that portion of Scripture history to which it relates. And in 1823 Vice-Chancellor Sir John Leach, on similar principles, dissolved an injunction which had been obtained to restrain the publication of a pirated edition of a portion of the poem of "Don Juan." In this case, however, the Vice-Chancellor ordered that the defendant should keep an account.(*a*)

(*a*) See also *Hime* v. *Dale*, referred to 2 Camp. 27.

A doubt has been expressed(*a*) whether the doctrines laid down in these cases would be strictly adhered to in the present day; but, notwithstanding the more enlarged and tolerant views which are now generally entertained on subjects of a religious as well as of a political nature, there seems to be no disposition on the part of our courts of common law to relax the strict rules of former times as to contracts of an irreligious nature.(*b*) And so long as the test of the propriety of equitable interposition continues to be the ability of the author to sustain an action at law, it should seem that in all respects the author's title to relief against the infringement of his copyright, either at law or in equity, is still dependent on his work being *innocent* in the sense already described. In *Stockdale* v. *Onwhyn*,(*c*) the Court of King's Bench, in 1826, held that no action could be brought for the infringement of an asserted copyright in a book entitled "Memoirs of Harriett Wilson," the book on examination appearing to be the history of the life and amours of a courtesan, and containing anecdotes either libelling or ridiculing the various persons with whom she professed to have had communication. Holroyd, J., succinctly states the principle on which the courts proceed in dealing with works of this character: (*d*) "The ground of this action, if any, must be that the defendant has worked an injury to the plaintiff's exclusive right of publishing the book in question; now it is criminal in him to publish such

(*a*) Phillips on Copyright, p. 25.

(*b*) In the recent case of *Cowan* v. *Milbourn* (L. Rep. 2 Ex. 230; 16 L. T. N. S. 290; 36 L. J. 124, Ex.), where an action had been brought for breach of a contract to let rooms to the plaintiff, the defendant set up as a defence, that after contracting to let the rooms he discovered that the plaintiff intended to use them for the purpose of delivering lectures of an irreligious, blasphemous, and illegal character—lectures maintaining, amongst other things, that the character of Christ is defective and His teaching misleading, and that the Bible is no more inspired than any other book. The Court of Exchequer held the defence to be a sufficient one, that the publication of such doctrines was blasphemy, and that therefore the purpose for which the plaintiff intended to use the room was illegal, and the contract one which could not be enforced at law. The remarks of Bramwell, B., in giving his judgment, are deserving of attention. "It is strange," he says, "that there should be so much difficulty in making it understood that a thing may be unlawful, in the sense that the law will not aid it, and yet that the law will not immediately punish it. If that only were unlawful to which a penalty is attached, the consequence would be that, inasmuch as no penalty is provided by the law for prostitution, a contract having prostitution for its object would be valid in a court of law."

(*c*) 5 B. & C. 173; 7 D. & R. 625; 2 C. & P. 163.

(*d*) 7 D. & R. 629; see also *Poplett* v. *Stockdale* (Ry. & M. 337).

a book: then he has no right to publish it, and having no right, he has sustained no injury, and has no ground of action."

Publication in another's name with intent to deceive.

The analogy of the cases, where it has been held that no copyright exists in a work subversive of good order, morality, or religion, has been extended (*a*) to the case of an author publishing a book in the name of another, with a deliberate design to deceive the public, by inducing them to believe that the work is the original work of the author named, and thereby to obtain from the purchaser a greater price than he would otherwise pay. "The publisher," said Tindal, C.J., with reference to such a case, "seeks to obtain money under false pretences; and as not only the original act of publishing the work, but the sale of copies to each individual purchaser falls within the reach of the same objection, we think the plaintiff cannot be considered as having a valid and subsisting copyright in the work, the sale of which produces such consequences, or that he is capable of maintaining an action in respect of its infringement." The book in which the plaintiff claimed copyright in this case was entitled "Evening Devotions, or the Worship of God in Spirit and in Truth, for Every Day in the Year; from the German of C. C. Sturm." The defendant set up as a defence that several of the works of Sturm had been translated into English, and were much valued, and that plaintiff knowing that, and intending to defraud and deceive the public, caused the book in question to be written, and had falsely, fraudulently, and deceitfully published the same to the public, as and for a translation of an original work written in German by C. C. Sturm. On demurrer it was held that the facts stated in the defendant's plea were sufficient to negative the existence of a valid copyright in the plaintiff, and consequently to preclude him from maintaining any action for piracy. "The cases," said the Chief Justice, "in which a copyright has been held not to subsist, where the work is subversive of good order, morality, or religion, do not, indeed, bear directly on the case before us; but they have this analogy with the present inquiry, that they prove that the rule which denies the existence of copyright in those cases, is a rule established for the benefit and protection of the public. And we think the best protection that the law can afford to the public against such a fraud as that laid open by this plea, is to make the practice of it unprofitable to its author?"

The case is different, however, where the misrepresenta-

(*a*) *Wright* v. *Tallis* (1 C. B. Rep. 893).

tion as to authorship is harmless and innocent, as in the case of many books of instruction and amusement (*e.g.* Walpole's "Castle of Otranto") which have been published as translations, although in reality original works, or which have been published under an assumed instead of a true name, as has been done in the case of many books of voyages, travels, biography, works of fiction or romance, and even of science and instruction.(*a*) "There is not found in any one of those cases any serious design on the part of the author to deceive the purchaser, or to make gain and profit from him by the false representation; the purchaser, for anything that appears to the contrary, would have purchased at the same prices if he had known that the name of the author was an assumed and not a genuine name; or had known that the work was original and not translated."

Immoral pictures, drawings, and photographs

The same principle of law which applies to writings of a libellous, immoral, or irreligious kind would, of course, apply equally to pictures, drawings, and photographs of a similar character. Pictures and drawings may be libellous as well as writings, and the same may be said of photographs, which are a species of pictures. And it is to be observed that the term libel includes, besides libels defamatory of individuals, such writings as are of a blasphemous, treasonable, seditious, or immoral kind, the publication of any of which is now a misdemeanor, and subjects the person by whom it was composed, written, printed, or published, to fine and imprisonment.(*b*) There cannot, of course, be copyright in pictures, drawings, or photographs which are libellous in any of the senses above mentioned. And the same doctrine is applicable to obscene pictures, prints, drawings, or other representations, the public selling or exposing for public sale or to public view of these being punishable with fine or imprisonment, or both, with hard labour at the discretion of the court.(*c*) It was long since determined (*d*) that an action would not lie to recover the value of prints of an obscene, immoral, or libellous tendency. And Lord Ellenborough, in *Du Bost* v. *Beresford*,(*e*) held that if a picture destroyed by the defendant was a libel upon the individuals introduced into it, the owner of the picture was at most entitled to recover only the value of the canvas and paint which formed its component parts.

Letters.

Of innocent productions there is also a species of copyright on the part of the writer in the private letters which

(*a*) 1 C. B. Rep. 906.
(*b*) 4 Steph. Black. 345.
(*c*) 14 & 15 Vict. c. 100, s. 29; see also 20 & 21 Vict. c. 83.
(*d*) *Fores* v. *Johnes* (4 Esp. 97).
(*e*) 2 Camp. 511.

one person sends to another. The earliest assertion of this doctrine in our law books is to be found in the judgment of Lord Hardwicke in *Pope* v. *Curl*,(a) in which case his lordship refused to dissolve an injunction which Pope had obtained to restrain the defendant from publishing a collection of letters written by the poet. "The first question," said Lord Hardwicke, "is whether letters are within the grounds and intention of the statute made in the 8th year of Queen Anne, c. 19, intitled, 'An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by vesting the Copies of Printed Books in the Authors or Purchasers of such Copies.' I think it would be extremely mischievous to make a distinction between a book of letters which comes out into the world, either by permission of the writer, or the receiver of them, and any other learned work. . . . . Another objection has been made by the defendant's counsel, that where a man writes a letter it is in the nature of a gift to the receiver. But I am of opinion that it is only a special property in the receiver; possibly the property of the paper may belong to him, but this does not give a licence to any person whatsoever to publish them to the world, for at most the receiver has only a joint property with the writer." And to the objection insisted on by the defendant's counsel that this was a sort of work which did not come within the meaning of the Act of Parliament, because it contained only letters on familiar subjects, and inquiries after the health of friends, and therefore could not properly be called a learned work, his lordship replied: "It is certain that no works have done more service to mankind than those which have appeared in this shape, upon familiar subjects, and which, perhaps, were never intended to be published, and it is this makes them so valuable; for I must confess, for my own part, that letters which are very elaborately written, and originally intended for the press, are generally the most insignificant, and very little worth any person's reading."(b) The injunction was continued by the Lord Chancellor only as to those letters in the book which were written *by* Pope, and not as to those which were written *to* him.

In *Thompson* v. *Stanhope*(c) (a case respecting the letters written by Lord Chesterfield to his son) Lord Apsley, C., took the same view of the law as that expressed in the preceding case by Lord Hardwicke. In the later case of *Percival* v. *Phipps*(d) Sir Thomas Plumer, V.C., adhering to the same

(a) 2 Atk. 342.
(b) *Ib.* 343. See *Eyre* v. *Higbee* (22 How. Pr. 200).
(c) Amb. 737.
(d) 2 V. & B. 19.

doctrine, observed: "An injunction restraining the publication of private letters must stand upon this foundation: that letters, whether of a private nature or upon general subjects, may be considered as the subject of literary property; and it is difficult to conceive in the abstract that they may not be so. . . . . The question then arose, whether letters having that character of literary composition, the transmission of them to the person to whom they were addressed deprived the author of his power over them as his composition, so far as to authorise a publication without his consent; and it has been decided that by sending a letter the writer does not give the receiver the power of publishing it; that, whether he is to be considered as a joint proprietor or not, letters have the character of literary composition stamped upon them, so that they are within the spirit of the Act of Parliament protecting literary property; and a violation of the right in that instance is attended with the same consequences as in the case of an unpublished manuscript of an original composition of any other description." An important qualification of the right of property in private letters was stated by the Vice-Chancellor in this case. "Though the form of familiar letters might not prevent their approaching the character of a literary work, every private letter upon any subject to any person is not to be described as a literary work, to be protected upon the principle of copyright. The ordinary use of correspondence by letters is to carry on the intercourse of life between persons at a distance from each other, in the prosecution of commercial or other business; which it would be very extraordinary to describe as a literary work in which the writers have a copyright."

Lord Eldon followed the preceding decisions in *Gee* v. *Pritchard*,(*a*) though expressing his doubts relative to the jurisdiction assumed by the Court of Chancery over the publication of letters,(*b*) and hinting his determination to give effect to those doubts should the question ever be

(*a*) 2 Swans. 402. See *Brandreth* v. *Lance* (8 Paige's Rep. 24.)

(*b*) "My predecessors," said his lordship, "did not inquire whether the intention of the writer was or was not directed to publication. The difficulty which I have felt in all these cases is this: If I had written a letter on the subject of an individual for whom both the person to whom I wrote and myself had a common regard, and the question arose for the first time, I should have found it difficult to satisfy my mind that there is a property in the letter; but it is my duty to submit my judgment to the authority of those who have gone before me; and it will not be easy to remove the weight of the decisions of Lord Hardwicke and Lord Apsley."

brought on appeal before the House of Lords. An injunction was granted to the plaintiff in this case to restrain the publication of private letters written by her to the defendant.

In *Cadell* v. *Stewart*,(a) the Scotch Court of Session restrained the publication of letters written by the poet Burns to Clarinda. The interdict was granted after the death of Burns on the application of the publishers of his works, concurred in by the brother of the poet and the curator of his children. The report of the case says, "There was little difference of opinion upon the bench. The ground upon which the court seemed to pronounce the decision was, that the communication in letters is always made under the implied confidence that they shall not be published without the consent of the writer, and that the representatives of Burns had a sufficient interest for the vindication of his literary character to restrain this publication."

In a bill filed by the executor and residuary legatee of Lady Tyrawly, the Irish Court of Chancery restrained a connection of her ladyship, who resided in her house, from publishing after her death a collection of letters addressed to her.(b)

There seems to be no distinction with reference to the writer's title to restrain the publication of letters written to another, between merely private letters not intended as literary compositions, and those which are written with a view to their literary character, although Sir T. Plumer, in *Percival* v. *Phipps*, appears to consider such a distinction material. Notwithstanding the doubts expressed by Lord Eldon(c) as to the existence of what Lord Hardwicke(d) called a "joint property" in a letter in the writer and receiver, the Court of Chancery has restrained the publication of letters on the sole ground of the property (of whatever nature it be) which the writer has in the letters written by him. Whether the right to control the act of publication and to decide whether there shall be any publication at all be correctly termed a right of property or no, it is on the ground of this right that equity interferes to aid the writer of letters. And, if so, there can be no valid distinction between the writer's property in private and familar letters and those of a more elaborate and literary character. Indeed it would be completely impossible to draw a line of distinction between the two; and were the case otherwise it is difficult to resist the conclusion that "if

(a) 13 Fac. Dec. 375, June 1, 1804.
(b) *Earl of Granard* v. *Dunkin* (1 Ball & B. 207).
(c) *Gee* v. *Pritchard* (*ante*, p. 13). (d) *Pope* v. *Curl* (2 Atk. 342).

the mere sending of letters to third persons is not to be deemed, in cases of literary composition, a total abandonment of the right of property therein by the sender, *à fortiori* the act of sending them cannot be presumed to be an abandonment thereof in cases where the very nature of the letters imports, as matter of business or friendship, or advice, or family or personal confidence, the implied or necessary intention and duty of privacy and secrecy."(*a*)

Limitations of property in letters.

The decided cases, however, have placed certain restrictions on the title of the writer of private letters to insist on his special property in them, and to hinder their publication by others. The writer may by his own acts disentitle himself to prevent the publication of his letters to another person, and justify that other person in giving them to the world;—*e.g.*, a false accusation brought by the writer against the recipient of the letters which may be disproved by their publication, will justify such publication, and courts of equity have refused to aid by injunction the writer of the letters in such a case. Sir Thomas Plumer, V.C., whose *dicta* in favour of the abstract right of property in private letters have been quoted above, refused an injunction to prevent the publication of the letters under the particular circumstances of the case before him,(*b*) which are briefly these. The defendant Phipps was the proprietor of a newspaper called *The News*, in which were published from time to time articles and paragraphs on a subject which then engrossed the public attention, which articles and paragraphs were supplied to Phipps by a Mr. Mitford, but were written, as Mitford informed Phipps, by Lady Percival, and in her handwriting. A piece of intelligence in one of these published articles being found to be false, Phipps applied to Lady Percival on the subject, who denied that the intelligence had ever been sent, and stated that the papers containing it were forgeries. Mitford positively asserted the contrary, and to enable Phipps to justify himself to the public delivered to him several letters written by Lady Percival to Mitford upon similar subjects, materially tending to show that the false intelligence published in *The News* had come from Lady Percival through Mitford. Phipps published in *The News* one of the letters given to him by Mitford, and announced an intention of publishing the others. A bill was filed on the part of Lady Percival to restrain the publication of those letters written by her to Mitford, as being of a private nature, and having been sent to him in confidence that he would not part with them or communicate

(*a*) St. Eq. Jur. 947. (*b*) *Percival* v. *Phipps* (2 V. & B. 19).

PART I. CHAPTER II.

their contents to any other person. The answer denied that the letters had been sent in any such confidence. It was urged on behalf of Phipps that a gross imputation had been cast upon him, and that though he might derive a profit from publishing the letters in his own paper, his object was not profit, but the vindication of his character from the imputation thrown upon it, and to effect that object he was entitled to use the letters. And the Vice-Chancellor held that he was entitled to make this use of the letters. "Whatever degree of confidence," he said,(*a*) "or reservation of property may be implied from the transmission of a private letter, it would be too much to hold that the individual who receives it can in no case use it for the purpose of protecting himself from an unfounded imputation; stating that to be the sole and *bonâ fide* object of the publication; and upon the answer in this case it must be taken that the defendant has no purpose of gain, or to deprive another of the benefit derived from a literary composition; but that his only object is by proving accuracy to answer the imputation cast upon him."

The distinction, to which Sir T. Plumer seems to attach importance, between the publication of private letters without the writer's consent, *for the purpose of profit or gain*, and publication for a different purpose is treated by Lord Eldon, in *Gee* v. *Pritchard* (*b*), as of no moment. His lordship considered the previous cases to have decided that, *ultra* the purposes for which the letter was sent, the property was in the sender. If "that is the principle," he observes, "it is immaterial whether the publication is for the purpose of profit or not. If for profit, the party is then selling, if not for profit, he is giving that a portion of which belongs to the writer." In the case before him, an attempt was made on the part of the defendant to avail himself of the decision in *Percival* v. *Phipps;* but Lord Eldon distinguished the cases, and granted the injunction asked for by the plaintiff. The defendant in this case was the illegitimate son of the plaintiff's deceased husband, and had received many letters from the plaintiff during her husband's lifetime. After her husband's death, the plaintiff ceased to be on terms of friendship with the defendant, and denied the truth of statements made by him as to the expectations which he had been led to entertain from the plaintiff and her husband. The defendant returned to the plaintiff the original letters which she had written to him, but took copies of the letters before returning them, without the plaintiff's knowledge, and advertised his intention to publish the letters, but, as he stated in his

(*a*) 2 V. & B. 25. (*b*) See 2 Swans., 415.

nswer, for private circulation only. This he did, as he lleged, in order to clear his character from the charge of want of veracity which the plaintiff had brought against it. In this case the defendant, by returning the originals, had abandoned whatever property he had—for if he had any right of property it was in the originals,(a) and Lord Eldon restrained the threatened publication. In giving judgment he observed, "I do not say there may not be a case, such as the Vice-Chancellor (Sir T. Plumer) thought the case before him, where the acts of the parties supply reasons for not interfering; but that differs most materially from this case. In April last, the defendant having so much of property in these letters as belongs to the receiver, and of interest in them as possessor, thinks proper to return them to the person who has in them, as Lord Hardwicke says, a joint property, keeping copies of them without apprising her, and assigning such a reason as he assigns for the return [his 'being unworthy of the sentiments and expressions of kindness contained in them']. Now I say, that if, in the case before the Vice-Chancellor, Lady Percival had given to Phipps a right to publish her letters, this case is the converse of that; and that the defendant, if he previously had it, has renounced the right of publication."

Lord Eldon was careful to rest his decision in this case on the ground of the plaintiff's property in the letters (as determined by previous cases) and not on any considerations as to wounded feelings. When reference was made to such considerations by the defendant's counsel, his lordship interposed. "I will relieve you from that argument. The question will be, whether the bill has stated facts of which the court can take notice, as *a case of civil property*, which is bound to protect. The injunction cannot be maintained n any principle of this sort, that if a letter has been written the way of friendship, either the continuance or the discon- nuance of that friendship affords a reason for the inter- rence of the court." (b)

If the agent or servant of a company write a letter, pparently on behalf of the company, to a shareholder, it is e property of the company, and the agent or servant annot prevent the company from publishing the letter.(c) Where the solicitor of an insurance company established London, wrote a letter not marked "private" or "confi-

(a) 2 Swans. 418.
(b) 5 T. R. 245; see also the American cases *Wetmore* v. *Scoville* 3 Ed. 527, Ch.); and *Woolsey* v. *Judd* (4 Duer, 382).
(c) *Per* Lord Romilly, M.R., *Howard* v. *Gunn* (32 Beav. 465).

dential," to one of the shareholders in the country, by which he appeared to negotiate a new arrangement as to certain shares allotted to the country shareholder, he was held not entitled to restrain the publication of this letter in a pamphlet, published after the winding up of the company by its late manager, to whom a copy of it had been sent by the shareholder the day after he received it.(*a*) "If the solicitor of an insurance company established in London," said the Master of the Rolls in this case, "by the direction of the directors, wrote a letter to one of the shareholders in the country, it is clear that such letter is not the property of the solicitor, and that he cannot say that the company have not a right to publish it. Take it a step further, and assume that the solicitor wrote a letter, but not by the direction or on behalf of the directors, though it had all the appearance of being written on their behalf, and by their direction. Thus, if it were written to a person who proposed to take shares in the company, and it related to the affairs of the company, and contained authoritative information on behalf of the company, in answer to an application for shares, and the person who receives it treats it as such, and sends back to the company objecting to its contents, shall the solicitor be allowed to complain of its publication, and to insist that it is a private letter, though it appears to be written on behalf of the directors? The answer is, if that be so, it ought not to have been written. It has all the appearance of having been written by the plaintiff on their behalf, and Jamieson [the shareholder to whom it was addressed] so treats it, for he writes to the manager in answer to it. Can the plaintiff be allowed to say that the company have no right to publish it? and if they have, is not the defendant entitled, as regards the plaintiff, to bring it forward? It is obvious that this was not a private letter, and was not intended to be a private letter."

Summary of the law as to letters.

An excellent summary of the whole law on this subject is contained in the judgment of the American judge Story, in the case of *Folsom* v. *Marsh*.(*b*) "The author of any letter or letters, and his representatives, whether they are literary compositions or familiar letters or letters of business, possess the sole and exclusive copyright therein; and no person, neither those to whom they are addressed, nor other persons, have any right or authority to publish the same upon their own account, or for their own benefit. But, consistently with this right, the persons to whom they are addressed may have, nay, must by implication possess, the right to publish

(*a*) *Howard* v. *Gunn* (33 Beav. 465). (*b*) 2 Story's Rep. 111.

any letter or letters addressed to them, upon such occasions as require or justify the publication or public use of them; but this right is strictly limited to such occasions.(*a*) Thus, a person may justifiably use and publish in a suit at law or in equity such letter or letters as are necessary and proper to establish his right to maintain the suit, or defend the same. So, if he be aspersed or misrepresented by the writer, or accused of improper conduct in a public manner, he may publish such parts of such letter or letters, but no more, as may be necessary to vindicate his character and reputation, or free him from unjust obloquy and reproach. If he attempt to publish such letter or letters on other occasions, not justifiable, a court of equity will prevent the publication by an injunction, as a breach of private confidence or contract, or of the rights of the author, and *à fortiori* if he attempt to publish them for profit; for then it is not a mere breach of confidence or contract, but it is a violation of the exclusive copyright of the writer. In short the person to whom letters are addressed, has but a limited right or special property (if I may so call it) in such letters, as a trustee or bailee for particular purposes, either of information or protection, or of support of his own rights and character. The general property, and the general rights incident to property, belong to the writer, whether the letters are literary compositions, or familiar letters, or details of facts, or letters of business. The general property in the manuscripts remains in the writer and his representatives as well as the general copyright. *A fortiori*, third persons standing in no privity with either party are not entitled to publish them, to subserve their own private purposes of interest, or curiosity, or passion."

Lectures.

The right of an oral lecturer, before the Stat. 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65, to restrain the publication for profit of lectures delivered by him stood on a somewhat peculiar footing. In the year 1824, Mr. Abernethy, the distinguished surgeon, delivered a series of lectures on the principles and practice of surgery to the medical students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The *Lancet* newspaper proceeded to publish these lectures; and, besides publishing some, it contained an announcement that the remaining lectures would also be published as they were delivered. A bill was filed by Mr. Abernethy against the proprietors of the *Lancet* to restrain the publication.(*b*) It was contended on behalf of the defendants that no man could have any right of property in

(*a*) See 2 Swans. 415, 419, and *Palin* v. *Gathercole* (1 Coll. 565).
(*b*) *Abernethy* v. *Hutchinson* (1 H. & T. 39; 3 L. J. 209, Ch.)

PART I. CHAPTER II.

ideas and language not reduced into writing; and it was acknowledged by Mr. Abernethy, that although a good deal of the materials for his lectures had been reduced by him to writing, yet at the time of delivering the lectures he did not read or refer to any writing before him, but that he delivered them orally. As the written notes were not produced, the Lord Chancellor (Eldon), when the case first came before him, refused to grant an injunction grounded on an infringement of the plaintiff's copyright, because no case had determined that there was such copyright in unpublished productions not reduced into writing. The case was postponed to enable Mr. Abernethy to produce his manuscripts if he wished to do so. The manuscripts were not produced, and Lord Eldon, treating the lectures as orally delivered, refused to grant an injunction on the ground of a right of property in sentiments and language not deposited on paper; though he did grant the injunction on another ground, namely, the existence of an implied contract between the lecturer and his hearers that the latter would make use of the lectures only for their own information, and not publish for profit that which they had not the right of selling. The Lord Chancellor is reported to have stated that where the lecture was orally delivered, it was difficult to say that an injunction could be granted upon the same principle upon which literary composition was protected; because the court must be satisfied that the publication complained of was an invasion of the written work, and this could only be done by comparing the composition with the piracy. But it did not follow that because the information communicated by the lecturer was not committed to writing but orally delivered, it was therefore within the power of the person who heard it to publish it. On the contrary, he was clearly of opinion that whatever else might be done with it, the lecture could not be published for profit. He had no doubt whatever that an action would lie against a pupil who published these lectures; and whether an action would or would not lie against a third person obtaining the lectures from a pupil, an injunction undoubtedly might be granted; because if there had been a breach of contract on the part of the pupil who heard the lectures, and if the pupil could not publish for profit, to do so would be regarded by the court as a fraud in a third party. (*a*)

5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65.

But now a distinct property in lectures delivered is given to the lecturer by Stat. 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65. After

(*a*) 3 L. J. 219, Ch.

stating that printers, publishers, and other persons have frequently taken the liberty of printing and publishing lectures delivered upon divers subjects without the consent of the authors of such lectures, sect. 1 enacts, "that from and after the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, the author of any lecture or lectures, or the person to whom he hath sold or otherwise conveyed the copy (*a*) thereof, in order to deliver the same in any school, seminary, institution, or other place, or for any other purpose, shall have the sole right and liberty of printing and publishing such lecture or lectures; and that if any person shall, by taking down the same in shorthand or otherwise in writing, or in any other way, obtain or make a copy of such lecture or lectures, and shall print or lithograph or otherwise copy and publish the same, or cause the same to be printed, lithographed, or otherwise copied and published, without leave of the author thereof, or of the person to whom the author thereof hath sold or otherwise conveyed the same, and every person who, knowing the same to have been printed or copied and published without such consent, shall sell, publish, or expose to sale, or cause to be sold, published, or exposed to sale, any such lecture or lectures, shall forfeit such printed or otherwise copied lecture or lectures, or parts thereof, together with one penny for every sheet thereof which shall be found in his custody, either printed, lithographed, or copied, or printing, lithographing, or copying, published or exposed to sale, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, the one moiety thereof to His Majesty, his heirs or successors, and the other moiety thereof to any person who shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record in Westminster, by action of debt."

Sect. 2 enacts, "that any printer or publisher of any newspaper who shall, without such leave as aforesaid, print and publish in such newspaper any lecture or lectures, shall be deemed and taken to be a person printing and publishing without leave within the provisions of this Act, and liable to the aforesaid forfeitures and penalties in respect of such printing and publishing."

(*a*) "I use the word 'copy,'" said Lord Mansfield, in *Millar* v. *Taylor* (4 Burr. 2396), "in the *technical* sense in which that name or term has been used for ages, to signify an *incorporeal right* to the *sole* printing and publishing of somewhat intellectual communicated by letters." "The copy of a book," said Aston, J., in the same case (*Ib.* 2346), "seems to have been not familiarly only, but *legally* used as a *technical* expression of the *author's sole right of printing and publishing* that work." See also *per* Willes, J. (*Ib.* 2311).

PART I. CHAPTER II.

And sect. 3 provides, "that no person allowed for certain fee and reward, or otherwise to attend and be present at any lecture delivered in any place, shall be deemed and taken to be licensed or to have leave to print, copy, and publish such lectures only because of having leave to attend such lecture or lectures.

Exceptions to copyright in lectures.

Sect. 4 makes an exception in the case of lectures published with leave of the authors or their assignees, and of which the statutory term of copyright had expired, and also in the case of lectures published before the passing of the Act (9th September, 1835).

Sect. 5 makes a further exception. It enacts "that nothing in the Act shall extend to any lecture or lectures, or the printing, copying, or publishing any lecture or lectures, or parts thereof, of the delivering of which notice in writing shall not have been given to the justices living within five miles from the place where such lecture or lectures shall be delivered two days at the least before delivering the same, or to any lecture or lectures delivered in any university or public school or college, or on any public foundation, or by any individual in virtue of or according to any gift, endowment, or foundation, and that the law relating thereto shall remain the same as if this Act had not been passed."

Prints.

There is also a copyright in prints, which will be dealt with in a subsequent chapter; but no copyright, as before stated, exists in prints of a libellous, obscene, or immoral character. (*a*)

Paintings, drawings, and photographs.

A copyright in paintings, drawings, and photographs is conferred by 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68. This will also be treated of in a subsequent chapter.

Newspapers.

On the question whether copyright exists in the case of newspapers, see the chapter on newspapers, *post*.

CHAPTER III.

WHO MAY POSSESS COPYRIGHT.

LEAVING out of consideration at present the question of international copyright, there is no doubt that every person (whether he be a foreigner or a British subject) who owes allegiance, either natural and perpetual or temporary, to the

(*a*) *Vide ante*, p. 11.

sovereign of this country, is capable of possessing the copyright in any innocent work which he publishes in this country during the time that he owes such allegiance.

A natural born British subject before the Naturalization Act of last year (33 Vict. c. 14) was held to carry his allegiance with him throughout the world, and no change of circumstance, time, or place could free him from it.(*a*) An English author, therefore, might reside abroad, and yet have his right as an English author upon publication here. Residence abroad could not release him from his natural allegiance, and therefore he carried with him also the natural rights of a subject of England wherever he went.(*b*) Besides this natural and perpetual allegiance, our law also recognizes a local or temporary allegiance which is due from every alien or stranger born for so long a time as he continues within the sovereign's dominion and protection,(*c*) and which he ceases to owe as soon as he transfers himself from this kingdom to another.(*d*) An alien friend temporarily residing here and consequently owing a temporary allegiance, is entitled to copyright in any work which he publishes here whilst so temporarily residing, however short his period of residence may be. But if the alien does not reside in the British dominions at the time of publishing his work here, is he entitled to copyright in it?(*e*) The answer to be given is not free from doubt.

Cocks v. *Purday*, since over-ruled.

In *Cocks* v. *Purday* (*f*) the Court of Common Pleas, following out the general principle that an alien may acquire personal rights and maintain personal actions in respect of injuries done to him, though he cannot maintain real actions, held that a foreigner resident abroad could acquire the copyright in a work first published by him as author or as author's assignee in this country though residing abroad at the time that the work was first published here.(*g*) And in support of this opinion the following considerations were urged, that by the 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, copyright is to be deemed personal property, and to be transmissible by

(*a*) See *Calvin's Case* (7 Rep. 6 b.).

(*b*) *Vide* judgment of Lord St. Leonards in *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* (4 H. L. Cas. 977). The Naturalization Act of 33 Vict. c. 14, enables natural born British subjects under certain circumstances to free themselves from their allegiance (ss. 4, 6) and to resume it again (s. 8).

(*c*) *Calvin's Case*, *ubi supra*. (*d*) 2 Steph. Black. 418.

(*e*) See the judgments in *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*, *ubi supra*.

(*f*) 5 C. B. 860.

(*g*) See also in connection with this opinion *D'Almaine* v. *Boosey* (1 Y. & C. 288), and *Bentley* v. *Foster* (10 Sim. 329), and the opinion of Bayley, J., in *Clementi* v. *Walker* (2 B. & Cr. 861).

PART I. CHAPTER III.

bequest, or, in case of intestacy, to be subject to the same laws of distribution as other personal property, and in Scotland is to be deemed personal and movable estate, and even before that statute it was always treated as personal property, and aliens can acquire personal property; and the opinion expressed by Shadwell, V.C., in *Bentley* v. *Foster* (*a*) was referred to, that "if an alien friend wrote a book, whether abroad or in this country, and gave the British public the advantage of his industry and knowledge, by first publishing the work here, he was entitled to the protection of the laws relating to copyright in this country." And in *Chappell* v. *Purday* (*b*) Lord Abinger, C.B., had declared himself of opinion that a foreigner, who is the author of a work unpublished abroad, might communicate his right of property therein to a British subject, at least for the period prescribed by the statute of Anne. Another decision in favour of the doctrine that a foreigner, though resident abroad at the time of publication, may have copyright in this country if the first publication takes place here, was pronounced by the Court of Queen's Bench in *Boosey* v. *Davidson*,(*c*) where an action was brought for infringement of copyright in certain operatic airs composed by a foreigner and alleged to have been first printed and published in England. The court stated no other ground for their decision than the judgment of the Court of Common Pleas in *Cocks* v. *Purday*.

The Court of Exchequer in *Boosey* v. *Purday* (*d*), decided in the same year as *Boosey* v. *Davidson*, refused to follow the decision in that case and in *Cocks* v. *Purday*. The plaintiff in *Boosey* v. *Purday* was the assignee of certain airs of an opera which Signor Ricordi had purchased from the composer Bellini, a foreigner, and the action was brought for an infringement by the defendant of the plaintiff's copyright in the dramatic airs. The court held that a foreign author residing abroad, who composes a work abroad, and sends it to this country, where it is first published under his authority, acquires no copyright therein; neither does a British subject to whom such work is assigned by the foreign author gain any such right. Pollock, C.B., in delivering the judgment of the court, said, "We perfectly concur with the Court of Common Pleas, that a foreigner in amity with this country may sue for the infringement of any of his rights, a point which we never doubted; but we thought it clear that a foreigner had no copyright in

(*a*) 10 Sim. 329.
(*b*) 4 Y. & Col. 495.
(*c*) 13 Q. B. 257.
(*d*) 4 Exch. 145.

England by the common law, and that his right must depend wholly upon the construction of the statutes, and if they did not give it to him he could have no right at all. And, with respect to the construction of the statutes, we thought, if there were no binding authorities to the contrary, that the Legislature did not mean to confer a copyright on any but British subjects. . . . . Our opinion is that the Legislature must be considered *primâ facie* to mean to legislate for its own subjects only, in some sense of that term, which would include subjects by birth or residence, being authors, and the context or subject matter of the statutes does not call upon us to put a different construction upon them." And even before the decision in *Cocks* v. *Purday*, Shadwell, V.C., in *Delondre* v. *Shaw*,(a) though not dealing in that case with the question of copyright, remarked that "The court does not protect the copyright of a foreigner."(b)

Jeffreys v. *Boosey.*

The law on the subject of the copyright of foreigners, which these conflicting decisions had left in considerable doubt, appeared to be finally determined by the House of Lords in the case of *Boosey* v. *Jeffreys*, after all the judges had been called on to deliver their opinions. The facts of that case were as follow:(c) Bellini, the celebrated musical composer, an alien friend, composed, while living at Milan, an operatic work "La Sonnambula," in which by the laws there in force, he had a certain copyright. He there on the 19th of February, 1861, by an instrument in writing, bearing date on that day, made an assignment of that copyright to Giovanni Ricordi, which assignment was valid by the laws there in force. Ricordi afterwards came to this country, and on the 9th of June, 1831, by deed assigned, for valuable consideration, the copyright in the said work to Boosey, his executors, administrators, and assigns, but for publication in the United Kingdom only. Boosey printed and published the work in this country before any publication abroad. Then Jeffreys, without any licence from Boosey, printed and published the same work in this country. Boosey brought an action against Jeffreys for the infringement of his copyright, and the action was tried before Rolfe, B. (subsequently Lord Cranworth), who directed the jury, in accordance with the decision in *Boosey* v. *Purday*, to find a verdict for the defendant Jeffreys. The matter came, on bill of exceptions, before the Court of Exchequer Chamber. That tribunal pronounced the direction given by the judge at the trial, to be wrong. A writ of error was then brought in the House

(a) 2 Sim. 240. (b) See *Ollendorf* v. *Black* (4 De G. & S. 209).
(c) See the statement submitted to the judges (4 H. L. Cas. 843).

of Lords, where the question was argued at great length, and the judges were asked to deliver their opinions, which ten of them did in an elaborate and exhaustive manner and at considerable length. Several questions were submitted to them by the House of Lords, but we have only to deal at present with one of the topics that engaged their attention, *i.e.*, whether a foreigner who is not resident here at the time of the publication here of a work composed by him has any copyright in such work. On this subject the judges were divided in opinion, as might have been expected from the opposite decisions which their respective courts had already pronounced. Four judges were of one opinion, and six of another. Williams, Erle, Wightman, Maule, Coleridge, and Crompton, JJ., pronounced in favour of the proposition that a foreign author might gain an English copyright by publishing in England before any publication abroad, though resident abroad at the time of publication, on the grounds that there were no words in the Act, 8 Anne, c. 19 (the first Copyright Act), which confines its benefits to British subjects, by birth or residence, though the context and other provisions of the Act showed that the publication must be British; that the title of the Act ("An Act for the encouragement of Learning, &c.") did not require such a construction of its provisions, and Parliament might legislate for foreigners in respect of the legal consequences in Great Britain of an act done there; that the nature of the property was analogous to property in other personalty, and that an alien's copyright was analogous to the right which he possessed while residing abroad to prohibit the publication here of words defamatory of his character; (*a*) that to limit the Act of Anne to native authors would be to lessen its beneficial operation; that first publication in England of a work by a foreign author was not a matter *ultra vires*, therefore, the municipal law might deal with it; that the gift by Parliament of copyright to a foreign author publishing in this country was within the province of Parliament, it was a dealing with British interests and a legislation for British persons; that it would be absurd to lay down the doctrine that a foreign author should have no copyright if he remained at Calais whilst his work was being published in England, but that he should gain that copyright if he crossed over to Dover, and there gave directions for and awaited the publication of his work; and the following harsh consequence would also result from the doctrine of the necessary presence in the United Kingdom of the foreign author at the time of

Opinions of the judges.

(*a*) *Pisani* v. *Lawson* (6 Bing. N. C. 90).

the publication of his works,—that a bookseller might purchase a literary work in manuscript from a foreign author resident here, yet might lose the copyright if the author should choose to leave this country and be absent from it, even without the knowledge of the bookseller, at the time of publication; nay, if the bookseller should think it best to publish the works in several volumes at several times, he might have copyright in some of the volumes and not in others—because the existence or non-existence of the right would vary with the accident of the author's being or not being in this country at the dates of the respective publications of the volumes.

Decision of the House of Lords.

Notwithstanding the foregoing very weighty reasons, the law lords, Lords Cranworth, C., Brougham, and St. Leonards, agreed with the views expressed on this point by the minority of the judges, Alderson and Parke, B.B., Pollock, C.B., and Jervis, C.J.; and the House of Lords, reversing the decision of the Exchequer Chamber, upheld the direction given by Rolfe, B. to the jury at the original trial of the case, and thus decided,(*a*) that to entitle a foreigner to the copyright in any work first published by him in this country, *he must be actually resident here at the time of the publication of such work*, and consequently that no assignment by a foreigner, not resident here at the time of publication, can vest in a British subject a copyright in the work of the foreigner published here by that British subject.

The grounds on which the judgment of the House of Lords in this important case rested, will appear from the following extracts from the judgments delivered. Lord Cranworth, C., after recapitulating the facts, said: "It may be assumed that on the facts thus proved, the rights of Bellini, the author (if any), had been effectually transferred to Boosey, the defendant in error; and thus the important question arose, whether Bellini had by our law a copyright which he could transfer through Ricordi to Boosey, so as to entitle the latter to the protection of our laws? . . . . In the first place, it is proper to bear in mind that the right now in question—namely, the copyright claimed by the defendant in error (Boosey)—is not the right to publish or to abstain from publishing a work not yet published at all, but the exclusive right of multiplying copies of a work already published, and first published by the defendant in error (Boosey) in this country. Copyright thus defined, if not the creature, as I believe it to be, of our statute law, is now entirely regulated by it, and, therefore, in determining its limits, we must look

(*a*) See *Routledge* v. *Low* (*post*, p. 31).

PART I. CHAPTER III.

exclusively to the statutes on which it depends. . . . The substantial question is whether under the term 'author' (in 8 Anne, c. 19) we are to understand the Legislature as referring to British authors only, or to have contemplated all authors of every nation. My opinion is that the statute must be construed as referring to British authors only. *Primâ facie*, the Legislature of this country must be taken to make laws for its own subjects exclusively, and where, as in the statute now under consideration, an exclusive privilege is given to a particular class at the expense of the rest of Her Majesty's subjects, the object of giving that privilege must be taken to have been a national object, and the privileged class to be confined to a portion of that community, for the general advantage of which the enactment was made. When I say that the Legislature must, *primâ facie*, be taken to legislate only for its own subjects, I must be taken to include under the word 'subjects,' all persons who are within the Queen's dominions, and who thus owe to her a temporary allegiance. I do not doubt but that a foreigner resident here, and composing and publishing a book here, is an author within the meaning of the statute—he is within its words and spirit. . . . Copyright, defined to mean the exclusive right of multiplying copies, commences at the instant of publication; and if the author is at that time in England, and while here he first prints and publishes his work, he is, I apprehend, an author within the meaning of the statute, even though he should have come here solely with a view to the publication. . . . . But if at the time when copyright commences by publication the foreign author is not in this country, he is not, in my opinion, a person whose interests the statute meant to protect. I do not forget the argument that from this view of the law the apparent absurdity results, that a foreigner having composed a work at Calais, gains a British copyright if he crosses to Dover, and there first publishes it, whereas he would have no copyright if he should send it to an agent to publish for him. I own that this does not appear to me to involve any absurdity. It is only one among the thousand instances that happen, not only in law, but in all the daily occurrences of life, showing that whenever it is necessary to draw a line, cases bordering closely on either side of it are so near to each other, that it is difficult to imagine them as belonging to separate classes; and yet our reason tells us they are as completely distinct as if they were immeasurably removed from each other. . . . . If the object of the enactment was to give, at the expense of British subjects, a premium to those

who laboured, no matter where, in the cause of literature, I see no adequate reason for the exception, which it is admitted on all hands we must introduce, against those who not only compose, but first publish abroad. If we are to read the statute(*a*) as meaning by the word 'author' to include 'foreign authors living and composing abroad,' why are we not to put a similar extended construction on the words 'first published?' And yet no one contends for such an extended use of these latter words. Some stress was laid on the supposed analogy between copyright and the right of a patentee for a new invention; but the distinction is obvious. The Crown, at common law had, or assumed to have, a right of granting to any one, whether native or foreigner, a monopoly for any particular manufacture. This was claimed as a branch of the royal prerogative, and all which the statute, 21 Jac. 1, c. 3, s. 6, did was to confine its exercise within certain prescribed limits; but it left the persons to whom it might extend untouched. The analogy, if pursued to its full extent, would tend to show that first publication abroad ought not to interfere with an author's right in this country. For certainly it is no objection to a patent that the subject of it has been in public use in a foreign country. . . . . My opinion is founded on the general doctrine, that a British statute must *primâ facie* be understood to legislate for British subjects only, and that there are no special circumstances in the statute of Anne, relating to authors, leading to the notion that a more extended range was meant to be given to its enactments." The reasons assigned by Lord Brougham were of a similar nature. Lord St. Leonards, in the course of his judgment, said, "I venture to submit to your lordships that it is quite clear, as an abstract proposition, that an Act of Parliament of this country, having within its view a municipal operation—having, as in this particular case, a territorial operation, and being therefore limited to the kingdom—cannot be considered to provide for foreigners, except as both statute and common law do provide for foreigners when they become resident here, and owe at least a temporary allegiance to the Sovereign, and thereby acquire rights just as other persons do; not because they are foreigners, but because, being here, they are here entitled, in so far as they do not break in upon certain

(*a*) The part of the statute 8 Anne, c. 19, referred to is this: "The author of any book or books already composed and not printed and published, or that shall hereafter be composed, and his assignee or assigns, shall have the sole liberty of printing and reprinting such book and books for the term of fourteen years, to commence from the day of the first publishing the same, and no longer."

rules, to the general benefit of the law for the protection of their property, in the same way as if they were natural born subjects. . . . . It has been decided, and it is no longer to be disputed, nor is it attempted to be disputed, that the first publication must take place here; but that is only by implication from the provisions in the Act of Parliament. Well, then, if the first publication must take place here, must the printing likewise take place here? There is no such actual provision: it is not said so, but I apprehend it is implied; I think it is clearly implied from the provisions of the Act, that the printing must take place here. . . . . If it is clear as I apprehend it to be, that, in the first place, a book which is a foreign composition must be first published here, and, secondly, that it must be printed here; would it not necessarily and naturally follow that the man himself should be here to superintend that publication. Is it not a natural inference from the Act of Parliament, which does not expressly provide for either of the foregoing conditions, that it implies that the man shall be here to superintend his publication, seeing that it shall not only be first published here, but that it shall also be printed here? Nothing could be further from the intention of the Legislature at the time that this Act of Parliament was passed than that a foreigner should be enabled to import books printed abroad; but unless you put that construction upon the Act of Parliament, he would have been able to import books printed abroad, and bringing them here, to have a copyright in their publication. That would plainly be directly contrary to the intention of the Legislature. I think, therefore, that gives us an easy means of interposition as to the meaning of the statute, with regard to the residence of the publisher. . . . . If there is no common law right, which in my opinion there clearly is not,(*a*) and if the statute does not apply to foreigners, *quâ* foreigners (although I entirely, of course, admit, that when a man owes a temporary allegiance, he is entitled to the benefit of it) then there being no common law right, it would be a new right given by Act of Parliament, and the foreigner must bring himself within the terms of that Act of Parliament in order to enjoy it; and to do so, in my apprehension, he must be able to predicate of himself that he is a subject of these realms, at least for the time being."

How far *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* is a binding authority.

The authority of *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* as a decision binding at the present day has been much shaken by the opinions

(*a*) It must be remembered that the common law right of which the existence is denied here and elsewhere in the judgments in this case, is a common law copyright *after publication*.

expressed by Lords Cairns and Westbury in *Routledge* v. *Low* (*a*) to the effect that no matter where the author resided at the time of publication, he was entitled to copyright if he first published in the United Kingdom. It was not necessary, however, expressly to decide the point in that case, as the authoress of the book in question resided in Canada at the time of publication here; and two other law lords (Lords Cranworth and Chelmsford) adhered to the view of the law laid down in *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*.

Opinion of Lord Cairns.

Lord Cairns stated the reasons for his opinion thus: "The intention of the Act is to obtain a benefit for the people of this country by the publication to them of works of learning, of utility, of amusement. This benefit is obtained, in the opinion of the Legislature, by offering a certain amount of protection to the author, thereby inducing him to publish his work here. This is, or may be, a benefit to the author, but it is a benefit given, not for the sake of the author of the work, but for the sake of those to whom the work is communicated. The aim of the Legislature is to increase the common stock of the literature of the country; and if that stock can be increased by the publication for the first time here of a new and valuable work composed by an alien who never has been in the country, I see nothing in the wording of the Act which prevents, nothing in the policy of the Act which should prevent, and everything in the professed object of the Act, and in its wide and general provisions which should entitle such a person to the protection of the Act, in return and compensation for the addition he has made to the literature of the country."

Opinion of Lord Westbury.

Lord Westbury said, "The case of *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* is a decision which is attached to and depends on the particular statute of which it was the exponent; and as that statute has been repealed, and is now replaced by another Act, with different enactments expressed in different language. The case of *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*, is not a binding authority in the exposition of this later statute. The Act appears to have been dictated by a wise and liberal spirit, and in the same spirit it should be interpreted, adhering, of course, to the settled rules of legal construction. The preamble is, in my opinion, quite inconsistent with the conclusion that the protection given by the statute was intended to be confined to the works of British authors. On the contrary, it seems to contain an invitation to men of learning in every country to make the *United Kingdom* the place of first

(*a*) L. Rep. 3 H. L. Cas. 100; 18 L. T. N. S. 874; 37 L. J. 454, Ch.

publication of their works; and an extended term of copyright throughout the whole of the British dominions is the reward of their so doing. So interpreted and applied, the Act is auxiliary to the advancement of learning in this country. The real condition of obtaining its advantages is the first publication by the author of his work in the *United Kingdom*. Nothing renders necessary his bodily presence here at the time, and I find it impossible to discover any reason why it should be required, or what it can add to the merit of the first publication. It was asked, in *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*, why should the Act (meaning the statute of Anne) be supposed to have been passed for the benefit of foreign authors? But if the like question be repeated with reference to the present Act, the answer is, in the language of the preamble, that the Act is intended 'to afford greater encouragement to the production of literary works of lasting benefit to the world;' a purpose which has no limitation of person or place. But the Act secures a special benefit to British subjects, by promoting the advancement of learning in this country, which the Act contemplates as the result of encouraging all authors to resort to the United Kingdom for the first publication of their work. The benefit of the foreign author is incidental only to the benefit of the British public. Certainly the obligation lies on those who would give the term 'author' a restricted signification to find in the statute the reasons for so doing. If the intrinsic merits of the reasoning on which *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* was decided be considered (and which we are at liberty to do, for it does not apply to this case as a binding authority), I must frankly admit that it by no means commands my assent."

33 Vict. c. 14. Sect. 2 of the Naturalization Act, 1870 (33 Vict. c. 14) enacts that "real and personal property of *every description* may be taken, acquired, held, and disposed of by an alien *in the same manner in all respects as a natural-born British subject*; and a title to real and personal property of every description may be derived through, from, or in succession to an alien, in the same manner in all respects as through, from, or in succession to a natural-born British subject." This enactment, unless its very general words are in some manner explained away as not intended to apply to the case of copyright, would appear to do away wholly with the effect of the decision in *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* as to all future cases. For all copyright is "personal property" by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 25: It can be acquired by any natural-born British subject by first publishing his work in this country *wherever he is at the time of its publication*: By the enact-

ment above set out, real and *personal property of every description* may be "acquired" by an alien "in the same manner in all respects as a natural-born British subject;" from which it would seem to follow that an alien may acquire copyright in a work which he first publishes here, wherever he is at the time of its publication.(*a*) Though the question is not quite free from doubt, in all probability the ultimate court of appeal, should it ever come before that tribunal for determination, will decide it in favour of the alien in accordance with the opinions of Lords Westbury and Cairns above referred to.

Meaning of residence in *British dominions*

It is quite settled that it is not necessary in order to entitle a foreign author to copyright in his work, that he should be resident within the United Kingdom at the time of its first publication here. It is sufficient that he should at that time be resident in *any part of the British dominions*. And the words "British dominions" are defined by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 2, to mean and include all parts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the islands of Jersey and Guernsey, all parts of the East and West Indies, and all the colonies, settlements, and possessions of the Crown, which now are or hereafter may be acquired. In conformity with this it was determined by the Court of Appeal in Chancery, in the case of *Low* v. *Routledge*,(*b*) that an alien friend (a native of the United States of America) could, by a temporary residence in Canada at the time of publication in England, acquire a British copyright in the work published here. In that case it was agreed between the plaintiffs and an American authoress, from whom they had purchased the manuscript of a book written by her, that she should go to Montreal and reside there till after the publication of the work in England by the plaintiffs. She resided at Montreal from the 19th of May, 1864, till after the 4th of June, 1864, when the book was published for the first time by the Messrs. Low, in London. An injunction was granted by Vice-Chancellor Kindersley to restrain

(*a*) An argument in favour of the applicability of the above section to cases of copyright is furnished by the fact that certain exceptions are expressly made, of which copyright is not one. It is provided [sect. 1] that this enactment "shall not confer any right on an alien to hold real property situate out of the United Kingdom, and shall not qualify an alien for any office or for any municipal, parliamentary, or other franchise; and shall not entitle an alien to any right or privilege as a British subject, except such rights and privileges in respect of *property* as are hereby expressly given to him," and also [sect. 14] that nothing in the Act contained "shall qualify an alien to be the owner of a British ship."

(*b*) 35 L. J. 114, Ch.; 13 L. T. N. S. 421.

Messrs. Routledge from publishing an edition of the same work; and on appeal the Lords Justices upheld his decision. Lord Justice Turner observed: "It was said for the defendants that the same word 'author,' which is contained in this statute, was also contained in the statute of Anne, the first Copyright Act, and that strong opinions were expressed by the judges, and by the law lords in the House of Lords, in the case of *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*, that the word 'author' in the statute of Anne means an author resident in England at the time of publication, and that the same construction ought to be given to the word 'author' in the Stat. 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, now under our consideration. But there is no provision in the statute of Anne that the statute shall extend to the colonies, and in the statute we are now considering it is expressly so provided." It was also nrged on behalf of the defendants that 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, did not extend to colonies having legislatures of their own, as Canada; but the Lord Justice held that the word "colonies," in the absence of a context to control it, must extend to all colonies. This decision was affirmed by the House of Lords.(*a*)

Even if a statute of the colony in which the alien resides at the time of the publication of his work here, prevents an alien acquiring a copyright in a work published by him in the colony during his residence there, that would make no difference as to his title to copyright here. An alien has rights as a subject of the Crown whilst residing in one of its colonies, as well as rights as a subject of the colony; and though his civil rights within the colony depend upon the colonial laws, his civil rights beyond the limit of the colony are independent of those laws. "Every alien," said Turner, L.J., in the case last referred to, "coming into a British colony becomes temporarily a subject of the Crown, bound by, subject to, and entitled to the benefit of, the laws which affect all British subjects. He has obligations both within and beyond the colony into which he comes. As to his rights within the colony, he may well be bound by its laws; but as to his rights beyond the colony he cannot be affected by those laws, for the laws of a colony cannot extend beyond its territorial limits."

Publication in United Kingdom indispensable.

Publication in the United Kingdom is indispensable to copyright. That this was the intention of the Legislature is shown by various provisions of the statute; besides which "it would be very inconsistent with the usual practice of the Imperial Parliament to create a system of copyright law

(*a*) See L. Rep. 3 Eng. & Ir. App. 100; 18 L. T. N. S. 874; 37 L. J. 454, Ch.

for all the colonies and dependencies in the empire, many of which have representative institutions of their own, without any consultation with those colonies or dependencies, and without any consideration whether a uniform and arbitrary system, such as that introduced by this Act, would be suitable to the varied circumstances, states of civilisation, and systems of jurisprudence and judicature in these different colonies and possessions."(*a*)

But when copyright once exists, the area over which it extends is the whole of the British dominions.(*b*)

British subject first publishing abroad.

It is important to observe that by the International Copyright Act (7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, s. 19) a British subject who first publishes abroad is, equally with a foreigner, deprived of any copyright save such as he may acquire under that Act; and if there is no treaty giving effect to the Act in his particular case, he has no copyright in this country. This was so decided by Wood, V.C., in *Boucicault* v. *Delafield*,(*c*) in which case the plaintiff prayed for an injunction to restrain the defendant from producing a drama ("The Colleen Bawn") written by the plaintiff, and as it appeared on the hearing of the case, represented by the plaintiff at New York prior to its being represented in England. The Vice-Chancellor refused to grant the injunction and dismissed the bill with costs, being of opinion that the words of the 19th section of 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, took away whatever rights the plaintiff might otherwise have had. If he had first represented his drama here, he would have been entitled to the provisions of the Dramatic Copyright Act. Then 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, was passed, enabling Her Majesty to make arrangements conferring on other nations the privileges accorded to all people who first publish their works here. If the plaintiff had this sort of double right it was the very thing which the 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, was intended to extinguish. The statute says in effect (sect. 19) that "if any person, British subject or not, chooses to deprive this country of the advantage of the first representation of his work, then he may get the benefit of copyright, if he can, under the arrangement which may have been come to pursuant to 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, between this country and the country which he so favours with his representation; but if he chooses to publish his performance in a country which has not entered into any treaty or made any such arrangement with regard to copyright, then this country has

(*a*) *Per* Lord Cairns, C., *Routledge* v. *Low* (L. Rep. 3 Eng. & Ir. App. 108; 18 L. T. N. S. 874; 37 L. J. 454, Ch.) (*b*) *Routledge* v. *Low*, *ubi supra*.
(*c*) 1 H. & M. 597; 9 L. T. N. S. 709; 33 L. J. 38, Ch.

nothing more to say to him; he must be taken to have elected under which of the two statutes with respect to copyright he wishes to come, by performing his work in one country instead of the other, and he is thereby excluded from all advantage of publishing in the other."(*a*)

Unpublished works.

The property which an author has in his unpublished ideas embodied in a tangible shape being independent of statute (*b*) it should seem that an alien friend might prevent the unauthorised publication here of any of his unpublished works.(*c*)

Besides the copyright which may be possessed by individual authors and proprietors, there is also a copyright enjoyed in certain works by the Crown, and in others by the Universities, to which attention will now be directed.

CHAPTER IV.

CROWN AND COLLEGE COPYRIGHT IN BOOKS.

Works in which Crown copyright exists.

THE copyright claimed by the Crown extended to the English Translation of the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, the Statutes, Orders of the Privy Council, and State Proclamations; also to Almanacs, Lilley's Latin Grammar, the Year-books and reports of judicial proceedings. The exclusive right of printing these was held to be vested in the King; and he granted letters patent authorising others to print and publish them. Some part of this claim has now become obsolete, but a large part still remains unquestioned, and has been recognized in various decisions of courts, both of Common Law and Equity. The claim of the Crown to this copyright has by some been based upon a right of property similar to the right of a private author or his assigns;(*d*) by others it has been treated as grounded on naked prerogative and reasons of state policy. It is impossible to decide the point satisfactorily, nor is the matter one of importance.

(*a*) *Per* Wood, V.C. (1 H. & M. 597; 9 L. T. N. S. 709; 33 L. J. 38, Ch.)

(*b*) See *Prince Albert* v. *Strange* (2 De G. & S. 652; 1 Mac. & G. 25).

(*c*) It has been held in America that the sect. (9) of the Act of Congress (Act of 1831, c. 16) which gave redress for the unauthorised printing or publishing of manuscripts, operated in favour of a resident of the United States who had acquired the proprietorship of an *unprinted* literary composition from a non-resident alien author: (*Keene* v. *Wheatley*, Amer. Law Reg. 45, cited Law's Digest of Patent, Copyright, and Tradesmark Cases, p. 256.)

(*d*) *E.g.*, Lord Mansfield in *Millar* v. *Taylor* (4 Burr. 2401).

The English translation of the Bib.

Blackstone (*a*) rests the claim of the Crown to copyright in English translations of the Bible on two grounds, that the translation was made at the expense of the Crown, and that the Sovereign is the head of the Church. Lord Mansfield (*b*) regarded it as a mere right of property founded on the purchase of the translation by the King in the time of James I. Lord Lyndhurst (*c*) refers it to another consideration, namely, the character of the duty (carrying with it a corresponding prerogative) imposed on the Sovereign as the chief executive officer of the government to superintend the publication of the works upon which the established doctrines of religion are founded, a duty extending to Scotland as well as England. On whatever ground the claim rests, its validity seems now beyond dispute, though the reported cases on the subject are between rival patentees, of whom neither would raise the question of the validity of their patents as against the public in general. An Irish Lord Chancellor, indeed, in 1794, doubted the right of the Crown to grant a monopoly of this kind, and held that a patentee claiming an exclusive right of printing Bibles must establish his patent at law before he could have an injunction in equity.(*d*) But Lord Eldon, in 1802, granted an injunction to restrain the King's printer in Scotland, who had a patent for the sale of Bibles there, from printing or selling Bibles in England.(*e*) And in 1828, the House of Lords held that the King's printers in Scotland had, by virtue of their patent, a right to prevent the importation from England by others of Bibles and other works contained in their patent.(*f*)

The exclusive right of printing and publishing and selling copies of the Bible, New Testament, and Book of Common Prayer, is vested by letters patent of the 13 Eliz. in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, concurrently with the Queen's printer, and no one else may print or publish in England any such copies, or sell in England any other copies of the said books than such as have been printed and published by or for the Universities and the Queen's printer, or one of them.(*g*)

(*a*) 2 Steph. Black. 39; see also the remarks of Yates, J., in *Millar* v. *Taylor* (4 Burr. 2382).
(*b*) 4 Burr. 2405.
(*c*) *Manners* v. *Blair* (3 Bligh, N. S. 402); see also the opinions of Lord Camden in *Donaldson* v. *Becket* (4 Burr. 2408), and of Skinner, C.B., in *Eyre* v. *Carnan* (6 Bac. Abr. Prer. F. p. 509).
(*d*) *Grierson* v. *Jackson* (Ridg. Ir. T. R. 304).
(*e*) *Universities of Oxford and Cambridge* v. *Richardson* (6 Ves. 689).
(*f*) *Manners* v. *Blair* (3 Bligh, N. S 391).
(*g*) *Universities of Oxford and Cambridge* v. *Richardson* (*ubi supra*).

It seems to be agreed that the Bible may be printed by others than those having the patent right, if it be accompanied by *bonâ fide* notes.(*a*)

There is no Crown copyright in the Hebrew Bible, the Greek Testament, or the Septuagint. They are all common, according to Lord Mansfield;(*b*) and, said that learned judge, "if any man should turn the Psalms, or the writings of Solomon or Job into verse, the King could not stop the printing or the sale of such a work. It would be the author's work."

Nor has any attempt ever been made to prevent any person from publishing a translation of one book, or of a *part* of the Bible, from the original text, and enjoying a copyright in his production.(*c*)

The Bible patent of the Queen's printer for Scotland expired in 1839. The patent of the Queen's printer for England has lately been renewed during pleasure, notwithstanding the recommendation of a committee of the House of Commons that the exclusive privilege of printing and publishing English translations of the Bible should not be renewed.

The Book of Common Prayer.

The claim of the Crown to the exclusive publication of the Book of Common Prayer is rested on similar grounds—the duty and prerogative of the Sovereign as head of the Church and as chief executive magistrate, to superintend the publication of books of divine service.(*d*) It seems that down to the 34th year of Henry VIII. the different books used in divine service were not printed here, but were imported from abroad. A patent was granted in that year for the sole printing of such books, and in the first year of Elizabeth the exclusive right of printing books of divine service was inserted in the same patent with the right of printing the Acts of Parliament, which had some time before been granted, and from that time they were regularly enjoyed together by the King's patentee. In 1781, in the case of

(*a*) 2 Ev. Stat. p. 19, note 11. (*b*) 4 Burr. 2405.
(*c*) Godson on Patents and Copyright, 442.
(*d*) In *Manners* v. *Blair* (3 Bligh, N. S. 391), it was contended that as to the Book of Common Prayer the King could not *in Scotland* confer the exclusive right of printing it on his printer there, as the King was not the supreme head of the Scotch Church as he was of the English; and the Scotch court from which the appeal was brought to the House of Lords seems to have been of that opinion. Lord Lyndhurst, however, in moving the judgment of the House of Lords, rested the claim of the Crown to copyright in the Prayer Book as well as the Bible on the executive character of the Sovereign—a character which he has equally in Scotland and England; and the patent of the King's printer in Scotland was held valid as to the Book of Common Prayer as well as the translation of the Bible.

Eyre v. *Carnan*(*a*), an injunction was granted to restrain the defendant from printing and publishing a form of prayer which had been ordered to be read in all churches. And in *Manners* v. *Blair*,(*b*) before the House of Lords in 1828, the copyright of the Crown was fully recognised.

The Queen's printer enjoys the sole right of printing and publishing the Book of Common Prayer.

Lilly's Latin grammar.

The claim of the Crown, now obsolete, to the copyright in Lilly's Latin Grammar was founded on the alleged original compilation and publication of the grammar at the king's expense, independently of any idea of prerogative.(*c*)

Almanacs.

Various grounds for the claim of the Crown, at one time asserted, to copyright in almanacs have been alleged. In the *Stationers' Company* v. *Seymour*(*d*) (Temp. Chas. II.), the right to grant the exclusive privilege of printing almanacs was held to vest in the king; first, because an almanac has no certain author, and, therefore, by the rule of our law, the sovereign had the property in it; secondly, because the almanacs made yearly are but applications of the general rules laid down in the almanac prefixed to the Book of Common Prayer which regulate the moveable feasts of the Church. And the addition of prognostications and other things that are common in almanacs was held not to alter the case, "any more than if a man should claim a property in another man's copy, by reason of some inconsiderable additions of his own." Notwithstanding the decision in this case the Court of King's Bench in the case of the *Stationer's Company* v. *Partridge*,(*e*) strongly inclined against the prerogative right to the printing of almanacs. No judgment, indeed, was given in that case, but it stood over, that the court might see if they could make it like the case of the Book of Common Prayer, and show that the right of the Crown had any foundation in property; and it was never moved afterwards. The subject, however, received a positive decision adverse to the claim of the Crown in the *Stationers' Company* v. *Carnan*.(*f*) That was a case sent from the Court of Exchequer for the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas, and that court, after hearing counsel on both sides of the question, certified their opinion "that the Crown had not a prerogative or power to make such grant [of almanacs] to the plaintiffs exclusive of any other or others." In consequence of this, it was enacted by 21 Geo. 3, c. 56, s. 10, that 500*l*. a-year should be paid to

(*a*) Cited 6 Bac. Abr. 509. (*b*) 3 Bligh. N. S. 391. (*c*) 4 Burr. 2329.
(*d*) 1 Mod. 256. (*e*) 10 Mod. 105; 4 Burr. 2402; 6 Bac. Abr. 508.
(*f*) 2 W. Bl. 1004.

the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge severally, out of the duty upon almanacs, as a compensation for the annual sum of 1000*l.*, for which they had demised to the Stationers' Company the privilege of printing almanacs. In 1799, Lord North brought in a Bill to revest in the Universities and the Stationers' Company the exclusive right of printing almanacs, but the Bill was thrown out in the House of Commons after Erskine had been heard at the bar of the House against it. No further assertion of the right of the Crown appears to have been made since.

Nautical almanacs.

With regard to nautical almanacs, sect. 2 of 9 Geo. 4, c. 66, enacts that "It shall and may be lawful to and for the Lord High Admiral, or the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for the time being, to cause such nautical almanacs or other useful table or tables which he or they shall from time to time judge necessary and useful, in order to facilitate the method of discovering the longitude at sea, to be constructed, printed, published and vended . . . . and that every person who, without the special licence and authority of the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral aforesaid, for the time being, to be signified under the hand of the Secretary of the Admiralty, for the time being, shall print, publish, or vend, or cause to be printed, published, or vended, any such almanac or almanacs, or other table or tables, shall for every copy of such almanac or table so printed, published, or vended, forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds, to be recovered with costs of suit, by any person to be authorised for that purpose by the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral aforesaid (such authority to be signified under the hand of the Secretary of the Admiralty as aforesaid), by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster; and that the proceeds of the said penalty, when recovered, shall be paid and applied to the use of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich."

A narrative of a voyage of discovery prepared under the orders of the Crown is the property of the Crown; but a publisher authorised to publish it by the Secretary to the Admiralty, the profits remaining at their disposition, was held by Lord Chancellor Thurlow not entitled to restrain a stranger from publishing it.(*a*)

The Crown still possesses the exclusive right of printing

(*a*) *Nicol* v. *Stockdale* (3 Swans. 687).

Acts of Parliament and other State documents.

and publishing Acts of Parliament. Blackstone rests the right on grounds of political and public convenience; the king, as executive magistrate, possessing the right of promulgating to the people all acts of State and Government.(*a*) Lord Clare(*b*) recognised the right, because it is necessary that there should be a responsibility for correct printing, and because copy can only be had from the rolls of Parliament, which are within the authority of the Crown. In olden times the king's officers transmitted authentic copies of all state ordinances to the sheriffs, who proclaimed them in their county courts: when the demand for authentic copies began to increase, and when the introduction of printing facilitated the multiplication of copies, the king's patentee, by command of the king, supplied copies to the people, this seeming an obvious and reasonable extent of that duty which lay upon the Crown to furnish the people with the authentic text of their ordinances.(*c*)

The right of the Crown was recognised in repeated decisions,(*d*) some of which, however, proceed upon notions which are now exploded. The right of the patentees of the Crown to the sole printing of the statutes, as now recognised, must depend upon usage, and the force of the decision of the Court of King's Bench, in *Basket* v. *The University of Cambridge*,(*e*) in 1758, and upon the recognition of the doctrine of prerogative copies by the House of Lords in the case of *Manners* v. *Blair*,(*f*) in 1828.(*g*) The former case did not present for direct decision the question of the validity of patents for the exclusive printing of the statutes, as between the Crown and the public, the dispute being there between rival patentees under patents from different sovereigns, each party therefore being interested in upholding the general prerogative. The Court of Chancery sent the case into the King's Bench for the opinion of that court, and after argument the validity of the patents given to both the parties litigant was upheld. This of course assumes the validity of the claim of the Crown.

Statutes with *bonâ fide* notes.

If *bonâ fide* notes accompany statutes printed by others than those having the patent right, the copyright of the latter, it seems, is not infringed;(*h*) but there is no express

(*a*) 2 Bl. Com. 410. (*b*) *Grierson* v. *Jackson* (Ridg. Rep. 304).
(*c*) See judgment of Skinner, C.B., in *Eyre* v. *Carnan* (6 Bac. Abr. 511).
(*d*) *Atkins's* case (Carter, 89, Bac. Abr. Prer. F. 4 Burr. 2315), *Roper* v. *Streater* (Skin. 234), *Stationers' Company* v. *Parker* (Skin. 233), *Eyre* v. *Carnan* (6 Bac. Abr. 509), *Basket* v. *University of Cambridge* (1 W. Bl. 105), *Baskett* v. *Cunningham* (*Id.* 370; 2 Eden, 137).
(*e*) 1 W. Bl 105. (*f*) 3 Bligh, N. S. 391. (*g*) Curtis on Copyright, 126.
(*h*) Maugham, 106; 2 Evans's Statutes, 19.

PART I. CHAPTER IV.

decision on this subject. The notes must, however, be *bonâ fide*, and not merely colourable or collusive. In *Baskett* v. *Cunningham* (*a*) the defendant, in conjunction with several booksellers, was publishing, in weekly numbers, a digest of the statute law, methodised under alphabetical heads, with large notes from Coke and other writers on the law. He had contracted with Strahan and Woodfall, the proprietors of the patent for printing law books, to print this work, and it was printed at their press. Baskett, the king's printer (whose patent extended to all statutes), filed a bill for an injunction. It was urged for the defendant that the work was not within the meaning of the letters patent, being a work of labour and industry, and the method entirely new. The Lord Chancellor, however, was of opinion that the work was within the patent of the king's printer, and that the notes were merely collusive; but he would not interfere between the two contending patents in the summary method of injunction, but left them to adjust their respective rights at law. He therefore ordered an injunction to issue to restrain the proprietors from printing at any other than at a patent press; which, as Woodfall and Strahan were strictly in league with Baskett, and were at that time jointly concerned in a new edition of the statutes, was equivalent to a total injunction.

Except, then, in the case of editions of the statutes published with *bonâ fide* notes, the right to print and publish the statutes is vested in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, concurrently with the king's patentees.

It seems that the concurrent authority which the two Universities have with the patentees of the Crown to print Acts of Parliament and abridgments of them, has not been extended to the Sovereign's proclamations, Orders in Council, and other State papers, which would accordingly appear to be vested in the king's printer solely.(*b*)

Reports of judicial proceeding.

Besides the reasons of State already mentioned, a further ground has been alleged for the claim of the Crown to the exclusive right to print and publish all reports of judicial proceedings, namely, the payment by the king of the salaries of the judges who pronounce the law, and the payment also, in former times, of the costs of compiling and publishing the volumes of reports. The right was twice affirmed by the House of Lords in the reign of Charles II.- with respect to Rolle's Abridgment(*c*) and Croke's Reports.(*d*) Shortly after the Restoration, an Act of Parliament having

(*a*) 1 W. Bl. 370. (*b*) Maugham, 106.
(*c*) Carter, 89; Bac. Abr. Prer. F. 5; 4 Burr. 2315.
(*d*) Skin. 234; 1 Mod. 217; 4 Burr. 2316.

prohibited the printing of law books without the licence of the Lord Chancellor, the two Chief Justices, and the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, it became the practice to prefix such a licence to all reports published after that period, in which it was usual for the rest of the judges to concur, and to add to the *imprimatur* a testimonial of the *great judgment and learning* of the author. The Act was renewed from time to time, but finally expired in the reign of William III. The same form of licence and testimonial, however, continued in use for a long time after, until the judges refused to grant them any longer, which they did some time before the appearance of "Douglas's Reports."(*a*) The Reports since then have appeared without them. The court, it seems, regarded as a contempt the publication of their proceedings without their authority, and Sir James Burrow, in the preface to his "Reports of Cases decided in the King's Bench," apologises for publishing them without an *imprimatur*, and states that if he gives offence in doing so, he will stop and suppress his work.(*b*) Since the "Year Books," it seems, no judicial proceedings have been published under authoritative care and inspection, either by the House of Lords or by any court in Westminster Hall, except State trials.(*c*)

The courts, in treating as a contempt the unauthorised publication of their reports, appear not to have proceeded so much on the ground of a sole right of property in them, as on the expediency, with a view to the due administration of justice, of having careful and accurate reports of the decisions which serve as precedents for future cases. This, at any rate, is the ground on which the House of Lords claims the right of prohibiting the publication, otherwise than as it directs, of the report of any trial on impeachment or indictment that takes place before it. In *Gurney* v. *Longman*,(*d*) where an injunction was granted until the hearing, restraining the publication by the defendant of an unauthorised report of Lord Melville's trial, Lord Erskine, C., said: "Upon the case of *Bathurst* v. *Kearsley*,(*e*) and the practice of the House of Lords, I may grant the injunction; which

(*a*) See preface to Doug., p. vii. With reference to these licences, Sir Jas. Burrow says, (Preface, p. v.) "I have been assured that some now possessed of judicial offices have declared they never would sign one, because it hangs out false colours, and misleads those that think it gives the least approbation or authority to the work."

(*b*) Preface, p. v. (*c*) *Ib.* (*d*) 13 Ves. 493, 507.

(*e*) This was a case in Chancery, in 1776. The claim of the plaintiff, who had obtained the order of the House for the publication of the trial of the Duchess of Kingston, was acquiesced in by the defendant, and the case passed without discussion: (13 Ves. 494).

I do, not upon anything like literary property, but upon this only, that these plaintiffs are in the same situation as to this particular subject, as the king's printer exercising the right of the Crown as to the prerogative copies. I shall not state anything as to other courts, but shall act upon this precedent." His lordship desired that it should be understood that he had not delivered any judgment of this case further than by granting the injunction until the hearing, upon the precedent of *Bathurst* v. *Kearsley;* and that he should therefore consider the questions as open in any future stage. The case was ultimately compromised.

The practice of the House of Lords has been to make an order that the Lord Chancellor or Lord Speaker do cause the trial to be published; and that no other person do presume to print or publish the same; and, with the exception of Lord Oxford's case and a few others, such an order appears to have been made in almost every instance of a trial before them, whether upon impeachment or indictment. The Lord Chancellor or Lord Speaker, upon this order, appoints a publisher of the trial.(*a*)

Present state of the law as to judicial reports.

The courts have not for a long time asserted a claim to the exclusive publication of their own reports, and in two modern cases, *Butterworth* v. *Robinson,*(*b*) and *Saunders* v. *Smith,*(*c*) the plaintiffs were treated by the Court of Chancery as possessing a copyright in certain law reports published by them. In the former case an injunction was granted to restrain the defendant from publishing a colourable abridgment of the Term Reports, of which the plaintiff was proprietor; and in the second case an injunction was refused only because the plaintiff's conduct was such as misled the defendant into publishing the book complained of. The existence of the plaintiffs' property in the reports was not questioned in either case.

Publication of reports during progress of a trial.

The courts have not, however, abandoned their right to restrain the publication of their proceedings in cases where such publication would be likely to hinder an impartial trial, or otherwise defeat the ends of justice. Thus, on the trial of Thistlewood and others for treason in 1820, Abbot, C.J., prohibited, by a public statement in court, the publication of any of the proceedings until the trial of all the prisoners should be concluded. Notwithstanding this prohibition, a

(*a*) See the case of the Earl of Cardigan, tried before the House of Peers in 1841, and the order made by the House on the 19th February of that year (Lord's Journals, vol. 73, p. 46). Messrs. Gurney were appointed by the Lord Speaker (Shaftesbury) to publish a report of the trial.

(*b*) 5 Ves. 709. (*c*) 3 My. & Cr. 711.

report of the trial of the first two prisoners tried was published in the *Observer* newspaper. Its proprietor was fined 500*l*. for the offence, on failing to appear to answer for contemptuously publishing such proceedings. On the argument of the case before the Court in Banc,(*a*) Bayley, J., after stating the circumstances which rendered it advisable that the publication of the trial should be delayed in the present case, observed: "It is argued that if the court have this power of prohibiting publication, there is no limit to it, and that they may prohibit altogether any publication of the trial. I think that that does not follow. All that has been done in this case is very different, for the prohibition here has only been till the whole trial was completed." And Holroyd, J., added: "I take it to be clear that a court of record has a right to make orders for regulating their proceedings, and for the furtherance of justice in the proceedings before them, which are to continue in force during the time that such proceedings are pending. It appears to me that the arguments as to a further power of continuing such orders in force for a longer period, do not apply. It is sufficient for the present case that the court have that power during the pendency of the proceedings. This order was made to delay publication only so long as it was necessary for the purposes of justice, leaving every person at liberty to publish the report of the proceedings subsequently to their termination. I am, therefore, of opinion that this was an order which the court had the power to make." We find a recent assertion of the right in the case of *Tichborne* v. *Tichborne*,(*b*) where the reasons for exercising it are fully stated. In this case a motion was made on the part of the plaintiff that the publisher of the *Pall Mall Gazette* might be committed to the Queen's prison, for a contempt of the court in having published in that paper an article containing comments on certain affidavits which had been filed in support of the plaintiff's case, but had not yet been brought before the court. Similar applications were at the same time made to commit the publishers of certain other newspapers, for having published the same article. The Vice-Chancellor (Wood) said: "I have no hesitation in saying that a gross contempt of court has been committed in this case. The first observation I would make is, that, from the time of Lord Hardwicke downwards, the rule which that great judge laid down in *Roach* v. *Garvan*, (*c*)

(*a*) *The King* v. *Clement* (4 B. & Ald. 218).
(*b*) 17 L. T. N. S. 5; 15 W. R. 1072; L. Rep. 7 Eq. 55, note.
(*c*) 2 Atk. 469.

PART I. CHAPTER IV.

has been the rule which the court has adopted for its guidance, namely, the determination on the part of the court to discountenance any attempt to prejudice mankind against the merits of a case before it has been heard. I have not the slightest doubt that such an attempt has been made here, and that it has been made in the most offensive manner. An opinion has been pronounced by the author of this article (who sits down to examine these affidavits with a clear and decided bias) with all that boldness which persons under the screen of the anonymous, and having no responsibility cast upon them, think themselves entitled to indulge in. But those who have responsibility cast upon them, this court and every tribunal which has to administer justice, is bound to protect every suitor from such an attempt to pervert the course of justice. I am not entitled to consider myself above being influenced by articles of this description, though I should hope I am. I am not entitled to think that the jury whom I may have to summon in the case are above such influences, though perhaps I ought to do so. But this I am bound to say, and every authority bears me out in saying, that it is the duty of the court to protect every suitor against that which can affect the minds of persons who might be willing to give evidence in a case, obviously one of some degree of contrariety of evidence, and possibly (for I know nothing about it) of doubt and difficulty, and which may prevent persons so critically situated from giving evidence (and in a stage of the cause when a voluntary affidavit is the simple mode of arriving at a result upon an interlocutory application) if they are to be the subject of criticisms of this description, obviously coming from a quarter having a considerable bias." In reply to an argument made use of on behalf of the publisher, that the comments did not transgress the rules which have been laid down as to fair comments on matters of public interest and public notoriety, the Vice-Chancellor said: "In the first place let me observe, that rule does not extend to comments of any description on a matter that is pending, waiting for argument, and waiting for decision; and I think this court would be failing extremely in the administration of justice, if it allowed comments of such a description as are here contained to be made on any documents whatever, which are before the writer and not before the court, but which are afterwards to come before the court, and which comments have a clear and distinct tendency towards directing and swaying the mind of the court or jury, or whoever may have to determine the cause." The proprietor of the

Pall Mall Gazette having made a humble submission and apology, the Vice-Chancellor thought it sufficient for the purposes of justice to order him to pay the costs of the motion. A similar order was made with respect to the printer of another paper which had gone beyond a mere insertion of the article from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and the motions against the other papers were abandoned.(*a*)

Copyright of English and Scotch universities, and colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester.

By 15 Geo. 3, c. 53, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the four universities in Scotland, and the colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester have granted to them for ever the sole liberty of printing and reprinting at their respective presses, all such books as had been before the year 1775, or should thereafter at any time "be bequeathed or otherwise given by the author or authors of the same respectively, or the representatives of such author or authors, to or in trust for the said universities, or to or in trust for any college or house of learning within the same, or to or in trust for the said four universities in Scotland, or to or in trust for the said colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, or any of them, for the purposes mentioned,(*b*) unless the same should have been bequeathed or given, or should thereafter be bequeathed or given, for any term of years, or other limited term."(*c*)

Copyright is given only so long as the books or copies belonging to the universities or colleges are printed at their own printing presses within the said universities or colleges respectively, and for their sole benefit and advantage. If they delegate, grant, lease, or sell their copyrights or exclusive rights of printing the books or any part thereof, or allow, permit, or authorise any person or persons or body corporate to print or reprint the same, then the privileges granted by the Act are to become void and of no effect. They may, however, sell such copies so bequeathed or given in like manner as any author or authors may do.(*d*)

Registration.

In order that the penalties for piracy may be enforced, it is necessary that every book be entered in the register book at Stationers' Hall within two months after the bequest or gift of it shall have come to the knowledge of the vice-chancellors of the said universities, or heads of houses and colleges of learning, or of the principal of any of the said four universities respectively. The register book

(*a*) See further on this subject, the chapter on "Libellous Contempts of Courts of Justice," *post*, and the cases cited there.

(*b*) *i.e.*, "for the advancement of learning, and other beneficial purposes of education within the said universities and colleges."

(*c*) Sect. 1. (*d*) Sect. 3.

PART I. CHAPTER IV.

may be inspected without fee, and the clerk is to give a certificate of any entry on payment of a fee not exceeding sixpence.(*a*)

If the clerk refuse to make entry or give certificates of entries, the university or college which owns the copyright (notice being first given of such refusal by an advertisement in the *Gazette*) is to have the like benefit as if such entry or certificates had been duly made and given, and the clerk who refuses is for every offence to forfeit £20 to the proprietors of the copyright.(*b*)

Piracy.

If any one prints, reprints, or imports, or causes to be printed, reprinted, or imported, any such book or books, or, knowing the same to be so printed or reprinted, sells, publishes, or exposes to sale, or causes to be sold, published, or exposed to sale, any such book or books, he is to forfeit the books and every sheet of them, to the proprietor of the copyright, and one penny for every sheet found in his custody either printed or printing, published or exposed to sale contrary to the true intent and meaning of the Act, one half to go to the Crown, the other half to the prosecutor.(*c*)

Trinity College, Dublin.

The Act of 41 Geo. 3, c. 107, s. 3, confers on Trinity College, Dublin, a similar copyright and under similar conditions in all books given or bequeathed to it.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, which (s. 1) repeals the Act of 41 Geo. 3, c. 107, provides (s. 27) that nothing contained therein shall affect or alter the rights of the two universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the colleges or houses of learning within the same, the four universities in Scotland, Trinity College, Dublin, and the several colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, in any copyrights theretofore vested or thereafter to be vested in them.

CHAPTER V.

PROPERTY IN UNPUBLISHED WORKS.

Unpublished manuscripts.

It has already been stated that every new, and it should be added innocent, product of mental labour which has been embodied in writing or some other material form becomes the exclusive property of its author; the law securing it to him as such, and restraining every other person from infringing his right. Whether the ideas thus

(*a*) Sect. 4. (*b*) Sect. 5. (*c*) Sect. 2.

unpublished take the shape of written manuscripts of literary, dramatic, or musical compositions, or whether they are the designs for works of ornament or utility planned by the mind of an artist, they are equally inviolable while they remain unpublished, and the author possesses an absolute right to publish them or not as he thinks fit, and (if he does not desire to publish them) to hinder their publication either in whole or in part by any one else. "It is certain every man has a right to keep his own sentiments if he pleases. He has certainly a right to judge whether he will make them public or commit them only to the sight of his friends; in that state a manuscript is in every sense his peculiar property, and no man can take it from him, or make any use of it which he has not authorised, without being guilty of a violation of his property. And as every author or proprietor of a manuscript has a right to determine whether he will publish it or not, he has a right to the first publication, and whoever deprives him of that privilege is guilty of a manifest wrong, and the court have a right to stop it."(*a*) The ideas of an author have been quaintly compared to "birds in a cage, which none but he can have a right to let fly, for till he thinks proper to emancipate them they are under his own dominion."(*b*) "The property," says Lord Cottenham,(*c*) "of an author or composer of any work, whether of literature, art, or science, in such work unpublished, and kept for his private use or pleasure, cannot be disputed after the many decisions in which that proposition has been affirmed or assumed. I say 'assumed,' because in most of the cases which have been decided, the question was not as to the original right of the author, but whether what had taken place did not amount to a waiver of such right. . . . . If then such right and property exist

(*a*) *Per* Yates, J. (4 Burr. 2378). (*b*) *Ib.*

(*c*) *Prince Albert* v. *Strange* (13 Jur. 112; 1 Mac. & G. 42; 18 L. J. 126, Ch.); see *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden* (4 M'Clean, 301); *Hoyt* v. *M'Kenzie* (3 Barb. Ch. 323); *Wheaton* v. *Peters* (8 Pet. 657). "No length of time, whe. the invention does not go into public use, can invalidate the right of the inventor. He may take his own time to perfect his discovery, and apply for a patent. And the same principle applies to the manuscript of an author. If he permit copies to be taken for the gratification of his friends, he does not authorise those friends to print them for general use. This is the author's right, from which arise the high motive of pecuniary profit and literary reputation. When the inventor consents to the construction and use of his machine he yields the whole value of his invention. But an author's manuscripts are very different from a machine. As manuscripts, in modern times, they are not and cannot be of general use:" (M'Lean, J., *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden*, *ubi supra*.)

in the author of such works, it must so exist exclusively of all other persons."

This property is independent of statute.

For this exclusive property in the *unpublished* products of his mental labours the author, it must be remembered, is not indebted to any Copyright Acts. His right is independent of statute, and, as observed by Lord Cottenham in the judgment from which the preceding extract is taken, depends entirely on the common law right of property. To the same effect Knight Bruce, V.C., on the final hearing of *Prince Albert* v. *Strange*,(*a*) in the court below, remarks—"Upon the principle, therefore, of protecting property it is that the common law, in cases not aided nor prejudiced by statute, shelters the privacy and seclusion of thoughts and sentiments committed to writing, and desired by the author to remain not generally known. . . . . Such then being, as I believe, the nature and foundation of the common law as to manuscripts, independently of Parliamentary additions and subtractions, its operation cannot of necessity be confined to literary subjects. That would be to limit the rule by its example. Wherever the produce of labour is liable to invasion in an analogous manner, there must, I suppose, be a title to analogous protection or redress."

The protection afforded by the common law to unpublished compositions cannot be evaded by translation, abridgment, summary, or even review.(*b*)

Prince Albert v. *Strange.*

How complete the right of the author is to prevent every, even the slightest infringement of the property in his unpublished productions is forcibly shown by the facts of the case in which the preceding opinions have been judicially expressed—a case which is in fact the leading one on the subject now treated of. In *Prince Albert* v. *Strange* (*c*) it appeared that Her Majesty the Queen and the Prince her husband had occasionally for their amusement made drawings and etchings, principally of subjects of private and domestic interest to themselves, and had some lithographic impressions struck off by means of a private press kept for that purpose, for their own use, and not for publication. Some few impressions had indeed been given to private

(*a*) 2 De G. & Sm. 695.

(*b*) *Per* Knight Bruce, V.C., in *Prince Albert* v. *Strange* (2 De G. & Sm. 693).

(*c*) 2 De G. & S. 652; 1 Mac. & G. 25; 13 Jur. 45, 109, 507. There was also an information filed by the *Attorney-General* v. *Strange*, for the purpose of protecting the interests of Her Majesty in those portions of the etchings which were the property of Her Majesty, and praying relief as to them similar to that prayed in the bill of Prince Albert.

friends of Her Majesty and the Prince, but no further publication was intended or desired. Some further copies being required, the plates for the purpose of printing them were sent to Mr. Brown, a printer at Windsor, and whilst they remained in his possession one of his workmen surreptitiously made some impressions of the etchings for himself. These surreptitiously procured impressions were subsequently obtained by a Mr. Judge, and from his possession they passed into that of the defendant Strange, a London publisher. Strange printed a catalogue of the etchings, in which was expressed an intention of publicly exhibiting the impressions of them, which had come into his possession by means of Judge. The catalogue was entitled "A Descriptive Catalogue of the Royal Victoria and Albert Gallery of Etchings," and contained, a long introduction stating the general nature of the subjects, a detailed list of sixty-three etchings with observations upon them, chiefly of a commendatory character. The bill prayed that the defendants might be ordered to deliver up to the plaintiff all impressions and copies of the said several etchings made by the plaintiff; and that they, their servants, &c., might be restrained by injunction from exhibiting the said gallery or collection of etchings, and from selling or in any manner publishing, and from printing the said descriptive catalogue, or any work being or purporting to be a catalogue of the said etchings, and that all the copies of the said catalogue in the possession or power of the said defendants might be given up to be destroyed. An interim injunction having been granted by Knight Bruce, V.C., extending to Judge as well as Strange, the defendant Strange put in his answer, stating, amongst other things, his original belief that the impressions had come honestly into Judge's hands, that Judge wrote the descriptive catalogue, which he (Strange) then printed, striking off only fifty-one copies, after which the type was broken up, that the catalogue had never been published, or sold, or exposed for sale, and that on receiving the first information that the contemplated exhibition was disapproved of by Her Majesty and the Prince, he had abandoned the whole scheme; and he expressly denied that he ever threatened or intended to make such exhibition, or to make any copies or engravings of the etchings. After this answer had been put in, a motion was made on behalf of Strange to dissolve the injunction granted against him, so far only as it sought to restrain him from selling or in any manner publishing or printing the descriptive catalogue of the etchings, leaving unquestioned

the remaining portion of the injunction against exhibiting, publishing, or parting with the etchings described in the catalogue. It was contended in support of the motion and of the defendant's asserted right to print and publish the catalogue, that although the owner of a print might prevent another from publishing a copy of it, it was impossible to prevent the other from describing it, and printing and publishing such description; that the law of England could not prevent a party obtaining knowledge through the medium of perceiving these etchings, from using that knowledge, and from conveying that information to others, and a Court of Equity, in the absence of contract, could not interfere with the use of that knowledge; it was difficult to understand how the rights of anyone could be interfered with by the making of a catalogue describing the articles and making remarks upon them in the shape of friendly, if not flattering criticism; that if a spectator had a right to contemplate any of the productions of so exalted a personage, which he might do without any invasion of domestic privacy, he had a right to communicate full information connected with those productions; and this, substantially, was all that had been done by the descriptive catalogue; that it was a fallacy to say, as had been said on the part of the plaintiff, that privacy is essential to the right of property, for though the owner of anything may use every means in his power to prevent that thing being seen by another, yet if that other person sees it, the owner can have no right of property in the notion or idea created in the mind of the person who has seen it; that there is no property in the ideas created by seeing the etchings—the property is confined to the etchings; and no regard could be paid to a mere injury to private feelings, and that in substance the complaint is of an offence not against law but against manners.

Notwithstanding, however, the ingenious arguments by which a distinction between the publication of copies of the (unpublished) etchings themselves and that of a mere descriptive catalogue of them was endeavoured to be maintained, the Vice-Chancellor (Knight Bruce), and on appeal the Lord Chancellor (Cottenham), refused to admit the distinction, and held that the plaintiff was entitled to restrain the publication of the one as well as the other. Though the fraudulent manner in which the impressions of the etchings had been originally acquired formed one of the grounds on which the decision rested, the right of the plaintiff to restrain the publication of the catalogue on the

sole ground of his property in the things described was unmistakably asserted by both the learned judges. "Property in mechanical works or works of art," said Knight uce, V.C., (*a*) "executed by a man for his own amusement, instruction, or use, is allowed to subsist certainly, and may, before publication by him, be invaded, not merely by copying, but by description or by catalogue, as it appears to me. A catalogue of such works may in itself be valuable. It may also as effectually show the bent and turn of the mind, feelings, and taste of the artist, especially if not professional, as a list of his papers. The portfolio or the studio may declare as much as the writing table. A man may employ himself in private in a manner very harmless, but which disclosed to society may destroy the comfort of his life, or even his success in it. Every one, however, has a right, I apprehend, to say that the produce of his private hours is not more liable to publication without his consent, because the publication must be creditable or advantageous to him, than it would be in opposite circumstances. Addressing the attention specifically to the particular instance before the court, we cannot but see that the etchings, executed by the plaintiff and his consort for their private use, the produce of their labour, and belonging to themselves, they were entitled to retain in a state of privacy, to withhold from publication. That right, I think it equally clear, was not lost by the limited communication which they appear to have made, nor confined to prohibiting the taking of impressions without or beyond their consent, from the plates their undoubted property. It extended also, I conceive, to the prevention of persons unduly obtaining a knowledge of the subjects of the plates, from publishing (at least by printing or writing, though not by copy or resemblance) a description of them, whether e or less limited or summary, whether in the form of a catalogue or otherwise." And similarly Lord Cottenham. (*b*) "It being admitted that the defendant could not publish a copy—that is an impression—of the etchings, how in principle does a catalogue, list, or description differ? A copy or impression of the etching would only be a means of communicating knowledge and information of the original, and does not a list and description do the same? The means are different, but the object and effect are similar; for in both, the object and effect is to make known to the public more or less of the unpublished work and

(*a*) 2 De G. & S. 696; 13 Jur. 58.
(*b*) 1 Mac. & G. 43; 18 L. J. 126, Ch.; 13 Jur. 112.

composition of the author, which he is entitled to keep wholly for his private use and pleasure, and to withhold altogether, or so far as he may please, from the knowledge of others. . . . . Upon the first question, therefore—that of property—I am clearly of opinion that the exclusive right and interest of the plaintiff in the composition or work in question being established, and there being no right or interest whatever in the defendant, the plaintiff is entitled to the injunction of this court to protect him against the invasion of such right and interest by the defendant, which the publication of any catalogue would undoubtedly be."

Points decided by *Prince Albert* v. *Strange*.

The elaborate judgments in this important case have established the following points:—That the right of property of the author or composer of any works of literature, art, or science in such works, so long as they remain unpublished, is so complete and absolute that no one else, without his permission, may publish even a list or descriptive catalogue of them; that the circulation amongst a few private friends of impressions of etchings not otherwise published is not such a publication of them as disentitles the owner to the protection of the aforesaid right, and that this right is but part of the general common law right of property.

Earlier cases.

The earliest case on the subject of copyright before publication that we find in the books is that of *Webb* v. *Rose*,(*a*) in which Sir Joseph Jekyll, M.R., in 1732, granted an injunction to restrain the clerk of a deceased conveyancer from printing unauthorised the conveyancing drafts of his late master. The bill in that case was filed by the son and devisee of the conveyancer. In *Forrester* v. *Waller*,(*b*) in 1741, an injunction was granted to hinder the printing of the plaintiff's notes obtained surreptitiously without his consent. In *Manley* v. *Owen*,(*c*) in 1755, a bill was filed by some printers who had bought from the Lord Mayor the copy of the sessions paper of trials, to enjoin the defendants from printing it. The Lord Chancellor considered that the right to print purchased from the Lord Mayor gave the plaintiffs the property, and the injunction prayed for was granted.(*d*)

In *Morris* v. *Kelly* (*e*) Lord Eldon granted an injunction to restrain the performance at the English Opera House of

(*a*) Cited 4 Burr. 2330. (*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) Cited 4 Burr. 2329.

(*d*) See also *Duke of Queensberry* v. *Shebbeare* (2 Ed. 329), cited *post*, p. 59; and as to letters *Pope* v. *Curl*, *ante*, p. 12.

(*e*) 1 Jac. & W. 481.

the comedy of the "Young Quaker," of which the plaintiffs, the proprietors of the Haymarket Theatre, had purchased the copyright in the manuscript.(*a*) This was in 1820, several years before the Act of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, gave to authors of plays the sole right of representing them, and it is not easy to see on what ground the injunction was granted.

It matters not how the unpublished work of any one who does not intend to publish it may have come into the hands of another person than the author, that other person cannot publish it without the author's consent. "If any person takes it to the press without his consent, he is certainly a *trespasser*, though he came by it by *legal means*, as by a loan or by devolution; for he transgresses the *bounds* of his trust, and therefore is a trespasser." (*b*) And the law is the same whether the case be *mechanical* or *literary*; whether it be an epic poem or an orrery. The inventor of the one as well as the author of the other has a right to determine "whether the world shall see it or not."(*c*)

What is a previous publication.

It being essential to the right of which we now treat that no previous publication should have taken place, it becomes important to determine what constitutes a previous publication in the eye of the law.

Publication abroad.

The publication of a work in a foreign country disentitles the author to a copyright in it here. This, before the Legislature interfered in the matter, had been judicially determined in several cases. In *Clementi* v. *Walker* (*d*) it was decided that if an author first published abroad, and then instead of using due diligence to publish here, forebore to publish until some other person had honestly published here, the author could not insist upon his privilege, and at a distance of time stop a publication which in the interim had taken place here, or treat the continuance of that publication as a piracy. "Whether the act of printing and publishing abroad," said the learned judge who delivered the judgment of the court in that case, "makes the work at once *publici juris*, it is not necessary now to decide; but we have no doubt that it becomes *publici juris* if the author does not take prompt measures to publish here."(*e*) And in *Guichard* v. *Mori*,(*f*) an injunction was refused on the

(*a*) See the prior case of *Macklin* v. *Richardson* (Amb. 694), cited *post*.
(*b*) *Per* Yates, J., in *Taylor* v. *Millar* (4 Burr. 2379).
(*c*) *Ib.*, p. 2386. (*d*) *Clementi* v. *Walker* (2 Barn. & Cress. 861).
(*e*) See *Page* v. *Townsend* (5 Sim. 395) as to publication abroad of *prints engraved*.
(*f*) 9 L. J. (1831) 227, Ch.; see also *Heddaruick* v. *Griffin* (3 Sess. Cas., 2nd Ser., 383).

ground that there had been a publication abroad before there was any publication in this country.

But where there was a contemporaneous publication abroad and in this country it was held that the copyright of the author here was not infringed by the foreign publication.(*a*) And the language of Bayley, J., in *Clementi* v. *Walker*, is in favour of the author's title to copyright, provided he print and publish here "promptly" and with due "diligence" after the publication abroad.(*b*)

7 Vict. c. 12, s. 19.

Sect. 19 of 7 Vict. c. 12, now enacts that "neither the author of any book, nor the author or composer of any dramatic piece or musical composition, nor the inventor, designer, or engraver of any print, nor the maker of any article of sculpture, or of such other work of art as aforesaid, which shall, after the passing of this Act, be first published out of Her Majesty's dominions, shall have any copyright therein respectively, or any exclusive right to the public representation or performance thereof, otherwise than such (if any) as he may become entitled to under this Act."

In the case of dramatic representation, first representation abroad is a first publication abroad within the meaning of this section.(*c*)

Publication at home.

Of course a publication at home equally disentitles the author to any property in his work other than that copyright after publication, which is secured to him by statute, and of which we shall afterwards treat at length.

Printing, &c. for private circulation.

An author may lend or let his manuscript to others, or may print for private circulation only, without foregoing the right which he has in the work before publication.(*d*)

Public exhibition of a picture.

Though the public exhibition of a picture at the Royal Academy and in picture galleries is, in one sense, a publication of it, yet it is a publication which may be restricted by the rules of the place of exhibition, by which the managers may preclude any use being made of their rooms for the purpose of copying; and an exhibition under such circumstances would not disentitle the proprietor to an injunction to restrain the piracy of the picture.(*e*)

Publications by engravings.

The publication of an engraving of a picture in a magazine, with an article describing the picture, is not a publication of the picture itself.(*f*)

(*a*) By Erle, J., *Cocks* v. *Purday* (2 Car. & K. 269, Nisi Prius).
(*b*) 2 Barn. & Cress. 870.
(*c*) *Boucicault* v. *Delafield* (1 H. & M. 597; 9 L. T. N. S. 709; 33 L. J. 38, Ch.)
(*d*) See the opinion of Erle, J., in *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* (4 H. L. C. , and *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden* (5 M'Clean, 37).
(*e*) *Turner* v. *Robinson* (10 Ir. Ch. Rep. 121, 516). (*f*) *Ib.*

Nor would the distribution by a sculptor amongst his friends of copies of a plaster cast taken from the bust of a statue be a publication of the statue itself.(*a*) The exhibition of the picture itself for the purpose of obtaining subscribers to an engraving of it is not a publication of the picture.(*b*) Nor, as already stated, is the private circulation among friends of lithographic impressions of drawings a publication of the drawings themselves.(*c*)

It is by publication of the thing itself that the common law right is lost, and not by the publication of something else that resembles it; so that the author of a literary work does not lose his common law right of property in it before its publication by previously publishing an abridgment of it.(*d*) Publication of abridgment.

The public performance of a play by the author's permission is not such a publication of it by him as disentitles him to restrain the unauthorised printing or publishing of it by any other person. This was decided in *Macklin* v. *Richardson*.(*e*) The plaintiff in that case was the author of the farce called "Love à la Mode," which was performed, by his special permission, at the different theatres several times in 1760, and the following years, but never printed or published by him; and it appeared that when the play was over the plaintiff used to take the copy away from the prompter. The defendants employed a short hand writer to go to the playhouse and take down the words of the farce from the mouths of the actors. These notes having been corrected by one of the defendants from his own memory, the first act of the farce was published by them in a magazine called the *Court Miscellany*, of which they were the proprietors, and notice was given that the second act would be published in the next month's *Miscellany*. The plaintiff filed a bill to restrain this publication: and the Lord Commissioner (Smythe) granted an injunction. He said, "It has been argued to be a publication by being acted, and therefore the printing is no injury to the plaintiff; but that is a mistake, for besides the advantage from the performance, the author has another means of profit from the printing and publishing; and there is as much reason that he should be protected in that right as any other author." Performance of a play.

The acting of a piece is in no case a publication of it. In *Coleman* v. *Wathen*(*f*) the defendant acted on the stage a piece of which the plaintiff had purchased the copyright, and it was sought to make the defendant liable for the

(*a*) 10 Ir. Ch. Rep. 134. (*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) *Prince Albert* v. *Strange*, *ante* p. 50.
(*d*) *Ib.* 133. (*e*) Ambl. 694. (*f*) 5 T. R. 245.

penalty under the statute 8 Anne, c. 19, as for an unauthorised publication of the piece. Buller, J., said, "reporting anything from memory can never be a publication within the statute. Some instances of strength of memory are very surprising; but the mere act of repeating such a performance cannot be left as evidence to the jury that the defendant had pirated the work itself."(*a*)

What conduct is deemed to authorise publication.

In connection with the author's property in unpublished works an important question arises as to what conduct on his part may be deemed to have authorised their publication.

In the case of letters written and sent to another person we have already seen that the writer does not lose his right to prevent their publication.(*b*) We have seen also that a licence to act an unpublished play is not a licence to print or publish the play.(*c*) Nor does the mere gift of copies of the author's work to a few friends amount to an abandonment of his copyright before publication in the work.(*d*)

Where the author of a musical composition had sold several thousand copies of it in manuscript, a year before it was printed, it was held that he had not thereby lost the copyright.(*e*) Abbot, C. J., in that case, was of opinion that it was not the intention of the Legislature in conferring a copyright upon authors, to impose on them as a condition precedent, that they should not sell their compositions in manuscript before they were printed.

Nor does the mere parting with the possession of a manuscript, or entrusting its possession to another person, or a permission to that person to take and hold a copy of the manuscript amount to an authorisation of its publication by that other person. Such acts must be deemed strictly limited in point of effect to the very occasions expressed or implied, and ought not to be construed as a general gift or authority for any purposes of profit or publication to which the receiver may choose to devote them.(*f*) "Suppose," says Willes, J., in *Millar* v. *Taylor*,(*g*) "the original or a transcript was given or lent to a man to read, for his own use; and he publishes it; it would be a violation of the

(*a*) See also *Murray* v. *Elliston*, 5 B. & Ald. 657.
(*b*) *Ante*, pp. 11, *et seq.* (*c*) *Ante*, p. 57.
(*d*) *Prince Albert* v. *Strange*, *ante*, p. 50.
(*e*) *White* v. *Geroch* (2 B. & Ald. 298).
(*f*) St. Eq. Jur. 943; See *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden* (4 M'Clean, 303; 5 M'Clean, 41), where the Court says, "To make a gift of a copy of the manuscript is no more a transfer of the right or abandonment of it than it would be a transfer or an abandonment of an exclusive right to republish, to give the copy of a printed work."
(*g*) 4 Burr. 2330.

author's common law right to the copy. This never was doubted, and has often been determined."

Where the son of the great Earl of Clarendon gave permission to a Mr. Gwynne to take a copy of the manuscript of his deceased father's "History of the Reign of Charles II.," and Mr. Gwynne's son and administrator sold it to a Dr. Shebbeare, the Court of Chancery, at the suit of the Duke of Queensberry (the personal representative of the Earl of Clarendon and his son), restrained Dr. Shebbeare from printing and publishing the copy of the manuscript.(*a*) The Lord Keeper Henley said it was not to be presumed that Lord Clarendon (the younger), when he gave a copy of his work to Mr. Gwynne, intended that he should have the profit of multiplying it in print; that Mr. Gwynne might make every use of it, except that.(*b*) Where, however, the author of a poem had sent it to a bookseller, and had allowed it to remain in his hands unpublished for twenty-three years, Lord Eldon was of opinion that the writer had abandoned his right as an author, and refused to grant an injunction to prevent the publication of the poem by the bookseller.(*c*) Notwithstanding this decision, the decided cases seem to warrant the rule laid down by Willes, J., in *Millar* v. *Taylor*,(*d*) that "when express consent is not proved, the negative is implied as a tacit condition."

A teacher of the art of book-keeping, who had reduced to writing the system he taught, on separate cards for the convenience of imparting instruction to his pupils, and permitted his students to copy these cards, with a view to their own instruction, and to enable them to instruct others, was held in an American case(*e*) not to have thereby abandoned these manuscripts to the public, or authorised their publication. "The students," said the court, "who made these copies, have a right to them, and to their use as originally intended. But they have no right to a use which was not in the contemplation of the complainant and of themselves when the consent was first given. Nor can they, by suffering others to copy the manuscripts, give a greater licence than was vested in themselves."

Where a person contracted for reward to write a certain

Alteration of old manuscript before publication.

(*a*) 2 Eden. 329.

(*b*) We learn from a note to this case that Dr. Shebbeare afterwards recovered before Lord Mansfield, a large sum against Mr. Gwynne for having represented that he had a right to print the manuscript.

(*c*) *Southey* v. *Sherwood* (2 Meriv. 435). (*d*) 4 Burr. 2330.

(*e*) *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden* (4 M'Clean, 300).

portion of a book to be published by another, equity will not aid him by injunction to prevent his portion of the work being printed and published in an altered or mutilated form.(a) Wood, V.C., intimated an opinion, though the point did not arise in the case before him, that, unless there be a special contract, either express or implied, reserving to the author a qualified copyright, the purchaser of a manuscript is at liberty to alter and deal with it as he thinks proper. The court is not moved in such a case by the possible effects of the alterations as affecting the writer's reputation. "The possible effect on reputation," said Wood, V.C., "unless connected with property, is not a ground for coming to this court, though it may be an ingredient for the court to consider, when the question of a right of property also arises."

Summary of the law.

To sum up, then, the law relating to the property in unpublished works:—

Manuscripts. The author or owner of unpublished manuscripts has a right independent of statute to the exclusive use of them, and to prevent their publication by any one else.

Letters. The writer of letters has a special property in them, and has a right to prevent their publication by the receiver, unless by his own misconduct (for the decided cases go no further than this) he has rendered their publication necessary to the vindication of the receiver's character from some unfounded imputation. And, with respect to this right, there would seem to be no distinction between private letters, or letters of friendship, and letters intended as literary compositions.

Lectures. The author, or his assignee, of lectures, has now by statute(b) the sole right to publish them, provided notice of the delivering of the lectures shall be given two days at least before the delivery, to two justices living within five miles of the place where they are to be delivered. But the right does not extend to lectures delivered in a university, public school, or college, or on any public foundation, or by any one in virtue of any gift, endowment, or foundation.

Dramatic compositions. The author, or his assignee, of a dramatic composition has a right similar to the foregoing to prevent the printing and publishing of his composition. And he does not lose his exclusive right of printing and publishing it, by allowing it to be represented on the stage. He has now, also, by Stat. 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, s. 1, the sole right of having it represented in any part of the British dominions.

Musical compositions. Musical compositions, when in manuscript, stand on the same footing with other unpublished compositions, and by sect. 20 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, the provisions of 3 & 4 Will. 4,

(a) *Cox* v. *Cox* (11 Hare, 118). (b) *Vide ante*, pp. 20-22.

c. 15, as to the sole right of representing dramatic are extended also to musical compositions.

Engravings, maps, and charts, also, whilst unpublished, stand on the same footing as the foregoing.

Engravings, maps, and charts.

CHAPTER VI.

COPYRIGHT AFTER PUBLICATION.

On the subject of copyright after publication, widely different views have been entertained by some of our ablest lawyers living at different times. There have been those who considered the title of the author to the property in the creations of his intellect as of so absolute a nature that it was not only exclusive but also perpetual, and gave him the sole right to determine, not only during his life, but for all time after his death, who should enjoy the benefits of his literary works. On the other hand, there have been those who, though not doubting the author's title to the property in the products of his mind before he has published them, were of opinion that by the act of publication his compositions became *publici juris*, and the author's right to a property in them ceased thenceforth for ever. Neither of these two opposite opinions represents the law on the subject as it is now finally determined. The first-mentioned opinion was the prevailing one down to the year 1744. "The general consent of the kingdom for ages," Lord Mansfield considered to be in favour of that view of the question, and the decisions in several cases proceeded on the ground of its correctness. The question assumed the form, whether copyright in the productions of an author existed at common law previous to and independently of statutory enactment, and if it had an existence previous to statutes, whether the statutes dealing with the subject and conferring on authors a copyright for a certain number of years took away from them all copyright in their works after the time so specified had expired. In other words, had an author copyright in his published works indefinite and unlimited in point of time, or was his right strictly confined to the period marked out in the legislative enactments relating to copyright ?

Anne, c 19.

The first Act of Parliament which deals with the question of copyright after publication is the 8 Anne, c. 19, and it

PART I. CHAPTER VI.

conferred on authors (or their assigns) of works published before the year 1710 a copyright of twenty-one years' duration, "and no longer," and on the authors or assignees of works published after that date a copyright of fourteen years "and no longer," to commence from the day of first publication. Did this Act deprive authors of copyright in their productions after the expiration of the period of twenty-one or fourteen years?

For a long time it was held that it did not; that the author had a general right of property in his works which he did not lose by publication, and of which the statute of Anne did not deprive him. In 1735 (more than twenty-one years after the passing of 8 Anne, c. 19), Sir Joseph Jekyll, M.R., granted an injunction to restrain the printing of "The Whole Duty of Man," which had first appeared in 1657.(*a*) As the statutory term of copyright had passed, the plaintiff's title to an injunction could only rest on the ground of his general common law right of property independent of and outlasting the statutory period limited by the Act of Anne. In the same year (1735) Lord Talbot granted an injunction to restrain the printing of Pope's and Swift's "Miscellanies," though many of the pieces were published before the statute of Anne,(*b*) and the injunction was acquiesced under. In 1736 Sir Joseph Jekyll restrained the publication of Nelson's "Festivals and Fasts," though the book was first published in 1703.(*c*) In 1739 Lord Hardwicke granted an injunction against the publication of Milton's "Paradise Lost," though the title of the plaintiffs was derived from an assignment from the author made in 1667.(*d*) In 1752 Lord Hardwicke granted a similar injunction with respect to the publication of an annotated edition of the same poem.(*e*) And all the foregoing injunctions were acquiesced under.

In 1761 an opportunity occurred for the first time of determining the question by a Court of Error, in the case of *Tonson* v. *Collins*,(*f*) an action relating to the copyright in the *Spectator*, which had been purchased from Addison and Steele. But the action, before its final determination,

Millar v. *Taylor* (overruled).

was discovered to be a collusive one, and it fell to the ground in consequence. An important case,(*g*) however, soon after occurred (in 1769) in which the subject was very

(*a*) *Eyre* v. *Walker* (cited 4 Burr. 2325).
(*b*) *Motte* v. *Faulkner* (cited *ib.*). (*c*) *Walthoe* v. *Walker* (*Ib.*).
(*d*) *Tonson* v. *Walker* (cited 4 Burr. 2326).
(*e*) *Tonson* v. *Walker* (3 Swans. 672).
(*f*) 1 W. Black. 301, 321, 345. (*g*) *Millar* v. *Taylor* (4 Burr. 2303.)

fully discussed by the Court of King's Bench, and in which the first of the two opinions referred to at the beginning of this chapter was maintained by the majority of the court. The action was brought to recover damages for the publication of an edition of Thompson's "Seasons," a work which the plaintiff had purchased from its author in 1729, and had continued to publish from that time down to the year 1763, when the defendant Millar published the edition complained of without the plaintiff's license or consent. The term of years during which the statute of Anne secured the copyright to the author had long since expired, and the plaintiff's claim could only rest upon the ground of a perpetual property at common law, independent of statutes, in the author or his assignees. The jury found the facts of the case in a special verdict, and also that before the reign of Queen Anne it was usual to purchase from authors the perpetual copyright of their books, and to assign the same from hand to hand for valuable consideration, and to make the same the subject of family settlements. Lord Mansfield, C.J., and Willes and Aston, JJ., gave judgment in favour of the plaintiff and his right at common law, independently of and unaffected by the statute of Anne, Yates, J., being of a contrary opinion. The judgment of the majority of the court was based not only on the decided cases already referred to, but on the broad ground of natural justice and equity. They considered that as every man has an exclusive property in his works before publication, he continues to possess it after publication, publication being no abandonment of his right. And as for the statute of Anne, they were of opinion that it was merely intended to give for a term of years a more efficient protection, where the entry and the other provisions of the Act had been complied with, and not to abridge the duration of the author's exclusive property in his work.

Donaldson v. Beckett.

But this did not long continue to be law. The subject came at last, on appeal, before the House of Lords in 1774, in the case of *Donaldson* v. *Beckett*, (*a*) and the decision in *Millar* v. *Taylor* was distinctly overruled. The case came on appeal from the Court of Chancery, in which Lord Apsley had followed, as of course, the ruling of the King's Bench in *Millar* v. *Taylor*. After the question had been fully argued, the judges were called on to deliver their opinions in answer to certain questions put to them. Ten of them, against one, were of opinion that at common law an author of any book or literary composition had the sole right of first printing and publishing it for sale. Eight were

Opinions of the judges

(*a*) 4 Burr. 2408.

of opinion that the author might bring an action against any person who printed, published, and sold the same without his consent; one denied the author's right to do so, and two others considered the action would lie only when the invasion was coupled with fraud or violence. Seven judges against four were of opinion that the law did not take away the author's right after publication, and that no person could reprint and sell for his own benefit the author's work without his consent. Six against five were of opinion that the statute of Anne took away the common law copyright after publication, and that an author is thereby precluded from every remedy except upon the foundation of that statute, and on the terms and conditions prescribed by it. Seven judges against four were of opinion that the author of any literary composition, and his assigns had the sole right of printing and publishing the same in perpetuity, by the common law. And six judges against five were of opinion that this right in perpetuity is restrained and taken away by the statute of Anne. Lord Mansfield did not deliver his opinion, but it was known that he adhered to the doctrines laid down in his judgment in *Millar* v. *Taylor*. Lord Camden addressed the House of Lords against the doctrine of a common law copyright, and especially denounced as odious and selfish the doctrine of a *perpetual* copyright after publication. He was followed on the same side by Lord Apsley, C. The House reversed the decree pronounced by the Court of Chancery, and thus finally decided that whether copyright after publication did or did not exist at common law before the statute of Anne, that statute had abrogated the right, and that no author had a property in his works for any longer period than that set out in the statute.

Decision.

This decision appears to have caused great alarm amongst the booksellers of London, very many of whom had purchased old copyrights, not within the protection of the statute of Anne, on the faith of the previous decisions and the general opinion that the common law right of property in literary works had not been interfered with by that statute. They petitioned Parliament to relieve them from the consequences of the recent decision of the House of Lords. A committee was appointed by the House of Commons to investigate the matter; evidence was taken, and a Bill was introduced to vest in the purchasers of old books, not protected by the Act of Anne, the sole property in them for a limited time. After debates of a very acrimonious character, and after counsel had been heard at the bar for

and against the Bill, it passed the House of Commons, but was thrown out in the House of Lords, owing chiefly to the opposition of Lord Camden.

The universities were more fortunate, for in 1775 they obtained an Act(*a*) enabling the two English universities, and the Scotch, together with the colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester to retain the perpetual copyright in books given or bequeathed to them for the advancement of useful learning, and other purposes of education.

Foundation of copyright after publication.

On whatever basis of natural right the title of an author to the sole property in the products of his mental faculties may rest in the last resort, it is now clear that the copyright after publication enjoyed by British subjects is not regarded as a property derived from or carved out of any general right of property, but is a territorial monopoly, the creation of our municipal law, and bounded and regulated by the Copyright Acts.(*b*) An author has no right or property in his work after publication other than that which is conferred on him by the different statutes which have been passed from time to time with reference to the subject of copyright. To these, therefore, we must look in order to determine the nature and extent of the author's right, the conditions on the performance of which it is dependent, and the mode in which infringements of his statutory rights are to be dealt with.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE COPYRIGHT ACT.

It has already been stated that down to the year 1710 whatever rights authors had in their works were left undefined by any statutory enactments, and in consequence, as the Act of Anne (8 Anne, c. 19) passed in that year tells us in its preamble, "printers, booksellers, and other persons" frequently took "the liberty of printing, reprinting, and publishing, or causing to be printed, reprinted, and published, books and other writings, without the consent of the authors or proprietors of such books and writings, to their very great detriment, and too often to the ruin of them and their families." For the purpose of preventing such practices in future, and for the encouragement of learned men to compose and write useful books, that statute enacted that from and after the 10th day of April, 1710, "the author of any book or books already printed, who hath not transferred to

8 Anne, c. 19.

(*a*) 15 Geo. 3, c. 53.

(*b*) See the remarks of Crompton, J., in *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* (4 H. L. 847). In the elaborate opinions given by the judges to the House of Lords in this case the arguments for and against the existence of copyright at common law are fully stated.

PART I. CHAPTER VI.

any other the copy or copies(*a*) of such book or books, in order to print or reprint the same, shall have sole right and liberty of printing such book and books for the term of *one and twenty years*, to commence from the said 10th day of April, and no longer; and that the author of any book or books already composed, and not printed and published, or that shall hereafter be composed, and his assignee or assignees shall have the sole liberty of printing and reprinting such book or books for the term of *fourteen years*, to commence from the day of first publishing the same, and no longer." And the Act inflicted a penalty on those who should, within the time specified in the Act, print, reprint, or import, or cause to be printed, &c., "without the consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing," or should sell, publish, or expose to sale any book or books so printed, &c., without consent, the penalty being a forfeiture of the book or books to the proprietor of the copy, and one penny for every sheet found in the offender's possession, one moiety to go to the Sovereign, the other to any person suing for it.(*b*)

The benefit of the preceding enactment was, however, extended only to those books published after the passing of the Act, whose proprietor's title was entered in the register book of the Stationers' Company in the manner usual before the Act.(*c*)

The Act furthermore empowered every person who considered the price of a book too high to bring the matter before the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper, the Bishop of London, the Chief Judge of the King's Bench, the Chief Judge of the Common Pleas, the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the Vice-Chancellors of the two English universities, the Lord President of the Sessions, the Lord Justice General, or the rector of the College of Edinburgh, one or more of whom might examine into the cause of complaint and settle the price of the book as seemed just, and make the bookseller or printer pay all the costs of the person making the complaint.(*d*)

Provision was made that nine copies of every book should be given to different libraries, and the rights of the universities were saved.(*e*) With respect to books in other languages, the Act provided that nothing contained in it should extend or be construed to extend "to prohibit the importation, vending, or selling of any books in Greek, Latin, or any

(*a*) By the word "copy" in this statute and in the early cases on the subject, is meant what we now call copyright. *Vide ante*, p. 21, note (*a*).
(*b*) Sect. 1. (*c*) Sect. 2. (*d*) Sect. 4. (*e*) Sect. 5.

other foreign language printed beyond the seas, anything in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding." (*a*)

The next statute dealing with the subject of copyright was the 8 Geo. 2, c. 13, entitled "An Act for the Encouragement of the Arts of Designing, Engraving, and Etching Historical and other Prints by vesting the Properties thereof in the Inventors and Engravers during the time therein mentioned." It conferred a copyright of equal duration to that given to the authors of books by the statute of Anne, viz., fourteen years, on every person who should "invent and design, engrave, etch, or work in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, or from his own works and invention should cause to be designed and engraved, etched, or worked in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro any historical or other print or prints . . . . which shall be truly engraved, with the name of the proprietor on each plate, and printed on every such print or prints." And it inflicts a penalty (sect. 1) on every one who should engrave, etch, or work as aforesaid, or copy and sell, or cause to be engraved, etched, or copied and sold in whole or in part, or print, reprint, or import for sale, or cause to be printed, reprinted, or imported for sale any such print as aforementioned, without the previous consent of the proprietor had in writing, and signed in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, or who should without the consent of the proprietor so obtained sell or expose to sale, or in any other manner dispose of or cause to be published, sold, or exposed to sale any such print or prints, knowing them to be printed or reprinted without the proprietor's consent, the penalty being five shillings for every print found in the offender's custody either printed or published and exposed to sale, or otherwise disposed of contrary to the true intent and meaning of the Act, one moiety of the penalty to go to the Sovereign and the other moiety to any person who should sue for it.

8 Geo. 2, c. 13. Extension of copyright to engravings.

The Act does not extend to purchasers of plates from the original proprietors. (*b*)

The time for bringing actions for anything done in pursuance of the Act, or for any offence committed against the Act, was limited to three months after the discovery of the offence. (*c*)

The preceding Act having reference only to those who "invented and designed," or "from their own works and invention" engraved, &c., any prints, was found to be ineffectual for the purposes intended. So 7 Geo. 3, c. 38, was passed, extending the benefit and protection of the former

7 Geo. 3, c. 38.

(*a*) Sect. 8. (*b*) Sect. 2. (*c*) Sect. 4.

PART I. CHAPTER VI.

Act to every person who should "engrave, etch, or work in mezzotinto, or chiaro oscuro, or cause to be engraved, etched, or worked, any print taken from any picture, drawing, model, or sculpture, either ancient or modern . . . . in like manner as if such print had been graved or drawn from the original design of such graver, etcher, or draughtsman," and the protection afforded by both Acts is extended to the proprietors for twenty-eight instead of fourteen years.

The time for bringing actions for penalties is also by this Act extended to six months after the commission of the offence.

17 Geo. 3, c. 57. Further remedy by action.

The penalties inflicted by the two preceding Acts being found insufficient to protect the property of artists, the Legislature added an additional security in the Act 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, by giving to the proprietor of historical and other prints, maps, charts, plans, &c., a special action upon the case against any person who should within the time limited by the Acts offend against any of the provisions contained therein, to recover such damages as a jury on the trial of such action, or on the execution of a writ of inquiry thereon, should give or assess, together with double costs of suit.

38 Geo. 3, c. 71. Models and casts.

38 Geo. 3, c. 71, vests the sole right and property of making models or casts in the original proprietor, for the term of fourteen years, from the time of first publishing the same, and gives to the proprietor an action on the case against all persons offending against his right during that term; an exception being made in the case of persons who purchase the right from the original proprietors.

The time for bringing actions is limited to six months after the discovery of the offence.(*a*)

41 Geo. 3, c. 107. Extension of the term of copyright.

The 41 George 3, c. 107,(*b*) afforded further protection to the proprietors of books. It increased the penalty for an infringement of the proprietor's copyright to threepence per sheet, besides the forfeiture of the book; and furthermore gave to the proprietor an action on the case against every bookseller, printer, or other person "in any part of the United Kingdom, or in any part of the British dominions in Europe," who should, after the passing of the Act, print, reprint, or import, or cause to be printed, reprinted, or imported, without the consent of the proprietor first had in writing, signed in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, any book or books, or who, knowing them to be printed, reprinted, &c., without the proprietor's consent, should sell, publish, or expose them to sale, or cause them to be sold, &c.; the pro-

(*a*) See the chapter on "Paintings, Drawings, and Photographs," *post*.
(*b*) Repealed by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 1, except as to rights existing or proceedings pending at the time of passing of that Act.

prietor to recover such damages as the jury should award or assess with double costs of suit.

Sect. 1 further provided that, if at the expiration of the term of fourteen years the author or authors should still be living, he or they should have the sole right of printing or disposing of copies for another term of fourteen years; but the Act did not extend to books already published, nor indemnify against penalties under former Acts in force at the date of the union of Great Britain and Ireland. Sect. 4 provided that no booksellers, &c., should be liable to the penalty of threepence per sheet, unless before publication the title to the copyright were entered by the proprietor or proprietors at Stationers' Hall, London, nor if the consent of the proprietor or proprietors were so entered.

It was also enacted (sect. 7) that no person should import into any part of the United Kingdom for sale, any book first composed, written, or printed and published within the United Kingdom, and reprinted elsewhere; and it imposed on every person importing, selling, or keeping for sale any such books a penalty of £10, together with double the value of every copy so imported, &c., and a forfeiture of the books themselves. Such books might be seized by officers of Customs or Excise, who were to be rewarded for the seizure. But the 7th section did not extend to books which had not been printed or reprinted in some part of the United Kingdom within twenty years preceding the importation, or to books reprinted abroad and inserted among other books or tracts to be sold therewith in any collection, where the greatest part of such collection should have been first composed or written abroad. The Act also contained provisions as to the giving of certificates by the clerk of the Stationers' Company, and as to the copyright in books given or bequeathed to Trinity College, Dublin; and the period for bringing actions under the Act was fixed at six months.

Again the Legislature interfered, and with a design similar to that of the preceding statutes, by the Act 54 Geo. 3, c. 156.(a) After making provision for the delivery, on demand, of every book, twelve months after publication, for the use of certain public libraries, it altered the term of copyright in books, enacting that, instead of a copyright for fourteen years in the author and his assignee, and then, if the author were alive at the expiration of that term, for fourteen years more in the author himself, the author and his assignee should have the sole liberty of printing and reprinting his book or

54 Geo. 3, c. 15. Further extension of the term.

(a) Repealed by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 1, except as to rights existing, or proceedings pending at the time of passing of that Act.

PART I. — CHAPTER VI.

books for the full term of twenty-eight years from the day of first publication, to continue during the remainder of the author's natural life, should he outlive the twenty-eight years. Penalties similar to those inflicted by preceding Acts were imposed on all who should infringe the proprietor's rights by printing, reprinting, or importing, &c. Sects. 8 and 9 provided that the authors of books already published, and their personal representatives, or the assignees of either, should have the benefit of the extension of the term of copyright to twenty-eight years; and if the authors were living at the end of twenty-eight years from the first publication, the sole right of publication should be in them during life. The Act also extended the time for instituting actions, suits, &c., for offences against the Act to twelve months from the commission of the offence.

3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15. Right of dramatic representation.

Dramatic literary property which had hitherto been unnoticed by Parliament was next dealt with. 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, enacted that, after the passing of that Act, the author, or his assignee, of any tragedy, comedy, play, opera, farce, or any other dramatic piece or entertainment, composed, and not printed and published by the author or his assignee, or which should thereafter be composed, and not printed or published by the author or his assignee, should have as his own property the sole liberty of representing, or causing to be represented, at any place of dramatic entertainment whatsoever, in any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the isles of Man, Jersey and Guernsey, or in any part of the British dominions, any such production as aforesaid, and should be deemed the proprietor thereof; and the author of any such production, printed and published by him or his assignee within ten years before the passing of the Act, or which should thereafter be so published, should, from the time of passing the Act, or from the time of such publication, respectively, until the end of twenty-eight years from the publication, or if the author or authors, or the survivor of the authors, was alive at the end of that period, during the residue of his natural life, have, as his own property, the sole liberty of representing it, or causing it to be represented at any place of dramatic entertainment.(a)

An exception is made in cases where, before the passing of the Act, the author or his assignee had consented to, or authorised the representation.(b)

On every person infringing the proprietors' copyright, the Act imposes a penalty of not less than forty shillings for every unauthorised representation; or the proprietor

(a) Sect. 1. (b) *Ib.*

may recover, with double costs of suit, the full amount of the benefit arising from the representation, or the injury or loss sustained by him from it.(*a*)

The period for bringing actions is twelve calendar months after the offence is committed.(*b*)

The next subject dealt with by statutory enactment was the publication of lectures without consent. 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65, gave to the authors of lectures, or their assignees, the sole right of publishing them, and imposed on every person, whether he attends the lectures for fee and reward or not, who publishes them without consent, a penalty of a penny for every sheet found in the offender's custody, either printed, lithographed, or copied, or printing, lithographing, or copying, published or exposed to sale, besides a forfeiture of the copies themselves. The same penalty is imposed on printers or publishers of newspapers publishing the lectures without leave. But the Act excepts from its provisions lectures, of the delivery of which notice in writing shall not have been given to two justices living within five miles of the place where they are to be delivered two days at least before the delivery of them; also lectures delivered in universities and other public foundations, or in virtue of any gift, endowment, or foundation.(*c*)

5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65. Lectures.

6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59, extended to Ireland the provisions of 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, relating to the protection of copyright in prints and engravings.

6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59. Ireland.

The International Copyright Act of 1 & 2 Vict. c. 59,(*d*) empowered Her Majesty, by Order in Council, to grant a copyright in England, for the same term that English subjects might enjoy it, to foreign authors whose governments should engage to secure the same privilege to British authors.

1 & 2 Vict. c. 59. International copyright.

Next came the comprehensive statute of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, repealing the former Acts of 8 Anne, c. 19; 41 Geo. 3, c. 107, and 54 Geo. 3, c. 146, except as to proceedings then pending at law or in equity, or to causes of action or suit, or rights of contract then subsisting.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45. Final extension of the term of copyright.

This Act extends the term of copyright in every book published in the lifetime of its author to the natural life of the author, and the further term of seven years, commencing at the time of his death; or to the term of forty-two years altogether, from the first publication of the book, should that number of years not have elapsed at the end of seven years from the death of the author; or if the book be published after his death, to the term of forty-two years from the first publication thereof. In cases of subsisting copy-

(*a*) Sect. 2. (*b*) Sect. 3. (*c*) *Vide ante*, pp. 20-22.
(*d*) Repealed by 7 Vict. c. 12.

PART I. CHAPTER VI.

right the Act extended the term of enjoyment to that last-mentioned, except where it belonged to an assignee for other consideration than that of natural love and affection.

Sect. 5 empowers the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to license the publication of books which the proprietor refuses to republish after the death of the author. Provision is next made for the delivery of copies of books to certain libraries, and a penalty is imposed for default in delivering them.(*a*) The mode of registering books at Stationers' Hall, and the consequences of a false entry are determined.(*b*)

The remedy for piracy provided by sect. 15 is an action on the case to be brought in any court of record in that part of the British dominions in which the offence shall be committed; and sect. 16 deals with the form of the defendant's plea in such an action. The provision in 41 Geo. 3, c. 107, as to the importation of books first composed, &c., here, and re-printed elsewhere, is re-enacted.

Sect. 18 deals with the question of copyright in productions appearing in encyclopædias, periodicals, and works published in a series, reviews, or magazines.

Sect. 19 enables the proprietors of encyclopædias, periodicals, and serials to enter at once the title at Stationers' Hall, and thereupon to have the benefit of the registration of the whole.

Musical compositions.

The provisions of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, relating to dramatic literary property, are extended to musical compositions, and the extended term of duration of copyright in books provided by the present Act is applied also to the liberty of representing dramatic pieces and musical compositions, the first public representation or performance of any dramatic piece or musical composition being deemed equivalent, in the construction of the Act, to the first publication of any book.(*c*) All the remedies provided by 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, are given to the proprietors of the right of dramatic or musical representation; and it is provided that the right of representation shall not be conveyed by the assignment of the copyright.(*d*)

Books pirated are to become the property of the proprietor of the copyright, who, after demand thereof in writing, may recover the same or damages for their detention in an action of detinue, or sue for and recover damages for their conversion in an action of trover.(*e*) But no proprietor of copyright commencing after the Act shall sue or proceed for any in-

(*a*) Sects. 6-10.
(*b*) Sects. 11-14. See the chapter on "Copyright in Books," *post*.
(*c*) Sect. 20.
(*d*) Sects. 21, 22. See the chapter on "Dramatic and Musical Compositions," *post*.
(*e*) Sect. 23.

fringement before making entry in the book of registry of the Stationers' Company.(*a*)

The Act further contains clauses as to the mode of pleading and giving evidence on the trial of an action, and limiting the time for instituting proceedings for offences against the Act to twelve months from the commission of the offence, and saving the rights of the Universities and of the Colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, and all their subsisting rights, contracts, and engagements.(*b*)

7 Vict. c. 12. Amendments of International Copyright.

The Act 7 Vict. c. 12, was passed to amend the law relating to International Copyright. It repeals the International Copyright Act of 1 & 2 Vict. c. 59, and enables Her Majesty, by Order in Council, to confer more extended privileges on authors of books, prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art, first published in foreign countries, by giving them a copyright of not greater duration than that enjoyed in works of a similar character first published in the United Kingdom. It also enables Her Majesty to direct that authors and composers of dramatic pieces first publicly represented and performed in foreign countries, shall have similar rights in the British dominions. Sect. 6 enumerates particulars as to registry and delivery of copies, which must be observed with respect to all the foregoing. Sect. 10 prohibits the importation of copies of books wherein copyright is subsisting under the Act, printed in foreign countries other than those wherein the book was first published. Translations are excluded from the operation of the Act.(*c*) And by sect. 19 the authors of works (books, dramas, prints, or articles of sculpture) published in foreign countries, are not to be entitled to any copyright, or exclusive right of representation or performance, otherwise than under this Act.

Other clauses deal with the deposit of books, &c., and with the publication of Orders in Council, none of which is to have any effect unless it states that protection similar to that given by the Order in Council has been secured by the foreign power to which it is so given, to the proprietors of works first published in the dominions of Her Majesty.(*d*)

10 & 11 Vict. c. 95. Colonial Copyright.

The law relating to the protection in the colonies of books entitled to copyright in the United Kingdom, was amended by 10 & 11 Vict. c. 95, which provides that where the proper legislative authorities in any British possession shall pass an Act or make an ordinance containing due provision for securing or protecting the rights of British authors in such possession, and shall submit such Act or ordinance to Her Majesty, Her Majesty, if she think such Act or ordinance sufficient for the purpose of securing to British authors

(*a*) Sect. 24. (*b*) Sects. 26-28. (*c*) Sect. 18. (*d*) Sects. 11-17.

reasonable protection within such possession, may issue an Order in Council declaring that so long as such Act or ordinance continues in force within such colony, the prohibitions contained in any Acts of Parliament against the importing, selling, letting out to hire, exposing for sale or hire, or possessing foreign reprints of books first composed, written, printed, or published in the United Kingdom, and entitled to copyright therein, shall be suspended as far as regards such colony.(*a*)

15 & 16 Vict. c. 12. Further amendment of the law of International Copyright.

The last statutory enactment on the subject of international copyright is 15 & 16 Vict. c. 12, which extends and explains the previous Acts, besides enabling Her Majesty to carry into effect a convention with France on the subject. Under this Act the Queen may, by Order in Council, direct that the authors of books published after a specified day in any foreign country, their executors, administrators, or assigns, shall be empowered (subject to the provisions contained in the Act) to prevent the publication in the British dominions of any translations of such books not authorised by them for a period, to be specified in the Order of Council, not exceeding five years from the first publication of an authorised translation, and in the case of books published in parts, for a period not exceeding, as to each part, five years from the first publication of an authorised translation of that part. On such order being made the provisions in the laws which protect British copyright are to be applied to prevent the publication of unauthorised translations.

Similar provisions are made to prevent unauthorised translations for the same length of time of dramatic works first publicly represented in any foreign country.

Fair imitations and adaptations to the English stage of dramatic pieces are excepted from the operation of the statute; also all articles of a political nature, in foreign newspapers or periodicals, and similar articles on other subjects where the author has not notified his intention to reserve the right.(*b*)

The requisites which foreign authors must comply with in order to entitle themselves to the benefits of this act are specified, and provisions are inserted to prevent the importation of pirated copies.(*c*)

Lithographs.

Lastly, the Act clears up a previously existing doubt as to prints taken by lithography, by applying to them the provisions contained in the different statutes relating to other prints and engravings.(*d*)

(*a*) See the chapter on "Colonial Copyright," *post.* (*b*) Sect. 7.
(*c*) Sects. 9, 10. See the chapter on "International Copyright," *post.*
(*d*) Sect. 14.

The legislature came in the last place to the aid of authors of paintings, drawings, and photographs. In 1858 Lord Lyndhurst presented a petition to the House of Lords from the Society of Arts, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and a number of sculptors, painters, photographers, and others, asking for an extension of the law of copyright to works of fine art. A committee was appointed and a report presented, and a Bill was introduced to give effect to the report. A dissolution of Parliament, however, delayed the matter for a while, but in 1862 the Act 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, was passed to accomplish the prayer of the petition. Previously to that statute the authors of paintings, drawings, and photographs had no copyright in their works.(*a*) The statute confers on the author of every original painting, drawing, and photograph, and his assigns, the sole and exclusive right of copying, engraving, reproducing, and multiplying it and the design thereof for the term of the natural life of the author, and seven years after his death. Provisions are contained in the Act as to registry and assignment, and to prohibit the importation of pirated works; and for infringement of the copyright conferred by the Act, a penalty is imposed of 10*l.* for each offence, besides a forfeiture of all copies.

25 & 26 Vict. c. 68. Paintings, drawings, and photographs.

The foregoing is but a rapid summary of the legislative enactments on the subject of copyright, in their chronological order. The chief provisions of the various Acts will be considered in detail when treating in succeeding chapters of the different subjects in which copyright exists.

CHAPTER VII.

COPYRIGHT IN BOOKS.

THE Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 2, defines "copyright" to mean the sole and exclusive liberty of printing or otherwise multiplying (*b*) copies of any subject to which the said word is in the Act applied.

Definition of copyright.

The same section provides that the word "book" shall be construed to mean and include every volume, part or

Meaning of "book."

(*a*) See the preamble to this statute.

(*b*) This gives a wider meaning to the term than that given by the Statute of Anne, which was "the sole right and liberty of *printing*," and thus protects literary works from unauthorised publication by other means than the press: (see *per* Talfourd, J., *Novello* v. *Sudlow* (12 C. B. 189; 16 Jur. 671).

PART I. CHAPTER VII.

division of a volume, pamphlet, sheet of letter-press,(*a*) sheet of music, map, chart, or plan separately published.(*b*)

A newspaper is not, according to Malins, V.C.,(*c*) a book within this section, and does not require to be registered under sect. 13, in order to entitle the proprietor to restrain the piracy of it.

Duration of copyright.

With respect to the duration of copyright in books, sect. 3 enacts "that the copyright in every book which shall after the passing of this Act be published in the lifetime of its author shall endure for the natural life of such author, and for the further term of seven years, commencing at the time of his death, and shall be the property of such author and his assigns: provided always, that if the said term of seven years shall expire before the end of forty-two years from the first publication of such book, the copyright shall in that case endure for such period of forty-two years; and that the copyright in every book which shall be published after the death of its author shall endure for the term of forty-two years from the first publication thereof, and shall be the property of the proprietor of the author's manuscript from which such book shall be first published, and his assigns."

Copyright in books published before the Act.

In the case of books published before the passing of the Act (1st July, 1842), and in which copyright then subsisted, sect. 4 enacts, "that the copyright which at the time of passing this Act shall subsist in any book theretofore published (except as hereinafter mentioned) shall be extended and endure for the full term provided by this Act in cases of books thereafter published, and shall be the property of the person who at the time of passing of this Act shall be the proprietor of such copyright: Provided always, that in all cases in which such copyright shall belong in whole or in part to a publisher or other person who shall have acquired it for other consideration than that of natural love and affection, such copyright shall not be extended by this Act, but shall endure for the term which shall subsist therein at the time of passing of this Act, and no longer, unless the author of such book, if he shall be living, or the personal representative of such author, if he shall be dead, and the proprietor of such copyright shall, before the expiration of such term, consent and agree to accept the

(*a*) A label used in the sale of any article is said by an American Judge (M'Clean) not to be a book within the provisions of the Copyright Act: (*Coffeen* v. *Brunton*, 4 M'Clean, 516.)

(*b*) See *Hime* v. *Dale* (2 Camp. 27 n.); *Clementi* v. *Goulding* (2 Camp. 25); *Back* v. *Longman* (Cowp. 623).

(*c*) *Cox* v. *Land and Water Journal Company* (L. Rep. 9 Eq. 324; 21 L. T. N. S. 548.)

benefits of this Act in respect of such book, and shall cause a minute of such consent in the form in that behalf given in the schedule to this Act annexed to be entered in the book of registry hereinafter directed to be kept, in which case such copyright shall endure for the full term by this Act provided in cases of books to be published after the passing of this Act, and shall be the property of such person or persons as in such minute shall be expressed."

The copyright, then, in every book published during the author's lifetime is to last, at least, for forty-two years from the time of its first publication, and may last for any longer period that may be covered by the duration of the author's life, with seven more years added. If the book is published after his death, the copyright lasts for forty-two years from first publication. Copyrights subsisting at the time of the passing of the Act are extended to the same limits, but not in the case of assignees of the copyright for other consideration than that of natural love and affection, unless with the concurrence of the proprietor and author or his personal representative.

Though the Act gives a meaning to the word "book," which includes dramatic and musical compositions, besides reviews, serials, &c., we shall treat in this chapter only of books commonly so called, and reserve for a separate treatment the most important of the other productions which the word is used in the Act to include.

Whether there must be a known author.

With respect to the question whether there must be a known author by whose life and from whose death the statutory period of copyright is to be determined, the observations of Lord Deas in the Scotch case of *Maclean* v. *Moody*,(*a*) in the year 1858, are deserving of attention. In that case an argument was addressed to the court against the title of the claimants to copyright in a shipping list called "The Clyde Bill of Entry," to the following effect;—that the object of the statute 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, was to encourage literary merit; that intellectual labour constituting authorship is alone thereby protected; that there can be no authorship without an author; that the claimants were not the authors in the present case, nor did they name the authors; that the life of the author affords the only criterion the statute gives for measuring the endurance of the privilege; and that without the statutory means of measuring the privilege, the privilege itself cannot exist. Lord Deas said, "I am humbly of opinion that this argument, although ingenious, is unsound. The

(*a*) Cases in Court of Sessions, vol. 20, p. 1163.

PART I. CHAPTER VII.

Act does not confine the privilege to works of literary merit. . . . . Neither does the Act confine the privilege to cases in which there is a known author, whose life shall afford a measure for the endurance of the privilege. A person may find a manuscript in his ancestor's repositories, or get a gift of it and publish it, and he may be entitled to copyright, although he cannot tell who was the author, or whether the author is living or dead. The Crown might, I presume, get up a publication and be entitled to copyright, and yet the Crown never dies. . . . . That the first publisher may have copyright in the work, although he cannot point out the author, appears to me implied in sect. 16 of the statute, which requires the defendant 'if the nature of his defence be that the plaintiff in such action was not the author or first publisher of the book' to give notice of 'the name of the person whom he alleges to have been the author or first publisher.' I think it is here assumed that there may be cases in which, if the plaintiff be 'the first publisher' he may be entitled to copyright, although no author has been or can be named upon either side. In all such cases it is obvious that the endurance of the privilege can have no reference to the author's life, but must be for forty-two years after the first publication."

Author.

An author may be described as one who, by his own intellectual labour applied to the materials of his composition, produces an arrangement or compilation new in itself.(*a*) Where the incidents of a person's life were furnished by him to another who prepared them for publication, and the copyright was taken out in the name of the person furnishing the facts, it was held in America that he was not the author, and that a person claiming as his assignee could not maintain an action for infringement.(*b*)

Assistants employed by the publishers of a shipping list compiled from statistics contained in custom house books to which the publisher had sole right of access for the purpose of publication, were said by Lord Deas(*c*) not to be authors in the sense of sect. 18 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, nor in any reasonable sense whatever.

The person who arranges a pianoforte score of an opera is the author or composer of such arrangement, and must be registered as such.(*d*)

(*a*) *Atwill* v. *Ferrett* (2 Blatch. 46).
(*b*) *De Witt* v. *Brooks* (cited Law's American Digest of Patent and Copyright Cases, p. 174).
(*c*) *Maclean* v. *Moody* (20 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2nd Ser. 1164.)
(*d*) *Wood* v. *Boosey* (L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 223; 18 L. T. N. S. 105).

A person who merely procured a drawing or design to be made was held not entitled to relief under 8 Geo. 2, c. 13.(*a*) But the proprietor of a periodical containing translations made from foreign works by persons employed and paid by him and from works imported by him at considerable expense, obtained an injunction to prevent the unauthorised publication of these translations.(*b*)

Where a person, employed as a performer and stage manager of a theatre, agreed to write a play which was to be performed in the employer's theatre so long as it should continue to draw good audiences, it was held in America that the person who wrote the play was the proper person to take out the copyright, and that the employer had no right or interest in it, except the privilege of having it performed at his theatre.(*c*)

A Scotch publisher brought out an edition of the works of Dr. Channing, the American author, which had already been published in America. Various slight alterations and corrections were made with the assistance of Dr. Channing for this edition, and the publisher sent him by way of acknowledgment a sum of money, but not as the result of any contract entered into. Another publisher having published a new edition reprinted from the former, it was held by the Court of Session that the former publisher had no copyright in his edition, and could not prevent the publication of a reprint of it.(*d*)

How far book must be original.

How far a book must be original in order to entitle its author to copyright in it is a question to which only a general answer can be given. It may be expressed thus: the law will secure to a man the property in every genuine product of his own mental labour, whether that product take the form of compilation, abridgment, new arrangement, or wholly original work—if, indeed, there can be any such thing as a wholly original work. On this subject an eminent American Judge (Story) says, with great propriety,(*e*) "In truth, in literature, in science, and in art,

(*a*) *Jeffreys* v. *Baldwin* (Amb. 163); see *Pierpoint* v. *Fowle* (2 Wood. & Min. 46) and *Binns* v. *Woodruff* (4 Wash. 53), and as to alterations in a musical composition made for another person, *Atwill* v. *Ferrett* (2 Blatch. 46). See further as to the authorship of musical compositions, *Reed* v. *Carusi* (8 Amer. L. Rep. O. S. 411).

(*b*) *Wyatt* v. *Barnard* (3 Ves. & B. 77).

(*c*) *Roberts* v. *Myers* (13 Mo. L. Rep. 400, cited Law's Digest of Patent, Copyright, and Trades Mark Cases, p. 211).

(*d*) *Hedderwick* v. *Griffin* (3 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2nd Ser. 383).

(*e*) *Emerson* v. *Davies* (3 St. 779); see also in *Gray* v. *Russell* (1 St. 16).

there are and can be few, if any, things which, in an abstract sense, are strictly new and original throughout. Every book in literature, science, and art borrows, and must necessarily borrow and use, much which was well known and used before. No man creates a new language for himself, at least if he be a wise man, in writing a book. He contents himself with the use of language already known, and used and understood by others. The thoughts of every man are more or less a combination of what other men have thought and expressed, although they may be modified, exalted, or improved by his own genius or reflection. If no book could be the subject of copyright which was not new and original in the elements of which it is composed, there could be no ground for any copyright in modern times; and we should be obliged to ascend very high even in antiquity to find a work entitled to such eminence."

The law requires no such impracticable standard of originality as that alluded to in the extract just made. It requires only that the work should contain something distinctively the property of the author, which gives a character to it. "Something he must show to have been produced by himself; whether it be a purely original thought or principle, unpublished before, or a new combination of old thoughts, and ideas, and sentiments, or a new application or use of known and common materials, or a collection, the result of his industry and skill. In whatever way he claims the exclusive privilege accorded by these laws, he must show something which the law can fix upon as the product of his own and not another's labours. But in order that the law should do this ample justice to the great variety of claimants it is necessary that its rules should be capable of adaptation to the objects of their labour. They must include in their range everything that can be justly claimed as the peculiar product of individual efforts; otherwise they would exclude from the benefits of literary property objects which are as clearly the products of individual labour as the most original thoughts ever written, namely, new and important combinations and arrangements, or collections of materials known and common to all mankind."(a)

Test of originality.

The test "whether the claimant's book contain any substantive product of his own labour?" has been recognised and applied in several cases. In 1797, one Cary was employed to make a survey of the different roads in Great Britain. Having completed his survey he published

(a) Curtis on Copyright, 171, 172.

a book called "Cary's New Itinerary," which followed the plan and contained much of the materials of an older work called "Patterson's Road Book," but contained also many corrections of and additions to it. A person named Faden having published a book bearing the same relation to Cary's that Cary's did to Patterson's, Cary filed a bill in Chancery to restrain Faden from publishing his book, on the ground that it was not original, but either in whole or part a copy of Cary's. The Lord Chancellor (Loughborough) refused to grant an injunction, thinking the two books very different. He said, "What right had the plaintiff to the original work? If I were to do strict justice I should order the defendants to take out of their book all that they have taken from the plaintiff, and reciprocally the plaintiff to take out of his all he has taken from Patterson. I think the plaintiff may be contented that a bill is not filed against him?"(*a*) An action was brought in 1801 by the same plaintiff against Messrs. Longman and Rees for publishing a pirated edition of the same or a similar work, the book published by the defendants being professedly a twelfth edition of the original work by Patterson, but containing nine-tenths of Cary's alterations and improvements. The plaintiff was held entitled to recover. Lord Kenyon, C.J., said, "certainly the plaintiff had no title on which he could found an action to that part of his book which he had taken from Mr. Patterson's; but it is as clear that he had a right to his own additions and alterations, many of which were very material and valuable: and the defendants are answerable at least for copying those parts in their book. . . . . The courts of justice have been long labouring under an error, if an author have no copyright in any part of a work unless he have an exclusive right to the whole work."(*b*)

According to Lord Eldon,(*c*) if a person collects an account of natural curiosities and such articles, and employs the labour of his mind by giving a description of them, that is as much a literary work as many others that are protected by injunction and by action. It is equally competent to any other person perceiving the success of such a work to set about a similar work, *bonâ fide* his own; but it must be in substance a new and original work, and must be handed out to the world as such.

Where subject is common.

The fact that the subject of the work is common does not deprive an author of copyright in the product of the labour which he has *bonâ fide* spent on it, or render it less neces-

(*a*) *Cary* v. *Faden* (5 Ves. 23). (*b*) 1 East. 358.
(*c*) See judgment in *Hogg* v. *Kirby* (8 Ves. 221).

sary for any subsequent author to have recourse to the original sources; as we learn from the case of *Patterson's Road Book*, already referred to. (*a*) So in *Longman* v. *Winchester* (*b*) the plaintiffs were held entitled to copyright in the "Court Calendar," a work consisting of lists of members of the Houses of Peers and Commons, &c., and an injunction was granted restraining the defendants from copying and publishing the plaintiffs' work. "The question before me," said Lord Eldon, "is whether it is not perfectly clear that in a vast proportion of the work of these defendants no other labour has been applied than copying the plaintiffs' work. From the identity of the inaccuracies it is impossible to deny that the one was copied from the other *verbatim et literatim*. To the extent, therefore, in which the defendant's publication has been supplied from the other work the injunction must go; but I have said nothing that has a tendency to prevent any person from giving to the public a work of this kind if it is the fair fruit of original labour; the subject being open to all the world; but if it is a mere copy of an original work this Court will interpose against that invasion of copyright." (*c*)

A work entitled "The Guide to Science," which laid no claim to any originality with reference to the scientific doctrines treated in it, but contained in the form of questions and answers a scientific exposition of some of the ordinary phenomena of human life, in parts digested from different works, was held to constitute an original work in which the author was entitled to copyright. (*d*) Wood, V.C., said, "That an author has a copyright in a work of this description is beyond all doubt. If anyone by pains and labour collects and reduces into the form of a systematic course of instruction those questions which he may find ordinary persons asking in reference to the common phenomena of life, with answers to those questions and explanations of those phenomena, whether such explanations and answers are furnished by his own recollection of his former general reading, or out of works consulted by him for the express

(*a*) "Take the instance of a map describing a particular county; and a map of the same county afterwards published by another person; if the description is accurate in both, they must be pretty much the same; but it is clear the latter publisher cannot on that account be justified in sparing himself the labour and expense of actual survey, and copying the map previously published by another:" (*Per* Lord Eldon in *Longman* v. *Winchester*, 16 Ves. 269.)

(*b*) 16 Ves. 269.

(*c*) And see the remarks of Wood, V.C., in *Kelly* v. *Morris* (L. Rep. 1 Eq. 702; 14 L. T. N. S. 222; 35 L. J. 423, Ch.; 14 W. R. 496).

(*d*) *Jarrold* v. *Houlston* (3 K. & J. 708).

purpose, the reduction of questions so collected, with such answers under certain heads and in a scientific form, is amply sufficient to constitute an original work of which the copyright will be protected. Therefore, I can have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the book now in question is in that sense an original work, and entitled to protection."

"This I hold to be clearly settled," said Lord Jeffrey, in *Alexander* v. *Mackenzie*, (*a*) "that even though the materials from which a work is taken be *in medio*, as it is called, yet if those materials be arranged in a new form, the effect of that will be to afford the author the protection of copyright in that form. In all cases, in short, although the materials are expressly *in medio*, and open to everybody, when a particular degree of judgment in the selection of those materials has been used, and when the subject *in medio*, so open to the world at large, has been to a certain extent snatched at and appropriated, such selection is in itself recognised as a certain degree of mental effort, which is entitled to the benefit of copyright." In that case the Court of Session held the pursuer entitled to copyright in certain practical forms or styles of the writs and instruments introduced by the Heritable Securities and Infeftment Acts, those Acts giving only general descriptions of the forms to be used. "It is said," observed Lord Fullerton in his judgment, (*b*) "that owing to the particular nature of the styles they cannot be the subject of copyright, because they are drawn up precisely after the form prescribed in the statute, and because any styles relating to the same subjects as those given by the complainer must, if the directions of the statutes and phraseology of conveyancers were used, be expressed in the same manner exactly as those proposed by the complainer. Now, it may be quite true that if the statute had supplied certain forms by which the operations intended to be thereby regulated were to be done, if the statute had contained, as such statutes sometimes do, an appendix exhibiting certain schedules of forms which it was only necessary for anyone to copy in order to avail himself of the provisions of the Act, then I hold that the reprinting of such forms in a separate publication would not give him a copyright in those forms. But the case here is different, for the statute only gives very general directions and descriptions of the styles that are to be used. The schedules are very general in their terms, and it is no doubt of great practical importance to suit these general directions to each case falling under the statute as

(*a*) 9 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2nd Ser. 758, 27 Feb. 1847.
(*b*) *Id.*, pp. 754, 755.

it may arise. The preparing and adjusting of such writings require much care and exertion of mind. As to invention, that is a different thing; it does not require the exercise of original or creative genius, but it requires industry and knowledge."

The same principle was applied to a book of chronology; (*a*) to the case of maps; (*b*) to the case of an annotated catalogue of books published by a bookseller; (*c*) and, in America, to the case of an elementary book of arithmetic containing an original arrangement and combination of materials, (*d*) and a new edition of a Latin grammar containing alterations, additions, and notes. (*e*)

The subject of a work may not in general be a subject of copyright, but still, if a man expends time and labour in producing a work on that subject, he has a copyright in the individual work. Thus, though an "East India Calendar" is not a subject of copyright, still if a man from his situation having access to the repositories in the India House, has by considerable expense and labour procured with correctness all the names and appointments on the Indian Establishment, he has a copyright in that individual work. (*f*)

Degree of originality in cases of copyright and patent.

Whether a greater degree of originality is necessary to sustain a claim to copyright than that which would be sufficient to support a title to a patent does not distinctly appear. In the case of patent inventions, suggestions of servants employed in perfecting a discovery, tending to facilitate its practical application, may be adopted by the employer and incorporated into his design without detracting from his claim to originality. In *Barfield* v. *Nicholson*, (*g*) Sir John Leach suggested the application of a similar principle to copyright. Chief Justice Jervis, however, leaned to a different opinion in the case of *Shepherd* v. *Conquest*, (*h*) remarking that the enactments upon which literary property and patents for inventions are respectively founded, differ widely in their origin and details; and that in order to show that the position and rights of an author within the Copyright Acts are not to be measured by those of an inventor within the patent laws, it is only necessary to bear in mind that, whilst on the one hand a person who imports from abroad the invention of another previously unknown here, without

(*a*) *Trusler* v. *Murray* (cited in note to *Cary* v. *Longman*, 1 East, 363).
(*b*) See 17 Ves. 425. (*c*) *Hotten* v. *Arthur* (11 W. R. 934).
(*d*) *Emerson* v. *Davies* (3 St. 768). See *Baily* v. *Taylor* (1 Tamlyn, 305), and *Lennie* v. *Pillans* (5 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2nd Ser. 416).
(*e*) *Gray* v. *Russell* (1 Story, 17).
(*f*) *Matthewson* v. *Stockdale* (12 Ves. 276).
(*g*) 2 Sim. & St. 1; 2 L. J. 90, 102, Ch. (*h*) 17 C. B. 444.

any further originality or merit in himself, is an inventor entitled to a patent, on the other hand a person who merely reprints for the first time in this country a valuable foreign work, without bestowing upon it any intellectual labour of his own, as by translation, which to some extent must impress a new character, cannot thereby acquire the title of an author within the statutes relating to copyright. The Chief Justice proceeded: "We do not think it necessary in the present case to express any opinion whether, under any circumstances, the copyright in a literary work, or the right of representation can become vested *ab initio* in an employer other than the person who has actually composed or adapted a literary work. It is enough to say in the present case, that no such effect can be produced where the employer merely suggests the subject, and has no share in the design or execution of the work, the whole of which, so far as any character of originality belongs to it, flowed from the mind of the person employed. It appears to us an abuse of terms to say that in such a case, the employer is the author of a work to which his mind has not contributed an idea; and it is upon the author in the first instance that the right is conferred by the statute which creates it."

Musical compositions.

The addition of words, prelude, and accompaniment to an old air was held to give the adapter a copyright in the whole composition;(*a*) and where a person adapted words to an old air and procured a friend to compose an accompaniment, his assignee was held entitled to describe himself in an action for piracy, as proprietor of the copyright in the entire composition.(*b*)

As to how far an arrangement for the pianoforte of the score of an opera is an original work, see *Wood* v. *Boosey*.(*c*)

Engravings in a book.

Engravings and prints were deliberately excluded from the operation of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45. But in *Bogue* v. *Houlston*(*d*) Sir James Parker, V.C., was of opinion that where there are designs forming portion of a book in which a person has copyright under that act, such copyright extends to the illustrations and designs of the book as well as to the letter-press. The plaintiff had published a book containing letter-press illustrated by wood-engravings, the engravings being printed on the same paper as the letter-press itself. The defendants published a work with a different title and different letter-press, but containing pirated copies of the

(*a*) *Lover* v. *Davidson* (1 C. B. N. S. 182).
(*b*) *Leader* v. *Purday* (7 C. B. 4).
(*c*) 7 B. & S. 869; 9 B. & S. 175; L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 340; L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 223; 18 L. T. N. S. 105.
(*d*) 5 De G. & Sm. 275.

PART I. CHAPTER VII.

wood-engravings. The plaintiff had complied with the requisitions of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, but not with those of the act for the protection of engravings by printing the date of publication and the name of the proprietor on each copy. The Vice-Chancellor granted an injunction, the plaintiff undertaking to bring an action to try the right at law. "It appears to me," said Sir James Parker, "that a book must include every part of the book, it must include every print, design, or engraving which forms part of the book, as well as the letter-press therein, which is another part of it. Prints published separately do not appear to have been within that act by that express definition.(*a*) But the case now before the Court is not the case of separately published prints, but the case of designs forming part of a book. There is no decision of any court of law, or of this court either way upon this point."

Abridgments and translations.

How far abridgments and translations may be new and original works, and the authors entitled to copyright in them, will be more conveniently treated of when we come to deal with the subject of piracy.(*b*)

Copyright may be of part of a work.

In *Low* v. *Ward*(*c*) it was urged in argument that there could not be copyright as to a part of a work only, but the Court overruled the argument. "There are numerous cases," said Giffard, V.C., "showing that where the parts of a work can be separated, there may be a copyright in any distinct part of it. I may instance the cases of the last canto of Lord Byron's 'Childe Harold,' Croker's Notes to 'Boswell's Life of Johnson,' and of particular articles in cyclopædias. There is no analogy in this respect between a patent and the case of copyright, as it matters not whether the copyright is for the entire work or for a part only."

STATUTORY REQUISITES TO BE OBSERVED.

The statutory requirements to be observed by the proprietors of copyright are the registration of the work at Stationers' Hall, and the deposit and delivery of a certain number of copies of it.

1.—*Registration.*

Book of Registry to be kept at Stationers' Hall.

Sect. 11 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, provides as follows, with respect to keeping a Book of Registry at Stationers' Hall: "that a book of registry, wherein may be registered, as hereinafter enacted, the proprietorship in the copyright of books, and assignments thereof, and in dramatic and

(*a*) Sect. 2 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.
(*b*) See the chapter on "Piracy," *post*.
(*c*) L. Rep. 6 Eq. 418.

musical pieces, whether in manuscript or otherwise, and licences affecting such copyright, shall be kept at the hall of the Stationers' Company, by the officer appointed by the said company for the purposes of this Act, and shall at all convenient times be open to the inspection of any person, on payment of one shilling for every entry which shall be searched for or inspected in the said book; and that such officer shall, whenever thereunto reasonably required, give a copy of any entry in such book, certified under his hand, and impressed with the stamp of the said company, to be provided by them for that purpose, and which they are hereby required to provide, to any person requiring the same, on payment to him of the sum of five shillings; and such copies so certified and impressed shall be received in evidence in all Courts, and in all summary proceedings, and shall be *primâ facie* proof of the proprietorship or assignment of copyright or licence as therein expressed, but subject to be rebutted by other evidence, and in the case of dramatic or musical pieces shall be *primâ facie* proof of the right of representation or performance, subject to be rebutted as aforesaid."

Certified copies to be received in evidence.

Sect. 12 enacts, "that if any person shall wilfully make or cause to be made any false entry in the registry book of the Stationers' Company, or shall wilfully produce or cause to be tendered in evidence any paper falsely purporting to be a copy of any entry in the said book, he shall be guilty of an indictable misdemeanor, and shall be punished accordingly."

Making a false entry in the book of registry, a misdemeanor.

And sect. 13 provides, "that after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for the proprietor of copyright in any book heretofore published, or in any book hereafter to be published, to make entry in the registry book of the Stationers' Company of the title of such book, the time of the first publication thereof, the name and place of abode of the publisher thereof, and the name and place of abode of the proprietor of the copyright of the said book, or of any portion of such copyright, in the form in that behalf given in the schedule to this Act annexed, upon payment of the sum of five shillings to the officer of the said Company."

Entries of copyright.

The statute authorises any person to make an entry as proprietor. It does not say what such person may require to do in order to satisfy the keeper of the register, before the keeper will make such registration.(*a*)

No copyright is acquired by the registration of a book

(*a*) 18 Scotch Sess. Cas. 915.

PART I. CHAPTER VII.

before its actual publication; the protection afforded by the Act not being prospective, but dating only from the time of the first publication of the work.(*a*)

Form of requiring entry of proprietorship.

The following is the form requiring entry of proprietorship given in the schedule to 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

I *A. B.* of do hereby certify, that I am the proprietor of the copyright of a book, intituled *Y. Z.*, and I hereby require you to make entry in the register book of the Stationers' Company of my proprietorship of such copyright, according to the particulars underwritten.

Title of Book.	Name of Publisher and Place of Publication	Name and Place of Abode of the Proprietor of the Copyright.	Date of First Publication.
Y.Z.		*A.B.*	

Dated this day of 18

Witness, *C.D.* (Signed) *A.B.*

Form of entry.

And the form of original entry of proprietorship of copyright of a book (*b*) given in the same schedule is as follows:—

Time of making the Entry.	Title of Book.	Name of the Publisher, and Place of Publication.	Name and Place of Abode of the Proprietor of the Copyright.	Date of First Publication.
	Y.Z.	*A.B.*	*C.D.*	

An author may associate with himself by registry

(*a*) *The Correspondent Newspaper Company (Limited)* v. *Saunders* (13 W. R. 804; 12 L. T. N. S. 540; 11 Jur. N. S. 540). In *Platt* v. *Walter* (17 L. T. N. S. 159) Lord Chelmsford says, "That protection given by common and statute law, which is called copyright, is only in respect of some published or unpublished literary production, and, therefore, there can be no copyright in the prospective series of newspapers. The copyright may attach upon each successive publication, but that which has no present existence cannot be the subject of this species of property."

(*b*) As to the mode of registering in the case of a periodical publication, see *post*, p. 99.

under the Act, any person or persons he pleases, and such persons have a right to sue jointly with him for any infringement of copyright in the work so registered.(*a*)

The "directors of, and subscribers to, the Customs Annuity and Benevolent Fund" having published the "Clyde Bill of Entry and Shipping List," registered their individual names as proprietors. Although they did not state on the register who was the author of the work, nor whether they had acquired the right to it by purchase or assignment, it was held by the Scotch Court of Session that they had sufficiently complied with the provisions of the Act, and had set forth a sufficiently *primâ facie* title to try the question of copyright on an application for an interdict.(*b*)

Time of first publication.

The day of the month, as well as the month and the year must be stated in the entry; it is not enough to give the month and year only.(*c*)

Consequence of non-registration;

The consequence of non-registration is stated in sect. 24, which enacts, "that no proprietor of copyright in any book which shall be first published after the passing of this Act shall maintain any action or suit at law or in equity, or any summary proceeding, in respect of any infringement of such copyright, unless he shall, before commencing such action, suit, or proceeding, have caused an entry to be made, in the book of registry of the Stationers' Company, of such book, pursuant to this Act: Provided always, that the omission to make such entry shall not affect the copyright in any book, but only the right to sue or proceed in respect of the infringement thereof as aforesaid: Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall prejudice the remedies which the proprietor of the sole liberty of representing any dramatic piece shall have by virtue of the Act passed in the third year of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, to amend the laws relating to dramatic literary property, or of this Act, although no entry shall be made in the book of registry aforesaid."

A separate article from a periodical publication is not a book within the meaning of the Act, so as to require registration under this section; and, therefore, non-registration

(*a*) *Stevens* v. *Wildy* (19 L. J. 190, Ch.)

(*b*) *Maclean* v. *Moody* (Scotch Sess. Cas. 2nd Ser., vol. 20, 1154, June 23, 1858).

(*c*) *Mathieson* v. *Harrod* (L. Rep. 7 Eq. 272; 38 L. J. 129, Ch.; 19 L. T. N. S. 629); and see *Low* v. *Routledge* (L. Rep. 1 Eq. 42; 3 H. L. Cas. 100; 33 L. J. 717, Ch.); and *per* Blackburn J., in *Wood* v. *Boosey* (L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 340), a case decided under sect. 6 of the International Copyright Act (7 Vict. c. 12).

PART I. CHAPTER VII.

does not by force of sect. 24 disentitle the author to proceed for any infringement of his right with respect to it.(*a*)

According to Malins, V.C.,(*b*) a newspaper proprietor may sue for a piracy of its contents, without registering it.(*c*)

The enactment contained in sect. 24 has made an important change in the law as to the bringing of actions in cases where a book has not been registered. Previously to this enactment it was not necessary in order to entitle a plaintiff claiming as owner of copyright to sue, that his work should be registered at Stationers' Hall. Although he was bound to register for certain purposes,(*d*) it was decided that where there was no registration, the person entitled to copyright might protect his right by action or suit.(*e*) But now, as to books first published after the Act, although the author has copyright in them, he cannot sue, either at law or in equity, to protect himself against infringement of his copyright, unless he has registered his book at Stationers' Hall pursuant to the statute.(*f*) This, however, applies only to books first published after the Act; it does not affect any book published before.

Inaccuracy in registration.

The registration of a book, according to sect. 13, must be strictly accurate in all the particulars mentioned in that section, viz.: "the title of such book, the time of the first publication thereof, the name and place of abode of the publisher thereof, and the name and place of abode of the proprietor of the copyright." Errors as to these will, by force of sect. 24, prevent the author or proprietor from proceeding by action, suit, or otherwise, until such errors have been amended. They will also invalidate a subsequent assignment under the Act.(*g*) Thus, where "the time of the first publication" of a book was entered on the registry as the 25th May, 1864, when, in fact, it was first published on the 23rd May in that year, this was of itself held fatal to the fact of the registry of proprietorship operating by way of assignment.(*h*) And where the entry on the registry of the name of the publisher was "Sampson Low, Son, and Marston," whereas the name of the firm was "Sampson

(*a*) *Murray* v. *Maxwell* (3 L. T. N. S. 466); *Mayhew* v. *Maxwell* (1 John. & H. 312).

(*b*) *Cox* v. *Land and Water Journal Co.* (L. Rep. 9 Eq. 324; 21 L. T. N. S. 548).

(*c*) See the remarks on this case in the chapter on "Newspapers," *post.*

(*d*) Registration was necessary to entitle the proprietor to recover the penalty imposed by statute for the violation of his copyright.

(*e*) See *Beckford* v. *Hood* (7 T. R. 620).

(*f*) 1 Drew. 353; see p. 364.

(*g*) *Low* v. *Routledge* (33 L. J. 717, Ch.; 10 L. T. N. S. 838; 10 Jur. N. S. 922; 12 W. R. 1069).

(*h*) *Ib.*

Low, Son, and Co.," this also was held of itself fatal to the right of the firm to sue.(*a*) "One almost regrets," said Kindersley, V.C., in the case in which these points were decided, "to be obliged to come to the consideration of points which are so very technical as these which I am obliged to consider; but, at the same time, they are points not only which a defendant or plaintiff has a right to take, but which are of importance with reference to the carrying out of the clearly expressed intention of the Legislature, which has thought fit to require, in order to produce certain effects, that certain strict particulars shall be complied with. It is, in point of fact, a concession of a certain means of assignment upon condition; and, in order to acquire the right to that mode of assignment, you must perform the condition which the Legislature has required." With respect to the mistake in the entry of the name of the firm, the Vice-Chancellor said: "Though it is probably optional either to enter the name of the firm of publishers, or the names of the individuals composing that firm, if you profess to enter the real name of the firm you must do so. . . . . I am almost ashamed to descend to these minute particulars, but it must be done; and it is sufficient for me to say that in my opinion, either of these inaccuracies is quite sufficient to lead me to hold that the entry of the proprietorship is insufficient, and, upon that ground, that there is no valid assignment effected by the subsequent entry which immediately follows that of the assignment." The errors in the entries at Stationers' Hall were corrected after this decision, and a second Bill was filed by the plaintiffs, praying for an injunction to restrain the defendants from printing, publishing, &c., the book in question; and the injunction was granted.(*b*)

Where, however, the place of abode of the proprietor of copyright in a song was described in the entry at Stationers' Hall as "65, Oxford-street," whereas he was in America at the time of publication, and had no place of abode in England, "65, Oxford-street" being the address of his publishers, the Court of Common Pleas held that this was sufficient to satisfy the requisites of the Act.(*c*)

It seems that non-registration, when intended to be set up as a defence to an action for piracy, should be distinctly pleaded.(*d*)

If the first edition of a book has been published before 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, although other editions have been

Subsequent editions.

(*a*) *Low* v. *Routledge*, *ubi supra*, p. 90.
(*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Lover* v. *Davidson* (1 C. B. N. S 182).
(*d*) *Chappell* v. *Davidson* (18 C. B. 194).

PART I. CHAPTER VII.

published since that Act, and have not been registered pursuant to its provisions, the proprietor is entitled to protect by action or suit his copyright in so much of the work as appeared in the first edition. (*a*)

But where a second edition of a book printed after July 1, 1842, is not a mere reprint of a first edition published before that date, but contains considerable and material alterations and additions, as to those it is a new work; and in order to enable the proprietor to sue in respect of any infringement of his rights in those portions of the second edition which are new, if those only are infringed, he must register the book in which they are contained.(*b*) And the extent of the alterations contained in the second edition is immaterial; to whatever extent a new edition is made a new work, the new part cannot be protected by suit until registration. But that effect of the Act of Victoria has no operation as to the old parts: as to them the copyright is left where it was.(*c*)

Effect of neglect at Stationors' Hall.

The object of registration being to give notice to all other publishers that the publication is protected by the statute, if there be any neglect on the part of the officials at Stationers' Hall as to the registration, the public is not bound, and the remedy of the publisher must be against the party causing such neglect. It cannot affect those who are thereby kept in ignorance of the existence of the copyright.(*d*)

Remedy to persons aggrieved by entries in register.

Sect. 14 of 4 & 5 Vict. c. 45, enacts, "that if any person shall deem himself aggrieved by any entry made under colour of this Act in the said book of registry, it shall be lawful for such person to apply by motion to the Court of Queen's Bench, Court of Common Pleas, or Court of Exchequer, in term time, or to apply by summons to any judge of either of such courts in vacation, for an order that such entry may be expunged or varied; and that upon any such application by motion or summons to either of the said courts, or to a judge as aforesaid, such court or judge shall make such order for expunging, varying, or confirming such entry, either with or without costs, as to such court or judge shall seem just; and the officer appointed by the Stationers' Company for the purposes of this Act shall, on the production to him of any such order for expunging or varying any such entry, expunge or vary the same according to the requisitions of such order."

(*a*) *Murray* v. *Bogue* (1 Drew. 365, 366). (*b*) *Ib.* 365.

(*c*) *Ib.* 366. The case of *Novello* v. *Sullow* (16 Jur. 689) is in no way opposed to the doctrine above laid down, as in that case the work had been duly registered, and the whole argument turned on the construction of sect. 15 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

(*d*) *Per* Wood, V.C., in *Cassell* v. *Stiff* (2 K. & J. 287).

There are not many reported cases of application for relief under this section of the Act. A rule absolute to "vary or expunge" at the option of the applicant, an unauthorised entry in the register at Stationers' Hall, was granted by the Court of Common Pleas in *ex parte Bastow.*(*a*)

A rather wide discretion was exercised by the Court of Queen's Bench in *ex parte Davidson.*(*b*) Robert Cocks brought an action against Davidson for publishing three pieces of music, in which Cocks claimed the copyright. Two of the pieces were registered in the name of Cocks, and the third in the name of a person who had assigned the copyright to him. A rule *nisi* to expunge or vary the entries was obtained upon an affidavit of Davidson, not asserting a copyright in the airs in himself, but deposing to his belief that the three airs were old, and that the persons who on the entries professed to be the authors were not really the authors. The ground suggested for expunging the entries was that they would be *primâ facie* evidence against Davidson on the trial of the action brought against him. The court declined to expunge the entries, but on the refusal of the counsel for Cocks to consent not to use the entries on the trial, an order was made by the court, *proprio vigore*, without consent, that the rule should be enlarged till the trial of an issue to determine the question of copyright, in which Cocks should be plaintiff and Davidson defendant, and on the trial of which the entries should not be used.

The Court of Common Pleas in a subsequent case(*c*) in which the same person applied for assistance, distinctly disclaimed the power exercised by the Court of Queen's Bench in the preceding case. The Court of Common Pleas refused to expunge an entry of proprietorship unless it was clearly and unequivocally shown to be false, or to vary it unless satisfied by affidavit that in so doing they would make a true entry. "We can only expunge or vary or confirm the entry:" said Crowder, J., "I think we have no power to do that which was done by the Court of Queen's Bench in *Ex parte Davidson.*" The circumstances of the case before the Court of Common Pleas were somewhat peculiar. Mr. Lover, the author of a song called "The Low Back'd Car," being in America, and wishing to secure to himself the copyright in England and in America by a simultaneous publication in both countries, instructed his publishers here to publish it in London, on a certain day. This was done, and the song was registered at Stationers' Hall, but in the entry

(*a*) 14 C. B. 631. (*b*) 2 El. & Bl. 577.
(*c*) *Ex parte Davidson* (18 C. B. 297).

the publishers described themselves as the proprietors of the copyright. The song having been published in this country by Davidson, from a copy sent from America, where the publication was alleged to have taken place three days before the publication here, Mr. Lover obtained a judge's order to vary the entry by substituting his name as proprietor, and got an injunction and brought an action for the infringement of his copyright. A rule to expunge or vary the amended entry having been obtained on behalf of Davidson, the Court discharged it with costs, considering that no case had been made out for its interference.

Person "aggrieved."

Whether under the circumstances of the case last referred to Davidson was a person "aggrieved" within the meaning of sect. 14 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, it was not necessary to decide. Jervis, C. J., was of opinion that he was; Crowder, J., was doubtful, and the language of Willes, J. seems to point to an opposite conclusion. He asks, "Has any right of the applicant been interfered with or injuriously affected? I do not see that it has. This is not the case of a contested title: the applicant does not suppose himself to have been the original author of the composition in question: he claims to publish a thing to which he has no right whatever, merely because the person who is the author, and who therefore ought to have the sole right of publishing it here, has happened (it may be) to publish it in America a little too early, or has made an unintentional mistake in the date on the title page, or has incorrectly described his place of abode in the entry in the book at Stationers' Hall. I do not think it is a case in which we ought to interfere." In *Graves'* case(*a*) Blackstone, J., used similar language, and Hannen, J., said, "A person to be 'aggrieved' within the meaning of the statute must show that the entry is inconsistent with some right that he sets up in himself or in some other person, or that the entry would really interfere with some intended action on the part of the person making the application."

2. *Deposit and delivery of copies.*

To British Museum.

Sect. 6 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, enacts, "that a printed copy of the whole of every book which shall be published after the passing of this Act, together with all maps, prints, or other engravings belonging thereto, finished and coloured in the same manner as the best copies of the same shall be published, and also of any second or subsequent edition which shall be so published with any additions or alterations, whether the same shall be in letter-press, or in the maps, prints, or

(*a*) L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 721, 724; 20 L. T. N. S. 877; 17 W. R. 1018.

other engravings belonging thereto, and whether the first edition of such book shall have been published before or after the passing of this Act, and also of any second or subsequent edition of every book of which the first or some preceding edition shall not have been delivered for the use of the British Museum, bound, sewed, or stitched together, and upon the best paper on which the same shall be printed, shall within one calendar month after the day on which any such book shall first be sold, published, or offered for sale within the bills of mortality, or within three calendar months if the same shall first be sold, published, or offered for sale in any other part of the United Kingdom, or within twelve calendar months after the same shall first be sold, published, or offered for sale in any other part of the British dominions, be delivered on behalf of the publisher thereof, at the British Museum."

Time.

Mode of delivering at the British Museum.

As to the mode of delivering at the British Museum, sect. 7 provides, "that every copy of any book which under the provisions of this Act ought to be delivered as aforesaid, shall be delivered at the British Museum between the hours of ten in the forenoon and four in the afternoon on any day except Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Christmas Day, to one of the officers of the said Museum, or to some person authorised by the trustees of the said Museum to receive the same, and such officer or other person receiving such copy is hereby required to give a receipt in writing for the same, and such delivery shall to all intents and purposes be deemed to be good and sufficient delivery under the provisions of this Act."

To other libraries.

Sect. 8 provides, as to the other libraries, "that a copy of the whole of every book and of any second or subsequent edition of every book containing additions and alterations, together with all maps and prints belonging thereto, which after the passing of this Act shall be published, shall on demand thereof in writing, left at the place of abode of the publisher thereof at any time within twelve months next after the publication thereof, under the hand of the officer of the Company of Stationers who shall from time to time be appointed by the said company for the purposes of this Act, or under the hand of any other person thereto authorised by the persons or bodies politic and corporate, proprietors and managers of the libraries following; (*videlicet*,) the Bodleian library at Oxford, the public library at Cambridge, the library of the faculty of advocates at Edinburgh, the library of the college of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin, be delivered, upon the paper

of which the largest number of copies of such book or edition shall be printed for sale, in the like condition as the copies prepared for sale by the publisher thereof respectively, within one month after demand made thereof in writing as aforesaid to the said officer of the said Company of Stationers for the time being, which copies the said officer shall and he is hereby required to receive at the hall of the said company, for the use of the library for which such demand shall be made within such twelve months as aforesaid; and the said officer is hereby required to give a receipt in writing for the same, and within one month after any such book shall be so delivered to him as aforesaid to deliver the same for the use of such library."

Time.

By sect. 9, "if any publisher shall be desirous of delivering the copy of such book as shall be demanded on behalf of any of the said libraries at such library, it shall be lawful for him to deliver the same at such library, free of expense, to such librarian or other person authorised to receive the same (who is hereby required in such case to receive and give a receipt in writing for the same), and such delivery shall to all intents and purposes of this Act be held as equivalent to a delivery to the said officer of the Stationers' Company."

Penalty for default in delivering copies.

Sect. 10 defines the penalty for non-compliance with the foregoing provisions. It enacts "that if any publisher of any such book or of any second or subsequent edition of any such book shall neglect to deliver the same pursuant to this Act, he shall for every such default forfeit, besides the value of such copy of such book or edition which he ought to have delivered, a sum not exceeding five pounds, to be recovered by the librarian or other officer (properly authorised) of the library for the use whereof such copy should have been delivered, in a summary way, on conviction before two justices of the peace for the county or place where the publisher making default shall reside, or by action of debt or other proceeding of the like nature, at the suit of such librarian or other officer, in any court of record in the United Kingdom, in which action, if the plaintiff shall obtain a verdict, he shall recover his costs reasonably incurred, to be taxed as between attorney and client."

These provisions of the Act require the delivery of every book and of every volume thereof; they do not apply to a part of a volume, and the publishers of such part cannot, therefore, be made liable for non-delivery of it.(*a*)

Consequence of non-delivery.

It is to be observed that the only consequence of not depositing or delivering the copies is the liability to the

(*a*) *British Museum* v. *Payne* (4 Bing. 548).

penalty imposed by this section. Neglect of the duty does not incapacitate the proprietor of the copyright from proceeding at law or in equity for an infringement of it, as omission to register, so long as it continues, does by force of sect. 24.

Power of Privy Council to license publication of books.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has power to license the publication of books which the proprietor refuses to republish after the death of the author. Sect 5. of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, after reciting that "it is expedient to provide against the suppression of books of importance to the public," enacts "that it shall be lawful for the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, on complaint made to them that the proprietor of the copyright in any book after the death of its author has refused to republish or to allow the republication of the same, and that by reason of such refusal such book may be withheld from the public, to grant a license to such complainant to publish such book, in such manner and subject to such conditions as they may think fit, and that it shall be lawful for such complainant to publish such book according to such licence."

For the law relating to the assignment of copyright in books, see the chapter on the "Transfer of Copyright," *post*; and with reference to the infringement of copyright, and the remedies for it, see the chapters on "Piracy," and "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.

CHAPTER VIII.

COPYRIGHT IN PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The property in reviews, magazines, and other periodicals is in general of the same nature as that in books, commonly so called, of which we have treated in the preceding chapter. There is, however, a modification in the term of enjoyment, and there are some questions which occur with respect to these productions which it has been considered more convenient to discuss by themselves.

The sections of the Copyright Act (5 & 6 Vict. c. 45) which deal with the subjects of our present consideration are the 18th (concerning the nature and duration of the right), and the 19th (as to registration).

Nature of the right.

Sect. 18 enacts, "that when any publisher or other person shall, before or at the time of the passing of this Act, have projected, conducted, and carried on, or shall

PART I. CHAPTER VIII.

hereafter project, conduct, and carry on, or be the proprietor of any encyclopædia, review, magazine, periodical work, or work published in a series of books or parts, or any book whatsoever, and shall have employed or shall employ any persons to compose the same, or any volumes, parts, essays, articles, or portions thereof, for publication in or as part of the same, and such work, volumes, parts, essays, articles, or portions shall have been or shall hereafter be composed under such employment, on the terms that the copyright therein shall belong to such proprietor, projector, publisher, or conductor, and paid for (*a*) by such proprietor, projector, publisher, or conductor, the copyright in every such encyclopædia, review, magazine, periodical work, and work published in a series of books or parts, and in every volume, part, essay, article, and portion so composed and paid for, shall be the property of such proprietor, projector, publisher, or other conductor, who shall enjoy the same rights as if he were the actual author thereof, and shall have such term of copyright therein as is given to the authors of books by this Act;(*b*) except only that in the case of essays, articles, or portions forming part of and first published in reviews, magazines, or other periodical works of a like nature, after the term of twenty-eight years from the first publication thereof respectively the right of publishing the same in a separate form shall revert to the author for the remainder of the term given by this Act."

Duration of the right.

Limitation of right.

This section also provides, "that during the term of twenty-eight years the said proprietor, projector, publisher, or conductor shall not publish any such essay, article, or portion separately or singly without the consent previously obtained of the author thereof, or his assigns."

(*a*) With reference to the language of this portion of the section, Shadwell, V.C., says, in *Brown* v. *Cooke* (16 L. J. 143, Ch.), "It seems to me that there is an inaccuracy in the language; and the only possible way of making it English would be by referring the words 'and paid for' to the former words, 'shall have been or shall hereafter be composed, &c.'"

(*b*) A similar view of the rights of proprietors of periodicals was taken before the passing of this Act. Sir John Leach said, in *Barfield* v. *Nicholson* (2 L. J. 96, 102; 2 Sim. & S. 1), "I am of opinion that under that statute (8 Anne, c. 19) the person who embarks in the speculation of a work, and who employs various persons to compose different parts of it, adapted to their own peculiar acquirements, that he, the person who so forms the plan and scheme of the work, and pays different artists of his own selection, who, upon certain conditions, contribute to it, is the author and proprietor of the work, if not within the literal expression, at least within the equitable meaning of the statute of Anne, which, being a remedial law, is to be construed liberally." And see the prior case of *Wyatt* v. *Barnard* (3 V. & B. 77).

Reservation by authors of right of publishing in a separate form.

It further provides, "that nothing herein contained shall alter or affect the right of any person who shall have been or who shall be so employed as aforesaid to publish any such his composition in a separate form, who by any contract, express or implied, may have reserved or may hereafter reserve to himself such right; but every author reserving, retaining, or having such right shall be entitled to the copyright in such composition when published in a separate form, according to this Act, without prejudice to the right of such proprietor, projector, publisher, or conductor as aforesaid."

It will be seen from sect. 18 that the duration of the copyright in all literary productions appearing in the works therein enumerated is the same as in the case of books; but the enjoyment of that period of copyright is divided between the proprietor or projector, &c., of the larger work in which the literary production appears, and the author of the literary production; the former enjoying the right for twenty-eight years, the latter for the remaining twelve. It is further to be observed that the right of the proprietor, &c., of the larger work during the twenty-eight years is not of an absolute character, the right to publish any contribution in a separate form without the author's consent not being included in it.

Mode of registration.

Sect. 19 enacts, "that the proprietor of the copyright in any encyclopædia, review, magazine, periodical work, or other work published in a series of books or parts, shall be entitled to all the benefits of the registration at Stationers' Hall under this Act, on entering in the said book of registry the title of such encyclopædia, review, periodical work, or other work published in a series of books or parts, the time of the first publication of the first volume, number, or part thereof, or of the first number or volume first published after the passing of this Act in any such work which shall have been published heretofore, and the name and place of abode of the proprietor thereof, and of the publisher thereof, when such publisher shall not also be the proprietor thereof."

Title of Periodical.

Registering the title of an intended magazine cannot give a copyright in that name. (*a*) It was contended in *Hogg* v. *Maxwell* that as by sects. 2 and 13 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 46, every "part" of a book may be registered, and a right to restrain the piracy of it thereby acquired, the registration of the title "Belgravia" by the Messrs. Hogg, in October, 1863, three years before the publication of a magazine bearing that name, gave them a copyright in that title.

(*a*) *Hogg* v. *Maxwell* (L. Rep. 2 Ch. App. 316; 16 L. T. N. S. 133; 36 L. J. 433, Ch.).

In reply to this, Cairns, L.J., in giving judgment in that case, observed: "It is said that the word 'Belgravia,' being used upon the title-page of the magazine, was part of a volume. But at the time of making the entry in the register at Stationers' Hall there was no volume, no part of a volume, no sheet, no separate fraction of a publication of any kind or description. There was nothing in existence except that very entry itself, and the entry of the name of a future publication. It is quite absurd to suppose that the Legislature, in providing for the registration of that which was to be the *indicium* of something outside the registry, in the shape of a volume or part of a volume, meant that by the registration of one word copyright in that one word could be obtained, even although that one word should be registered as what was to be the title of a book or of a magazine. . . . . I apprehend that if it were necessary to decide the point it must be held that there cannot be what is termed copyright in a single word, although the word should be used as a fitting title for a book.(*a*) The copyright contemplated by the Act must be not in a single word, but in some words in the shape of a volume or part of a volume, which is communicated to the public, by which the public are benefited, and in return for which a certain protection is given to the author of the work." A doubt had previously been expressed by Wood, V.C., in *The Correspondent Newspaper Company* v. *Saunders*(*b*) whether the title of a periodical formed part of the copyright, the object of the Act as to that class of publications being to regulate the rights as between the contributors and the proprietors.

Nor will any amount of expenditure incurred upon a work not yet given to the world, or any outlay in advertisements of the title of the work, give a right to an injunction restraining another person from using the same title.(*c*) "That expenditure upon a work not given to the world," says Turner, L.J.,(*d*) "can create, as against the world, an exclusive right to carry on a work of this nature seems to me a proposition quite incapable of being maintained. It never, so far as I am aware, has been thought that any such equity exists. Then, if the expenditure alone will not confer such a right, will the advertisements do so? . . . . He, the plaintiff, does not by his advertisements, come under any

(*a*) See *Jollie* v. *Jaques* (1 Blatch. 627).
(*b*) 11 Jur. N. S. 541; 12 L. T. N. S. 540; 13 W. R. 804.
(*c*) *Maxwell* v. *Hogg* (L. Rep. 2 Ch. App. 307; 16 L. T. N. S. 131; 36 L. J. 433, Ch.).
(*d*) *Ib.*

obligation to the public to publish the work, and therefore the effect of holding the advertisements to give him a title would be that, without having given any undertaking or done anything in favour of the public, he would be acquiring a right against every member of the public to prevent their doing that which he himself is under no obligation to do, and may never do. . . . . There is a great distinction between the case of advertisement followed by publication and a case resting upon advertisement only. In the case of advertisement followed by publication the party publishing has given something to the world, and there is some consideration for the world's giving him a right; but in the case of mere advertisement he has neither given, nor come under any obligation to give, anything to the world, so that there is a total want of consideration for the right which he claims."

But though two periodicals (as well as two books) may have a similar title, the form, title, and mode of publication of one periodical cannot be imitated by another in such a manner as would necessarily mislead the public and induce them to purchase the latter work as continuing parts of the former one. *Hogg* v. *Kirby* (*a*) was such a case. There the plaintiff had published the *Wonderful Magazine*, which the defendant had agreed to sell upon commission. After five numbers had been published, the agreement between plaintiff and defendant was put an end to. The sixth number was advertised by the plaintiff to appear on the 31st December, and was published on that day. On the 1st January a publication was put forth by the defendant under a similar title, described as a *new series improved*. The defendant's publication contained an index to the contents of the five numbers already published, and continued an article not finished in number five, beginning with the word at the bottom of the last page. The execution of the two works was generally similar, and the device on the cover the same, though not exactly similar in the execution. Lord Eldon was of opinion that the defendant had published this work, not as his own original work, but as a continuation of the work of the plaintiff, and intending to represent it as such. His lordship accordingly granted an injunction restraining the defendant from printing, publishing, &c., any copies of the work, but granted the injunction in such terms as to make it clear that it was to operate upon nothing but the publication handed out to the world as the continuation of the plaintiff's work. "I am

(*a*) 8 Ves. 215.

anxious," said Lord Eldon, "that nothing in the injunction shall imply that reviews, magazines, and other works of this species may not be multiplied."

The injunction granted in the case before Lord Eldon was extended to all communications from correspondents to the defendant in his capacity as publisher of the plaintiff's work.

Conduct disentitling to protection.

Even where the statutory requisites as to registration have been duly observed, the conduct of the proprietor of a periodical may be of such a nature as to disentitle him to aid from a court of equity by means of interlocutory injunction; *e.g.*, if he lie by and knowingly allow another person to incur expense in bringing out a work, which is an infringement of his strict legal right. Thus in *The Correspondent Newspaper Company* v. *Saunders* (*a*) a company was formed in June, 1864, to establish and carry on a weekly paper called *The Correspondent*, but the paper was not brought out until after the appearance of advertisements of the intended publication by the defendants of a paper bearing the same title, which advertisements appeared in the month of April, 1865. The title had been registered by the company in April, 1864, but ineffectually, as the protection afforded by the Copyright Act is not prospective. The defendants registered the same title on the 3rd of March, 1865, in ignorance of the intended publication by the company, and incurred considerable expense in advertisements. This becoming known to the company, they brought out the first number of *The Correspondent*, on the 3rd of May, 1865, and on the same day registered the title at Stationers' Hall. On that day also, they wrote to the defendants for the first time, telling them that they would insist on their copyright in the name *Correspondent*. On Saturday, the 6th of May, 1865, the defendants published the first number of their paper, under the title of *The Public Correspondent*, whereupon the company applied for an injunction to restrain the publication of this paper, or of any paper of which the word *Correspondent* should form a part. Wood, V.C., after expressing a doubt whether the title is part of the copyright, said, "It is no doubt true that a title may be acquired, as in a trade mark, but it seems that the defendants, prior to May, 1865, had contemplated taking this title for their paper. Then the question is this; there being two persons equally honest, and one of them having given notice that he is about to produce an article with a certain name, and the other contemplating the same thing, whether or not the first, by

(*a*) 12 L. T. N. S. 540; 11 Jur. N. S. 540; 13 W. R. 804.

bringing out his article a day or two sooner than the other, acquires a right by way of trade mark. The plaintiffs' position is this. The defendants in perfect good faith, and not knowing of this rather dormant company, bring out their advertisements. It was incumbent on the plaintiffs then to communicate with them as quickly as possible, because the defendants were incurring great expense, and by their advertisements really playing into the hands of the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs, however, laid by for eight days, and did not give the defendants notice till after they had brought out their own paper, and as it is to be observed, on a Wednesday, either for the purpose of gaining priority, or else having changed their day of publication, thus supplying one of the ingredients of mistake [it was said that the papers were mistaken for each other and that the plaintiffs were thereby damnified]." An interlocutory injunction was refused, and the motion was ordered to stand over till the hearing. This decision, however, was partly grounded on the doubt entertained by the Vice-Chancellor whether there could be copyright in the name of a periodical. (*a*)

Rights of contributors.

Although sect. 18 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, enacts that the proprietor, projector, &c., of an encyclopædia or periodical publication, "composed of articles, essays, &c., shall enjoy the same rights" in articles, &c., composed on the terms that the copyright therein shall belong to him, "as if he were the actual author thereof;" this right, as already pointed out, is limited by the subsequent part of the section which prohibits the proprietor, &c., from publishing any contribution in a separate form without the author's consent. The author's right to prohibit separate publication in such a case is founded on the words of this enactment, which give him a future right of property in his composition, viz., the option of publishing it or not in a separate form at the end of twenty-eight years, a right which would be seriously injured if, being minded at the end of that period to publish his writings separately or in a collected form, he should find that they had already been published separately from the periodical work to which they were contributed. (*b*)

This right of the author of an article in a periodical to prevent a separate publication is not copyright within the meaning of the 24th section of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, and so no registration by the author is necessary to entitle him to an injunction to restrain such separate publication. (*c*)

(*a*) See the opinion of Lord Cairns in *Hogg* v. *Maxwell* (*ante*, p. 100).
(*b*) See *per* Wood, V.C., *Mayhew* v. *Maxwell* (1 John. & H. 315).
(*c*) *Ib.* See also *Murray* v. *Maxwell* (3 L. T. N. S. 466).

PART I. CHAPTER VIII.

The separate publication of an article contributed to the "Encyclopædia Metropolitana" was restrained by injunction in the case of the *Bishop of Hereford* v. *Griffin*.(a)

Meaning of publishing "separately."

What is a "separate publication" within the meaning of this section was considered in *Smith* v. *Johnson*.(b) In that case the plaintiff had composed certain tales for the *London Journal*, which were published in that periodical in the year 1849. In the year 1863 the proprietors proceeded to republish these tales in what they called a supplementary number of the *London Journal* published weekly, which might be had with or without the current number. The plaintiff had not given his consent to this republication, and filed a Bill praying for an injunction to restrain the proprietors of the *London Journal* from continuing the republication. It was contended on behalf of the proprietors that the act complained of was not a violation of the statute, because the author had no copyright and could not publish the stories himself; his only right was to prohibit any publication in a separate or single form of his contributions, *i.e.*, a publication out of and unconnected with the work in which they first appeared; the defendants were not attempting to do that; the republication was a republication of their own periodical, with a simple difference in the order, and this case was therefore distinguishable from the cases of the *Bishop of Hereford* v. *Griffin*, and *Mayhew* v. *Maxwell*. Sir John Stuart, V.C., was, however, of opinion that the republication was a "publication separately," within the meaning of sect. 18 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, and granted the injunction prayed for. The Vice-Chancellor said—"Keeping in view the principle of construction that the Act of Parliament was intended to give a licence only to the proprietors of periodical works purchasing and paying for a literary composition to be published as a part or portion of a periodical work—the construction of the words in the proviso which prohibits them from publishing these parts or portions which 'alone' are the property of the author—from publishing these portions 'separately and singly' seems reasonably plain. 'Publishing separately' must mean publishing separately from something. What is that 'publishing' which the Act of Parliament says shall not be separately made? It must be the publishing of the part or portion separately from that which has been before published. That is the view which has been previously taken. . . . . The Act of Parliament says the publishers shall not publish these portions separately

(a) 16 Sim. 190. (b) 4 Giff. 632; 9 L. T. N. S. 437; 33 L. J. 137, Ch.

from those parts for the publication of which they have obtained a licence already. What they [the proprietors of the *London Journal*] have done is to print the portions, already published, of those antecedent parts, in what is called a supplementary number, and which may be purchased with or without the number in which the 'portions' were originally published. That is a separate publication, separate from the 'part' in which it was originally published. To reprint in numbers which may be had with or without the concurrent number of the work is an act not permitted by the legislature."

Effect of words "and paid for," &c.

The words "and paid for by such proprietor, projector," &c., in sect. 18 have received a very strict construction from the Courts of Equity, those courts having refused to recognise the proprietor's copyright in contributions where it is not clearly shown that he has paid the contributors for them. Thus, where the publishers of the *London Medical Gazette* employed and paid an editor, who employed persons to write articles for the *Gazette* (whether he paid them or not did not sufficiently appear), the Vice-Chancellor of England, Sir L. Shadwell, was of opinion that the publishers had not made out that sort of derivative copyright which, under the Act of Parliament, would enable them to prevent the publication by others of articles appearing in the *Gazette*. (*a*) "The meaning of the Act of Parliament," he said, "as I understand the language of it, is this, that if the publisher of a periodical work employs a person to write articles for him, and pays him for them upon the terms that the copyright shall be the proprietor's—*i.e.*, the proprietor of a periodical work—the proprietor shall have the copyright of the periodical work, containing all the articles, with certain subsequent limitations, upon which nothing turns as far as this case is concerned. . . . . If I find the fact to be on the face of the affidavit that A. B. and C. have composed articles which, by reason of some dealing between them and the editor, who alone has been paid by Messrs. Longman [the publishers], have by the editor been inserted in this *Medical Gazette*, which is published by the plaintiff, it appears to me, if that be the statement of the facts taken altogether, that then the Messrs. Longman have not entitled themselves to the copyright which is given under the terms of the 18th section as the publishers of the periodical work, who pay the composers of the articles inserted in the periodical work upon the terms that the copyright shall belong to them as the publishers."

(*a*) *Brown* v. *Cooke* (11 Jur. 77).

PART I. CHAPTER VIII.

The same doctrine was laid down by Lord Cranworth, V.C., in *Richardson* v. *Gilbert*.(*a*) He held that actual payment for an article originally published in the *Dublin Review* was made by the Act a necessary condition to the vesting of the copyright of that article in the proprietors of the *Review*. In this case, however, his lordship was of opinion, from the averments in the Bill, that the title of the proprietors was made sufficiently clear to entitle them to an injunction restraining the defend ..nt from publishing the article.

Contract may be implied.

The words of the 18th section, "on the terms that the copyright therein should belong to the proprietors," do not require that an *express* contract to that effect should be entered into between the proprietor of a periodical publication and the contributors to it. There may be an implied condition, understanding, or arrangement that the copyright in contributions should vest in the proprietor of the periodical to which they are furnished, and the terms of the arrangement may be inferred from the general nature and character of the employment. Thus, the publisher of a series of law reports, furnished by barristers without any express stipulation that the copyright should belong to the publisher, possesses the copyright in those reports, and is entitled to restrain their publication by any other person.(*b*) "I think," said Maule, J., "that where a man employs another to write an article, or to do anything else for him, unless there is something in the surrounding circumstances, or in the course of dealing between the parties, to require a different construction, in the absence of a special agreement to the contrary, it is to be understood that the writing or other thing is produced upon the terms that the copyright therein shall belong to the employer—subject, of course, to the limitation pointed out in the 18th section of the Act."(*c*)

CHAPTER IX.

ENGRAVINGS OR PRINTS.

8 Geo. 2, c. 13.

THE first Act passed to secure a property in prints or engravings to the inventors and engravers was the 8 Geo. 2, c. 13. In the preamble it states that "whereas divers persons have by their own genius, industry, pains, and expense, invented and engraved, or worked in mezzotinto,

(*a*) 1 Sim. N. S. 336.
(*b*) *Sweet* v. *Benning* (16 C. B. 459, 481, 489). (*b*) *Ib.* 484.

or chiaro oscuro, sets of historical and other prints, in hopes to have reaped the sole benefit of their labours, printsellers and other persons have of late, without the consent of the inventors, designers, and proprietors of such prints, frequently taken the liberty of copying, engraving, and publishing, or causing to be copied, engraved, and published, base(*a*) copies of such works, designs and prints, to the very great prejudice and detriment of the inventors, designers, and proprietors thereof." To prevent this for the future, the statute enacted (sect. 1) that from and after the 24th June, 1735, every person who should *invent and design*, engrave, etch, or work in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, or *from his own works and inventions* should cause to be designed and engraved, &c., any historical or other print or prints, should have the sole right and liberty of printing and reprinting the same for the term of fourteen years [since extended to twenty-eight(*b*)] "to commence from the day of first publishing thereof, which should be truly engraved with the name of the proprietor, on each plate, and printed on every such print or prints." The section then inflicts a penalty on printsellers or other persons guilty of piracy.(*c*)

Date of publishing and proprietor's name to be affixed to each print.

Sect. 2 exempts from the penalties any person or persons who should, after the passing of the Act, purchase any plate or plates, for printing, from the original proprietors thereof.

This Act vested the property in prints only in those who should "invent and design, engrave, &c.," or who, "from his own works and inventions," should cause to be designed and engraved, &c., such prints. No provision was made for the protection of the property in prints which were not designed by the person who engraved them.

This defect was, however, supplied by 7 Geo. 3, c. 38, the first section of which enacted that the benefit and protection of the preceding Act of Geo. 2 should be extended to all

7 Geo. 3, c. 38.

(*a*) The meaning of the expression "base copy" in this statute is "anything which is not the genuine work of the author:" (*Per* Kelly, C.B., delivering the judgment of the Court of Exchequer Chamber in *Graves* v. *Ashford*, L. Rep. 2 C. P. 419; 16 L. T. N. S. 98; 36 L. J. 139, C. P.) In that case it had been suggested in argument that a thing would not be a "base copy" which was avowed to be a copy, and did not profess to be the original from which it was taken. "It seems to us," said the Chief Baron, "that to put that construction upon the word 'base' would be cutting down the meaning of the legislature to a most mischievous extent, and working great injustice to the author."

Meaning of "base copy."

(*b*) By 7 Geo. 3, c. 38, s. 7, *post*, p. 108.

(*c*) See the chapters on "Piracy" and the "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.

PART I
CHAPTER IX.

and every person who should "engrave, etch, or work in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, or cause to be engraved, etched, or worked, any print *taken from any picture, drawing, model or sculpture, either ancient or modern* . . . . in like manner as if such print had been graved or drawn from the original design of such graver, etcher, or draftsman."

Duration of copyright.

This Act also enlarged the term of enjoyment of the right from fourteen to twenty-eight years. Sect. 7 enacts, "that the sole right and liberty of printing and reprinting, intended to be secured and protected by the said former Act [8 Geo. 2, c. 13] and this Act, shall be extended, continued, and be vested in the respective proprietors, for the space of twenty-eight years, to commence from the day of the first publishing of any of the works respectively hereinbefore and in the said former Act mentioned."

17 Geo. 3 c. 57.

The last Act on the subject, 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, was passed, as the title indicates, "for more effectually securing the property of prints to inventors and engravers by enabling them to sue for and recover penalties in certain cases." It recites the two former Acts and proceeds: "Whereas the said Acts have not effectually answered the purposes for which they were intended, and it is necessary for the encouragement of artists, and for securing to them the property of and in their works, and for the advancement and improvement of the aforesaid arts, that such further provisions should be made as are hereinafter mentioned and contained." It then gives to the proprietor of prints an action on the case against any offender by piracy, in which damages and double costs may be obtained. (*a*)

Ireland.

The provisions of 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, were extended to Ireland by 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59; sect. 2 of which refers to engravings or prints "of any description whatever published in any part of Great Britain or Ireland." The action on the case may be brought against the person offending "in any court of law in Great Britain or Ireland."

Lithographs, &c.

Doubts having been entertained whether the provisions of the preceding statutes extended to lithographs and other impressions taken by mechanical processes, sect. 14 of 15 & 16 Vict. c. 12, declares "that the provisions of the said Acts are intended to include prints taken by lithography or any other process by which prints or impressions of drawings or designs are capable of being multiplied indefinitely, and the said Acts shall be construed accordingly."

Prints accompanying letterpress.

The protection given by the statutes has been applied to the case of prints not published alone, but appearing along

(*a*) See the chapter on "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.

with letter-press which they illustrate.(*a*) Lord Ellenborough, however, was of opinion that if an artist should, merely from reading the letter-press of another's work, sketch designs similar to illustrations appearing in that work, this would not be a piracy of such illustrations.(*b*)

Maps, Charts, and Plans.

Maps, charts, and plans are now brought expressly within the protection of the statutes.(*c*)

Where subject is common.

Where the subject from which an engraving is taken is common and open to all, the first engraver of a print of it is not entitled to restrain any one else from making an engraving of the same subject, provided it be made from the original subject and is not a copy of the first engraving; but he is entitled to prevent another from copying his own engraving. Thus before the Act 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, gave a copyright in paintings, drawings, and photographs, the engraver of a print of any such painting, drawing, or photograph, though he could not claim a monopoly of the *use of the picture*, &c., from which the engraving was made, was entitled to say to any other person wishing to copy the picture, "Take the trouble of going to the picture yourself, but do not avail yourself of my labour, who have been to the picture, and have executed the engraving."(*d*)

In *Wyatt* v. *Barnard*,(*e*) Lord Eldon said, with reference to specifications of patents, that a person who chose to go to the office, copy a specification and publish it, could not by so doing acquire a right to restrain another from copying it. It is not clear from the meagre report whether Lord Eldon intended merely to assert the right of every one to copy the original specification, or to deny altogether the existence of copyright in productions copied from specifications. The reporters, judging from their marginal note, seem to have understood him in the latter sense, but the former was most probably what he intended.

At any rate, if an engraving is made from a drawing taken from the specification of a patent, the engraver has a right to prevent any other person from pirating his engraving. "The engraver," said Best, C.J., in *Newton* v. *Cowie*,(*f*) "although a copyist, produces the resemblance by means very different from those employed by the painter or draftsman from whom he copies—means which require great labour and talent. The engraver produces his effects by

(*a*) *Roworth* v. *Wilkes* (1 Camp. N. P. 94); *Wilkins* v. *Aikin* (17 Ves. 422).
(*b*) See *Roworth* v. *Wilkes* (1 Camp. 99).
(*c*) See 7 Geo. 3, c. 38, s. 1, and 17 Geo. 3, c. 57.
(*d*) See *per* Best, C.J., in *Newton* v. *Cowie* (4 Bing. 246).
(*e*) 3 Ves. & B. 78.
(*f*) 4 Bing. 246.

the management of light and shade, or as the term of his art expresses it, the *chiaro oscuro*. The due degrees of light and shade are produced by different lines and dots: he who is the engraver must decide on the choice of the different lines or dots for himself, and on his choice depends the success of his print. If he copies from another engraving, he may see how the person who engraved that has produced the desired effect, and so without skill or attention, become a successful rival. . . . . Without the introduction of express words, I should have thought, therefore, that a case of this kind fell within the spirit of the Act. But the 7 Geo. 3, c. 38, extends the protection of the first statute to any print of any 'map, chart, or *plan, or any other print or prints whatsoever.*' The same words are used in 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, and nothing is said as to the place in which the original is to be found." In this case the engraving had been executed from a drawing made by an apprentice of the engraver's, from a patent specification.

Requisites to copyright in engravings.

The words in sect. 1 of 8 Geo. 2, c. 13, requiring the proprietor's name to be affixed to each print, have given rise to considerable discussion, and to some diversity of opinion, among the judges. That Act confers a copyright, and inflicts a penalty for the infringement of it, in historical and other prints—to commence from the day of the first publishing thereof—which shall be truly engraved with the name of the proprietor on each plate, and printed on every such print or prints." This would seem to confer a copyright property only in prints so marked with the proprietor's name, and since the decision of *Donaldson* v. *Beckett* [in the year 1774] put an end to the notion of a copyright at common law, independent of statutory enactment, it should seem that no property can now exist in published engravings other than what springs from a strict compliance with the requisites of the statute.

A different opinion, indeed, appears to have been entertained by Lord Hardwicke in the case of *Blackwell* v. *Harper*.(*a*) That eminent judge expressed an opinion, but somewhat doubtfully, that the words of the Act requiring the insertion of the date of publication on prints were directory only, and not descriptive; and, therefore, that the day was necessary to be inserted on prints only where the penalty of the Act was intended to be taken advantage of. The injunction prayed for by the plaintiff in that case was granted, though the date of publication did not appear on the engravings. And Lord Ellenborough, in *Rouworth* v.

(*a*) 2 Atk. 95; Barn. Chanc. Rep. 210.

Wilkes,(*a*) was of opinion that a plaintiff could recover for piracy of his prints, though his name was not engraved upon them; that the interest being vested, the common law gave the remedy. His lordship, however, reserved the point for the consideration of the full court, but it was not brought before them.

Lord Alvanley was of a contrary opinion in *Harrison* v. *Hogg*.(*b*) He considered it "essential to the plaintiff's right to insert the date, &c., many good reasons requiring that the date should be upon the plate."

The reason for requiring the name and the date to appear on the print is, according to Lord Kenyon, "that they might convey some useful intelligence to the public. The date is of importance, that the public may know the period of the monopoly. The name of the proprietor should appear, in order that those who wish to copy it might know to whom to apply for consent. It seems, therefore, necessary that the date should remain, but that the name of the proprietor should be altered as often as the property is changed."(*c*)

The view taken by Lord Alvanley, in *Harrison* v. *Hogg*, was adopted by the Court of Common Pleas in *Newton* v. *Cowie*,(*d*) after a review of all the cases. They held that in order to maintain an action for pirating prints, the proprietor's name and the date of publication must both appear on the original print, pursuant to 8 Geo. 2, c. 13. Speaking of the statutes 7 Geo. 3, c. 38, and 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, Best, C.J., delivering the judgment of the court, said, "Neither of these two Acts repeats the qualifications of name and date [contained in 8 Geo. 2, c. 7], and the last has, after enumerating different sorts of prints, the words 'any print or prints whatsoever.' But these Acts are in *pari materiâ*, and must be taken together, and it was not necessary to repeat in the last the qualifications contained in the first. The right of action given in 17 Geo. 3 is for the piracy of plates, the monopoly of which is secured by the 8 Geo. 2. It is impossible to suppose the legislature intended that the public should not have the protection afforded them by the first Act against a fraudulent continuance of the monopoly beyond the term prescribed by that Act." This case was followed by the Court of King's Bench in *Brooks* v. *Cock*,(*e*) Littledale, J., remarking, that the words "which shall be truly engraved

(*a*) 1 Camp. N. P. 97.
(*b*) 2 Ves. 327. See also *Bonner* v. *Field* (cited 5 T. R. 44).
(*c*) *Thompson* v. *Symonds* (5 T. R. 45).
(*d*) 4 Bing. 234. (*e*) 3 Ad. & El. 138.

on each plate" are not merely directory, but make such engraving part of the thing to be protected. And in reply to an argument of counsel that 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, passed for the purpose of enlarging the privileges of the artist, gave him a right of action for injuries to his copyright, without any such restriction or condition as is supposed to attach under the previous statute of Geo. 2, Lord Denman, C.J., remarked: "The statutes are evidently connected with each other;" and Littledale, J. added: "the Stat. 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, was intended only to give the proprietors of plates a further remedy. Before that Act, the person infringing the copyright was liable only to forfeit his plate and prints, and five shillings for each print. As many engravings are published at a great expense, this was an insufficient remedy for their being pirated, and, therefore, the Act of 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, was passed enabling the proprietor to recover damages in an action on the case."(*a*)

All the cases agree that the penalties at least cannot be recovered, unless the conditions laid down in the Act of Geo. 2 are complied with.

Publication line. What is sufficient disclosure of proprietorship.

The statute requires that the "name of the proprietor" shall be truly engraved on each plate, as well as "the day of the first publishing thereof." The name of the publisher is not required, but only that of the proprietor. The Act does not, however, say that he shall be called the proprietor on the plate; he may even be described on the plate as the publisher, provided he be in fact the proprietor. Thus, where the publication line contained the words—"London: Published by Henry Graves & Co., May 1, 1861, Printsellers to the Queen, 6, Pall Mall," Henry Graves & Co. being the actual proprietors of the engraving, it was held to be a sufficient compliance with the requisites of the Act. In that case(*b*) Kelly, C.B., delivering the judgment of the Court of Exchequer Chamber, said, "The question is, whether the Legislature, when they required the name of the proprietor to appear, required that he should be expressly described as being the proprietor. They certainly have not said so in terms, and we must put a reasonable construction upon the words they have used. Every one who is at all conversant with these things looks at what is called the 'publication line' for the name of the proprietor. The name which appears on the face of the print must be assumed to be that of the proprietor, and it cannot alter the effect or be less a compliance

(*a*) Cf. *Colnaghi* v. *Ward* (6 Jur. 970).
(*b*) *Graves* v. *Ashford* (L. Rep. 2 C. P. 421; 16 L. T. N. S. 98 36 L. J. 139, C. P.).

with the Act because he is called the publisher. I think the statute has been substantially and literally complied with."

A further objection was urged in the case last referred to —that the words "Henry Graves and Company" imported that Henry Graves had a partner, who *primâ facie* would be a part proprietor of the engraving, and that, as his name was not given the Act was not complied with. It appeared, however, from the evidence, that the person indicated by the words "and company" was a person to whom Mr. Graves paid a fixed sum per month out of his business; and the court held that the payment to a person of a fixed sum periodically did not constitute that person a partner or part proprietor; that Henry Graves, therefore, was the sole proprietor of the engravings in question, and that as his name appeared thereon, the requirement of the statute had been sufficiently complied with.

In *Blackwell* v. *Harper* (*a*) Lord Hardwicke held the words "Elizabeth Blackwell, sculpsit et delineavit" to be a sufficient disclosure of proprietorship.

In the case just referred to only one name appeared on the print, and so no mistake could arise. But even where more than one name appears on the engraving, if one of them is the name of the proprietor, the requirement of the statute is sufficiently complied with. Thus, where the publication line ran "Newton, del., 1st May, 1826; Gladwin, sculp.," the Court of Common Pleas held it to be sufficient. (*b*) "The words on these prints," said Best, C.J., "do not directly designate that the plaintiff is the proprietor, nor do I believe that it has ever been stated on any print that was ever published who was the proprietor. Nor in any one of the cases which have been decided in favour of engravers has the word proprietor ever appeared upon the print. . . . . The words of the Act are satisfied by the disclosure o : the proprietor's name; this is a sufficient indication of the person who is to be applied to for leave to copy the print; coupled with the date, it shows how long the designer has had the monopoly, and fully accomplishes the two objects of the Act." (*c*)

It is not necessary to register engravings or prints under the Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, in order to sue for piracy. Registration is not required even in the case of lithographic prints of a map. (*d*)

(*a*) 2 Atk. 93; Barn. 210, s. c.
(*b*) *Newton* v. *Cowie* (4 Bing. 234). See also *Stannard* v *Lee* (23 L. T. N. S. 306). (*c*) *Ib.* 240. (*d*) *Stannard* v. *Lee* (*ubi supra*).

PART I
CHAPTER IX.

Prints engraved and struck off abroad, but published here, are not within the protection of the Copyright Acts.(*a*)

For the law relating to the assignment of copyright in prints see the chapter on the "Transfer of Copyright," *post*; and as to the piracy of prints, and the remedies for piracy, see the chapters on "Piracy," and "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.

CHAPTER X.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS.

Property twofold.

THE property in a dramatic or musical composition is of a twofold nature. It embraces the copyright in the composition itself, considered simply as a literary production, and also the right of representing the drama or performing the musical composition at any place of dramatic entertainment in the British dominions. Of the two rights the latter, which is the more valuable, was secured to authors and composers at a later period than the former.

From the passing of the Copyright Act of Anne, the authors of dramatic, as well as other literary productions, have enjoyed a copyright in their works; but it was not till the statute of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, that the right of controlling the representation of their dramas in any part of the British dominions was conferred on the authors of dramatic compositions. Before the passing of that Act the author could not prevent anyone that liked to do so from publicly performing on the stage any drama in which the author possessed the copyright. He could only prevent the publication of his work by multiplication of copies of it; and it was held that repeating the piece from memory on the stage was no publication of it.(*b*) The author's composition might also be altered and abridged to make it more suitable for theatrical representation, and might be so represented for profit by whoever pleased.(*c*)

3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15.

The Legislature at length intervened to remedy this defect in the law. 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, commonly called Sir Bulwer Lytton's Act, gave to the author or his assignee of any tragedy, comedy, play, opera, farce, or any other dramatic piece or entertainment composed, and not printed

(*a*) *Page* v *Townsend* (5 Sim. 395).
(*b*) *Coleman* v. *Wathen* (5 T. R. 245); *Macklin* v. *Richardson* (Amb. 694).
(*c*) *Murray* v. *Elliston* (5 Bar. and Ald. 657).

and published, the sole right of having it represented in any part of the British dominions, and to the author or his assignee of any such dramatic production, printed and published within ten years before the passing of the Act, or which might be printed and published after the passing of the Act, the sole liberty of representing or causing to be represented the same at any place of dramatic entertainment in the British dominions during the same period of time that copyright then subsisted in books. A proviso was added saving the rights of parties to whom before the passing of the Act the author or his assignee had given authority to represent his piece.(*a*)

Sect. 2.

The right of the author is further secured by sect. 2, which inflicts a penalty on persons performing pieces contrary to the Act.

The foregoing provisions were extended to musical compositions by sect. 20 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

Duration of the right.

The duration of the author's right to restrain or authorise the performance of his dramatic or musical compositions is by sect. 20 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, made of equal length with the term of an author's copyright in books, *i.e.*, the author's lifetime, and seven years more if they together amount to or exceed forty-two years: if they do not, the right endures for the term of forty-two years from the period of first publication in the case of books, or of first public representation or performance in the case of dramatic pieces or musical compositions.

The section enacts that "the sole liberty of representing or performing, or causing or permitting to be represented or performed, any dramatic piece or musical composition, shall endure and be the property of the author thereof, and his assigns, for the term in this Act provided for the duration of copyright in books; and the provisions hereinbefore enacted in respect of the property of such copyright, and of registering the same, shall apply to the liberty of representing or performing any dramatic piece or musical composition, as if the same were herein expressly re-enacted and applied thereto, save and except that the first public representation or performance of any dramatic piece or musical composition shall be deemed equivalent, in the construction of this Act, to the first publication of any book."

Mode of registration.

As to the manner of registration, the same section provides "that in case of any dramatic piece or musical composition in manuscript, it shall be sufficient for the person having

(*a*) Sect. 1.

PART I. CHAPTER X.

the sole liberty of representing or performing, or causing to be represented or performed the same, to register only the title thereof, the name and place of abode of the author or composer thereof, the name and place of abode of the proprietor thereof, and the time and place of its first representation or performance."

Remedies for infringement.

As to remedies for infringement of the rights, sect. 21 enacts "that the person who shall at any time have the sole liberty of representing such dramatic piece or musical composition shall have and enjoy the remedies given and provided in the said Act of the third and fourth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, passed to amend the laws relating to dramatic literary property, during the whole of his interest therein, as fully as if the same were re-enacted in this Act." See the chapter on "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.

Assignment of copyright does not convey right to represent or perform.

The right of representation is now so distinct from the copyright in a dramatic or musical piece, that the assignment of the latter does not convey the former without an express assertion on the register of an intention to do so.

Sect. 22 enacts "that no assignment of the copyright of any book consisting of or containing a dramatic piece or musical composition shall be holden to convey to the assignee the right of representing or performing such dramatic piece or musical composition, unless an entry in the said registry book shall be made of such assignment, wherein shall be expressed the intention of the parties that such right should pass by such assignment."

Definition of "dramatic piece"

A "dramatic piece" is defined by sect. 2 "to mean and include every tragedy, comedy, play, opera, farce, or other scenic, musical, or dramatic entertainment."

Musical compositions.

From the preceding statutory definition of "dramatic piece," it will be seen that musical compositions are embraced under that head, and that the statutory provisions relating to the performance of ordinary plays apply also to musical entertainments. Sect. 20, indeed, after reciting that it is expedient to extend to musical compositions the benefits of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, enacts that the provisions of the said Act, as well as of the Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, shall apply to musical compositions, and then proceeds to confer on the authors the sole right of representing or performing them in the terms already cited, p. 115.

Long before this enactment it had been held that written music was within the Copyright Act of Anne;(a) but up to the time of the passing of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, the author was

(a) *Bach* v. *Longman* (Cowp. 623).

unable to restrain the unauthorised public performance of his compositions by others. Lord Mansfield, in the very case which decided that music was within the Act of Anne, said: "A person may use the copy by playing it; but he has no right to rob the author of the profit by multiplying copies, and disposing of them to his own use." The author is now placed on a level, in this respect, with the author of dramatic pieces commonly so called.

An introduction to a pantomime, which is the only *written* part of such an entertainment, is a dramatic piece within the protection of this Act.(*a*) It is not correct to say that such an introduction is not an entire and complete piece.(*b*)

Authorship of musical composition accessory to a play.

Where a person is employed by another to write for reward paid to him a musical composition, to be used as part of the representation of a dramatic piece, and as a mere accessory to such dramatic piece, the composer of the musical accessory has no copyright therein. The property in music so composed becomes vested in the employer, and he does not require the consent of the composer in order to represent it. This was decided by the Court of Common Pleas in the case of *Hatton* v. *Kean*,(*c*) where the plaintiff had been employed by the defendant to compose certain music to be performed during and as part of the representation of three of Shakespeare's plays. The musical composition was held to have become the property of Mr Kean, and the plaintiff was held never to have been, within the language of the statute, the owner or proprietor thereof. This case was followed and approved in *Wallerstein* v. *Herbert*,(*d*) where the composer of the musical accessories was employed to find an orchestral band, to procure and pay all the musical performers, and furnish all the musical instruments, to provide, lead, and perform overtures and *entr'acte* music, and the music incidental to the dramatic performances. In performance of his duties under this engagement he composed

(*a*) *Lee* v. *Simpson* (3 C. B. 871).

(*b*) 3 C. B. 881, 882. As to what is a dramatic entertainment within 6 & 7 Vict. c. 68, see *Day* v. *Simpson* (18 C. B. N. S. 680).

(*c*) 7 C. B. N. S. 268; 29 L. J. 20, C. P.; 1 L. T. N. S. 10.

(*d*) 16 L. T. N. S. 453; 15 W. R. 838. See *Keene* v. *Wheatley* (9 Amer. Law Reg. 47), where A., in the general theatrical employment of B., was engaged in the office of assisting in the adaptation of a play for representation, and B. was held to be the proprietor of the additions so made, as products of his intellectual exertions in a particular service in his employment; on the principle that where an inventor in the course of his experimental essays employs an assistant, who suggests and adapts a subordinate improvement, it is in law an incident or part of the employer's main invention.

Pianoforte score of an opera.

the music for a drama called "Lady Audley's Secret," and it was held that he had no copyright in such music.

A pianoforte score of an opera is an independent musical composition separate and distinct from the opera itself; and where such pianoforte score has been arranged by a person other than the composer of the opera, it is incorrect to register the score as the composition of the composer of the opera.(*a*) "It seems impossible," says Cockburn, C.J., "to believe that any musician, however great his talent, whether as a composer or as an executant, from the mere circumstance of having the opera in its entirety before him, that is to say, with all the score for all the instruments, which neither eye nor mind could take in at the same time, could be able to play the accompaniment while singing the music of the opera at the piano. It requires time, reflection, skill and mind so to condense the opera score as to compose the pianoforte accompaniment. I cannot therefore bring myself to think that the pianoforte arrangement of the music of an opera, which originally consisted of vocal music and instrumentation to be executed by some half hundred instruments can be said to be anything else than a specific, separate, and distinct work from the opera itself."(*b*)

Whether a pianoforte arrangement of the score of an opera executed without the consent of the composer of the opera would be an infringement of his copyright therein, has not been expressly decided. In *Wood* v. *Boosey*,(*c*) Cockburn, C.J., carefully guarded himself against being understood to decide that it would not, and Blackburn, J., was of opinion that it would. Kelly, C.B., on appeal(*d*) says, "No doubt it is a piracy of the opera, and the composer may maintain an action against the adapter or the publisher of the adaptation;" but it was not necessary to decide the point in that case.

As to the assignment of the rights treated of in this chapter, the infringement thereof, and the remedies for infringement, see the chapters on "Transfer," "Piracy," and "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.

(*a*) *Wood* v. *Boosey* (L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 340; 7 B. & S. 869; 15 L. T. N. S. 530; 36 L. J. 103, Q. B.: affirmed on appeal, L. Rep. 3 Q.B. 223; 9 B. & S. 175; 37 L. J. 84, Q. B.; 18 L. T. N. S. 105.)

(*b*) L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 350; 15 L. T. N. S. 530; 36 L. J. 103, Q.B.; 15 W. R. 309.

(*c*) L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 350, 354. See the remarks of Lord Abinger, C.B., in *D'Almaine* v. *Boosey* (1 Y. & C. 288).

(*d*) 18 L. T. N. S 108; L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 223; 37 L. J. 84, Q. B: 16 W. R. 485.

CHAPTER XI.

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE copyright in paintings, drawings, and photographs dates from, and is altogether dependent on, the statute 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68. The preamble to that Act states that "the authors of paintings, drawings, and photographs have no copyright in such their works,(*a*) and it is expedient that the law should in that respect be amended."

Nature and duration of the right.

Sect. 1 enacts that "the author, being a British subject or resident within the dominions of the Crown, of every original painting, drawing, and photograph which shall be or shall have been made either in the British dominions or elsewhere, and which shall not have been sold or disposed of before the commencement of this Act, and his assigns shall have the *sole and exclusive right of copying, engraving, reproducing and multiplying such painting or drawing and the design thereof, or such photograph and the negative thereof, by any means and of any size*, for the term of the natural life of such author and seven years after his death."

A photograph of an engraving or picture is a photograph in which copyright is given by this section. In a recent case,(*b*) it was contended in argument that photographs taken from engravings or pictures are not "original" photographs within the meaning of the statute, and therefore that no copyright existed in them, to which Blackburn, J., replied: "It does not appear from the language of the Act that the word 'original' was intended to apply at all to photographs; but if it does, what photograph can be original if a photograph from a picture of an artist is not so?"

Where work is sold to or made for another.

Sect. 1 contains a proviso "that when any painting or drawing, or the negative of any photograph, shall for the first time after the passing of this Act [29th July, 1862] be sold or disposed of, or shall be made or executed for or on behalf of any other person for a good or valuable consideration, the person so selling or disposing of or making or executing the same shall not retain the copyright thereof, unless it be expressly reserved to him by agreement in writing, signed, at or before the time of such sale or disposition, by the vendee or assignee of such painting or drawing, or of such negative of a photograph, or by the person for or on whose

(*a*) See the opinion of Abbott, C.J., in *De Berenger* v. *Wheble* (2 St. N. P. 549).

(*b*) *Graves's case* (20 L. T. N. S. 877; L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 715).

PART I. CHAPTER XI.

behalf the same shall be so made or executed, but the copyright shall belong to the vendee or assignee of such painting or drawing, or of such negative of a photograph, or to the person for or on whose behalf the same shall have been made or executed; nor shall the vendee or assignee thereof be entitled to any such copyright, unless, at or before the time of such sale or disposition, an agreement in writing, signed by the person so selling or disposing of the same, or by his agent duly authorised, shall have been made to that effect."

By force of this section the copyright in a painting, drawing, or photograph made for or on behalf of any other person for a good or valuable consideration, is altogether gone, unless (1) it be either expressly reserved to the author by the vendee or assignee "by agreement in writing signed at or before the time" of sale or disposition, or (2) it be conferred on the vendee or assignee "at or before the time of sale or disposition" by "an agreement in writing by the person so selling or disposing, or by his agent duly authorised."

Sect. 2 provides that nothing contained in the Act "shall prejudice the right of any person to copy or use any work in which there shall be no copyright, or to represent any scene or object, notwithstanding that there may be copyright in some representation of such scene or object." This means that, though the owner of a particular photograph, &c., may have the sole right of multiplying copies of it, nobody else shall be prevented from taking a fresh photograph, &c., of the same object or place. (*a*)

Registration.

Sect. 4 provides as to registration that "there shall be kept at the Hall of the Stationers' Company, by the officer appointed by the said company for the purposes of the Act 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, a book or books called "The Register of Proprietors of Copyright in Paintings, Drawings, and Photographs," wherein shall be entered a memorandum of every copyright to which any person shall be entitled under this Act, and also of every subsequent assignment of any such copyright; and such memorandum shall contain a statement of the date of such agreement or assignment, and of the names of the parties thereto, and of the name and place of abode of the person in whom such copyright shall be vested by virtue thereof, and of the name and place of abode of the author of the work in which there shall be such copyright, together with a short description

(*a*) *Per* Blackburn, J., *Graves's case* (20 L. T. N. S. 881; L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 722).

of the nature and subject of such work, and in addition thereto, if the person registering shall so desire, a sketch, outline, or photograph of the said works."

This section also provides that "no proprietor of any such copyright shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act until such registration, and no action shall be sustainable nor any penalty be recoverable in respect of anything done before registration."

This renders registration necessary on the part of an assignee before he can sue for the penalties imposed by the Act in case of infringement; but it does not make it necessary that all or any previous assignments should also be registered, or that the copyright of the original author should be registered. It is enough that the assignment to the person suing has been registered.(*a*)

Sufficiency of description.

The Act requires that the memorandum of registration should contain amongst other things "a short description of the nature and subject of the work, and in addition thereto, if the person registering shall so desire, a sketch, outline, or photograph" of the work. The question has been raised in two cases, what is a sufficient "description of the nature and subject" of the work within the meaning of this section?

In *Ex parte Beal* (*b*) it was contended that the entry of the name "Ordered on Foreign Service" was not a sufficient description of a picture of a young officer in a railway carriage taking leave of a lady, nor the entry of the names "My First Sermon" and "My Second Sermon" a sufficient description of a picture and a photograph representing respectively a child looking with eyes wide open at its first sermon, and fast asleep at its second. The Court of Queen's Bench, however, thought that the requirements of the statute had been sufficiently complied with.

"Is not the object of the Legislature," said Blackburn, J., "that enough be stated to identify the production, and that the registration must be *bonâ fide*? that a man shall not first claim one thing, and then sue for another? The description must be such as shall earmark the subject." In answer to an argument that the object of the registration was like that of the registration of a patent, viz., to give notice to everyone of certain things which he is not to do, Blackburn, J., said, "That is not the object. Penalties are imposed on persons who copy the work of others. The person who does so must in most cases know that he is

(*a*) *Graves's case* (20 L. T. N. S. 881; L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 722).

(*b*) 9 B. & S. 395; L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 387; 18 L. T. N. S. 285; 37 L. J. 161, Q. B.

pirating from someone. No doubt there is the conceivable case where he does this because he is told by another person who has no authority that he may do so; and if he does this with *bona fides* the penalty should be reduced to a nominal sum. Then, in the case where a man sells copies of a work not made by himself but by others, the statute says this must be done *knowingly*. The object of the Legislature was that there should be such a description of the subject as will be sufficient to *identify* it. For this purpose the conventional name applied to it will in general hardly be sufficient; there should be description of the subject; and whether there is or not is a question of fact for the tribunal. Taking that as the question which was before the justice in this case, and importing our own knowledge of these pictures, which we have all seen, the description of the subject of the first is evidently that of an officer ordered abroad, and taking leave of his friends. So of the second and third: who could reasonably doubt that what was intended to be represented was a child looking with eyes wide open at its first sermon and fast asleep at the second? Some cases were suggested in the argument in which I do not say there might not be some difficulty, as, for instance, the figure of a dog described as 'A distinguished Member of the Humane Society.' So also a bullfinch and a couple of squirrels, described as 'A Piper and a Pair of Nutcrackers.' There it would be right to put a short description of the subject, or at all events wise to give more than the name. But the question here is, does what is given earmark the picture?"

In *Re Walker and Graves* (*a*) the sufficiency of the description of the picture last referred to, "A Piper and a Pair of Nutcrackers," was questioned, but the Court did not find it necessary to pronounce an opinion on the subject.

Registration, &c.

The several enactments in the Act 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, (*b*) with relation to keeping the register book thereby required, and the inspection thereof, the searches therein, and the delivery of certified and stamped copies thereof, the reception of such copies in evidence, the making of false entries in the said book, and the production in evidence of papers falsely purporting to be copies of such entries, the application to the courts and judges by persons aggrieved by entries in the said book, and the expunging and varying such entries, are to apply to the book or books to be kept by virtue of the present Act, and to the entries and assignments

(*a*) 20 L. T. N. S. 877; L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 715.
(*b*) *Vide ante*, pp. 56-59.

of copyright and proprietorship therein under this Act, except that the forms of entry prescribed by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, may be varied to meet the circumstances of the case, and that the sum to be demanded by the officer of the Company of Stationers for making any entry required by this Act shall be one shilling only.(*a*)

Person "aggrieved"

A person who has been convicted of infringing the copyright in certain paintings and photographs of the registered proprietor, but who sets up no title in himself or adduces any evidence to rebut the *primâ facie* evidence of proprietorship afforded by the book of registry, is not a person "aggrieved" within the meaning of this section or of sect. 14 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

"A person," said Hannen, J.,(*b*) "to be 'aggrieved' within the meaning of the statute must show that the entry is inconsistent with some right that he sets up in himself or in some other person, or that the entry would really interfere with some intended action on the part of the person making the application." "It seems," said Blackburn, J., in the same case,(*c*) "that to make a person aggrieved within the meaning of the statute, the applicant must have some substantial objection, and one going to the merits of the registered proprietor's title; then the court may direct an issue, or have the question otherwise disposed of, or, if they think this the proper course, may set aside or expunge the entry. But I do not think it is enough to entitle a person to say that he is aggrieved and that the entry ought to be expunged, that although the registered proprietor has a complete title in equity and in good sense, yet there is some slip either in the signing of the memorandum or in the spelling of a name; this would be my view if it were necessary to decide this question." Compare the language of Willes, J., in *Ex parte Davidson*, cited *ante*, p. 94.

Copyright in paintings, drawings, and photographs is personal property, and assignable as such.(*d*)

As to the infringement of this copyright and the remedies for infringement see the chapters on "Piracy," and the "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.

(*a*) 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, s. 5.
(*b*) *Graves's case* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 724; 20 L. T. N. S. 877). (*c*) *Ib.*
(*d*) 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, s. 3. See the chapter on "Transfer of Copyright," *post*.

CHAPTER XII.

SCULPTURE, MODELS, AND BUSTS.

THE copyright in sculpture, models, and casts is dependant solely on the Act 54 Geo. 3, c. 56; the former Act on the subject (38 Geo. 3, c. 71),(*a*) being now repealed.(*b*)

Subjects in which copyright exists.

Sect. 1 of 54 Geo. 3, c. 56, enacts "that from and after the passing of this Act every person or persons who shall make or cause to be made any new and original sculpture, or model, or copy or cast of the human figure or human figures, or of any bust or busts, or of any part or parts of the human figure, clothed in drapery or otherwise, or of any animal or animals, or of any part or parts of any animal combined with the human figure or otherwise, or of any subject being matter of invention in sculpture, or of any alto or basso relievo representing any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, or any cast from nature of the human figure, or of any part or parts of the human figure, or of any cast from nature of any animal, or of any part or parts of any animal, or of any such subject containing or representing any of the matters and things hereinbefore mentioned, whether separate or combined, shall have the sole right and property of all and in every such new and original sculpture, model, copy, and cast of the human figure or human figures, and of all and in every such bust or busts, and of all and in every such part or parts of the human figure, clothed in drapery or otherwise, and of all and in every such new and original sculpture, model, copy and cast, representing any animal or animals, and of all and in every such work representing any part or parts of any animal combined with the human figure or otherwise, and of all and in every such new and original sculpture, model, copy and cast of any subject, being matter of invention in sculpture, and of all and in every such new and original sculpture, model, copy and cast in alto or basso relievo, representing any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, and of every such cast from nature, for the term of fourteen years from first putting forth or publishing the same; provided, in all and in every case, the proprietor or proprietors do cause his, her, or their name or names, with the date, to be put on all and every such new and original

Condition to be observed.

(*a*) For the opinion of Lord Ellenborough on the inefficient character of this Act, see *Gahagan* v. *Cooper* (3 Camp. 111, 114).

(*b*) By 24 & 25 Vict. c. 101.

sculpture, model, copy or cast, and on every such cast from nature, before the same shall be put forth or published."

The term of enjoyment is, by the above section, to be "fourteen years from first putting forth or publishing" the work; but an additional term of copyright is granted if the maker of the original sculpture, &c., is living at the expiration of the former term, and has not divested himself of the right. Sect. 6 provides "that from and immediately after the expiration of the said term of fourteen years, the sole right of making and disposing of such new and original sculpture, or model, or copy, or cast of any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, shall return to the person or persons who originally made or caused to be made the same, if he or they shall be then living, for the further term of fourteen years, excepting in the case or cases where such person or persons shall by sale or otherwise have divested himself, herself, or themselves, of such right of making or disposing of any new and original sculpture, or model, or copy, or cast of any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, previous to the passing of this Act."

Registration.

Any of the works in which copyright is given by the foregoing enactments may be registered under the Designs Act, 1850 (13 & 14 Vict. c. 104). Sect. 6 of that Act provides "that the registrar of designs upon application by or on behalf of the proprietor of any sculpture, model, copy, or cast within the protection of the Sculpture Copyright Acts,(a) and upon being furnished with such copy, drawing, print, or description in writing or in print, as in the judgment of the said registrar shall be sufficient to identify the particular sculpture, model, copy, or cast in respect of which registration is desired, and the name of the person claiming to be proprietor, together with his place of abode or business, or other place of address, or the name, style, or title of the firm under which he may be trading, shall register such sculpture, model, copy, or cast in such manner and form as shall from time to time be prescribed or approved by the Board of Trade for the whole or any part of the term during which copyright in such sculpture, model, copy, or cast may or shall exist under the Sculpture Copyright Acts, and whenever any such registration shall be made, the said registrar shall certify under his hand and seal of office, in such form as the said board shall direct or approve, the fact of such registration, and the date of the same, and the name of the registered proprietor, or the style or title of

(a) The "Sculpture Copyright Acts" is the name given to the Acts of 38 Geo. 3, c. 71, and 54 Geo. 3, c. 56.

PART I.
CHAPTER XII.

the firm under which such proprietor may be trading, together with his place of abode or business or other place of address."

Copies to be marked "registered," and with date of registration.

Sect. 7 inflicts a penalty on persons making, importing, &c., pirated copies or casts (*a*) of registered works; but it is provided by the same section that no proprietor of any sculpture, model, copy, or cast which shall be registered under the Act shall be entitled to the benefit of the Act, "unless every copy or cast of such sculpture, model, copy, or cast which shall be published by him after such registration shall be marked with the word 'registered,' and with the date of registration."

If the article of sculpture, model copy, or cast is first published out of Her Majesty's dominions, the maker has no copyright in it other than such copyright as may be obtained under the International Copyright Acts. (*b*)

CHAPTER XIII.

COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

THE provisions of the General Copyright Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, apply to "every part of the British dominions," a term which includes "all the colonies, settlements, and possessions of the Crown which now are or hereafter may be acquired." (*c*) The Acts relating to copyright in works of the fine arts also apply to all the British dominions.

The only enactment peculiarly relating to the colonies is the Act of 10 & 11 Vict. c. 95, passed to amend the law relating to the protection in the colonies of works entitled to copyright in the United Kingdom. Previously to the passing of that Act it was absolutely prohibited to import into any part of the British dominions books in which copyright subsisted, first composed, written, or printed in the United Kingdom and printed or reprinted in any other country. (*d*)

Power to suspend, in certain cases, prohibitions against admission of pirated books into colonies.

But the first section of that Act provides "that in case the Legislature or proper legislative authorities in any British possession shall be disposed to make due provision for securing or protecting the rights of British authors in such possession, and shall pass an Act or make an ordinance for

(*a*) See the chapters on "Piracy" and "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.
(*b*) See 7 Vict. c. 12, s. 19.
(*c*) Sects. 2 and 29.
(*d*) See 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 17, and 8 & 9 Vict. c. 93.

that purpose, and shall transmit the same in the proper manner to the Secretary of State, in order that it may be submitted to Her Majesty, and in case Her Majesty shall be of opinion that such Act or ordinance is sufficient for the purpose of securing to British authors reasonable protection within such possession, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, if she think fit so to do, to express her royal approval of such Act or ordinance, and thereupon to issue an Order in Council declaring that so long as the provisions of such Act or ordinance continue in force within such colony the prohibitions contained in the aforesaid Acts, and hereinbefore recited, and any prohibitions contained in the said Acts or in any other Acts against the importing, selling, letting out to hire, exposing for sale or hire, or possessing foreign reprints of books first composed, written, printed, or published in the United Kingdom, and entitled to copyright therein, shall be suspended so far as regards such colony; and thereupon such Act or ordinance shall come into operation, except so far as may be otherwise provided therein, or as may be otherwise directed by such Order in Council, anything in the said last-recited Act or in any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Orders in Council are to be published in the *Gazette*, and laid before Parliament, as well as the Colonial Acts or Ordinances. Sect. 2 enacts "that every such Order in Council shall, within one week after the issuing thereof, be published in the *London Gazette*, and that a copy thereof, and of every such Colonial Act or ordinance so approved as aforesaid by Her Majesty, shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within six weeks after the issuing of such Order, if Parliament be then sitting, or if Parliament be not then sitting, then within six weeks after the opening of the next Session of Parliament."

Colonies within the Act.

The following colonies have brought themselves within the provisions of this Act: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, Bermuda, Bahamas, Barbadoes, Canada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, British Guiana, Mauritius, Jamaica, Newfoundland, Grenada, St. Christopher, Antigua, Nevis, Cape of Good Hope, and Natal.

By sect. 91 of the Act 30 Vict. c. 3, which joins Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into one dominion, under the name of Canada, all matters coming under the head of copyrights in those three provinces are to be within the exclusive legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada, and not within that of the legislatures of the provinces.

India.

An Act of the Legislative Council of India was passed on

PART I.
CHAPTER XIII.

the subject of copyright in the year 1847. After reciting in the preamble that doubts might exist whether copyright could be enforced by the common law, or by virtue of the principles of equity, in the territories subject to the government of the East India Company, and whether the Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, had made provision for the enforcement of the right against persons not being British subjects, it enacts that copyright in every book published in India in the author's lifetime, after the 28th August, 1833, shall endure for the natural life of the author, and seven years after, or for forty-two years, if the seven years sooner expire; and copyright in any book published after the death of the author shall endure for forty-two years, and shall be the property of the proprietor of the author's manuscript.(*a*)

A book of registry is to be kept in the office of the Secretary to the Government of India for the Home Department, and to be open at all convenient times to the inspection of any person on payment of eight annas for every entry searched for or inspected; and certified copies are to be given on payment of two rupees, such copies to be received in evidence in all Courts, and to be *primâ facie* proof of proprietorship.(*b*) The wilful making of a false entry, or producing a false copy in evidence, was made a misdemeanor punishable with imprisonment to the extent of three years;(*c*) but this enactment has since been repealed.(*d*)

In order to sue for an infringement of copyright an entry must be made in the registry book of the title of the book, the time of the first publication, the name and place of abode of the publisher and of the proprietor either of the whole or any part of the copyright, in a form given in a schedule to the Act. A sum of two rupees is to be paid on registering.(*e*)

Every registered proprietor may assign his interest, or a part of it, by making entry in the registry book of the assignment, and of the name and place of abode of the assignee, in a form given in a schedule to the Act.(*f*) A like sum is to be paid on making an entry of assignment.(*g*) Any person deeming himself aggrieved by any entry in the registry book may apply to the supreme court or any judge of it; and the judge may make such order for expunging, varying, or confirming it as he may consider just, with or

(*a*) Sect. 1. (*b*) Sect. 3.
(*c*) Sect. 4. (*d*) By Act xvii. of 1862.
(*e*) Sect. 5. The form of entry is exactly the same as that given in the schedule to 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45. *Vide ante*, p. 88.
(*f*) Sect. 5. The form is the same as that given in the schedule to 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45. (*g*) *Ib.*

without costs, and the secretary of the government shall carry out such order.(*a*)

The enactment as to the copyright in encyclopædias, reviews, magazines, and other periodical works is in all respects the same as that contained in sect. 18 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.(*b*) The proprietor is entitled to all the benefits of registration by making entry in the registry book of the title, the time of first publication of the first volume, number, or part, and the name and place of abode of the proprietor and publisher.(*c*)

A special action on the case lies for infringements of copyright by printing or causing to be printed for sale or exportation without the proprietor's consent in writing, or by having in one's possession for sale or hire without such consent, any book so unlawfully printed.(*d*) The defendant in such an action, if it be tried in the superior courts, must give notice in writing of the objections to the plaintiff's title on which he means to rely,(*e*) and if it be tried in a local court, he must state the same matters in his answer.(*f*) In actions in the superior courts the defendant may plead the general issue and give the special matter in evidence.(*g*)

All copies of registered books which have been unlawfully printed are to belong to the registered proprietor, who, after demand in writing, may sue for them in detinue or trover.(*h*)

All proceedings under the Act for offences committed against it, must be commenced within twelve calendar months after the offence has been committed.(*i*)

A provision is made against the possible suppression of books of importance to the public. Sect. 2 enacts that it shall be lawful for the Governor-General in Council, on complaint made to them that the proprietor of the copyright in any book published after the passing of the Act has, after the death of its author, refused to republish it, or allow the republication of it, and that by reason of such refusal, such book may be withheld from the public, to grant a licence to such complainant to publish the book in such manner and subject to such conditions as they may think fit, and it shall be lawful for such complainant to publish such book according to such licence.

Works published in a colony are foreign works.

If a work of any sort is published in a colony, no copyright can be acquired in it under the Copyright Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45. It stands in all respects on the same footing as any other foreign work; and the only rights

(*a*) Sect. 6. (*b*) *Vide ante*, pp. 97, 98.
(*c*) Sect. 11. (*d*) Sect. 7. (*e*) Sect. 8. (*f*) Sect. 9.
(*g*) Sect. 15. (*h*) Sects. 12, 13. (*i*) Sect. 16.

which can be acquired here in respect of it are those which may be acquired by the author of any other work published abroad, under the International Copyright Acts.

We have already seen (*ante*, p. 33) that the residence of the author in any British colony at the time of the publication of his work in the United Kingdom, is sufficient to entitle him to a copyright in it under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

CHAPTER XIV.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

COPYRIGHT of an international character is altogether dependent on statutory enactments of the present reign.

Since the decision of the House of Lords in *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*, (*a*) it has been a settled rule of law that no foreigner can enjoy copyright in his published work unless he be present in England at the time of its publication here. The statutes which do not deal expressly with the literary property of aliens are interpreted as having reference solely to those who owe allegiance, natural or temporary, to the sovereign of these realms, and as conferring on them alone a copyright in their works. Such Acts, it has been said, have a municipal and territorial operation, and aliens, as such, are excluded from all the benefits secured by them; the copyright enjoyed by British authors being a monopoly conferred on them, at the expense of other British subjects, as an encouragement to the composition of literary works; and it would transcend the legitimate province of municipal law to confer a monopoly on foreigners at the expense of its own subjects. But a reciprocity of protection for their literary and dramatic productions may with advantage be secured to the authors of different countries; and this is the object aimed at by the International Copyright Acts. Three have at different times been passed, of which the first (1 & 2 Vict. c. 59), relating to books only, was repealed by the second (7 & 8 Vict. c. 12), the latter being amended and partly repealed by 15 Vict. c. 12.

Reciprocal protection to be secured.

In order to secure the rights of home authors, it is enacted by the same statute which empowers Her Majesty by Order in Council to grant copyright to foreigners, "that no such Order in Council shall have any effect unless it shall be therein stated, as the ground for issuing the same, that due

(*a*) 4 H. L. Cas. 977; see, however, the opinions of Lords Cairns and Westbury in *Routledge* v. *Low*, cited *ante*, p. 31, and the observations in pp. 31, 32, *ante*.

protection has been secured by the foreign Power so named in such Order in Council for the benefit of parties interested in works first published in the dominions of Her Majesty similar to those comprised in such order."(*a*)

General power to grant copyright to foreigners.

Sect. 2 of 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, gives a general power to Her Majesty to grant copyright to foreigners by such Order in Council as has been named. It enacts "that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any Order of Her Majesty in Council, to direct that, as respects all or any particular class or classes of the following works, namely, books, prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art, to be defined in such order, which shall after a future time, to be specified in such order, be first published in any foreign country to be named in such order, the authors, inventors, designers, engravers, and makers thereof respectively, their respective executors, administrators, and assigns, shall have the privilege of copyright therein during such period or respective periods as shall be defined in such order, not exceeding, however, as to any of the above-mentioned works, the term of copyright which authors, inventors, designers, engravers, and makers of the like works respectively first published in the United Kingdom may be then entitled to under the hereinbefore recited Acts respectively, or under any Acts which may hereafter be passed in that behalf."

In what works.

Duration.

Orders to be published in *Gazette* and laid before Parliament.

The Orders in Council are to be published in the *London Gazette*, and to take effect from the date of such publication.(*b*) They are, further, to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within six weeks after issuing them if Parliament is then sitting, and if it is not sitting, then within six weeks after the commencement of the next session.(*c*)

Term of enjoyment and time for registration may vary.

Different periods of duration for foreign copyright, and different times for registration may be specified by the Order in Council for different countries and classes of works. By sect. 13 it is enacted that the respective terms to be specified by such Orders in Council respectively for the continuance of the privilege to be granted in respect of works to be first published in foreign countries may be different for works first published in different foreign countries, and for different classes of such works; and that the times to be prescribed for the entries to be made in the register book of the Stationers' Company, and for the deliveries of the books and other articles to the said officer of the Stationers' Company, as hereinbefore is mentioned, may be different for different foreign countries, and for different classes of books or other articles.

(*a*) 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, s. 14. (*b*) Sect. 15. (*c*) Sect. 16.

No right to exist independently of the Act.

No right of property is recognised in any of the above-mentioned works except what this Act confers. Sect. 19 enacts "that neither the author of any book, nor the author or composer of any dramatic piece or musical composition, nor the inventor, designer, or engraver of any print, nor the maker of any article of sculpture, or of such other work of art as aforesaid, which shall after the passing of this Act be first published out of Her Majesty's dominions, shall have any copyright therein respectively, or any exclusive right to the public representation or performance thereof, otherwise than such (if any) as he may become entitled to under this Act."

British authors first publishing abroad.

This enactment applies equally to British and to foreign authors who first publish their books or publicly represent their dramatic compositions abroad. And though no convention has been made with the foreign country in which a dramatic piece has been performed, and so a compliance with the requisites of 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, is impossible, the author, though a British subject, is not entitled in this country to any copyright in his drama if it has been first represented abroad.

In *Boucicault* v. *Delafield*, (*a*) where the plaintiff sought to restrain the unauthorised representation of a dramatic piece—"The Colleen Bawn"—composed by him, and first performed in New York, but duly registered at Stationers' Hall on the day of its first representation in England, it was contended, in support of his alleged exclusive right of representation, that the former Copyright Acts were intended to confer a right upon British subjects at all events, and that the International Copyright Act of 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, being intended to extend to foreigners, under certain circumstances mentioned in it, the advantages which British authors had in this country with regard to literary works and dramatic performances could not be construed to take away the privilege already conferred upon British subjects; and that *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* (*ante*, pp. 25–30), not having been determined when the 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, passed, could not be presumed to have been in the purview of the Legislature. The Vice-Chancellor (Wood) was of a different opinion. After pointing out that a foreigner residing here, and first publishing his work here, is entitled, just as much as any British subject, to the benefit of the copyright which applies to dramatic performances, but not if he first published his work abroad, his Honour proceeded: "Now, that being so, how would the law stand when the Act 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, was passed? If Mr. Boucicault had been

(*a*) 9 Jur. N. S. 1282; 33 L. J. 38, Ch.; 12 W. R. 101.

an American, and had first represented his piece in this country, he would have been entitled to the benefit of the provisions of the Dramatic Copyright Act. Then an Act is passed extending to any nation with which the Queen may, through her Privy Council, enter into arrangements for that purpose pursuant to the Act, the privileges which are accorded to all people who first publish their works in this country. If the plaintiff had this sort of double right, it was just that which the 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, s. 19, was intended to extinguish. That Act says that no one shall have this double right. It says, in other words, that this Act having been passed, if any person, British subject or not, chooses to deprive this country of the advantage of the first representation of his work, then he may get the benefit of copyright if he can under the arrangement which may have been come to pursuant to 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, between this country and the country which he so favours with his representation; but if he chooses to publish his performance in a country which has not entered into any treaty or made any such arrangement with regard to copyright, then this country has nothing more to say to him; he must be taken to have elected under which of the two statutes with regard to copyright he wishes to come, by performing his work in one country instead of the other, and he is thereby excluded from all advantage of publishing in the other. I cannot see anything to justify me in restricting the provision or to enable me to say that it applies to foreigners and does not apply to British subjects. The object of the Legislature seems to have been in these cases to secure in this country the benefit of the first publication, and if it extended to any other country the same benefit, it was only to be on certain conditions, namely, that reciprocity should be afforded and that the representation should take place for the first time in England. I am bound therefore to hold that Mr. Boucicault's right fails."

Particulars to be observed as to registry and delivery of copies.

Sect. 6 renders the observance of certain requisites as to registry and deposit of copies necessary to entitle foreign authors, engravers, &c., to the copyright in their works. It enacts "that no author of any book, dramatic piece or musical composition, or his executors, administrators, or assigns, and no inventor, designer, or engraver of any print, or maker of any article of sculpture, or other work of art, his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, or of any Order in Council to be issued in pursuance thereof, unless, within a time or times to be in that behalf prescribed in each such Order in Council, such book, dramatic piece, musical composition,

print, article of sculpture, or other work of art, shall have been so registered, and such copy thereof shall have been so delivered as hereinafter is mentioned."

Registration of books, dramatic and musical compositions

Of books, dramatic and musical compositions (in the event of the same having been printed), it is necessary to register at Stationers' Hall "the title to the copy thereof, the name andplace of abode of the authoror composer thereof, the name and place of abode of the proprietor of the copyright thereof, the time and place of the first publication, representation, or performance thereof, as the case may be, in the foreign country named in the Order in Council under which the benefits of this Act shall be claimed."

Registration of pianoforte arrangement of operatic score.

An arrangement for the pianoforte of the score of an opera is an independent work, and must be registered in the name of the arranger as composer, and not in that of the composer of the original opera, although, if published during the existence of copyright in the original opera, it would have been an infringement of the copyright therein. (*a*)

Therefore, in a clear case of infringement by the defendant of the plaintiff's property, in a pianoforte arrangement of the score of Nicolai's opera, "Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor," made by F. F. Brissler of Berlin, for the representatives of Nicolai, and by them assigned to the plaintiff, the plaintiff was held not entitled to maintain an action against the defendant, because Nicolai, and not Brissler, was registered as the "author or composer" of the pianoforte arrangement. Though the melodies and the harmonies all came from the original composer, and nothing was, in one sense, *invented* by the arranger of the pianoforte score; still, as the arrangement of such a score requires skill and judgment, it was held to be a distinct and independent work, of which the arranger, and not the original composer of the opera, should have been registered as the "author or composer." (*b*)

Mode of registration where book is published anonymously.

If a book is published anonymously it is provided by sect. 7 that "it shall be sufficient to insert in the entry thereof in such register book the name and place of abode of the first publisher thereof, instead of the name and place of abode of the author thereof, together with a declaration that such entry is made either on behalf of the author, or on behalf of such first publisher, as the case may require."

Registration of dramatic and musical compositions in manuscript.

Of dramatic and musical compositions in manuscript it is necessary to register at Stationers' Hall "the title to the same, the name and place of abode of the author or composer

(*a*) *Wood* v. *Boosey* (7 B. & S. 869; L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 340; 15 L. T. N. S. 530; affirmed by the Exchequer Chamber, 9 B. & S. 175; L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 223; 37 L. J. 84, Q. B; 18 L. T. N. S. 105). (*b*) *Ib.*

thereof, the name and place of abode of the proprietor of the right of representing or performing the same, and the time and place of the first representation or performance thereof in the country named in the Order in Council under which the benefit of the Act shall be claimed."(*a*)

Registration of prints.

Of prints, it is necessary to register at Stationers' Hall "the title thereof, the name and place of abode of the inventor, designer, or engraver thereof, the name of the proprietor of the copyright therein, and the time and place of the first publication thereof in the foreign country named in the Order in Council under which the benefits of the Act shall be claimed."(*b*)

Registration of articles of sculpture and other works of art.

Of articles of sculpture, and other such works of art, it is necessary to register at Stationers' Hall "a descriptive title thereof, the name and place of abode of the maker thereof, the name of the proprietor of the copyright therein, and the time and place of its first publication in the foreign country named in the Order in Council, under which the benefit of this Act shall be claimed."(*c*)

Deposit of copies.

As to deposit, the enactment is that "One printed copy of the whole of such book and of such dramatic piece or musical composition, in the event of the same having been printed, and of every volume thereof, upon the best paper upon which the largest number or impression of the book, dramatic piece, or musical composition shall have been printed for sale, together with all maps and prints relating thereto, shall be delivered to the officer of the Company of Stationers, at the Hall of the said Company."(*d*)

It is not stated within what time the deposit should be made.

Deposit in case of subsequent editions of books.

As to editions after the first, sect. 12 provides, "that it shall not be requisite to deliver to the said officer of the said Stationers' Company any printed copy of the second or of any subsequent edition of any book or books so delivered as aforesaid, unless the same shall contain additions or alterations."

As to deposit of prints, the enactment is that "a copy upon the best paper upon which the largest number or impressions of the print shall have been printed for sale shall be delivered to the officer of the Company of Stationers, at the Hall of the said Company."(*e*) It is not stated within what time the deposit should be made.

The officer of the Stationers' Company to whom the delivery of a copy is made, is to give a receipt in writing for the same, and such delivery is to be to all intents and purposes a sufficient delivery under the provisions of this Act.(*f*)

(*a*) Sect. 6. (*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) *Ib.* (*d*) *Ib.* (*e*) *Ib.* (*f*) *Ib.*

PART I.
CHAPTER XIV.

Deposit in British Museum.

Sect. 11 enacts "that the officer of the Stationers' Company shall, within one calendar month after receiving such book, volume, or print as aforesaid, deposit the same in the library of the British Museum."

As to books, same law in general to apply as if published here.

Whatever provisions are in force at any time with respect to copyright in books published here are to apply equally to the copyright secured by this Act to foreign authors or their assigns, unless specially excepted by the Order in Council. But delivery of copies to the British Museum or other libraries is not necessary.

Sect. 3 enacts "that in case any such order shall apply to books, all and singular the enactments of the said Copyright Amendment Act [5 & 6 Vict. c. 45], and of any other Act for the time being in force with relation to the copyright in books first published in this country, shall, from and after the time so to be specified in that behalf in such order, and subject to such limitation as to the duration of the copyright as shall be therein contained, apply to and be in force in respect of the books to which such order shall extend, and which shall have been registered as hereinafter is provided, in such and the same manner as if such books were first published in the United Kingdom, save and except such of the said enactments, or such parts thereof, as shall be excepted in such order, and save and except such of the said enactments as relate to the delivery of copies of books at the British Museum, and to or for the use of the other libraries mentioned in the said Copyright Amendment Act."

Translations.

Sect. 18 added a proviso as to translations which has since been altered. The proviso enacted that nothing in the Act contained should be construed to prevent "the printing, publication, or sale of any translation of any book the author whereof and his assigns might be entitled to the benefit of the Act." But this has been repealed by sect. 1 of 15 Vict. c. 12, so far as it is inconsistent with the provisions of that Act. And sect. 2 of 15 Vict. c. 12, empowers Her Majesty by Order in Council to confer on foreign authors and their assignees the right to prevent the publication in the British Dominions of unauthorised translations of works published abroad, for a period not exceeding five years from the first publication of an authorised translation.

The words of sect. 2 are as follow: "Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, direct that the authors of books which are, after a future time, to be specified in such order, published in any foreign country, to be named in such order, their executors, administrators, and assigns, shall, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained or referred to, be empowered

to prevent the publication in the British Dominions of any translations of such books not authorised by them, for such time as may be specified in such order, not extending beyond the expiration of five years from the time at which the authorised translations of such books hereinafter mentioned are respectively first published, and, in the case of books published in parts, not extending as to each part beyond the expiration of five years from the time at which the authorised translation of such part is first published."

The right is to be protected by all the laws in force with reference to copyright in books published here. Sect. 3 enacts that, "subject to any provisions or qualifications contained in such order, and to the provisions herein contained or referred to, the laws and enactments for the time being in force for the purpose of preventing the infringement of copyright in books published in the British dominions shall be applied for the purpose of preventing the publication of translations of the books to which such order extends which are not sanctioned by the authors of such books, except only such parts of the said enactments as relate to the delivery of copies of books for the use of the British Museum, and for the use of the other libraries therein referred to."

Exceptions in the case of translations.

An exception is made by sect. 7 in the case of articles of a political nature published in foreign newspapers or periodicals, which may be reproduced or translated here if the source from which they are taken is acknowledged. And articles on any other subject similarly published may be similarly reproduced or translated with an acknowledgment of the source whence derived, unless the author has reserved the copyright and stated so in a conspicuous part of the periodical in which it was first published. If the author has so reserved the copyright, he is to enjoy the protection secured to the copyright in books, without observing the formalities required by the 8th section of the Act (*a*) in the case of books and dramatic pieces.

The words of the enactment are, "Notwithstanding anything in the said International Copyright Act [7 Vict. c. 12] or in this Act contained, any article of political discussion which has been published in any newspaper or periodical in a foreign country may, if the source from which the same is taken be acknowledged, be republished or translated in any newspaper or periodical in this country; and any article relating to any other subject which has been so published as aforesaid may, if the source from which the same is taken be acknowledged,

(*a*) See *post*, pp. 140, 141.

be republished or translated in like manner, unless the author has signified his intention of preserving the copyright therein, and the right of translating the same, in some conspicuous part of the newspaper or periodical in which the same was first published, in which case the same shall, without the formalities required by the next following section, receive the same protection as is by virtue of the International Copyright Act or this Act extended to books."

According to the interpretation of this section by Lord Hatherley (when Sir W. Page Wood, V.C.),(*a*) the necessity of observing all formalities is not dispensed with in the case of the proprietor of newspaper articles, but only those formalities enumerated in sect. 8 of 15 & 16 Vict. c. 12. The proprietor is to have the same protection as is given by the International Copyright Act of 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, but subject to all the provisions of that Act, one of which (the 3rd section) declares that under an Order in Council a foreign author is to be subject to all the provisions of the General Copyright Acts, unless it shall be otherwise specified in the order.

International copyright in prints, articles of sculpture, &c.

Foreign prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art are to have the protection of all Acts relating to those first published in this country, unless the Order in Council otherwise directs. Sect. 4 of 7 Vict. c. 12, provides, "that in case any such order shall apply to prints, articles of sculpture, or to any such other works of art as aforesaid, all and singular the enactments of the said Engraving Copyright Acts and the said Sculpture Copyright Acts,(*b*) or of any other Act for the time being in force with relation to the copyright in prints or articles of sculpture first published in this country, and of any Act for the time being in force with relation to the copyright in any similar works of art first published in this country, shall, from and after the time so to be specified in that behalf in such order, and subject to such limitation as to the duration of the copyright as shall be therein contained respectively, apply to and be in force in respect of the prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art to which such order shall extend, and which shall have been registered as hereinafter is provided, in such and the same manner as if such articles and other works of art were first published in the United Kingdom, save and except such of the said enactments or such parts thereof as shall be excepted in such order."

It has been held, on the construction of this section, that the proprietor of a foreign print cannot claim copyright in

(*a*) *Cassell* v. *Stiff* (2 K. & J. 285).
(*b*) *Vide ante*, the chapter on "Sculpture, Models, and Busts."

it under the International Copyright Act, unless the date of publication and the name of the proprietor are engraved on the plate and printed on the print, in accordance with the provisions of 8 Geo. 2, c. 13.(*a*)

Right of representing dramatic and musical pieces.

The sole right of representing here dramatic and musical pieces first publicly performed abroad may also be conferred by Order in Council for any period not exceeding (it may be less than) the time during which composers of pieces first performed at home enjoy a similar right, and subject to all the same statutory provisions that are or may be in force with respect to pieces first performed here.

By sect. 5 of 7 Vict. c. 12, it is enacted "that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any Order of Her Majesty in Council, to direct that the authors of dramatic pieces and musical compositions which shall after a future time, to be specified in such order, be first publicly represented or performed in any foreign country to be named in such order, shall have the sole liberty of representing or performing in any part of the British dominions such dramatic pieces or musical compositions during such period as shall be defined in such order, not exceeding the period during which authors of dramatic pieces and musical compositions first publicly represented or performed in the United Kingdom may for the time be entitled by law to the sole liberty of representing and performing the same; and from and after the time so specified in any such last-mentioned order the enactments of the said Dramatic Literary Property Act and of the said Copyright Amendment Act, and of any other Act for the time being in force with relation to the liberty of publicly representing and performing dramatic pieces or musical compositions, shall, subject to such limitation as to the duration of the right conferred by any such Order as shall be therein contained, apply to and be in force in respect of the dramatic pieces and musical compositions to which such order shall extend, and which shall have been registered as hereinafter is provided, in such and the same manner as if such dramatic pieces and musical compositions had been first publicly represented and performed in the British dominions, save and except such of the said enactments or such parts thereof as shall be excepted in such order."

Unauthorised translations of dramatic pieces.

The Act of 15 Vict. c. 12, enables Her Majesty, by Order in Council, to confer a further right on the authors of dramatic pieces first represented in a foreign country—namely, the right to prevent the representation of any unauthorised translation of such dramatic pieces for a period not exceed-

(*a*) *Avanzo* v. *Mudie* (10 Exch. 203).

ing five years, from the first publication or representation of an authorised translation.

Sect. 4 of that Act provides that "Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, direct that authors of dramatic pieces which are, after a future time, to be specified in such order, first publicly represented in any foreign country, to be named in such order, their executors, administrators, and assigns, shall, subject to the provisions hereinafter mentioned or referred to, be empowered to prevent the representation in the British dominions of any translation of such dramatic pieces not authorised by them, for such time as may be specified in such order, not extending beyond the expiration of five years from the time at which the authorised translations of such dramatic pieces hereinafter mentioned are first published or publicly represented."

This right is to be protected by all the enactments applying to dramatic pieces first represented here. According to sect. 5 of the Act last referred to, "subject to any provisions or qualifications contained in such last-mentioned order, and to the provisions hereinafter contained or referred to, the laws and enactments for the time being in force for ensuring to the author of any dramatic piece first publicly represented in the British dominions the sole liberty of representing the same shall be applied for the purpose of preventing the representation of any translations of the dramatic pieces to which such last-mentioned order extends, which are not sanctioned by the authors thereof."

Adaptations, &c., to English stage not prevented.

But it is provided by sect. 6 that "nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent fair imitations or adaptations to the English stage of any dramatic piece or musical composition published in any foreign country."

Requisites to be complied with in order to prevent translation.

Certain requisites must be observed to entitle the author of foreign books or dramatic pieces to prevent their translation. They are enumerated in the 8th section. It enacts that "no author, or his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, or of any Order in Council issued in pursuance thereof, in respect of the translation of any book or dramatic piece, if the following requisitions are not complied with; (that is to say): 1. The original work from which the translation is to be made must be registered, and a copy thereof deposited in the United Kingdom in the manner required for original works by the said International Copyright Act,(*a*) within three calendar months of its first publication in the foreign country: 2. The author must notify on the title page of the original

(*a*) *Vide ante*, pp. 133-135.

work, or if it is published in parts, on the title page of the first part, or if there is no title page, on some conspicuous part of the work, that it is his intention to reserve the right of translating it: 3. The translation sanctioned by the author, or a part thereof, must be published either in the country mentioned in the Order in Council by virtue of which it is to be protected or in the British dominions, not later than one year after the registration and deposit in the United Kingdom of the original work, and the whole of such translation must be published within three years of such registration and deposit: 4. Such translation must be registered and a copy thereof deposited in the United Kingdom within a time to be mentioned in that behalf in the order by which it is protected, and in the manner provided by the said International Copyright Act for the registration and deposit of original works: 5. In the case of books published in parts, each part of the original work must be registered and deposited in this country in the manner required by the said International Copyright within three months after the first publication thereof in the foreign country: 6. In the case of dramatic pieces the translation sanctioned by the author must be published within three calendar months of the registration of the original work.

The above requisitions are to apply to articles originally published in newspapers or periodicals if the same be afterwards published in a separate form, but not to such articles as originally published. (*a*)

Translation must be of whole work.

This enactment contemplates and requires that the whole of the foreign work shall be translated; and it would not be a compliance with it for the author or his assignee to translate a portion only of it, and claim protection for that as the authorised translation. (*b*)

What the Act requires is that a translation should be made accessible to the English people in order that they may have the opportunity of knowing the foreign work as accurately as it is possible to know it by the medium of a version in English. (*c*)

Where the original work was a French comedy called "Frou-frou," and the version sanctioned by the foreign authors and published in England was entitled "Like to Like," the names of the characters and the scenery being changed from French to English, English manners being in some instances substituted for French, and considerable

(*a*) Sect. 8.
(*b*) *Per* James, V. C., *Wood* v. *Chart* (L. Rep. 10 Eq. 204; 22 L. T. N. S. 432; 39 L. J. 641, Ch.)
(*c*) *Ib.*

omissions and alterations of passages being made, it was held that this version was not a translation within the meaning of the Act such as to entitle the foreign authors and their assignees to the benefit of the Act. (*a*)

"It appears to me," said James, V.C., "that the plaintiff in this case has gone out of his course to dig a pitfall for himself, for what he says he has done is, the original thing being called 'Frou-frou,' he has published in England a comedy called "'Like to Like,' a comedy in five acts, being an English version of MM. Meilhac and Halévy's 'Frou-frou,' written by H. Sutherland Edwards." Then he has introduced English characters; he has transferred the scene to England; he has made the alterations necessary for making it an English comedy, and he has left out a great number of speeches and passages, especially in the first act, which would seem to me to imply that at first he was really making an imitation or adaptation, and afterwards was minded more completely to make a translation. The first two acts seem to me particularly to be what is referred to in the Act itself as an imitation or adaptation. Whether it is a fair imitation or adaptation is another question; but if one wanted to have an example of what is an imitation or adaptation to the English stage, one would have said this is exactly the thing which is meant. It is an imitation and adaptation to the English stage; that is, you have transferred the characters to England; you make them English characters; you introduce English manners, and you leave out things which you say would not be suitable for representation on the English stage. Now, that is not, in my view of the case, what the Act requires, for some sufficient purpose as I have said before, when it requires that a translation should be made accessible to the English people. . . . . Having come to the conclusion that this is not a translation, I have also come to the conclusion that the plaintiff has failed in complying with the conditions precedent which the Act has imposed upon him in order to entitle him to sustain this suit. It is said that one ought to give a liberal interpretation to the statute, and that one ought not to strain the meaning of a 'translation,' or any other word, for the purpose of depriving a foreign author of the benefit of the Act. Of course not. One ought to take a liberal view, and one ought not to strain the words; but one must apply and give a natural meaning to the words. According to my view of the case, there would not have been the slightest difficulty whatever in the

(*a*) *Wood* v. *Chart* (L. Rep. 10 Eq. 204; 22 L. T. N. S. 432; 39 L. J. 641, Ch.

plaintiff obtaining the full benefit of his assignment, and of putting himself in a position to prevent any representation of the French play, or of any English translation of it, if he had simply employed Mr. Sutherland Edwards to do what Mr. Edwards could very well have done, namely, to make a translation; that is to say, if he had said, 'now make a translatior of this; do not be thinking of adaptation or imitation for the English stage, but make a translation of it.' Mr. Edwards could well have made such a translation, and it could have been published in this country; and if it had been published in this country, then it would have been quite open to the author, or the person claiming under the author, to have represented that translation with any abbreviation, with any excision, with any alteration,' with any adaptation which he might have thought fit for the purpose of making it more suitable to the English stage. I have no doubt, whatever, if he had first published a translation, that he could then have acted the piece which Mr. Sutherland Edwards has called a 'version,' and that nobody else could have acted anything like that—anything approaching to that—because, although I say this is not a translation, but in my view is rather an imitation or adaptation to the English stage, I have no hesitation whatever in saying that, if the author had complied with the condition required by the Act of Parliament, or any other person claiming under the author had complied with that condition, I should at once have restrained the acting of such a piece as this by any one else as not being a fair imitation or adaptation, but as being a piratical translation of the original work. That would have been the proper thing for me to have done in that case; but the plaintiff having brought his suit, not having a title, must fail; and must fail, of course, with the usual consequences of the experiment which he has tried, and must pay the costs."

Keeping, inspecting, &c., register.

All the provisions of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, relating to the subject of registration are to apply to entries under this Act. Sect. 8 of 7 Vict. c. 12, provides, "that the several enactments in the said Copyright Amendment Act contained with relation to keeping the said register book, and the inspection thereof, the searches therein, and the delivery of certified and stamped copies thereof, the reception of such copies in evidence, the making of false entries in the said book, and the production in evidence of papers falsely purporting to be copies of entries in the said book, the applications to the courts and judges by persons aggrieved by entries in the said book, and the expunging and varying such entries,

shall apply to the books, dramatic pieces, and musical compositions, prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art, to which any Order in Council issued in pursuance of this Act shall extend, and to the entries and assignments of copyright and proprietorship therein, in such and the same manner as if such enactments were here expressly enacted in relation thereto, save and except that the forms of entry prescribed by the said Copyright Amendment Act may be varied to meet the circumstances of the case, and that the sum to be demanded by the officer of the said Company of Stationers for making any entry required by this Act shall be one shilling only."

Entry grounded on wrongful first publication.

If an entry be made grounded on a wrongful first publication, the remedy for such entry is stated in the 9th section. It enacts "that every entry made in pursuance of this Act of a first publication shall be *primâ facie* proof of a rightful first publication; but if there be a wrongful first publication, and any party have availed himself thereof to obtain an entry of a spurious work, no order for expunging or varying such entry shall be made unless it be proved to the satisfaction of the court or of the judge taking cognizance of the application for expunging or varying such entry, first, with respect to a wrongful publication in a country to which the author or first publisher does not belong, and in regard to which there does not subsist with this country any treaty of international copyright, that the party making the application was the author or first publisher, as the case requires; second, with respect to a wrongful first publication either in the country where a rightful first publication has taken place, or in regard to which there subsists with this country a treaty of international copyright, that a court of competent jurisdiction in any such country where such wrongful first publication has taken place has given judgment in favour of the right of the party claiming to be the author or first publisher."

Importation of pirated copies prohibited

The international copyright given by the preceding enactments is secured by prohibiting the importation of books in which it exists, printed or reprinted elsewhere than in the country where they were first published, and subjecting their importation to the customs laws for preventing the importation of other goods; and also by subjecting to a special action on the case at the suit of the proprietor of the copyright(*a*) all who import such prohibited or unlawfully

(*a*) This action is "to be brought and prosecuted in the same courts, and in the same manner, and with the like restrictions upon the proceedings of the defendant, as are respectively prescribed in the Copy-

printed copies, or who, knowing that they have been illegally imported or unlawfully printed, sell, publish, or expose to sale or hire, or have in their possession for that purpose, any such copies of them.(*a*)

Copies may, however, be imported "by or with the consent of the registered proprietor of the copyright thereof, or his agent authorised in writing."(*b*)

Extension of prohibition to works of art, and unauthorised translations.

These provisions are, by 15 Vict. c. 12, extended to the importation of any work of literature or art in which copyright subsists, and of unauthorised translations of books or dramatic pieces, except by or with the consent of the registered proprietor of the copyright in such work, or of such book or piece, or his agent authorised in writing. And the same Act extends the provisions of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, as to the forfeiture, &c., of imported copies, printed abroad, of British copyright books, to those works prohibited to be imported by the Act.

Sect. 9 of 15 Vict. c. 12, enacts that "all copies of any works of literature or art wherein there is any subsisting copyright by virtue of the International Copyright Act and this Act, or of any Order in Council made in pursuance of such Acts or either of them, and which are printed, reprinted, or made in any foreign country except that in which such work shall be first published, and all unauthorised translations of any book or dramatic piece the publication or public representation in the British dominions of translations whereof not authorised as in this Act mentioned shall for the time being be prevented under any Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act, are hereby absolutely prohibited to be imported into any part of the British dominions, except by or with the consent of the registered proprietor of the copyright of such work or of such book or piece, or his agent authorised in writing; and the provision of the Act of the sixth year of Her Majesty 'to amend the law of copyright,' for the forfeiture, seizure, and destruction of any printed book first published in the United Kingdom wherein there shall be copyright, and reprinted in any country out of the British dominions, and imported into any part of the British dominions by any person not being the proprietor of the copyright, or a person authorised by such proprietor, shall extend and be applicable to all copies of any works of literature and art, and to all translations the importation whereof

right Amendment Act (5 & 6 Vict. c. 45) with relation to actions thereby authorised to be brought by proprietors of copyright against persons importing or selling books unlawfully printed in the British dominions:" (Sect. 10). (*a*) Sect. 10. (*b*) *Ib.*

PART I. CHAPTER XIV.

into any part of the British dominions is pronibited under this Act."

French works.

In pursuance of the powers conferred on the Sovereign by the Act 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, a convention for an international copyright between this country and the French Republic was signed at Paris on the 3rd November, 1851, and presented to both Houses of Parliament in 1852. An Order in Council was made on the 10th January, 1852. After reciting that the convention had been made, the Order proceeds: "Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of her Privy Council, and by virtue of the authority committed to her by an Act passed in the session of Parliament holden in the seventh and eighth years of her reign, intituled 'an Act to amend the Law relating to International Copyright,' doth order, and it is hereby ordered, that from and after the 17th day of January, 1852, the authors, inventors, designers, engravers, and makers of any of the following

Subjects of copyright.

works (that is to say), books, prints, articles of sculpture, dramatic works, musical compositions, and any other works of literature and the fine arts, in which the laws of Great Britain give to British subjects the privilege of copyright, and the executors, administrators, and assigns of such authors, inventors, designers, engravers, and makers respectively, shall, as respects works first published within the dominions of France, after the said 17th day of January,

Duration.

1852, have the privilege of copyright therein for a period equal to the term of copyright which authors, inventors, designers, engravers, and makers of the like works respectively first published in the United Kingdom are by law

Conditions.

entitled to, provided such books, dramatic pieces, musical compositions, prints, articles of sculpture, or other works of art, have been registered, and copies thereof have been delivered according to the requirements of the said recited Act,(*a*) within three months after the first publication thereof in any part of the French dominions; or if such work be published in parts, then within three months after the publication of the last part thereof.

Right of representation or performance.

"And it is hereby further ordered that the authors of dramatic pieces and musical compositions which shall after the said 17th day of January, 1852, be first publicly represented or performed within the dominions of France, or their assignees, shall have the sole liberty of representing or performing in any part of the British dominions such dramatic pieces or musical compositions during a period equal to the period during which authors of dramatic pieces and musical

(*a*) *Vide ante*, p. 133-135.

compositions first publicly represented or performed in the United Kingdom, or their assignees, are entitled by law to the sole liberty of representing or performing the same, provided such dramatic pieces or musical compositions have been registered, and copies thereof have been delivered, according to the requirements of the said recited Act, within three months after the time of their being first represented or performed in any part of the French dominions."

French copyright for English works.

By the terms of the Convention of 3rd November, 1851, to secure a copyright in France for works first published in the British dominions, every such work must be registered at the Bureau de la Librairie of the Ministry of the Interior at Paris; the charge for registration not to exceed one franc and twenty-five centimes; the charge for a certificate of such registration not to exceed six francs and twenty-five centimes, and a copy of the best edition, or in the best state, is to be given for deposit at the National Library at Paris.

Work published in parts.

The provision in the preceding Order in Council as to works published in parts, which gives a copyright in them if registered within three months after the publication of the last part, must, according to Sir W. Page Wood, V.C. (now Lord Hatherley, C.), (*a*) be interpreted as referring to publications which are to be completed in a specified number of parts, and not to those which are to be continued for an indefinite period as newspapers. The effect of the other construction would be that at any period the publisher of such a work might register it, and carry back his copyright to the earliest period in. 1852, when French authors first had a copyright in this country—a result which could not have been intended by the Order in Council.

In the case of a newspaper the first number must be registered within three months after publication, in order to bring it within the provisions of the International Copyright Act; and where it was not proved in evidence that the first number of a newspaper had not been so registered, an injunction to restrain its infringement was refused. (*b*)

Conventions with other countries.

Besides the convention made with France, conventions to secure international copyright have also been made with the following countries:—Prussia, Saxony, Saxe-Weimar, Saxe-Meiningen, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Brunswick, Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, Reuss (all in 1846), registration and delivery of copies being required within twelve months after the first

(*a*) *Cassell* v. *Stiff* (2 K. & J. 286). (*b*) *Ib.*

publication of the work in any of those dominions; Thuringia (1847) same time for registration and delivery; Hanover (1847) same time for registration and delivery; Oldenburg (1847) same time for registration and delivery; Anhalt (1853) same time for registration and delivery; Hamburgh (1853) registration and delivery being required within three months after publication; Belgium (1855) same time for registration and delivery; Spain (1857) same time for registration and delivery; Sardinia, same time for registration and delivery; Hesse Darmstadt (1862) registration and delivery to be made within twelve months.

An Act of the 9 & 10 Vict. c. 58, enables Her Majesty by Order in Council to reduce the duties on books and prints published in and imported from any foreign country, such Order in Council to be twice published in the *Gazette* within fourteen days after the issuing thereof, and to be laid before Parliament within six weeks after the issuing of it, if Parliament be then sitting, or, if not, within six weeks after the commencement of the next session.

CHAPTER XV.

TRANSFER OF COPYRIGHT.

DEVOLUTION OF COPYRIGHT.

Copyright is personal property.

OF the two kinds of property recognised by our law, real—which descends in cases of intestacy on the heir-at-law—and personal—which devolves on the personal representative of the owner—copyright belongs to the latter class, that of personal property. Sect. 25 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, enacts, as to works of a literary, dramatic, or musical character, "that all copyright shall be deemed personal property, and shall be transmissible by bequest, or, in case of intestacy, shall be subject to the same law of distribution as other personal property, and in Scotland shall be deemed to be personal and moveable estate."

The words "personal representative," with reference to the provisions of this Act, are defined in the interpretation clause to mean and include "every executor, administrator, and next of kin, entitled to administration."

Sect. 3 of 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, has a similar enactment as to the nature of the property in paintings, drawings, and photographs.

Where, then, the owner of copyright in any published or unpublished production dies intestate, the copyright in such production devolves, by operation of law, upon his executor or administrator, who, as such, possesses all the rights that the original owner enjoyed.

Intestacy.

Even before the above enactment copyright, like all other personal property, might be left by the proprietor by will; as a patentee might bequeath his interest in a patent.

Bequest.

In the event of the marriage of a female proprietor of copyright, her copyright, as well as her other personalty, would become the property of her husband by operation of law.(*a*)

Marriage.

Whether the right of publishing an *unpublished* work of an author passes to his assignees in case of bankruptcy, or may be made available by his creditors on an execution is doubtful, never having been the subject of express decision.(*b*)

Execution and bankruptcy.

It has been held by the Supreme Court of the United States,(*c*) that copyright in a published print is the subject of seizure or sale by execution, although it may be reached by a creditor's bill, and applied to the payment of the debts of the author. In that case the copperplate engraving of a map, in which the plaintiff had secured a copyright, was seized and sold under an execution; but the purchaser was restrained from striking off and selling copies of the map. "The copperplate engraving," said the Court, "like any other tangible personal property, is the subject of seizure and sale, on execution, and the title passes to the purchaser, the same as if made at a private sale. But the incorporeal right, secured by the statute to the author, to multiply copies of the map by the use of the plate, being intangible and resting altogether in grant, is not the subject of seizure or sale by means of this process —certainly not at common law. No doubt the property may be reached by a creditor's bill, and be applied to the payment of the debts of the author, the same as stock of the debtor is reached and applied, the Court compelling a transfer and sale of the stock for the benefit of the creditors. But in case of such remedy, we suppose, it would be necessary for the Court to compel a transfer to the purchaser, in conformity with the requirements of the Copyright Act, in order to invest him with a complete title to the property."(*d*)

(*a*) 18 Scotch Ses. Cas. 911.
(*b*) See 4 Burr. 2311; Amb. 695; *Atherley* v. *Vernon* (10 Mod. 518).
(*c*) *Stevens* v. *Cady* (14 How. 528).
(*d*) See also *Stevens* v. *Gladding* (17 How. 447).

The property in a newspaper passes to the assignees of the proprietor on his bankruptcy(*a*). The right of publishing it is "goods or chattels" within the meaning of sect. 125 of the Bankruptcy Act, 1849(*b*) which provides for goods and chattels of which the bankrupt is reputed owner passing to the assignees.(*c*)

ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHT.

Definition of "assigns."

The word "assigns" with reference to copyright is defined by sect. 2 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, to mean and include "every person in whom the interest of an author in copyright shall be vested, whether derived from such author before or after the publication of any book, and whether acquired by sale, gift, bequest, or by operation of law or otherwise."

Unpublished works.

In the case of unpublished productions of a literary nature, and of unpublished engravings, there is no statutory enactment as to the assignment of the copyright.

We have already seen that a foreign author residing abroad cannot by assigning the copyright which he possesses in his work in the foreign country enable his assignee to acquire a copyright in this country.(*d*)

Copyright—how far divisible.

The copyright of an author being the sole privilege of printing and publishing copies in the United Kingdom *or any part of the British Dominions*, the question has arisen whether a valid assignment can be made of the right to print and publish in some particular part only of the British Dominions—whether the enjoyment of the right can be limited as to locality?

Sect. 13 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, provides for the entry in the registry book at Stationers' Hall of the title of the book, time of first publication, name and abode of the publisher and of the proprietor "of the copyright of the said book or *of any portion of such copyright;*" and it enacts that it shall be lawful for every such registered proprietor to assign "his interest or *any portion of his interest therein*" by entry in the book. This shows that a partial assignment is valid, but it is not clear from the language of the enactment whether an assignment may be limited as to time only or as to locality likewise.

Not divisible as to locality.

The point has not been expressly decided in any case, but the opinions of several eminent judges are in favour of the

(*a*) *Longman* v. *Tripp* (2 Bos. & P. N. S. 67).
(*b*) See sect. 15 of the Bankruptcy Act, 1869 (32 & 33 Vict. c. 71).
(*c*) *Re Baldwin* (2 De G. & J. 230).
(*d*) *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* (4 H. L. Cas. 815; *ante*, pp. 25-30).

view that copyright is *not* divisible as to locality. In *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*,(*a*) in which there had been assignment to the defendant of an opera for publication in the United Kingdom only, Lord St. Leonards, Pollock, C.B., and Parke, B., were strongly of opinion that copyright is indivisible and consequently incapable of being partially assigned. The case was not, however, decided on that ground. Parke, B., in giving his opinion to the House of Lords said,(*b*) "I am of opinion that this is an indivisible right, and the owner cannot assign a part of the right, as to print in a particular county or place, or do anything less than assign the whole right given by the English law. It seems to me analogous to an exclusive right by patent, which cannot, I apprehend, be parcelled out, though licences under it may." And Lord St. Leonards(*c*) still more strongly, "If there is one thing which I should be inclined to represent to your lordships as being more clear than any other, in this case, it is that copyright is one and indivisible. I am not speaking of the right to license; but copyright is one and indivisible; or is a right which may be transferred, but which cannot be divided. Nothing could be more absurd or inconvenient than that this abstract right should be divided, as if it were real property, into lots, and that one lot should be sold to one man, and another lot to a different man. It is impossible to tell what the inconvenience would be. You might have a separate transfer of the right of publication in every county in the kingdom."(*d*) The assignment in this case took place before the passing of the Act 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, but this Act has made no change as to the extent of copyright. And Maule, J., in *Davidson* v. *Bohn*(*e*) observes, with reference to the language of the section above quoted, "The author or proprietor may assign the right to *less than the full term*. It never could have been intended to introduce the complicated sort of copyright suggested."

Divisible as to time.

It is clear from the language of sect. 13 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, even apart from the interpretation put upon it by Maule, J., in the case just referred to, that an author or proprietor may assign the property in his published work for any limited portion of the *time* that his copyright therein endures.

Copyright may be assigned in two ways.

A valid assignment *inter vivos* of the copyright in published books may be made in either of two ways; first, by writing, which need not, it seems, be under seal; or, secondly, by making entry in the book of registry at Stationers' Hall of

(*a*) 4 H. L. Cas. 815. (*b*) *Ib.* 933. (*c*) *Ib.* 992.
(*d*) See also *per* Pollock, C. B. (*Ib.* 940). (*e*) 6 C. B. 458.

PART I. CHAPTER XV.

the assignment, and of the name and place of abode of the assignee in the form given in a schedule to the Act 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.(*a*)

By writing.

Writing is indispensable to a valid assignment; a parol assignment is not sufficient. This was decided by the Court of King's Bench in *Power* v. *Walker*.(*b*) It was contended in that case that copyright was a mere personal chattel, not included within the statute of frauds, and, consequently, capable at common law, like other personalty, of passing by oral transfer; and that the stat. 8 Anne, c. 19, did not make a writing necessary. The court, however, was of a contrary opinion, considering that as the statute of Anne required a written consent from the proprietor to authorise the printing or reprinting of any book by any other person, the conclusion was almost irresistible that the assignment must also be in writing; an assignment, being in the nature of a perpetual licence, was greater than a license, and if the licence, which is the lesser thing, must be in writing, *à fortiori*, the assignment, which is the greater thing, must be so also. This case was followed in *Clementi* v. *Walker*,(*c*) and by the Court of Common Pleas in *Davidson* v. *Bohn*;(*d*) and, though disapproved in other cases, its binding authority has been recognised.(*e*)

Where the assignees of the copyright in a comedy sought the aid of a court of equity, but did not state in their bill that the assignment to them was in writing, Lord Eldon refused to grant an injunction till that fact should be proved. The plaintiffs, who were unable to state whether the assignment from the author was in writing, afterwards produced an affidavit stating that all the manuscripts of dramatic compositions belonging to the Haymarket Theatre, including the comedy in question, had been assigned to them by three several indentures in writing, dated in the years 1805, 1808, and 1819. Lord Eldon said he would assume the plaintiffs' title to be regular till the contrary were shown, and granted the injunction prayed for.(*f*)

Writing need not be under seal.

Tindal, C.J., in *De Pinna* v. *Polhill* (*g*), incidentally expressed an opinion that a deed was necessary to a valid assignment; and this view would seem supported by the words in which sect. 14 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, speaks of the efficacy of the second mode of assignment—that by entry in the book of registry—of which it enacts that "such

(*a*) *Vide post*, p. 156.
(*b*) 3 M. & Sel. 7; 4 Camp. 8.
(*c*) 2 Bar. & Cres. 861.
(*d*) 6 C. B. 456.
(*e*) See *per* Bramwell and Channell, BB., in *Cumberland* v. *Copeland* (1 H. & N. 118).
(*f*) *Morris* v. *Kelly* (1 J. & W. 481).
(*g*) 8 Car. & P. 79.

assignment so entered shall be effectual in law to all intents and purposes whatsoever, without being subject to any stamp or duty, and shall be of the same force and effect *as if* such assignment had been *made by deed.*" However, Wightman, J., in giving his opinion to the House of Lords in the case of *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*,(*a*) says, "there is nothing in the terms used in the statute of 8 Anne, c. 19, which requires the assignment to be either by deed or attested by witnesses; and at all events, since the statute of 54 Geo. 3, c. 156, it appears to me that an assignment by writing only is valid." And the ruling of the House of Lords in the Scotch case of *Kyle* v. *Jeffreys*(*b*) seems to be decisive of the question. In that case Jeffreys claimed copyright, by assignment from the authoress, in the words of a song written by Miss Eliza Cook, and sought to restrain the publication of the song by Kyle. Jeffreys had registered himself as proprietor at Stationers' Hall, and a certified copy of the registry, which is by statute *primâ facie* proof of proprietorship, was produced at the trial; but his title being impeached by Kyle, other evidence was offered, consisting of a receipt by Miss Cook for a sum of money paid her by Jeffreys, "for copyright of words of a song written by me, entitled 'The Old Arm Chair,'" and also the testimony of a person to whom Miss Cook had stated that she had parted with the copyright in the song to Jeffreys. The reception of this evidence of title was objected to on the part of Kyle; and it was urged that no evidence, written or parol, was admissible to prove the asserted proprietorship without the production of a formal deed of assignment attested by two witnesses. The presiding judge overruled the objection, and admitted the evidence, holding that where the *primâ facie* evidence afforded by the certificate of registration was rebutted, the claimant might still support his title without production of a formal instrument of assignment. The Court of Session upheld this ruling, and the House of Lords, on appeal, decided that it was correct as a general rule. As the evidence of title admitted on the trial in this case was not a writing under seal, the approval by the House of Lords of the judge's ruling, though the objection to it maintained the necessity of attestation as well as sealing, decides that a deed is not necessary to a valid assignment of copyright.

Attestation is not necessary.

It seems now to be finally determined that an assignment need not be attested by witnesses.

(*a*) 4 H. L. Cas. 891.
(*b*) 21 Scotch Sess. Cas. N. S. 8; 18 Scotch Sess. Cas. N. S. 906.

This question was long in an unsettled state, owing to the words in the statute of Anne, and the construction put upon them by the Court of King's Bench in the case of *Power* v. *Walker*.(a) The statute of Anne imposes a penalty on any person printing or publishing a book without the proprietor's consent "first had and obtained in writing, signed in the presence of two or more credible witnesses," but says nothing as to the mode of assigning copyright. *Power* v. *Walker* decided that as a licence to print or publish was required to be in writing, *à fortiori* an assignment, which was greater than a licence, must be so too; and the same reasoning would apply to the necessity of attestation by two witnesses. Then came the Act of 54 Geo. 3, c. 156, extending the duration of the copyright conferred by the statute of Anne, and inflicting a penalty on every person printing, reprinting, &c., any book or books "without the consent of the author or authors, or other proprietor or proprietors of the copyright of, and in such book or books, first had and obtained *in writing*," without making any mention of attestation. As this enactment made unattested licences valid, the inference drawn in *Power* v. *Walker* from their previous necessity should seem to have lost its force; for the reason of requiring an assignment to be attested was that the Act of Anne required the licence to be attested; and as a licence in writing without attestation is sufficient under the Act of Geo. 3, it should follow that an assignment in writing without attestation is also sufficient. However, in the case of *Davidson* v. *Bohn*,(b) decided subsequently to the Act of Geo. 3, it was laid down that for the purpose of transferring copyright there must be an instrument in writing attested by two witnesses; but the case appears to have been considered as if it had arisen before the 54 Geo. 3, c. 156, as that statute was not mentioned in the arguments or judgment. In *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey*(c), also, Lord St. Leonards, Parke, B., and Alderson, B., were of opinion that the provisions of the Acts of Anne and Geo. 3, as to licence and assignment, might well stand together, and therefore that the latter Act did not by intendment repeal the former. But of these judges, Alderson, B., appears to have considered himself bound(d) by the decision in *Davidson* v. *Bohn*, and Parke, B., afterwards changed his opinion.(e)

(a) 3 M. & Sel. 7.
(b) 6 C. B. 456.
(c) 4 H. L. Cas. 815.
(d) See p. 915.
(e) See the judgment of Lord Wensleydale in *Kyle* v. *Jeffreys* (3 Macq. 611).

The question was again distinctly raised in 1861 in the case of *Cumberland* v. *Copeland.*(a) The Court of Exchequer in that case held that the construction put upon the statute of Anne in *Power* v. *Walker* was binding on them still, notwithstanding the Act of 54 Geo. 3, c. 156, and, consequently, that an assignment of copyright, to be valid, must be in writing, attested by two witnesses. This decision was appealed against, and was reversed by the unanimous decision of the Court of Exchequer Chamber (consisting of Erle, C.J., Crompton, Willes, Blackburn, Keating, and Mellor, JJ.), holding that an assignment of copyright made after the passing of 54 Geo. 3, c. 156, requires no attestation.(b) Erle, C.J., said, "An express enactment that a consent in writing should be valid is, to my mind, by implication, an enactment that a consent in writing may be valid without being attested by two witnesses. The former statute [that of Anne] required a consent in writing attested by two witnesses; the latter [54 Geo. 3, c. 156] requires a consent in writing only. It is clear to my mind, after the Act of 54 Geo. 3, c. 156, the plaintiff could not, without infringing the express words of that statute, say a consent in writing was not valid without two witnesses, because there was an enactment to that effect in the statute of Anne. The two statutes are inconsistent. After that time, if a consent in writing is valid without two witnesses, it seems to me, as a matter of reasoning, to follow that an unattested assignment is also valid; for if, as it was argued prior to the statute, because a consent in writing is not valid without two witnesses, so neither is an assignment: as a consent is now valid without two witnesses, so also is an assignment valid without two witnesses.(c). . . . By the 54 Geo. 3, c. 156, the Legislature seem to have taken the view that I have mentioned, and, while still enacting that the contract must be in writing, left out purposely, as it seems to me, the necessity of having two witnesses. In the case of wills it may well be that greater formality and ceremony should be required, in order to avoid all doubt as to the acts of dead men; but no such safeguards are required in an ordinary instrument of commerce. I therefore think the Legislature did wisely in the 54 Geo. 3, c. 156."

(a) 7 H. & N. 118.

(b) 31 L. J. 353, Ex.; 7 L. T. N. S. 334; 10 W. R. 581.

(c) The inference, however, was stronger in the former case, as it was an *à fortiori* argument from the necessity of attestation in the case of a mere licence to its necessity in the case of the greater and more important assignment. The absence of the necessity of attestation in the former case does not furnish an equally strong reason for its non-necessity in the latter case.

Assignment by entry in registry at Stationers' Hall.

The second mode of assigning copyright is by entry in the book of registry kept at Stationers' Hall.

Sect. 13 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, after providing for registration by the author or proprietor, enacts "that it shall be lawful for every such registered proprietor to assign his interest, or any portion of his interest therein, by making entry in the said book of registry of such assignment, and of the name and place of abode of the assignee thereof, in the form given in the schedule annexed to the Act, on payment of the sum of five shillings; and such assignment so entered shall be effectual in law to all intents and purposes whatsoever, without being subject to any stamp or duty, and shall be of the same force and effect as if such assignment had been made by deed."

The form of concurrence of the party assigning the copyright in any book already registered, given in the schedule to the Act is as follows:—

I *A. B.* of being the assignor of the copyright of the book hereunder described, do hereby require you to make entry of the assignment of the copyright therein.

Title of Book.	Assignor of the Copyright.	Assignee of Copyright.
Y.Z.	*A.B.*	*C.D.*

Dated this day of 18 .

(Signed) *A.B.*

The form of entry of assignment given in the schedule to the act is as follows:—

Date of entry.	Title of book.	Assignor of the copyright.	Assignee of copyright.
	[*Set out the title of the book, and refer to the page of the registry book in which the original entry of the copyright thereof is made.*]	*A.B.*	*C.D.*

It is a curious discrepancy that while sect. 13 requires

the entry of "the name and place of abode of the assignee" in the form given in the schedule, in the form itself which is given in the schedule there is no reference whatever to the place of abode of the assignee. Would, then, an entry following strictly the form given in the schedule, and omitting the place of abode of the assignee, be a valid assignment? This question was raised but not determined in *Wood* v. *Boosey*,(*a*) the judgment of the court proceeding on other grounds. The safer course is, to add the place of the assignee's abode.

Must an assignee register before he can sue?

Another point discussed in the case last referred to, was whether an assignee of copyright is a "proprietor" within the meaning of that term in sect. 24 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, which prevents any proprietor of copyright in books from maintaining any action or suit at law or in equity, or any summary proceeding, in respect of any infringement of such copyright, unless he shall, before commencing such action, &c., have caused an entry to be made in the book of registry pursuant to the Act. The court did not decide this question either, but Cockburn, C.J., leaned to the opinion that an assignee was not a proprietor within the application of sect. 24. Lush, J., entertained considerable doubt on the subject, and the other two judges, Blackburn and Mellor, JJ., declined to express any opinion on so doubtful a point. Cockburn, C.J., said "The result of the discussion has been to cause me very strongly to incline to the opinion that sect. 24 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, which requires that the proprietor shall be registered before he shall be entitled to bring an action for the infringement of his copyright, does not apply to the case of an assignee to whom the proprietorship is assigned. The moment the copyright is established in the original proprietor, there is nothing to prevent him from assigning it by any mode by which property of that description can be assigned in law, the statute only affording one mode of making the assignment more convenient and less expensive than the ordinary mode of conveyance by deed.(*b*) If the assignment is made under the statute, then, no doubt, its terms must be complied with. . . . . But taking this not to be a statutory assignment, is it necessary that the assignee should cause an entry of proprietorship to be made under sect. 24 before he can sue? Now, I observe that there is a distinction in the earlier sections between 'proprietor' as applied to the person by whom the work is originally published, and in whom the property originally

(*a*) L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 340; 36 L. J. 103, Q. B.; 15 L. T. N. S. 530.
(*b*) See as to the necessity of a deed, *ante*, pp. 152, 153.

PART I. CHAPTER XV.

vested, and any person who takes by assignment from him; nor do I anywhere in the Act find that the assignee has any right to insist upon having his name entered as the new proprietor: the only case in which the change of the name of the proprietor is to be made being where the statutory form of assignment is resorted to; and even in that case, it is not the assignee but only the assignor who can insist on the change being made in the register. Therefore, to hold that the assignee must make an entry under sect. 24 of his proprietorship, before he can sue for the infringement of the copyright transferred to him, he having no power under the statute, either through the means of this court, or any other means that I can see, to enforce the registration of an entry by way of assignment under sect. 13, and to apply the term proprietor to him would, I think, work considerable inconvenience, if not considerable injustice. However, although I make these observations in passing, to show the matter has not been overlooked, I do not desire to be understood as resting my present judgment on that point." Blackburn, J., observed, "With regard to the objection that there is no entry of the plaintiff as proprietor of the copyright under sect. 24 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, at first I thought the objection fatal to the plaintiff's case, but after hearing the argument my opinion is much shaken, and I would not support the nonsuit on that ground without further time for consideration."

In this state of the law it would obviously be very unsafe for an assignee of copyright to commence any proceeding for infringement of his right without having previously registered at Stationers' Hall.

Sale of copies printed before assignment.

Unless there is some stipulation to the contrary in the conditions of sale, the person who sells his copyright to another may print any number of copies up to the time of the sale, and retain and sell such copies after disposing of the copyright; though, of course, he commits piracy by printing any copies after the sale.(*a*)

Equitable assignment.

Courts of equity have given relief and enforced contracts in many cases where there was no remedy at law. Amongst other maxims which they act on is one—that Equity looks upon that as done which ought to have been done. The most common cases of the application of the rule are under agreements, all such being considered as performed which are made for a valuable consideration, in favour of persons entitled to insist on their performance. Hence a man has in many cases a title recognised and enforced by

(*a*) *Taylor* v. *Pillow* (L. Rep. 7 Eq. 418).

Equity where he has no title at law. Thus an agreement to assign is treated by Equity as a valid assignment, and infringements of literary property have been restrained where the claimant of the aid of Chancery had only an equitable title to relief, and possessed no title recognised at law.

Lord Mansfield, indeed, was of opinion that relief would not be given in such a case, and said, in *Millar* v. *Taylor*,(*a*) that unless a court of equity saw a law right existing in the author it would not interfere. Such also was the opinion of Lord Eldon, in *Rundell* v. *Murray*.(*b*) But Lord Lyndhurst, in *Chappell* v. *Purday*,(*c*) referring to this expression of opinion, observed, "If by this it was meant to be said that a court of equity would only interfere when the legal right was in the party applying for its interference, I will not go so far; because I think that a court of equity will assist any party having an equitable right, where the legal right intervenes to prevent his obtaining justice; otherwise great fraud would ensue."

In *Sweet* v. *Shaw*,(*d*) the plaintiffs, who sought to restrain the infringement of their property in certain reports of cases, furnished to them for publication by two barristers, asserted only an equitable title to the copyright under an agreement with the barristers who reported the cases. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Launcelot Shadwell, was distinctly of opinion that the plaintiffs had made out only an equitable right, but that, nevertheless, they had stated quite a sufficient case to support their bill; and he continued the injunction restraining the defendants from infringing the copyright of the plaintiffs. With reference to the nature of the agreement, the Vice-Chancellor said: "What the plaintiffs state is that they have agreed with A. and B. that A. and B. shall report cases for them; and accordingly A. and B. do take notes of cases, which are printed by Sweet and others, the plaintiffs, and they publish them, and then the plaintiffs aver that they have a copyright in the cases published. Now I think that they have in equity, but I cannot understand how they have got the copyright at law; because I cannot see how, at law, the agreement that persons shall prepare a work for the plaintiffs gives the plaintiffs a copyright at law, for nothing can pass at law except that which actually exists; and it is true, not only with respect to an assignment, but also with respect to a release, as

(*a*) 4 Burr. 2400.
(*b*) Jac. 315. But see the order made by the same judge in *Mawman* v. *Tegg* (2 Russ. 385).
(*c*) 4 Y. & Col.
(*d*) 3 Jur. 217.

Littleton points out, that there cannot be a release of a future right, and consequently there cannot be an assignment of anything that does not now exist."(*a*) The same judge elsewhere (*b*) says, "This court always takes notice of the equitable interest; and if the equitable right to the copyright is complete, this court will take care that the real question shall be tried, notwithstanding there may be a defect in respect of the legal property." And Lord Eldon, in a case of equitable title, where he thought it advisable that an action should be tried at law before he granted an injunction, ordered the defendants to admit the legal title of the plaintiff in the trial of the action.(*c*)

An agreement in writing between an author and a bookseller by which, after reciting that the author had prepared a new edition of one of his works which the publisher was desirous of purchasing, it was agreed that 2500 copies of the work should be printed at the expense of the bookseller, who was to pay the author by instalments a sum named for the said edition, was held to constitute the publisher, not merely the purchaser of 2500 copies of the work, but an assignee in equity of the copyright to the extent of being alone entitled to publish the whole edition, consisting of 2500 copies, and to prevent the piracy of that edition by any other person.(*d*)

On the other hand a written agreement between an author and a publishing firm that the latter "should print, reprint, and publish a work of the author's, at their own risk, on the terms of dividing equally with him any profits that there might be after payment of all expenses; and that if all the copies should be sold and another edition should be required, the author should make all necessary alterations and additions, and the publishers should print and publish a second and subsequent editions on the same terms, and that if all the copies of any edition should not be sold in five years from the time of publication, the publishers might sell the remaining copies by auction or otherwise, in order to close the account," was held by the Lords Justices, affirming the decision of Wood, V.C., not to be a contract for the assignment of the author's copyright but a mere personal contract on both sides not assignable by either party.(*e*) The firm with whom the agreement was made

(*a*) See also *Sweet* v. *Maugham* (4 Jur. 456).
(*b*) *Bohn* v. *Bogue* (10 Jur. 421).
(*c*) *Mawman* v. *Tegg* (2 Russ. 402).
(*d*) *Sweet* v. *Cater* (11 Sim. 573).
(*e*) *Stevens* v. *Benning* (6 D. M. & G. 223; 1 Kay & J. 168).

having been changed, and their interest having been assigned to a new firm, the latter firm was held not entitled to restrain the publication of a new edition by another publisher with the author's concurrence.

Reade v. *Bentley*.

A similar case was *Reade* v. *Bentley*,(a) where an agreement was entered into between the plaintiff and defendant that the latter should "publish at his own expense and risk a book written by the plaintiff, and after deducting from the produce of the sale thereof the charges for printing, paper, advertisements, embellishments, and other incidental expenses, including the allowance of 10*l.* per cent. on the gross amount of the sale for commission and risk of bad debts, the profits remaining of every edition that should be printed, to be divided equally between the plaintiff and defendant; the books sold to be accounted for at the trade sale price, reckoning twenty-five copies as twenty-four, unless it should be thought advisable to dispose of any copies, or of the remainder at a lower price, which was left to the judgment and discretion of the defendant." The Vice-Chancellor (Wood) was clearly of opinion that this agreement was not, and was never intended by either party to be, a contract for the sale or purchase of the copyright. The Vice-Chancellor said, "It is unfortunate that publishers and authors should frame their agreements with so little precision, as from the case of *Stevens* v. *Benning* and this case it appears they are in the habit of doing. At the same time, from what I see in this case, I feel more confident than I did in *Stevens* v. *Benning* that there was no intention to dispose of the copyright by this agreement, because I cannot suppose that authors or publishers are so unaware of the importance and value of that right, as not clearly to express their intention when they mean the copyright to pass."

When the case of *Reade* v. *Bentley* came a second time before the court, the counsel for the defendant did not contend that the agreement amounted to a sale of the copyright, but insisted that the plaintiff had thereby granted to the defendant an irrevocable licence to print and publish. The Vice-Chancellor did not, however, adopt this construction of the agreement. He said:(b) "If the defendant's construction be correct, it follows that so long as he lives and is willing to continue publishing fresh editions of the work, so long, according to the doctrine in *Sweet* v. *Cater*, the plaintiff will be precluded from asserting a right to publish any competing edition. The defendant could compel the

(a) 3 K. & J. 271. (b) 4 K. & J. 664.

plaintiff to abstain from publishing a single copy of the work, so long as he expressed his readiness to continue publishing. But the plaintiff has no reciprocal power. He could never compel the defendant to publish more than a single edition of the work. His powers are limited to what the contract gives him; and according to the contract, when the defendant has published a second edition the contract on his part is fulfilled. This is a position of considerable hardship for an author, and one which ought to be clearly shown upon the face of a contract, to have been contemplated by the parties who entered into it. . . . . It cannot be contended that the agreement on the author's part is like a grant, in which the *onus* is upon the grantor, of showing that he has not parted with all which the grant appears to comprise. The *onus* is here with the party who contends that this agreement amounts to a licence, which upon the face of it, it does not. It certainly is not an assignment of the copyright. It does not appear to me to create more than a joint adventure; and if licence there be at all, it is only a licence so far as may be necessary for carrying out that joint adventure, and an implied licence for that purpose. That being so, the *onus* is upon the defendant of showing that the contrary construction is necessary; and that not being shown, a construction which would leave the author fast bound, and the publisher entirely free, after the publication of one edition, is not a reasonable construction to adopt in considering the effect of an agreement of this character?" His Honour showed his disapprobation of the loose manner in which the agreement had been framed, by giving no costs, considering each party equally in fault for having entered into an agreement so difficult of interpretation.

Where a writer agreed with a publisher to edit a translation of Montaigne's works, adding notes and a biographical sketch of the author, for a particular sum, to be increased by certain other sums as further editions should be published, all the copies published to be printed by the publisher, the intention being that he should have the copyright; and the work was published before the stat. 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45; the question was raised, but it was not necessary to decide it, whether the writer was the author and owner of the copyright in the work. "I do not wish to express a decided opinion," said Blackburn, J., "but my present impression is that he would have been the author, and that the copyright would have been in him, although a court of equity might have called on him to transfer the copyright" to the publisher. Mellor, J., was of a similar

opinion.(a) After the death of the publisher in this case, his widow, with the writer's knowledge and assent, registered the copyright in her own name, under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45; and it was held that the *primâ facie* evidence of her title afforded by the register was not rebutted by the absence of proof of a formal assignment in writing.(b)

Paintings, drawings, and photographs.

In the case of photographs, paintings, and drawings, there can be no equitable title by a parol agreement to assign, as sect. 3 of 25 and 26 Vict. c. 68, expressly provides, with respect to them, that "every assignment and every licence to use or copy, by any means or process, the design or work which shall be the subject of such copyright shall be made by some note or memorandum in writing, to be signed by the proprietor of the copyright, or by his agent appointed for that purpose in writing."(c)

Dramatic and musical compositions.

A valid assignment of the copyright in dramatic and musical compositions, regarded simply as literary productions, and not carrying with them the right of representation, may be made either, first, by an instrument in writing which need not be under seal or attested by witnesses,(d) or, secondly, by entry in the book of registry at Stationer's Hall in the form above given (p. 156) for the assignment of books.

The necessity of writing to confer a title by assignment, valid at law, is apparent from the cases already cited with reference to the assignment of copyright in books, as by the interpretation clause (sect. 2) of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, the word "book" is used to include "every volume, part or division of a volume, pamphlet, sheet of letter-press, sheet of music, &c."

Right of representation or performance.

The right of representing or causing to be represented a dramatic or musical piece is distinct from the copyright in the book containing such dramatic or musical piece, and the assignment of the latter does not carry with it a title to the former. Sect. 22 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, enacts "that no assignment of the copyright of any book consisting of or containing a dramatic piece or musical composition shall be holden to convey to the assignee the right of representing or performing such dramatic piece or musical composition, unless an entry in the said registry book shall be made of such assignment, wherein shall be expressed the intention of the parties that such right shall pass by such assignment."

This section was in all probability passed to obviate the effect of the decision in *Cumberland* v. *Planché*,(e) that when

(a) *Hazlitt* v. *Templeman* (13 L. T. N. S. 593).
(b) *Ib.* (c) *Strahan* v. *Graham* (16 L. T. N. S. 87).
(d) See the cases quoted *ante*, p. 152-155. (e) 1 A. & E. 580.

PART I
CHAPTER XV.

an author simply assigned the copyright, he also parted with the right of representation.(*a*)

Writing is necessary to the assignment of the right to represent, or cause to be represented, a dramatic or musical piece. This has been held to follow by inference from sect. 2 of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15 (the Act which gave the authors of dramatic pieces the sole right of causing them to be represented), which imposes a penalty on any person *performing* dramatic pieces "*without the consent in writing* of the author or other proprietor first had and obtained." As this section renders a consent in writing necessary to justify a single representation, it has been decided by the Court of Common Pleas in *Shepherd* v. *Conquest* (*b*) that an assignment conveying the exclusive right to represent throughout Her Majesty's dominions, or (if that be possible) in some definite part of them, must, in order to be valid, be in writing also. In that case the plaintiffs had engaged by word of mouth one Courtney to visit Paris for the purpose of adapting a piece there in vogue for representation upon the English stage, the terms being that the plaintiffs should give him a weekly salary and pay his expenses, and should have the sole right of representing the piece in London, Courtney to retain the right of representation in the provinces. In pursuance of the agreement Courtney proceeded to Paris, and adapted a piece, which was represented by the plaintiffs at their theatre. Courtney afterwards assigned the copyright in the piece to the defendant, who caused it to be represented at his theatre, whereupon the plaintiffs, claiming the sole right of representation, brought an action to recover the penalties imposed by sect. 2 of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15. It was held that there had been no valid assignment to the plaintiffs either of the copyright in the piece, or of the sole right of representation, and consequently that they must fail in their action.

Assignment of right of representation separately.

Sect. 22 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, in cases where it is intended to assign the right of representation as well as the copyright of a dramatic or musical piece, renders necessary an entry in the book of registry of the assignment, expressing an intention to convey the right of representation. The language of the enactment refers only to cases where it is intended to convey both copyright and the right of representation; nothing is said as to the mode of assigning the

(*a*) *Per Cur.* in *Lacy* v. *Rhys* (4 B. & S. 873; 33 L. J. 157, Q. B. 9 L. T. N. S. 607; 12 W. R. 309).

(*b*) 17 C. B. 427; 25 L. J. 127, C. P. See 17 C. B. 442.

right of representation separately. We have just seen that it must be assigned by writing, and there does not seem to be any other requisite to a valid assignment.

Sect. 22 has no application to the case of a simple assignment of the exclusive right of representation, and an instrument assigning that right does not require to be registered, even though it likewise convey the copyright.(*a*) Where a deed assigned "both copyright and acting right" in a dramatic piece, it was held by the Court of Queen's Bench that registration was not required to entitle the assignee to bring an action for infringement of his right—that sect. 22 does not apply to a case in which there is, in terms, an assignment of the right of representation itself.(*b*)

Where A. wrote a letter to B., agreeing to "let B. have" a drama belonging to A., in discharge of a particular sum which A. owed to B., this was held by Byles, J., at Nisi Prius, to be a complete assignment to B. of A.'s whole property in the drama.(*c*)

The consent of the author or proprietor of a dramatic piece, to its representation, need not be under the hand of the author or proprietor himself, but may be given by an agent.(*d*)

Published engravings.

It is a curious omission in the Acts of Parliament relating to copyright, that none of them mentions the assignee of an engraver, or expressly confers a copyright on such assignee. But sect. 2 of 8 Geo. 2, c. 13, the Act which first gave a copyright in prints, and imposed penalties for infringement of it, provides, "that it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons who shall hereafter *purchase* any plate or plates for printing, from the original proprietors thereof, to print and reprint from the said plates without incurring any of the penalties in this Act mentioned." This section, says Buller, J., in *Thompson* v. *Symonds*,(*e*) takes it for granted that the proprietor may assign. And Grose, J., in the same case added, "When the print was originally published the requisites of the statute were complied with. Then the exclusive right was vested in the engraver; and the instant he assigned to the

(*a*) *Lacy* v. *Rhys* (4 Best & S. 873; 33 L. J. 157, Q. B.; 9 L. T. N. S. 607; 12 W. R. 607). *Marsh* v. *Conquest* (17 C. B. N. S. 418; 33 L. J. 319, C. P.; 10 L. T. N. S. 717; 12 W. R. 309).

(*b*) *Ib.*

(*c*) *Lacy* v. *Toole* (15 L. T. N. S. 512). The *semble* in that case, that an assignment of the right to represent need not be in writing, is incorrect, as the case of *Shepherd* v. *Conquest*, referred to *supra*, shows.

(*d*) *Moreton* v. *Copeland* (16 C. B. 517).

(*e*) 5 T. R. 46.

plaintiff, the latter had every right that the engraver had before."

The assignee may maintain an action for penalties in his own name. It was argued in *Thompson* v. *Symonds* that the effect of the 1st and 2nd sections of 8 Geo. 2, c. 13, taken together, was that the purchaser from the original engraver is merely exempt from the penalties of the statute, but that if any other person copy the plate the action must be brought by the original proprietor, who, perhaps, may be considered as a trustee for the assignee, as to any damages that he may recover. But this reasoning did not prevail, and the assignee was held entitled to maintain the action in his own name.

An assignment of the copyright in engravings, it would seem, must be in writing, signed by the proprietor with his own hand, in the presence of, and attested by, two or more credible witnesses. None of the Acts contains any provision as to the mode of assigning the copyright, but 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, gives to the proprietor a remedy by special action on the case against any one who prints, reprints, imports for sale, publishes, sells, or otherwise disposes of, any copies of any print, engraved, etched, drawn, or designed in Great Britain "without the express consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing, signed by him, her, or them respectively, with his, her, or their own hand or hands, in the presence of, and attested by, two or more credible witnesses." As a licence requires the observance of these formalities, it should seem that their observance is also necessary in case of an assignment of the copyright. A deed does not appear to be necessary.

Drawings, paintings, or photographs.

The Act which first conferred a copyright in paintings, drawings, and photographs, 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, has a special provision (sect. 3) as to the mode of assigning the copyright, or of giving permission to copy, or use in any other way, the subject of the copyright. In the case of every such assignment, or licence, a writing is necessary signed by the proprietor of the copyright, or his agent appointed for the purpose by writing. Furthermore (by sect. 4) the protection of the Act is withheld from, and no action for penalties is maintainable by, an assignee, unless an entry is made in "The Register of Proprietors of Copyright in Paintings, Drawings, and Photographs," kept at Stationers' Hall, of the assignment, stating the date of the assignment, the names of the parties, the name and place of abode of the assignee and of the author of the work, and a short description of the nature and subject of the work.

Sect. 3 of that Act provides that "all copyright under the Act shall be deemed personal or movable estate, and shall be assignable at law, and every assignment thereof, and every licence to use or copy by any means or process the design or work which shall be the subject of such copyright, shall be made by some note or memorandum in writing, to be signed by the proprietor of the copyright, or by his agent appointed for that purpose in writing.

Sect. 4, after providing for the keeping at the Hall of the Stationers' Company a book or books entitled "The Register or Proprietors of Copyright in Paintings, Drawings, and Photographs" enacts that therein "shall be entered a memorandum of every copyright to which any person shall be entitled under this Act, and also of every subsequent assignment of any such copyright; and such memorandum shall contain a statement of the date of such agreement or assignment, and of the names of the parties thereto, and of the name and place of abode of the person in whom such copyright shall be vested by virtue thereof, and of the name and place of abode of the author of the work in which there shall be such copyright, together with a short description of the nature and subject of such work, and, in addition thereto, if the person registering shall so desire, a sketch, outline, or photograph of the said work, and no proprietor of any such copyright shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act until such registration, and no action shall be sustainable nor any penalty be recoverable in respect of anything done before registration."

This enactment, although it prevents an assignee from suing for penalties before the assignment to him has been registered, does not render it necessary in order to entitle him to sue, that all, or any previous assignments should also be registered, or that the copyright of the original author should be registered.(*a*)

In the case of paintings, drawings, and photographs, as already stated, no equitable title can be acquired by a parol agreement to assign.(*b*)

Sculpture models and busts.

Copyright in works of sculpture may be assigned to purchasers by deed signed by the proprietor or proprietors, in the presence of, and attested by, two or more witnesses.(*c*)

International copyright.

Sect. 8 of the International Copyright Act, 7 Vict. c. 12, provides that all the enactments contained in the Copyright

(*a*) *Graves's* case (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 715; 20 L. T. N. S. 877)
(*b*) *Strahan* v. *Graham* (16 L. T. N. S. 87),
(*c*) See 54 Geo. 3, c. 156, s. 4. Appendix, *post*.

PART I. CHAPTER XV.

Amendment Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, as to entries and assignments of copyright and proprietorship, shall apply to the books, dramatic pieces, and musical compositions, prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art to which any Order in Council issued in pursuance of the International Copyright Act shall extend; except that the forms of entry prescribed by the 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, may be varied to meet the circumstances of the case, and that the sum to be demanded by the officer of the Stationers' Company for making any entry required by the International Copyright Act shall be one shilling only. The subsequent Act, 15 Vict. c. 12, to extend and explain the International Copyright Acts, incorporates 7 Vict. c. 12, with which it is to be read and construed as one Act. (*a*) All the provisions, then, of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, with respect to the mode of assignment, apply to assignments of the foreign copyright conferred by the International Copyright Acts.

Foreign copyright, under the International Copyright Acts, may, therefore, be assigned either, first, by writing, which need not be under seal; or, secondly, by making entry in the book of registry at Stationers' Hall of such assignment, and of the name and place of abode of the assignee thereof.

CHAPTER XVI.

PIRACY.

Piracy in general.

PIRACY is the infringement of copyright. It would not be easy, perhaps, to give any other definition of piracy which would apply to the infringements of property in all the different subjects in which our law now confers a copyright; but the leading and distinguishing feature of piracy is, that it reproduces the pirated work in such a manner as to interfere with the profit and enjoyment which the proprietor derives from it. (*b*) Yet everything that does this by

(*a*) Sect. 10 of 15 Vict. c. 12.

(*b*) "It is enough that the publication complained of is in substance a copy, whereby a work vested in another is prejudiced:" (Lord Ellenborough in *Roworth* v. *Wilks*, 1 Camp. 98.) "If so much is taken that the value of the original is sensibly diminished, or the labours of the original author are substantially to an injurious extent appropriated by another, that is sufficient in point of law to constitute a piracy *pro tanto*:" (Story, J., in *Folsom* v. *Marsh*, 2 St. Rep. 115.) "The inquiry is, what effect must the extracts have upon the original work. If they render it less valuable by superseding its use in any degree the right of

no means lays the author of the interference open to the charge of piracy. For example, a *bonâ fide* abridgment of a book may seriously impair the profit which the proprietor of the larger work derives from it, at the same time that it subjects the author of the abridgment to none of the penalties which the law attaches to piracy. Nevertheless, where the act done is not one of those which are in express terms prohibited by statute, no finer test of piracy has been applied in the various cases on record than that of the degree in which one work interferes, by reproduction, with the benefits derivable from another work in which copyright exists. It may well be supposed that a test of this character has afforded scope for variance of opinion, and that many litigated cases have arisen with respect to its application. It will be well to treat the subject separately as to each class of productions in which piracy may be committed.

Books.

Only by multiplication of copies.

As piracy is the infringement of copyright, and copyright is defined by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, to mean "the sole and exclusive liberty of printing or otherwise multiplying copies of any subject" to which the word is applied in the Act, it follows that piracy can be committed in no other manner than by the multiplication of copies.(*a*)

So long ago as 1793(*b*) it was held that the public recitation from memory of any production in which copyright existed was not a piratical publication. In that case (an action for infringement of copyright in a dramatic piece) which was decided under the Act of Anne, Buller, J., observed: "Reporting anything from memory can never be a publication within the statute. Some instances of strength of memory are very surprising, but the mere act of repeating such a performance cannot be left as evidence to the jury that the defendant had pirated the work itself." The law did not at that time give the author of a dramatic piece the sole right of representing it, and the decision goes simply to the extent of showing that public recitation from memory is not a publication of a literary work. In the similar case of *Murray* v. *Elliston*(*c*) in 1822, the Court of King's

the author is infringed: it can be of no importance to know with what intent this was done:" (M'Lean, J., in *Story's Executors* v. *Holcombe*, 4 M'Lean, 310.)

(*a*) A translation may be called a transcript or copy of the author's thought or conception, but in no correct sense can be it called a copy of his book: (*Stowe* v. *Thomas*, 2 Amer. Law Reg. 231).

(*b*) *Coleman* v. *Wathen* (5 T. R. 245).

(*c*) 5 B. & Ald. 657.

PART I. CHAPTER XVI.

Bench was of opinion that such a mode of publication gave no right of action.

The law remains the same under the more recent Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, as the case of *Reade* v. *Conquest*(a) shows. In that case, a novel written by the plaintiff had been dramatised by the defendant and performed at his theatre. This was treated by the plaintiff as an infringement of the copyright in his book, and he brought an action to recover the penalty imposed by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, for such alleged infringement. But the Court of Common Pleas, following the decision in *Coleman* v. *Wathen*,(b) held that the defendant had not infringed the plaintiff's copyright in his book by dramatising it and publicly performing it at his theatre.

Even if the public recitation of a book in which copyright exists is not made from memory, but takes the form of a public reading out, from the work itself, of the whole or portions of it, this would not amount to an infringement of the author's copyright.(c)

But, although the whole work might be read out or dramatised, copies of the work so read out or dramatised cannot, without infringing the copyright, be distributed and sold to the audience, though for the mere purpose of assisting them to follow the representation or reading.(d)

Gratuitous distribution of copies.

A multiplication of copies for the purpose of gratuitous distribution is as much an infringement of the proprietor's copyright as if the multiplication had been made for purposes of pecuniary profit. Thus, where a member of a Philharmonic Society desiring to have a particular piece of published music performed at a concert of the society to which, besides the members, other persons were admitted for money, caused a number of copies of the piece of music to be lithographed and distributed amongst the members of the choir without the consent of the proprietor of the copyright, this was held to be an illegal multiplication of copies, and a violation of the proprietor's right.(e)

The same view has been taken by the Scotch Court of Session in a case of gratuitous circulation.(f)

Where an original catalogue of old and curious books in the possession of a bookseller, intended merely as an advertisement of the books, was in great part copied and published as his own by a rival bookseller, who had a similar

(a) 9 C. B. N. S. 755; 30 L. J. 209, C. P. (b) 5 T. R. 245.
(c) *Per* Wood, V.C., in *Tinsley* v. *Lacy* (1 H. & M. 747; 32 L. J. 535, Ch.; 11 W. R. 877). (d) *Ib.*
(e) *Novello* v. *Sudlow* (12 C. B. 177).
(f) *Alexander* v. *Mackenzie* (9 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2 Ser. 748).

stock of old books to dispose of, this was held to be an infringement of the copyright in the original catalogue, though the second catalogue was not offered for sale, but merely used to promote the sale of the books mentioned in it.(*a*)

To what extent an author may use another's work.

Anything like absolute originality in the composition of a work nowadays seems to be almost an impossibility. The range of human ideas on any subject is limited, and the productions of the busy brains and pens of preceding thinkers are so numerous, that, if books are to be written, the *writers must be, to some extent at least, beholden for their* materials to those who have written before. If no copyright exist in a work, of course subsequent writers may make of it what use they like, and reproduce it to any extent they please. But if a copyright does exist in it, then the important and somewhat difficult question arises, in what manner and to what extent may subsequent authors make use of the materials contained in it without an infringement of the copyright. In other words, how far may one writer avail himself of the product of another's labour in which copyright exists, without subjecting himself to the charge of piracy?

Tests of piracy.

The answers to the question, what amounts to piracy? given by different judges, have been variously expressed; but they all point to the conclusion that the question must be treated as one of fact, to be determined with reference to the peculiar circumstances of each individual case; and this question of fact may be determined differently by judges who are at one as to the principle.(*b*) A summary of the principal tests of piracy which have been given by the most eminent judges will furnish, perhaps, the clearest idea of the nature of the offence, and, consequently, of the degree of liberty allowed to an author in the use of the copyright works of his predecessors.

Lord Eldon stated the test to be—whether the one publication is "a legitimate use of the other in the fair exercise of a mental operation deserving the character of an original work."(*c*)

According to Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, an illegitimate or unfair use of another's work is that which amounts to "such

(*a*) *Hotten* v. *Arthur* (1 H. & M. 603; 9 L. T. N. S. 199; 32 L. J. 771, Ch.; 11 W. R. 934).

(*b*) See *Pike* v. *Nicholas*, 20 L. T. N. S. 906; 38 L. J. 529, Ch.; L. Rep. 5 Ch. App. 251; where Vice-Chancellor James thought that the defendant had pirated the work of the plaintiff, whereas the Lords Justices of Appeal considered that the use made of the plaintiff's work did not amount to a piracy of it.

(*c*) *Wilkins* v. *Aikin* (17 Ves. 426).

an extraction from it as comes up to an extraction of the vital part."(a)

Lord Ellenborough expressed the criterion thus: "Was the matter so taken [by the writer of one book from a preceding book for the promotion of science, and the benefit of the public] used fairly with that view, and without what I may term the *animus furandi*."(b) Wood, V.C., refers to this rule thus: "Whether you find on the part of the defendant an *animus furandi*—an intention to take for the purpose of saving himself labour."(c)

Lord Jeffrey, in the Scotch case of *Alexander* v. *Mackenzie*,(d) in somewhat figurative language, states the test to be, in cases where the subject is *in medio*, or open to everybody to write upon it: "Is there reasonable evidence that the two works are identical, and that the last author did not mount upon the back, and walk on the crutches of, his predecessor, but actually used his own muscular exertions in traversing the field in which he made his observations? Did he, on the whole, do so fairly and honestly for himself, although he may occasionally have followed in the *vestigia* left by his precursor? Or is there evidence that the second writer's not going over the ground for himself is not the very cause why he has arrived at almost identical conclusions with his predecessors?"

Wood, V.C. (now Lord Hatherley, C.), in dealing with a work in the form of question and answer on a variety of scientific subjects, thus lays down the rule: (e) "I take the illegitimate use, as opposed to the legitimate use of another man's work on subject matters of this description to be this: If, knowing that a person whose work is protected by copyright has, with considerable labour, compiled from various sources a work in itself not original, but which he has digested and arranged, you being minded to compile a work of a like description, instead of taking the pains of searching into all the common sources and obtaining your subject matter from them, avail yourself of the labour of your predecessor, adopt his arrangements, adopt moreover the very questions he has asked, or adopt them with but a slight degree of colourable variation, and thus save yourself pains and labour by availing yourself of the pains and labour which he has employed, that I take to be an illegitimate use."

(a) *Murray* v. *Bogue* (1 Drew. 369).
(b) *Cary* v. *Kearsley* (4 Esp. 169). As to the necessity of an *animus furandi*, see *post*, pp. 181-183. (c) *Jarrold* v. *Houlston* (3 K. & J. 716).
(d) 9 Scotch Ses. Cas. 2nd Ser. 758. (e) *Jarrold* v. *Houlston* (*ubi supra*).

An American judge (Story, J.) says:(*a*) "I think it may be laid down as the clear result of the authorities in cases of this nature,(*b*) that the true test of piracy or not, is to ascertain whether the defendant has, in fact, used the plan, arrangements, and illustrations of the plaintiff, as the model of his own book, with colourable alterations and variations only to disguise the use thereof; or whether his work is the result of his own labour, skill, and use of common materials and common sources of knowledge, open to all men, and the resemblances are either accidental or arising from the nature of the subject. In other words, whether the defendant's book is, *quoad hoc*, a servile or evasive imitation of the plaintiff's work, or a *bonâ fide* original compilation from other common or independent sources."

The *quantity* of one work introduced into another is a very vague test of piracy, according to Lord Cottenham,(*c*) "One writer might take all the vital part of another's book, though it might be but a small proportion of the book in quantity. It is not only quantity but value that is always looked to."

In *Pike* v. *Nicholas*,(*d*) a case of piracy of a book on the origin of the English nation, James, V.C., said: "There is no monopoly in the main theory of the plaintiff, nor in the theories and speculations by which he has supported it, nor even in the use of the published results of his own observations. But the plaintiff has a right to say this, that no one is to be permitted, whether with or without acknowledgment, to take a material and substantial portion of his work, his argument, his illustrations, his authorities, for the purpose of making or improving a rival publication." (*e*)

Where materials are common.

In all cases where the sources from which materials for composition are to be derived are of a common or general nature, or, as it is otherwise expressed, where the materials are *in medio*, it is open to anyone to gain a copyright in any arrange-

(*a*) *Emerson* v. *Davies* (3 St. Rep. 793).

(*b*) The book of which the copyright was alleged to be infringed in this case was a treatise on arithmetic.

(*c*) *Bramwell* v. *Halcomb* (3 My. & Cr. 738). Similarly Story, J. (1 St. Rep. 20), "In many cases the question may naturally turn upon the point not so much of the quantity as of the value of the selected materials. As was significantly said on another occasion,—'Non numerantur, ponderantur.'"

(*d*) 20 L. T. N. S. 909; 38 L. J. 529, Ch.

(*e*) The decision of the Vice-Chancellor in this case was reversed on appeal, but only as to the question of degree in which the defendant had in fact made use of the plaintiff's work: (L. Rep. 5 Ch. App. 251.) See also *Stowe* v. *Thomas* (2 Amer. Law Reg. 229).

ment of them which he chooses to make. "In all cases," says Lord Jeffrey, (*a*) "although the materials are expressly *in medio*, and open to everybody, when a particular degree of judgment in the selection of those materials has been used, and where the subject *in medio*, so open to the world at large, has been, to a certain extent, snatched at and appropriated, such selection is in itself recognised as a certain degree of mental effort, which is entitled to the benefit of copyright."

But though any person may thus acquire a copyright in his own arrangement of common materials, the materials themselves are equally open to everyone else who chooses to have recourse to them, and different copyrights may be acquired in different arrangements of the same common materials.

The different arrangements of common materials must, however, be independent. A later arrangement must not be a servile imitation or reproduction of an earlier one; otherwise it subjects its author to the charge of piracy.

Compilation of directory.

The case of *Kelly* v. *Morris*, (*b*) is a forcible illustration of this doctrine. In that case an application was made for an injunction to restrain the publication of "The Imperial Directory of London, 1866," on the ground that it was a mere piracy of a work belonging to the plaintiff, entitled "Post-office London Directory." The defendant's affidavit set up, as grounds of defence, that from 1862 to 1864 he had published a work called "The Business Directory," in which appeared the names of about 100,000 persons in trade or business, which had been obtained by a large number of canvassers, whom he had employed for the purpose; that, wishing to extend his operations, and bring out "The Imperial Directory," which should comprise street, conveyance, postal, and other sections, he acted on a similar principle to that which had guided him in taking the names of persons in business whom his canvassers were unable to see, viz., he took such information from any source "where the persons had made it public at their own expense for their own benefit;" he considered that the name of a private resident belonged to the public when that resident had "gratuitously given it to the public through some recognised medium of publicity," and that the publisher merely "held it in trust for a purpose, receiving for his trouble any benefit he could make of the information, but that the right of using that information belonged to the public as soon as the informa-

(*a*) *Alexander* v. *Mackenzie* (9 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2nd Ser. 758); see also *Blunt* v. *Patten* (2 Paine, 395); *Emerson* v. *Davies* (3 Story, 781).
(*b*) L. Rep. 1 Eq. 697; 35 L. J. 423, Ch.; 14 L. T. N. S. 222.

tion was made public," and that any person might go round with a list of names already published and ask permission to render the work of publication more complete by reproducing it, and if any error had been made in the first publication, it rested with the original owners of the names to point out the error, when submitted to them for permission to reproduce, which opportunity was afforded the residents by means of circulars sent round to them through the defendant's canvassers, asking the residents to fill up a form with their name and address for publication in "The Imperial Directory." It was admitted that one of defendant's canvassers, afterwards discharged by him, had not taken the trouble to make the necessary inquiries, from house to house, so that most of the errors in the defendant's directory identical with those in the plaintiff's would be thus accounted for. On the other hand, several instances were adduced of corrections and large supplementary additions to the plaintiff's work contained in the defendant's, and the manuscript of the latter work was produced. The present Lord Chancellor (then Sir W. Page Wood, V. C.) granted the injunction prayed for, and laid down the law on the subject in very stringent terms.

His Lordship said: "The defendant has been most completely mistaken in what he assumes to be his right to deal with the labour and property of others. In the case of a dictionary, map, guide-book, or directory, where there are certain common objects of information, which must, if described correctly, be described in the same words, a subsequent compiler is bound to set about doing for himself that which the first compiler has done. In case of a road book he must count the milestones for himself. In the case put of a newly-discovered island, he must go through the whole process of triangulation, just as if he had never seen any former map, and generally, he is not entitled to take one word of the information previously published without independently working out the matter for himself, so as to arrive at the same result from the same common sources of information, and the only use that he can legitimately make of a previous publication is to verify his own calculations and results when obtained. So, in the present case, the defendant could not take a single line of the plaintiff's directory for the purpose of saving himself labour and trouble in getting his information. The defendant, from the description of the way in which he had in the first instance compiled his 'Business Directory,' seems to have known exactly what he might do. . . . . The defendant goes on in his affidavit to propound a most extraordinary doctrine as to the right of

publicity in the names of private residents, who had, as he expressed it, 'given their names for public use.' What he has done has been just to copy the plaintiff's book, and then to send out canvassers to see if the information so copied was correct. If the canvassers did not find the occupier of the house at home, or could get no answer from him, then the information copied from the plaintiff's book was reprinted bodily, as if it was a question for the occupier of the house merely, and not for the compiler of the previous directory. Further than this, the defendant tells us that he has a number of new agents, and that one of them had performed his part of the work carelessly, thus at once showing how easy it would be, on the system adopted by the defendant, for any negligent agent to send back his list all ticked as if correct, without having taken the trouble to make a single inquiry. . . . . The work of the defendant has clearly not been compiled by the legitimate application of independent personal labour, and there must be an injunction to restrain the publication of any copy of the defendant's work containing the portions called the 'Street' and 'Court' Directories, with liberty for the defendant to apply, when he shall have expunged from such portions all matter copied from the plaintiff's work."(*a*)

Lord Eldon had previously said, with reference to a "Road Book," "It is certainly competent to any other man to publish a book of roads, and if the same skill, intelligence, and diligence are applied in the second instance, the public would receive nearly the same information from both works; but there is no doubt that this court would interpose to prevent a mere republication of a work which the labour and skill of another person had supplied to the world."(*b*)

The fact that the publisher of a business directory receives payment from some of the persons whose names are contained in it, for printing their names in larger letters, or with lines of additional description, does not make those names, when so inserted, common property, so as to justify the compiler of a rival directory in reprinting them from slips cut from the former.(*c*)

Neither does the fact that the persons whose names were so printed had been applied to by the compiler of the second directory to verify the information contained in the first,

(*a*) See also *Matthewson* v. *Stockdale* (12 Ves. 275); *Cornish* v. *Upton* (4 L. T. N. S. 862); and *Morris* v. *Ashbee* (L. Rep. 7 Eq. 34; 19 L. T. N. S. 550).

(*b*) Judgment in *Longman* v. *Winchester* (16 Ves. 271).

(*c*) *Morris* v. *Ashbee* (L. Rep. 7 Eq. 34; 19 L. T. N. S. 550).

and had not only authorised, but actually paid for the insertion of their names in the second with capital letters and added lines, prevent the publication being a piracy of the first directory.(*a*)

How far the compiler of a directory may make use of a previous directory of the same kind without being guilty of piracy, was considered by Lord Justice Giffard in the recent case of *Morris* v. *Wright*,(*b*) where the two last cited cases were considered and explained, and the rule derivable from them was thus stated by the Lord Justice: "The compiler may not cut out slips from the former work and go and see whether they are accurate, and if accurate, copy them bodily into his own work, as was done in both the cases referred to; but he is quite justified in referring to the former book 'in order to guide himself to the persons on whom it would be worth his while to call.'" After referring to the passage from the judgment in *Kelly* v. *Morris*,(*c*) above cited, where it was said that the defendant could not take a single line of the plaintiff's directory for the purpose of saving himself trouble in getting his information, the Lord Justice said, "If this passage goes further than what I take it to mean, I cannot doubt that it goes beyond what the law authorises, and beyond the decision of the Lord Chancellor and myself, in the late case of *Pike* v. *Nicholas*.(*d*) It does not mean that he may not look into the book for the purpose of ascertaining whether it was worth his while to call upon that person or not; but it means that he may not take that particular slip and shew that to the person and get his authority as to putting that particular slip in. . . . . I understand that judgment to rest entirely upon the facts, and I am quite satisfied, from what the Lord Chancellor said in *Pike* v. *Nicholas*, that it was never his intention to say a person may not look at the directory for the purpose of directing him where to call; but what he meant was, that he must not take the passage of the directory and go and see whether it happens to be accurate, and if it is accurate, bodily copy the passage into his directory."

In *Morris* v. *Wright* the plaintiff, who was the proprietor of a publication called "The Business Directory of London," filed a bill against the defendant who was preparing for publication a new mercantile directory bearing the name of "The Handbook; or, Manufacturers' and Exporters' Directory of Great Britain," charging him with pirating the

(*a*) *Morris* v. *Ashbee* (L. Rep. 7 Eq. 34; 19 L. T. N. S. 550).
(*b*) L. Rep. 5 Ch. App. 279; 22 L. T. N. S. 78.
(*c*) *Ubi supra*.
(*d*) *Ante*, p. 173, note (*e*).

PART I. CHAPTER XVI.

former work, and an interlocutory injunction to restrain the publication was moved for. The defendant admitted having at first provided his canvassers with cuttings from the plaintiff's directory, but stated that he had discontinued its use after the decision in *Morris* v. *Ashbee*, (*a*) and denied that he had copied, or intended to copy, any part of the plaintiff's directory. James, V.C., dissolved the injunction which had been granted, and his decision was upheld on appeal by Gifford, L.J., who said, "If the fact be that Mr. Wright (the defendant) used the plaintiff's work in order to guide himself to the persons on whom it would be worth his while to call, and for no other purpose, he made a perfectly legitimate use of the plaintiff's book. I do not wish to say anything whatever to prejudice the ultimate decision of this case, supposing the plaintiff makes out such a case as he alleges by his bill; but I think that in the present state of circumstances, the Vice-Chancellor did that which was right between the parties."

In *Pike* v. *Nicholas* (*b*) it was laid down by the Lords Justices of Appeal in Chancery, that an author may, without committing piracy, use the same passages in older writers which have been used by a previous author, although he has been led to refer to those writers by that author. He must not, however, simply copy the passages from the previous author, but, being put on the track by him, he must have recourse for himself to the original writer, and then may make use of every passage used by the other author.

Lists of hounds published in newspapers.

In the case of "lists of hounds" published in newspapers, the information must, according to Vice-Chancellor Malins, be got at the expense of each proprietor, and as the result of his own labour: he is not entitled to the results of the labours undergone by others; (*c*) but it is doubtful whether a Court of Chancery would interfere in such a case. The Vice-Chancellor refused an interlocutory injunction to restrain such a piracy, on the ground that the list was liable to frequent changes, and a correct list was so easily obtained.

Dictionaries, calendars, &c.

The same rule applies to tables of figures, dictionaries, calendars, court guides, and other works of that description, as to directories. The difficulty as to this class of cases is that they not only relate to a subject common to all mankind,

(*a*) L. Rep. 7 Eq. 34; 19 L. T. N. S. 550.
(*b*) L. Rep. 5 Ch. App. 251; 38 L. J. 529, Ch.
(*c*) *Cox* v. *Land and Water Journal Company* (L. Rep. 9 Eq. 324). See, as to the soundness of this decision, the remarks on the case contained in the chapter on "Newspapers," *post*.

but the mode of expression and language is necessarily so common that two persons must, to a very great extent, express themselves in identical terms in conveying the instruction or information to society which they are anxious to communicate.(*a*)

Dictionaries.

As to dictionaries, Vice-Chancellor Wood, after remarking that in this country, labour having been employed upon any subjects, however humble, gave a copyright which no one had a right to interfere with, observed that, "as to dictionaries, the matter stood in a somewhat different position. There might be a certain degree of skill exhibited as to order and arrangement, and there might be a good deal of ingenuity exhibited in the selection of phrases and illustrations which were the best exponents of the sense in which the word was to be used; there might also be great labour in the logical deduction and arrangement of the word in its different senses, when the sense of the word departed from its primary signification; on the other hand, there was always this to be said, that as to a large mass of the words, they admitted of only one acceptation, and could be translated in one way only, and the large mass of dictionaries were composed of words of this description: numerous dictionaries had necessarily been published from time to time, and the new dictionary maker must, of necessity, use much of the information and of the results of his predecessors. . . . . Of course there could be no copyright in much of the information contained in the numerous dictionaries published, each necessarily having a large number of words identically similar." In the case before him the Vice-Chancellor applied the test "whether there was a legitimate use of the plaintiff's publication in the fair exercise of a mental operation deserving the character of an original work," and the result, after an elaborate comparison of the two dictionaries, was an opinion that though the defendant had taken a good deal from the plaintiff's work, yet a good deal of labour had been bestowed upon what had been taken, and, on the whole, it could not be said that the defendant had gone beyond what the court would allow; having produced that which, in the result, was in fact a different work from that of the plaintiff. The bill praying for an injunction was dismissed, but, on account of the doubtfulness of the case, without costs.(*b*)

Where the works are of such a nature that the information contained in them must of necessity, if it be correct,

(*a*) *Per* Wood, V.C., in *Spiers* v. *Brown* (6 W. R. 352).
(*b*) *Ib.*

be exactly the same in both, the test frequently applied by the courts, to determine whether the second is a mere unlaborious reproduction of the first, or has been compiled by original effort from common sources, is this—to examine the inaccuracies which appear in both works, and see whether they are identical. If so, the inference of piracy is almost invariably drawn. This test satisfied the mind of Lord Eldon in *Longman* v. *Winchester*,(a) a case of pirating a "Court Calendar." "The question before me," he said, "is whether it is not perfectly clear that in a vast proportion of the work of these defendants no other labour has been applied than copying the plaintiff's work. From the identity of the inaccuracies it is impossible to deny that the one was copied from the other *verbatim et literatim*. To the extent, therefore, that the defendants' publication has been supplied from the other work, the injunction must go." And Vice-Chancellor Wood says of the whole class of works, embracing tables of figures, directories, calendars, Court guides, and other such, that "the only mode of arriving at the amount of labour bestowed was by the common test resorted to of discovering the copy of errors and misprints indicating a servile copying."(b)

Translations.

Translations into English of works published in other languages stand on a somewhat similar footing to the preceding. If the foreign work is not protected by international copyright it is open to anyone to translate it; but a translation already existing is the product of the translator's mental labour, and his property in it must not be infringed. Independent recourse must be had by subsequent translators to the common original source. A "man," says Justice Story,(c) has a right to a copyright in a translation upon which he has bestowed his time and labour. To be sure, another man has an equal right to translate the original work, and to publish his translation; but then it must be his own translation, by his own skill and labour; and not the mere use and publication of the translation already made by another."

In *Wyatt* v. *Barnard* (d) Lord Eldon restrained the defendant from publishing in his magazine translations from the French and German languages which had already appeared in a periodical belonging to the plaintiff. His lordship said, "With respect to the translations, if original, whether

(a) 16 Ves. 271, 272.
(b) *Spiers* v. *Brown* (6 W. R. 352). Cf. *Cox* v. *Land and Water Journal Company* (L. Rep. 9 Eq. 324).
(c) *Emerson* v. *Davies* (3 St. Rep. 780). (d) 3 Ves. & B. 77.

made by the plaintiff or given to him, they could not be distinguished from other works: the injunction therefore must go."

Even though the book in a foreign or dead language be published here, and an English copyright subsist in it, an original translation will, it seems, be no infringement of the English copyright; but, it is presumed, will itself be entitled to copyright protection. In *Burnett* v. *Chetwood*,(*a*) where it was sought to make the defendant liable for an infringement of the copyright in Burnett's *Archæologia Sacra*, on account of his having published a translation of it, the Lord Chancellor was of opinion that a translation was not the same as reprinting the original, and so not within the prohibition of the Act "on account that the translator has bestowed his care and pains upon it," though he granted an injunction to restrain the publication on other grounds which the Court of Chancery would not now act upon.(*b*)

Re-translation.

If a foreigner translates an English copyright work, and then an Englishman re-translates that foreign work into English, that would be an infringment of the original copyright. And it would be no defence that the re-translator was not aware that the work he translated was itself a translation from an English work.(*c*)

See now, on the subject of translations, the provisions of the International Copyright Act (15 & 16 Vict. c. 12).(*d*)

Animus furandi.

Lord Ellenborough has been considered to have laid down the rule, in *Cary* v. *Kearsley*,(*e*) that the existence of an *animus furandi* is essential to piracy. What Lord Ellenborough did in that case was to point out that from the nature of the two books before him (Road Books) the one must, if correct, be to some extent a transcript of the other; and, laying it down that the defendant might fairly own that he had taken a great part of his book from the plaintiff's, he left this question to the jury—whether what was taken or supposed to be derived from the plaintiffs book was fairly done with a view of compiling a useful book for the benefit of the public, or taken colourably, merely with a view to steal the copyright of the plaintiff. That does not mean that in every case where invasion of copyright is charged, it is necessary to prove an *animus furandi*.(*f*)

(*a*) See note to *Southey* v *Sherwood* (2 Meriv. 441).

(*b*) See also the opinions of Aston, J., in *Millar* v. *Taylor* (4 Burr. 2348), and of Knight Bruce, V.C., in *Prince Albert* v. *Strange* (2 De G. & Sm. 693).

(*c*) *Murray* v. *Bogue* (1 Drew. 353; 22 L. J. 457, Ch.

(*d*) *Vide ante*, p. 74. (*e*) 4 Esp. 169.

(*f*) See *per* Wood, V.C., in *Reade* v. *Lacy* (1 J. & H. 527).

An *animus furandi*, if essential to piracy, must certainly not be understood to mean a deliberate design to steal the product of another's labour and surreptitiously appropriate it to one's own use and credit. The offence of piracy may be committed *bonâ fide*, with no dishonest intention, and without any idea on the part of him who commits it that he is infringing a copyright.

"The intention to pirate," says Lord Ellenborough,(*a*) "is not necessary in an action of this sort; it is enough that the publication complained of is in substance a copy, whereby a work vested in another is prejudiced." And, says Sir L. Shadwell, V.C., in *Campbell* v. *Scott*,(*b*) with reference to a book of avowed extracts from the poetical writings of others, "If A. takes the property of B. the *animus furandi* is inferred from the act."(*c*) Thus in *Scott* v. *Stanford* (*d*) the defendant, in a book of "Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for the year 1865" published by him, had inserted, in a different arrangement, the whole of certain statements (amounting to about one-third of the work) of the quantity of coal, &c., brought into London, which the plaintiff as clerk and registrar of the city coal market had compiled, published, and registered. There was no concealment in the defendant's book of the source from which the information was obtained, it being distinctly stated at the head of the statistics that they were "compiled from the returns published by authority of the Corporation of London, by James R. Scott, Esq., clerk and registrar of the Coal Market." Nevertheless the defendant was held to have infringed the copyright of the plaintiff, and an injunction was granted to restrain the publication of such portions of the defendant's work as contained the statistics compiled by the plaintiff. The Vice-Chancellor (Wood) observed, "It had been said that there had been no *animus furandi* on the part of Mr. Hunt [the writer of the book published by the defendant], that he had taken these statistics in perfect good faith, without any notion that he was pirating the plaintiff's work, and that he acknowledged in the fullest manner the source from which they were derived. But the term *animus furandi* could not be defined in so restricted a sense as to allow a man who had an honest intention of benefiting the public, and no idea that he was infringing a copyright, to take, and without any labour, a very large

(*a*) 1 Camp. 98.
(*b*) 11 Sim. 38. See *Millett* v. *Snowden* (1 West. Law Jour. 240).
(*c*) See also *Clement* v. *Maddick* (1 Giff. 98).
(*d*) 16 L. T. N. S. 51 L. Rep. 3 Eq. 718.

portion of the work of another and materially injure the sale of it. It was as impossible to define the internal act of a man as to measure it. It was only the result of the internal act that could be measured. A man must be presumed in point of law to intend all that the publication of his work effects."

According to the same learned judge in *Reade* v. *Lacy*, (*a*) the cases to which the *animus furandi* test properly applies is that difficult class relating to dictionaries, road books, and the like, where a certain amount of common material is used by different persons, and the matter in issue is "piracy or no piracy." But copyright is like patent right in this respect, that if it is infringed, ignorance will not avail as a defence in the one case any more than in the other.

In *Reade* v. *Lacy* the plaintiff had written a drama called "Gold," and afterwards published a novel founded upon it called "Never too Late to Mend," into which were introduced many scenes and passages from the play. The defendant afterwards published a drama called "Never too Late to Mend," founded on the plaintiff's novel, and containing scenes and passages substantially identical with scenes and passages common both to the plaintiff's novel and his play of "Gold." On a motion for an injunction to restrain the publication of the defendant's drama as an infringement of the plaintiff's copyright in his play of "Gold," evidence was given that the defendant's play was a *bonâ fide* adaptation of the novel, written without any reference to the play of "Gold" and without any knowledge of the published play. The Vice-Chancellor granted the injunction prayed for. He said: "The plaintiff has a copyright in the printed book called 'Gold,' and no one has a right to reprint it without his consent. It so happens that, after having acquired this right, he himself extracted a large portion of this drama, and republished it in the form of a novel. The defendant alleges, and I assume in his favour that he knew nothing about the drama, and that his play was compiled from the novel alone. I also assume for the purpose of the argument and this only, that the defendant had a right to dramatise the plaintiff's novel, (*b*) and that, as far as the novel is concerned what was done was a fair adaptation of a complicated novel, so as to produce a short drama. This point I shall leave to be decided by a court of law; but even supposing it to be determined in the defendant's favour, still that will not

(*a*) 1 J. & H. 527.
(*b*) See *Coleman* v. *Wathen*, *ante*, p. 170.

justify the reprinting of scenes and passages identical with those in 'Gold' merely because the novel also happens to contain them, and the defendant took them from that source. The plaintiff did not by transferring these passages into his novel, lose any part of the copyright which he had in his drama; nor can ignorance of the existence of the drama on the part of the defendant be urged as a valid defence. . . . . To admit such a defence would be to open a door to fraud and perjury. There is a manifest invasion of the plaintiff's copyright in the drama; and it is no answer to say that this is not an invasion, because it would not have been so if the matter appropriated had appeared only in its later form as a novel." (*a*)

Piracy by quotation

"That part of the work of one author is found in another is not of itself piracy, or sufficient to support an action," says Lord Ellenborough, in *Cary* v. *Kearsley*. But the extracts may be too many, or contain too large or important a portion of the work from which they are made, and then they will amount to piracy, even though they are published in the form of quotations, and the source from which they are taken is expressly declared. (*b*)

"Quotation," says Lord Eldon, (*c*) "is necessary for the purpose of reviewing; and quotation for such a purpose is not to have the appellation of piracy affixed to it; but quotation may be carried to the extent of manifesting piratical intention." To the same effect Lord Ellenborough, in *Roworth* v. *Wilkes*, (*d*) "A review will not in general serve as a substitute for the book reviewed; and even there, if so much is extracted that it communicates the same knowledge with the original work, it is an actionable violation of literary property. The intention to pirate is not necessary in an action of this sort. It is enough that the publication complained of is in substance a copy whereby a work vested in another is prejudiced. A compilation of this kind [a large encyclopædia] may differ from a treatise published by itself, but there must be certain limits fixed to its transcripts; it must not be allowed to sweep up all modern works, or an encyclopædia would be a *recipe* for completely breaking down literary property."

Lord Ellenborough, in the case last referred to, said the question was, whether the defendant's publication would

(*a*) See further, on the same subject, *Lee* v *Simpson* (3 C. B. 871, 883), *Webb* v. *Powers* (2 Wood and Min. 512), and *Story's Executors* v. *Holcombe* (4 M'Clean, 310).

(*b*) See the judgment in *Bohn* v. *Boque* (10 Jur. 420), and *Scott* v. *Stanford* (L. Rep. 3 Eq. 718; 16 L. T. N. S. 51).

(*c*) *Mawman* v. *Tegg* (2 Rus. 393). (*d*) 1 Camp. 97.

serve as "a substitute" for the plaintiff's. Sir L. Shadwell, V.C., referring to this remark, quoted by the defendant's counsel in *Sweet* v. *Shaw*,(*a*) says, "That does not mean a substitute for the whole work. From what you state, suppose a book to contain a hundred articles, and ninety-nine were taken, still it would not be a substitute;" and again, in *Bohn* v. *Bogue*,(*b*) the same judge observes: "With respect to that expression of Lord Ellenborough, 'substitute,' his Lordship must be taken to have used that word with reference to the particular case before him; and it is perfectly clear to my mind that never can be the criterion." His Honour put the case of a publication of "Liddell and Scott's Lexicon," omitting three or four words at the end of each letter of the alphabet. This could not be taken as a substitute. "But can it be doubted," he asks, "that it might have a very material effect in diminishing the price of the first book; for though nobody would take it as a substitute, many people might not care about so much, and might take it cheaply for what it really did contain, which might be more than ninety-nine hundredths of the whole, and yet it would in no manner be a 'substitute'? And, therefore, the language is not generally correct, so as to be capable of application to every case."(*c*)

"No one can doubt," says Justice Story,(*d*) "that a reviewer may fairly cite largely from the original work, if his design be really and truly to use the passages for the purposes of fair and reasonable criticism. On the other hand, it is as clear that if he thus cites the most important parts of the work with a view, not to criticise, but to supersede the use of the original work, and substitute the review for it, such a use will be deemed in law a piracy. A wide interval might, of course, exist between these two extremes, calling for great caution, and involving great difficulty, where the court is approaching the dividing middle line which separates the one from the other."

In *Whittingham* v. *Wooler* (*e*) an attempt was made to establish a charge of piracy against the publisher of *The Stage*, a theatrical periodical in the nature of a review and magazine, for publishing about six or seven pages of a dramatic piece, about forty pages in length. In dismissing the bill with costs, Sir Thomas Plumer, M.R., said: "It may, perhaps, be fair enough to say that if the defendant had inserted in one number a criticism and in a following

(*a*) 3 Jur. 218; 8 L. J. Ch. 216. (*b*) 10 Jur. 421.
(*c*) See further, on the subject of extracts, *Sweet* v. *Cater* (11 Sim. 580).
(*d*). *Folsom* v. *Marsh* (2 St. Rep. 106). (*e*) 2 Swanst. 428.

PART I. CHAPTER XVI.

number mere specimens, that would be the case of an unprotected plagiarism; but here the defendant has given no entire act or scene, but only broken and detached fragments of the piece in question."

In *Dodsley* v. *Kinnersley* (*a*) the plaintiffs were assignees of Johnson's "Prince of Abyssinia," and had already published an abstract of that work in the *London Chronicle*. The defendant printed part of the narrative in the *Grand Magazine of Magazines*, leaving out all the reflections. Sir Thomas Clarke, M.R., dismissed the plaintiffs' bill for an injunction, referring to the custom of annual registers, magazines, &c., to give an abstract or analysis of authors, which custom in general tended to the advantage of the author, if the composition was good. "What I materially rely on," said the Master of the Rolls, "is, that it could not tend to prejudice the plaintiffs when they had before published an abstract of the work in the *London Chronicle*." (*b*)

Bonâ fide notes.

It would seem that the work or part of the work of another may be made the foundation of *bonâ fide* notes and observations, and may be published with such notes or observations without infringing the copyright in the original work. "Any person," says Sir L. Shadwell, V.C., in *Martin* v. *Wright*, (*c*) "may copy and publish the whole of a literary composition, provided he writes notes upon it, so as to present it to the public connected with matter of his own."

In *Cary* v. *Kearsley* (*d*) the question was put in argument to Lord Ellenborough whether, if a man took "Paley's Philosophy" and copied a whole essay with observations and notes, or additions at the end of it, such a proceeding would amount to piracy. Lord Ellenborough replied, "That would depend on the facts of whether the publication of that essay was to convey to the public the notes and observations fairly, or only to colour the publication of the original essay, and make that a pretext for pirating it; if the latter it could not be sustained."

In the case of legal works it has been the practice to publish in a separate form, with notes annexed, reports of cases extracted from books of reports in which copyright exists, but it has never been judicially determined whether such a practice does or does not amount to piracy of the original reports. The question was raised but not settled in the case of *Saunders* v. *Smith*, (*e*) the decision in that case against the proprietor of the original reports proceeding on the ground of his acquiescence in the labours of the

(*a*) Amb. 402. (*b*) *Ib.* 405. (*c*) 6 Sim. 298.
(*d*) 4 Esp. 169. (*e*) 3 M. & Cr. 711.

defendant. Lord Cottenham said: (*a*) "In this case, I find the publication complained of to be of a character which, whether it be or be not an infringement of the copyright of the plaintiffs, is a course of proceeding which has been pretty largely admitted, and pretty generally adopted. Several cases occurred to me, and several were mentioned to me at the bar, in which a gentleman at the bar, desirous of publishing a work upon a particular subject, has collected the cases upon that subject, and has taken those cases, generally speaking, *verbatim* from reports which are covered by copyright. No instance has been represented to me in which those entitled to the copyright have interfered; no judgment, therefore, has been pronounced upon that subject. I am not stating whether the owner of the copyright is entitled to interfere in such a case, or whether that use of published reports is or is not to be permitted. That is a question of legal right, upon which I find, at present, no reason for coming to an adjudication. But in considering whether I am to exercise an equitable jurisdiction in such a case, before the legal right has been established, it is very important to observe that for many years such a course as I have stated has been pretty generally adopted; more particularly when I find that these plaintiffs have themselves acquiesced in a similar course of proceeding."

If the Courts of Common Law apply to such a case as this the test laid down by Lord Ellenborough in *Cary* v. *Kearsley*,(*b*) there is little doubt that it would be held to be no piracy of the original work. The leading case certainly does not bear a relation of greater importance to the notes annexed to it, which embody the decisions in a vast number of subsequent cases, than an essay of Paley would to the body of notes which anyone could appropriately append to it. It is like a motto or text for a long discourse, and is frequently of little value as an exposition of the actual state of the law on the subject, owing to the modifications and limitations which the doctrines contained in it have undergone from subsequent decisions or Acts of Parliament.

The quantity as well as the character of the critical notes added to the work of another is an important element in determining the question of *bona fides*. Thus, where a book of selections of poetry contained 790 pages, of which thirty-four were taken up with a general disquisition upon the nature of the poetry of the nineteenth century, and all the rest consisted of extracts, without any notes appended, from the works of different poets, some of their poems being

(*a*) *Ib.* 728. (*b*) *Ante*, p. 186.

given entire, Vice-Chancellor Shadwell considered that the book could in no sense be said to be a book of criticism; and an injunction was granted to restrain its publication at the suit of Mr. Campbell, one of the poets from whose writings large extracts had been made.(*a*) "If," said the Vice-Chancellor, "there were critical notes appended to each separate passage, or to several of the passages in succession, which might illustrate them and show from whence Mr. Campbell had borrowed an idea, or what idea he had communicated to others, I could understand that to be a fair criticism. But there is first of all a general essay, then there follows a mass of pirated matter, which in fact constitutes the value of the volume." A similar doctrine was laid down in the prior case of *Tonson* v. *Walker*.(*b*)

Addition of plates.

The addition of plates to the copyright letter-press of another would not, according to Sir L. Kenyon, M.R.,(*c*) constitute a defence to a charge of pirating the letter-press; the mere act of embellishing could not divest the right of the owner in the text.

Abridgments.

The writers of abridgments have in general been favourably regarded by the courts of law and equity.(*d*)

(*a*) *Campbell* v. *Scott* (11 Sim. 31).
(*b*) 3 Swanst. 672.
(*c*) *Carnan* v. *Bowles* (2 Dr. C. C. 85).
(*d*) The present Lord Chancellor is an exception. In *Tinsley* v. *Lacy* (11 W. R. 877; 1 H. & M. 747) he said "He must confess that he did not agree in the reasons for upholding such a work given by some learned judges, viz.: that an abridger was a benefactor. He should have himself regarded him rather as a sort of jackall to the public, to point out the beauties of authors." An American judge (Leavitt, J.) has also expressed himself unfavourably to the rights of an abridger, thinking the same rule of decision should be applied to a copyright as to a patent for a machine. "The construction," he says, "of any other machine which acts upon the same principle, however its structure may be varied, is an infringement on the patent. The second machine may be recommended by its simplicity and cheapness; still, if it act upon the same principle of the one first patented, the patent is violated. Now an abridgment, if fairly made, contains the principle of the original work, and this constitutes its value. Why, then, in reason and justice, should not the same principle be applied in a case of copyright as in that of a patented machine? With the assent of the patentee, a machine acting upon the same principle, but of less expensive structure than the one patented, may be built; and so a book may be abridged by the author, or with his consent, should a cheaper work be wanted by the public. This, in my judgment, is the ground on which the rights of the author should be considered, But a contrary doctrine has been long established in England under the statute of Anne, which in this respect is similar to our own statute; and in this country the same doctrine has prevailed. I am therefore bound by precedent; and I yield to it in this instance more as a principle of law than a rule of reason or justice:" (*Story's Executors* v. *Holcombe*, 4 M'Clean, 308, 309.) And see some strong observations to the same effect in Mr. Curtis's treatise on Copyright, pp. 272, 273.

"Abridgments," said Lord Hardwicke,(*a*) "may with great propriety be called a new book, because not only the paper and print, but the invention, learning, and judgment of the author is shown in them, and in many cases are extremely useful, though in some instances prejudicial, by mistaking and curtailing the sense of an author." And, said the same judge in the case of *Tonson* v. *Walker*,(*b*) "A fair abridgment would be entitled to protection, but this is a mere evasion."

In a case with respect to an abridgment by a Mr. Newbery of Dr. Hawkesworth's Voyages, Lord Chancellor Apsley, assisted by Mr. Justice Blackstone, was of opinion that "to constitute a true and proper abridgment of a work, the whole must be preserved in its *sense*, and then the act of abridgment is an act of the understanding, employed in carrying a large work into a smaller compass, and rendering it less expensive, and more convenient both to the time and use of the reader, which made an abridgment in the nature of a new and meritorious work. This had been done by Mr. Newbery, whose edition might be read in a fourth part of the time, and all the substance preserved and conveyed in language as good or better than in the original, and in a more agreeable and useful manner." His lordship said that he and Mr. Justice Blackstone, after consulting together for some hours, were agreed "that an abridgment, when the understanding is employed in retrenching unnecessary and uninteresting circumstances, which rather deaden the narration, is not an act of plagiarism upon the original work, nor against any property of the author in it, but an allowable and meritorious work." The bill praying for an injunction in that case was dismissed.(*c*)

But though a *bonâ fide* abridgment of another work is no infringement of the copyright in that work, a merely colourable abridgment is. "Where books are colourably shortened only," said Lord Hardwicke, "they are undoubtedly within the meaning of the Act of Parliament, and are a mere evasion of the statute, and cannot be called an abridgment."(*d*) In the case in which this dictum is expressed his lordship considered a book published by the defendant entitled "Modern Crown Law" not to be a *bonâ fide* but a mere colourable abridgment of Sir Matthew Hale's "Pleas of the Crown," with the omission of some repealed statutes, and a translation of the Latin and French quotations.

(*a*) *Gyles* v. *Wilcox* (2 Atk. 143).
(*b*) 3 Swanst. 681. See also *Bell* v. *Walker* (1 Br. C. C. 451).
(*c*) Lofft's Rep. 775. (*d*) *Gyles* v. *Wilcox* (2 Atk. 142).

A mere selection or different arrangement of parts of the original work, so as to bring the work into a smaller compass, will not, says Justice Story, be held to be a *bonâ fide* abridgment. "There must be real, substantial condensation of the materials, and intellectual labour and judgment bestowed thereon; and not merely the facile use of the scissors; or extracts of the essential parts constituting the chief value of the original work."(*a*)

According to another American judge, (Leavitt, J.), the abridgment must not only contain the arrangement of the book abridged; the ideas must also be taken from its pages: it must be in good faith an abridgment, not a treatise interlarded with citations: to copy certain passages from a book, omitting others, is in no just sense an abridgment: the judgment is not exercised in condensing the views of the author; the language is copied, not condensed.(*b*) "Between a compilation and an abridgment," said this learned judge, "there is a clear distinction; and yet it does not seem to have been drawn in any opinion cited. A compilation consists of selected extracts from different authors: an abridgment is a condensation of the views of the author. The former cannot be extended so as to convey the same knowledge as the original work: the latter contains an epitome of the work abridged, and consequently conveys substantially the same knowledge. The former cannot adopt the arrangement of the works cited; the latter must adopt the arrangement of the work abridged. The former infringes the copyright, if matter transcribed, when published, shall impair the value of the original book: a fair abridgment, though it may injure the original, is lawful."(*c*)

The case in which the preceding opinion was expressed was one in which the plaintiff's complained of an infringement of the copyright in Judge Story's "Commentaries on Equity Jurisprudence," the defence being that the work complained of (an "Introduction to Equity") was a *bonâ fide* abridgment of the Commentaries. It appeared that the chapters and the subjects were the same in both books; the former book contained 1856 octavo pages, including notes, the latter 348 octavo pages, including notes; a page in the latter contained a little more than one in the former: reduced to the same sized page, the ratio in the amount of matter in the latter book to that in the former was about two to nine. In

(*a*) *Folsom* v. *Marsh* (2 St. Rep. 107).
(*b*) *Story's Executors* v. *Holcombe* (4 M'Clean, 311). (*c*) *Ib.* 314.

the entire work of Story there were 226 pages, constituting nearly an eighth part, on which there was some matter which had been extracted in the same language, or very nearly so, into the defendant's book, this matter comprising 879 lines, or about twenty-four pages of his book, and thirty pages of Story, which made one fifteenth part of the defendant's book and one-sixtieth of Story; this matter being found in scattered paragraphs in the first third of the defendant's book: all the other portions of Judge Story's book were abridged without any transcription of his common language, the part so abridged comprising two-thirds of the defendant's book. The court granted an injunction as to the first 100 pages of the defendant's work, and thus stated the grounds of its decision:

"What is the character of the work complained of? Upon its title page it does not purport to be an abridgment, but 'An Introduction to Equity Jurisprudence, on the Basis of Story's Commentaries;' and in the preface the author says, 'It is not intended to supply the place of the Commentaries with any class of readers, but to serve simply as an introduction, a companion, and a supplement to their study. The text is substantially an abridgment of that work, &c.'; . . . . but he also says that 'he has felt at liberty to make very considerable alterations and additions.' Alterations of the original work, and additions to the text, are not appropriate to an abridgment. In saying, therefore, that 'the text is substantially an abridgment,' Mr Holcombe could have meant nothing more than that, in writing his book, he followed the arrangement of the Commentaries, extracting certain parts, condensing others, with 'very considerable alterations and additions' of his own. A supplement to the Commentaries, which Mr Holcombe says in some sense is the character of his work, may supply defects in the original, but it can in no sense be considered an abridgment. This remark seems to have been made in reference to the notes added by the author. It may not be essential to exclude extracts entirely from an abridgment, but in making extracts merely there is no condensation of the language of the author, and, consequently, there is no abridgment of it. Much looseness is found in the decisions upon this subject. Some of the judges would seem to consider that where a book is greatly reduced in the size, though made up principally of extracts, it is an abridgment. In a book of Reports, such as 'Bacon's Abridgments,' the language of the Court is necessarily adopted often to show the principle of the decision. But

PART I. CHAPTER XVI.

the same necessity does not exist, and the same licence cannot be exercised in abridging an elementary work. . . . . Nearly one half of the text, in the first hundred pages of Mr Holcombe's book, appears to have been extracted from Story. . . . . To class these extracts under the head of 'abridgments,' would seem to be a perversion of terms. Whatever else this part of Mr Holcombe's book may be called, it is not an abridgment. With greater propriety it may be called a compilation, as the extracts contained in it are taken from various authors. As a compilation, this part of the book must be considered an infringement of the right of the plaintiffs, by the copious extracts made from the Commentaries, and the classification of the subjects copied from them. . . . . Looking at the smallness of Mr Holcombe's book in comparison of that from which it was principally taken, one might suppose that the former was a short abridgment of the latter. But this comparison of size or number of pages affords no guide to a proper decision. The character of the work must depend upon its matter; and it would seem from the considerations stated, that the first third part of Mr Holcombe's book, including one hundred pages, cannot be justly and legally called an abridgment, as it does not possess the essential ingredients of such a work; and that, viewing it as a compilation, it is an infringement of the plaintiff's right, on the ground that the plan of the Commentaries is copied; and also for the reason that the extracts extend beyond the proper limit for such a work. The remaining two-thirds of the book may be comprehended under a liberal construction of an abridgment. The matter is greatly condensed by Mr Holcombe, in his own language, and in a manner highly creditable to him. The prayer of the bill as to the first hundred pages is granted."

The publication of a "Life of Washington," in two volume, containing 866 pages, was restrained by Story, J., as an invasion of the copyright in "Sparks's Life and Writings of Washington," a work in twelve volumes; 353 pages of the former work being copied from the latter, 64 pages being official letters, and 255 being private letters of Washington, first published by Sparks under a contract with the owners of the original papers of Washington.(*a*)

Abridgment of works of fiction.

Where the defendant published in a number of *Parley's Illuminated Library* (a weekly publication) a portion of a story entitled "A Christmas Ghost Story, re-originated from the original by Charles Dickens, Esq., and analytically

(*a*) *Folsom* v. *Marsh* (2 St. 100).

condonsed expressly for this work," which, with the exception of a few colourable alterations, was in all respects similar to the "Christmas Carol" of Charles Dickens, this was held to be a clear invasion of Mr. Dickens's copyright in that work.(*a*)

It was contended on behalf of the defendant, on a motion to dissolve an injunction which had been granted, that his work was neither a colourable imitation nor a piracy of the other, but a fair abridgment, the result of the defendant's mental labour, and falling within the principle of *Dodsley* v. *Kinnersley;*(*b*) and it was urged that so far from any attempt being made to induce the public to believe they were buying for one penny what the eminent author of the "Christmas Carol" had written and published for five shillings, the defendant in his work had a dedication of his labours to Mr. Dickens himself. Knight Bruce, V.C., said, "The plaintiff appears to be the author and to own the copyright of a work of fiction, a novel, the copyright of which has not been contended to be not entitled to protection. The defendant has printed and published a novel of which fable, persons, names and characters of persons, the age, time, country, and scene are exactly the same; the style of language in which the story is told is in many instances identical, in all similar, except when certain alterations by way of extension or substitution have been made, as to which, whether they improve or do not improve upon the original composition, it is not necessary for me to express my opinion. Now this has been said to be an abridgment, and as an abridgment to be protected. I am not aware that one man has the right to abridge the works of another. On the other hand I do not mean to say that there may not be an abridgment which may be lawful, which may be protected; but to say that one man has the right to abridge and so publish in an abridged form the work of another, without more, is going much beyond my notion of what the law of this country is. The expressions of Lord Eldon, applied to a subject of copyright very different from the present, but still applied to the subject of copyright, are these: 'The question upon the whole is whether this is a legitimate use of the plaintiff's publication in the fair exercise of a mental operation deserving the character of an original work.'(*c*) And I agree that there may be such an use of another man's publication as, involving the exercise of a new mental operation, may fairly and legitimately involve it. It does not appear to me that there is anything in the present case which

(*a*) *Dickens* v. *Lee* (8 Jur. 183). (*b*) 4 Esp. 169. *Ante*, p. 186.
(*c*) 17 Ves. 426.

brings that which the defendant has done within a legitimate use of the plaintiff's publication, within the terms 'fair exercise of a mental operation,' or within the expression of 'deserving the character of an original work.' I think it, therefore, entirely excluded from Lord Eldon's definition, if as a definition Lord Eldon meant it. It appears to me to be a mere borrowing with alterations and departures merely colourable, and when it is said that the difference of price and other circumstances of difference belonging to it are such as to render the invasion of no practicable mischief to the plaintiff, the person whose property has been taken is entitled to judge for himself how far he will consider that abstraction of his property to be prejudicial or not prejudicial. It is a valuable property, and he is entitled to be protected from the unauthorised use of it by another. I do not, however, as at present advised, at all accede to the argument that, whatever may be the relative merit of the two publications, whatever their relative prices, the publication and circulation of the cheaper may not in a pecuniary point of view, at least, if not so otherwise, materially prejudice the plaintiff. There are various points of view into which it is unnecessary for me to enter in which such a case may be put, in which material damage may arise from the subject, considered merely and solely as a question of property, which is the only point of view in which it is my duty or business to consider it."

Digests of legal decisions.

Somewhat in the nature of abridgments are those digests of legal decisions which are published from time to time. They give, under headings arranged alphabetically, a summary of the legal points decided in each case referred to, and there is no doubt that such an arrangement may be the product of skill and mental labour on the part of the compiler. If so, the general rule applies, and the compiler is guilty of no infringement of the copyright in the published reports of the cases digested, and is entitled to copyright in his own work.

But if the compiler's labour is purely mechanical, and he only arranges in alphabetical order the marginal or head notes of cases contained in published reports, the Court of Common Pleas has held that he is guilty of infringing the copyright in the published reports. In *Sweet* v. *Benning*, (*a*) which was such a case, Jervis, C.J., said: "I think the defendants in this case have been guilty of an abuse of the fair right of extract which the law allows for the purpose of comment, criticism, or illustration; and that this is in reality an unauthorised publication of a por-

(*a*) 16 C. B. 484.

tion of the plaintiff's work, without justifiable excuse. The plaintiff's publication, *The Jurist*, or that portion of it from which these extracts are made, consists of double reports in each case—a detailed report of the facts of the case, with the arguments and the judgment of the court, and an abstract in the shape of what is commonly called a side or marginal note, which professes to state the principle of law laid down in the case, if any such there be, or a summary statement of the facts and the decision of the court thereon. In truth, they are two reports, a short one and a long one. The gentleman who has compiled *The Monthly Digest* has taken the short reports *verbatim*. If the law allows him to do that, why should he not also be allowed to take the fuller report? And if he might take either the one or the other, why should he not take both? The question is whether a man can acquire a right to avail himself in this way of the labours of another, merely because he arranges the matter under heads and subdivisions, so as to form with other matter of the same sort, derived from other sources, what is called an analytical digest? I am of opinion that he cannot. A digest, undoubtedly, may be made from the published reports without necessarily subjecting the compiler to a charge of piracy: for instance, where the party applies the exertion and skill of his own brain in extracting the principle or the substance of the decisions before him, dressing it up in his own language so as to produce an original work. But here there is no thought or skill brought to bear upon the work that is complained of; it is a mere mechanical stringing together of marginal or side notes which the labour and intelligence of the authors have fashioned ready to the compiler's hand."(*a*) Cresswell and Crowder, JJ., took the same view as the Chief Justice, but the latter somewhat doubtingly. Maule, J., dissented from the judgment of the other members of the court, being of opinion that the defendant's work was different in its object and result from the plaintiff's reports, and would be a very imperfect substitute for them. "The object of a digest," he said, "is to afford facilities for finding out cases that are inserted in the reports without buying the reports themselves *in extenso*. The effect may be to induce many persons to abstain from purchasing the reports, relying upon the means of access to public libraries and other institutions for the fuller and more perfect information, when they have occasion for it. But that, I think, is no argument in favour of this being a piracy: rather the contrary, because it shows

(*a*) See also *Butterworth* v. *Robinson* (5 Ves. 709).

that the defendants' work is useful only for a different purpose from that of the plaintiffs, and is not, and never was intended as, a substitute for it. . . . . By far the larger portion of the matter distributed is, as against the plaintiffs, the defendants' own property; and the method of arrangement is entirely their own. That being the state of things, the defendants have, as it seems to me, made and published a book altogether different from the plaintiffs' work, intending to answer, and really effecting, a totally different purpose. Therefore, I conceive that they have not, in a sense that is unlawful, copied any part of the plaintiffs' work, but that they have done nothing more than is done, and lawfully done, by one who, for the purpose of supporting and fortifying his own argument, avails himself of the work of another to the extent to which it is made *publici juris* for the purpose of being read and extracted from to a fair and *bonâ fide* and legitimate extent."

Prints in a book.

Prints not published separately, but forming part of a book, were held by Sir James Parker, V.C., in *Bogue* v. *Houlston*(*a*) to be within the protection afforded to books by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, and he granted an injunction to restrain the publication of those prints by the defendant, on the plaintiff's undertaking to bring an action to try the right at law.

"It appears to me," said the Vice-Chancellor, "that a book must include every part of the book; it must include every print, design, or engraving which forms part of the book as well as the letter-press therein, which is another part of it. Prints published separately do not appear to have been within the Act by that express definition [the definition of a 'book' given in 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 2]. But the case now before the court is not the case of separately published prints, but the case of designs forming part of a book." In this case the plaintiff's publication consisted of letter-press and woodcuts, printed on the same large sheets of paper, the woodcuts appearing as separate leaves when the sheets were folded into their quarto size.

Piracy of name of work.

The name or title of a work may be considered as a kind of trade mark which no other person than the proprietor of the work can use so as to damage him in respect of his property in it.(*b*) Cases of this kind depend rather upon the question whether the defendant has a right to sell as his own that in which another has acquired a description of property, than on the question of copyright.(*c*)

(*a*) *Bogue* v. *Houlston* (5 De G. & Sm. 267).
(*b*) See *Scely* v. *Fisher* (11 Sm. 582); *Spottiswoode* v. *Clark* (2 Ph. 154). (*c*) *Per* Wood, V.C., in *Chappell* v. *Davidson* (2 K. & J. 126).

The proprietor of a magazine called *The Wonderful Magazine*, obtained an injunction to restrain the publication of a magazine under a similar title, described as a *new series improved*. The defendant was publishing "a number of a work as a continuation of(*a*) the plaintiff's old work; taking the merit, which had been acquired by that, to his own; and that he was not permitted to do."(*b*)

The proprietor of a newspaper called *The John Bull* having incorporated it with another newspaper called *The Britannia*, and issued the publication under the title of *The John Bull and Britannia*, was held entitled to an injunction to restrain the publication by the printer and publisher of *The Britannia* of a publication called the *True Britannia*, in imitation of and as a continuation of *The Britannia*.(*c*) The injunction in this case also restrained the defendant from soliciting custom in the name of the plaintiff's trade and business as for *The Britannia* newspaper.

The proprietors of *Bell's Life in London* obtained an injunction to restrain the publication of a newspaper under the title of the *Penny Bell's Life*. The possibility of mistaking the one publication for the other (the plaintiffs having an exclusive right to the title) was considered sufficient by Sir John Stuart, V.C., to entitle the proprietors to the protection of the court.(*d*)

The case of *Ingram* v. *Stiff*,(*e*) went very far in this direction. There the proprietor of a weekly penny publication, called *The London Journal*—a publication which was not a newspaper, but contained tales and romances, illustrated with wood engravings—sold his interest therein to the plaintiff, and covenanted with him not to publish, either alone or in partnership with anybody else, any weekly publication of a nature similar to *The London Journal*. An injunction to restrain him from publishing a *daily* penny *newspaper*, called *The Daily London Journal* was granted, on the plaintiff undertaking to abide by any order the court might make as to damages, and to bring an action at law within a week.

A song consisting of original words, adapted to an old American air by the plaintiffs, was published by them under the title of "'Minnie;' sung by Madame Anna Thillon and Miss Dolby, at Monsieur Jullien's Concerts. Written by George Linley. London: Jullien and Co., 214, Regent-

(*a*) *Hogg* v. *Kirby* (8 Ves. 215).
(*b*) *Per* Lord Eldon in *Longman* v. *Winchester* (16 Ves. 271).
(*c*) *Prowett* v. *Mortimer* (2 Jur. N. S. 414; 4 W. R. 519).
(*d*) *Clement* v. *Maddick* (1 Giff. 98). (*e*) 5 Jur. N. S. 947.

street, and 45, King-street," the title-page containing also a portrait of Madame Anna Thillon. The defendants having subsequently published a song to the same air, on the title-page being printed the words "Musical Bouquet. 'Minnie Dale;' sung at Jullien's Concerts (and always encored) by Madame Anna Thillon. The music composed by H. S. Thompson. London: Musical Bouquet Office, No. 192, High Holborn, and J. Allen, 20, Warwick-lane, Paternoster-row," the title-page containing also a portrait of Madame Anna Thillon, which was a copy with some slight alterations, but reduced in size, of the portrait on the title-page of the plaintiffs' song, Vice-Chancellor Wood granted an injunction to restrain the defendants from publishing their song, "Minnie Dale," or any copy or copies thereof, or any other publication containing a colourable imitation of the name, title, or title-page of the plaintiffs' song.(*a*) "The defendants," said the Vice-Chancellor, "do not profess that their song is by the same composer or the same publisher. But the first thing anybody proposing to purchase the song would say would probably be, 'I want "Minnie," sung by Madame Thillon;' and that name and description, it seems to me, the defendants have no right to whatever. The plaintiffs' publication is the identical song which that lady did sing; it was composed for the plaintiffs, it is called by the name of 'Minnie,' and they had a perfect right to entitle it 'Minnie,' as a song sung by that lady; and then the name, having acquired a celebrity as the name of a song sung by her, the defendants advertise another song by the same name as sung by this lady, which cannot be meant merely to refer to the melody as sung by her. No person who heard 'Scots wha hae,' sung by Braham, would ask for 'Hey Tuitte Taitte,' the name of the old melody. Therefore, it seems to me that there was a plain and palpable purpose in the assumption of the name. The original song, as sung in America, was 'Lillie Dale,' and the defendants have changed it into 'Minnie Dale, sung by Madame Thillon;' and such a description can be for no other purpose than to appropriate the property of the plaintiffs."

An injunction was also granted to restrain another defendant from publishing a song consisting of different words to the same air, with a title page on which was a different portrait of Madame Anna Thillon copied from an American publication, and the words "*Minnie*, dear *Minnie*. Madame Anna Thillon." This Vice-Chancellor Wood considered an obvious attempt to pass off the defendant's publication

(*a*) *Chappell* v. *Davidson* (2 K. & J. 123).

for that of the plaintiff. It was urged on the part of the defendant in this case that he had cautioned his shop-boys and others to say that it was not the song of the plaintiffs; but the Vice-Chancellor considered that that afforded no defence, as there was no security that retail dealers would sell the song with the same caution to the public. (*a*)

The case of *Lord Byron* v. *Johnston* (*b*) stands on a peculiar footing. There an injunction was granted by Sir Thomas Plumer, V.C., and continued by Lord Eldon, restraining the defendant from publishing a poem as the work of Lord Byron, who was then abroad, on an affidavit of Lord Byron's agents of circumstances rendering it highly probable that it was not his work, and the defendant declining to swear that he believed it was.

Importation of pirated copies.

Copyright may also be infringed by the importation, for sale or hire, into any part of the British dominions of copies printed abroad. This is now prohibited by statute under a penalty of 10*l.* for every offence, and double the value of every copy imported, besides the forfeiture of such copy.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 17, enacts, "that after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person, not being the proprietor of the copyright, or some person authorised by him, to import into any part of the United Kingdom, or into any other part of the British dominions, for sale or hire, any printed book first composed or written or printed and published in any part of the said United Kingdom, wherein there shall be copyright, and reprinted in any country or place whatsoever out of the British dominions; and if any person, not being such proprietor or person authorised as aforesaid, shall import or bring, or cause to be imported or brought, for sale or hire, any such printed book into any part of the British dominions, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, or shall knowingly sell, publish, or expose to sale or let to hire, or have in his possession for sale or hire, any such book, then every such book shall be forfeited, and shall be seized by any officer of Customs or Excise, and the same shall be destroyed by such officer; and every person so offending, being duly convicted thereof before two justices of the peace for the county or place in which such book shall be found, shall also for every such offence forfeit the sum of ten pounds, and double the value of every copy of such book which he shall so import or cause to be imported into any part of the British dominions, or shall knowingly sell, publish, or expose to sale or let to hire, or shall cause to be sold, published, or

(*a*) 2 K. & J. 123. Cf. *Sykes* v. *Sykes* (3 B. & C. 541). (*b*) 2 Meriv. 29.

exposed to sale or let to hire, or shall have in his possession for sale or hire, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, five pounds to the use of such officer of Customs or Excise, and the remainder of the penalty to the use of the proprietor of the copyright in such book."

Lists of prohibited books.

Printed lists of such prohibited books are to be put up at the different ports in Her Majesty's dominions. Sect. 46 of 16 & 17 Vict. c. 107, enacts that "the Commissioners of Customs shall cause to be made, and to be publicly exposed at the several ports in the United Kingdom and in Her Majesty's possessions abroad, printed lists of all books wherein the copyright shall be subsisting, and as to which the proprietor of such copyright, or his agent, shall have given notice in writing to the said commissioners that such copyright exists, stating in such notice when such copyright expires." If notice is not given, the importation will not be prohibited.

By sect. 160 of the same Act it is provided that "no such books shall be prohibited to be imported as aforesaid, unless the proprietor of such copyright, or his agent, shall have given notice in writing to the Commissioners of Customs that such copyright subsists, and in such notice shall have stated when the copyright will expire." But the concluding portion of the section enacts that nothing therein contained "shall be taken to prevent Her Majesty from exercising the powers vested in her by the 10 & 11 Vict. c. 95, intituled—*An Act to amend the law relating to the protection in the colonies of works entitled to copyright in the United Kingdom*, to suspend in certain cases such prohibition."(*a*)

Remedy for wrongful entry in list of prohibited books.

18 & 19 Vict. c. 96, s. 39, gives a remedy, by application to a judge at chambers, for any wrongful entry of a book in the aforesaid lists of prohibited books. It enacts that "if any person shall have cause to complain of the insertion of any book" in those lists "it shall be lawful for any judge at chambers, on the application of the person so complaining, to issue a summons calling upon the person upon whose notice such book shall have been so inserted to appear before such judge at a time to be appointed in such summons, to show cause why such book shall not be expunged from such lists, and such judge shall at the time so appointed proceed to hear and determine upon the matter of such summons, and make his order thereon in writing, and upon service of such order, or a certified copy thereof, upon the Commissioners of Customs, or their secretary for the time being, the said com-

(*a*) Similar provisions were contained in the repealed Act, 5 & 6 Vict. c. 47.

missioners shall expunge such book from the list, or retain the same therein, according to the tenor of such order; and in case such book shall be expunged from such lists, the same shall not be deemed to be prohibited under the table of prohibitions and restrictions inwards contained in sect. 44 of 'The Customs Consolidation Act, 1853.'"

"If at the time appointed in any such summons the person so summoned shall not appear before such judge, then upon proof by affidavit that such summons or a true copy thereof has been personally served upon or left at the last known or usual place of abode of the person so summoned, or, in case the person to whom such summons was directed and his place of abode cannot be found, that due diligence has been used to ascertain the same, such judge shall be at liberty to proceed *ex parte* to hear and determine the matter."(*a*)

If either party is dissatisfied with the order made by the judge, he "may apply to the superior court of which such judge is a member, to review such order, and make such further order thereon as such court may see fit."(*b*)

Sect. 40 of the same Act requires, as a preliminary, a declaration of the truth of the contents of the notice. It enacts that—"No book shall be inserted in any list published by the Commissioners of Customs under the 46th and 160th sections of the 'The Customs Consolidation Act, 1853,' until the person giving the notice thereby required shall have made and subscribed a declaration before the collector of the customs or any justice of the peace, at some port or place in the United Kingdom, that the contents of such notice are true; Provided always that nothing in this Act contained shall prevent, prejudice, or affect any proceedings at law or in equity which any party, aggrieved by reason of the insertion of any book in any such list, in pursuance of any such notice, or upon the removal of any book from such list, pursuant to any such order as aforesaid, or by reason of any declaration to be made under the authority of this Act being false, might or would otherwise have against any party giving such notice, or obtaining any such order, or making such false declaration as aforesaid."

Sale of pirated copies.

Where a person simply sells pirated copies of the work of another, Wilde, C.J., held, in *Leader* v. *Strange*,(*c*) that he is not liable to an action unless he has acted with guilty knowledge. The Chief Justice was of opinion in that case that, although sect. 15 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, presumed guilty knowledge in some cases, it did not presume

(*a*) 18 & 19 Vict. c. 96, s. 39. (*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) 2 Car. & Kir. 1010.

it from the mere fact of selling printed works; and as the declaration in the case before him did not allege guilty knowledge on the part of the defendant, if there were not evidence of it, his lordship ruled that the jury must, as to the publishing, find for the defendant.(*a*)

Where the copyright has been assigned, it is not an infringement of the assignee's copyright for the assignor to sell copies of the work which have been printed before the assignment was made.(*b*)

Periodicals.

Copyright in periodical publications may be infringed in the same manner as in the case of other literary works. But this species of property may also be infringed in a manner peculiar to itself. We have seen already(*c*) that even when the copyright in contributions to encyclopædias, reviews, magazines, and other periodicals is vested in the proprietors of such encyclopædias, &c., the right of publishing his contribution in a separate form reverts to the author after twenty-eight years from the first publication, and the proprietor cannot, during the term of his own copyright, publish it in a separate form without the previous consent of the author or his assigns. The author has a modified property in possession, and the sole property in reversion.

It is, then, an infringement of the author's property to publish, without his consent, any of his contributions in a separate form; and such separate publication will be restrained.(*d*)

A republication in supplemental numbers of a periodical of a selection of various tales previously published in that periodical, is a separate publication within the meaning of sect. 18 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, and such republication will be restrained.(*e*)

Musical compositions.

Musical compositions are "books" within the meaning of the Copyright Acts, and the copyright in them may be infringed in manner similar to other works.

Although, as we have seen, the score of an opera or piece of concerted music is so far an independent work as to

(*a*) In the case of paintings, drawings, and photographs, the stat. 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, states expressly that when a person sells copies not made by himself but by others, he must do so *knowingly* in order to render himself liable to the penalty. See sect. 6 of the Act, and *per* Blackburn, J., in *Ex parte Beal* (9 B. & S. 400; L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 387; 18 L. T. N. S. 285; 37 L. J. 161, Q. B.) *Ante*, p. 121.

(*b*) *Taylor* v. *Pillow* (L. Rep. 7 Eq. 418). (*c*) *Ante*, pp. 98, 99.

(*d*) See the cases of the *Bishop of Hereford* v. *Griffin* (16 Sim. 190); *Mayhew* v. *Maxwell* (1 J. & H. 312); *Murray* v. *Maxwell* (3 L. T. N. S. 466); *Stewart* v. *Black* (9 Scotch Ses. Cas. 1026); *Fullarton* v. *M'Phun* (13 Scotch Ses. Cas. 219).

(*e*) *Smith* v. *Johnson* (4 Giff. 632; 6 L. T. N. S. 437; 33 L. J. 137, Ch.).

require to be registered in the name of the compiler of the score, it would seem, although the point has not been expressly decided, that no one may compile and publish such a score without the consent of the composer of the opera or piece.(*a*)

Piracy may be of part of an air as well as of the whole, says Lord Lyndhurst in *D'Almaine* v. *Boosey*.(*b*)

The same learned judge held in that case that to publish in the form of quadrilles and waltzes the airs of an opera, of which there exists an exclusive copyright, is an act of piracy.

"It is said," observed his Lordship, in giving judgment, "that the present publication is adapted for dancing only, and that some degree of art is needed for the purpose of so adapting it; and that but a small part of the merit belongs to the original composer. That is a nice question. It is a nice question what shall be deemed such a modification of an original work, as shall absorb the merit of the original in the new composition. No doubt such a modification may be allowed in some cases, as in that of an abridgment or a digest. Such publications are in their nature original. Their compiler intends to make of them a new use; not that which the author proposed to make. Digests are of great use to practical men, though not so, comparatively speaking, to students. The same may be said of an abridgment of any study. It will be said, one author may treat the same subject very differently from another who wrote before him. That observation is true in many cases. A man may write upon morals in a manner quite distinct from that of others who preceded him; but the subject of music is to be regarded upon very different principles. It is the air or melody which is the invention of the author, and which may in such case be the subject of piracy; and you commit a piracy if, by taking not a single bar, but several, you incorporate in the new work that in which the whole meritorious part of the invention consists." His lordship, after referring to a case at *Nisi Prius*, in which Sir George Smart, who was a witness, said that three or four bars might constitute a phrase though one would not, proceeded: "Now it appears to me that if you take from the composition of an author all those bars consecutively which form the entire air or melody, without any material alteration, it is a piracy; though, on the other hand, you might take them, in a different

(*a*) See the opinions of Cockburn, C.J., and Blackburn, J., in *Wood* v. *Boosey* (L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 350, 354; 7 B. & S. 869; 15 L. T. N. S. 530; 36 L. J. 103, Q. B.) and Kelly, C.B., on appeal (L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 223; 9 B. & S. 175; 37 L. J. 84, Q. B.; 18 L. T. N. S. 105, *ante*, p. 118).

(*b*) 1 Y. & C. 301.

order or broken by the intersection of others, like words, in such a manner as should not be a piracy. It must depend on whether the air taken is substantially the same with the original. Now the most unlettered in music can distinguish one song from another, and the mere adaptation of the air, either by changing it to a dance, or by transferring it from one instrument to another, does not, even to common apprehensions, alter the original subject. The ear tells you that it is the same. The original air requires the aid of genius for its construction, but a mere mechanic in music can make the adaptation or accompaniment. Substantially, the piracy is where the appropriated music, though adapted to a different purpose from that of the original, may still be recognised by the ear. The adding variations makes no difference in the principle."

ENGRAVINGS AND LITHOGRAPHS.

17 Geo. 3, c. 57.

The statute 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, forbids every "engraver, etcher, printseller, or other person," during the term of statutory copyright in engravings, "to engrave, etch, or work, or cause or procure to be engraved, etched or worked, in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, or otherwise, or in any other manner copy in the whole or in part, by varying, adding to, or diminishing from the main design," or to "print, reprint, or import for sale, or publish, sell, or otherwise dispose of, or cause or procure to be published, sold, or otherwise disposed of any copy or copies of any historical print or prints, or any print or prints of any portrait, conversation, landscape or architecture, map, chart, or plan, or any other print or prints whatsoever, which hath or have been, or shall be engraved, etched, drawn, or designed in any part of Great Britain, without the express consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing signed by him, her, or them respectively, with his, her, or their own hand or hands, in the presence of and attested by two or more credible witnesses."

A person is guilty of piracy under this section who sells a piratical copy, although he does not know it to be such.(*a*) The former part of the section applies to persons who actually make the copy, and who therefore must know that it is a copy; but the latter branch applies to all persons who import for sale or sell any piratical copy.(*b*)

(*a*) *West* v. *Francis* (5 B. & Ald. 737).

(*b*) *Ib.* *Per* Bayley, J., who points out that the Act omits the words "knowing the same to be so reprinted," which were contained in 8 Geo. 2, c. 13.

Doubts having been entertained whether the provisions of that statute extended to lithographs and other impressions, sect. 14 of 15 Vict. c. 12, was passed for the purpose of declaring that the provisions of the former Act were intended to include prints taken by lithography or any other mechanical process by which prints or impressions of drawings or designs are capable of being multiplied indefinitely.

It has been decided that prints engraved and struck off abroad, but published here, are not protected from piracy by 17 Geo. 3. c. 57.(a) Sir L. Shadwell, V.C., said "The object of the legislature was to protect those works which were designed, engraved, etched, or worked in Great Britain, and not those which were designed, engraved, etched, or worked abroad, and only published in Great Britain."

In the case of prints first published abroad since the passing of the International Copyright Act (7 Vict. c. 12), sect. 19 of that Act provides that the inventor, designer, or engraver of them shall have no copyright therein otherwise than such (if any) as he may become entitled to under that Act.

How piratical copy may be taken.

The terms of 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, are very general, and prohibit the copying of a print in *any manner whatever*. And it is now finally settled that a picture or engraving may be pirated by taking photographic copies of it, or copies by any other process, mechanical or otherwise, whereby they may be indefinitely multiplied.

This was the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas in *Gambart* v. *Ball*.(b) Erle, C.J., in that case said, "The object of the statute to my mind was, not merely to prevent the reputation of the artist from being lessened in the eyes of the world, but to secure to him the commercial value of his property—to encourage the arts by securing to the artist a monopoly in the sale of an object of attraction. If that be the object of the statute, it is plain that a photographic copy may excite in the mind of the beholder the same pleasurable emotions as would be communicated by a copy of any other description: and I see no reason why these very wide and general words should not be construed according to their plain and ordinary meaning, and be held to apply to any mode of copying known at that time, and to such other modes of multiplying copies as the ingenuity of man may from time to time discover."(c)

The same question came again before the Court of Common Pleas in 1866, in the case of *Graves* v. *Ashford*, when a decision similar to that in the last case was pro-

(a) *Page* v. *Townsend* (5 Sim. 395).
(b) 14 C. B. N. S. 306; 32 L. J. 166, C. P. (c) 14 C. B. N. S. 317.

PART I. CHAPTER XVI.

nounced. The defendants appealed to the Exchequer Chamber, and that court unanimously affirmed the decision of the Court of Common Pleas. Kelly, C.B., in delivering the judgment of the court, said,(a) "It is obvious that the Legislature could not, in providing for the protection of works of art, describe a piracy by means of a process not then within the knowledge of mankind. But it by no means follows that when words large enough to embrace it are used, the prohibition should not, as well as the protection, be extended to a subsequently discovered mode of reproducing and multiplying copies. It appears to us, therefore, that the argument derived from the 15 & 16 Vict. c. 12, and 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, altogether fails; and that the effect of all the Acts taken together is, that any process, whether known at the time, or the result of subsequent invention or discovery, by which pictures or engravings may be imitated or copied, is within the mischief as well as within the express words which the Legislature has used. And we cannot help thinking that a more limited construction would be contrary to the whole spirit of the legislation on the subject, and productive of great injustice."

What is a copy.

A copy is defined by Bailey, J., in *West* v. *Francis*(b) to be "that which comes so near to the original as to give every person seeing it the idea created by the original."

Trifling variations are not material;(c) and in the case of photographs it makes no difference that the photograph is of smaller dimensions than the print. "It is not," said Erle, C.J., in *Gambart* v. *Ball*,(d) "the extent of the paper covered by the picture which conveys the pleasure to the mind. Thus, in the representation of 'The Horse Fair' [by Rosa Bonheur, one of the engravings in question in that case], we feel the same degree of pleasure in looking at the forms and attitudes of the beautiful animals there pourtrayed, whether we see them in the size in which they are drawn in the original picture, or in the reduced size of the engraving, or in the still more diminished form in which they appear in the photograph." And in *Moore* v. *Clarke*,(e) an action for pirating an engraving, it was held to have been a correct direction to the jury to consider whether the main design of the plaintiff's engraving had been copied, and whether the defendant's engraving was substantially a copy of the plaintiff's.

Publicly exhibiting a copy.

But where a person made and publicly exhibited for money a large painted dioramic copy of a copyright print,

(a) L. Rep. 2 C. P. 421; 16 L. T. N. S. 98; 38 L. J. 139, C. P.
(b) 5 B. & Ald. 743.
(c) 14 C. B. N. S. 317.
(d) *Ib.* 742, 743.
(e) 9 M. & W. 692.

this was held not to be within the mischief intended to be remedied by 17 Geo. 3, c. 57. "Exhibiting for profit," said the Vice-Chancellor (Shadwell), "is in no way analogous to selling a copy of the plaintiff's print, but is dealing with it in a very different manner. . . . . It appears to me that 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, never was intended to apply to a case where there was no intention to print, sell, or publish, but to exhibit in a certain manner; and therefore I ought not to grant the injunction until the right has been established at law. Then with respect to the defendant representing his copy as the plaintiff's picture. It must be either better or worse; if it is better the plaintiff has the benefit of it; if worse, then the misrepresentation is only a sort of libel, and this court will not prevent the publication of a libel."(*a*)

Prints unlawfully struck off from original plate.

The prints prohibited by the Acts to be engraved, etched, or sold, or otherwise disposed of, are prints struck off from engravings pirated from other engravings. Hence the sale of prints unlawfully struck off from the original plate does not amount to piracy. Thus where an engraver, being employed by the owner of certain drawings to engrave plates of those drawings, took off from the plates so engraved a number of proof impressions, which he kept for himself, and which on his bankruptcy were advertised by his assignees to be sold, it was held that an action for piracy would not lie against him or them.(*b*) It was contended in support of the action that the words "without the express consent of the proprietor or proprietors" in sect. 1 of 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, refer to all the antecedent clauses of that section, and so apply to the sale of copies. But the Court of King's Bench did not adopt this view. The court considered that the Acts of Parliament did not apply to prints taken from the original plate, but only to those taken from engravings which had been pirated from other engravings; only with respect to them did 8 Geo. 2, c. 13, and 7 Geo. 3, c. 38, impose a forfeiture, and 17 Geo. 3, c. 57, give an action on the case. "The injury complained of in this case," said Lord Tenterden, C.J., "required no Act of Parliament to put an end to it, for the engraver having contracted to engrave the plate, and to appropriate the prints taken from it to the use of another, an action at common law would lie against him for the breach of that contract;"(*c*) but an action under 17 Geo. 3, c. 59, would not lie.

As to prints forming part of a book, see the case of *Bogue* v. *Houlston*, referred to *ante*, p. 196.

(*a*) *Martin* v. *Wright* (6 Sim. 297). See also *per* Best, C. J. (4 Bing. 245). (*b*) *Murray* v. *Heath* (1 Bar. & Ad. 804). (*c*) *Ib.* 811.

PART I.

CHAPTER XVI.

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

In what piracy consists.

Piracy in the case of a painting, drawing, or photograph consists in the infringement of "the sole and exclusive right of copying, engraving, reproducing, and multiplying such painting or drawing and the design thereof, or such photograph and the negative thereof *by any means and of any size.*"

Sect. 6 of 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, enacts that "if the author of any painting, drawing, or photograph in which there shall be subsisting copyright, after having sold or disposed of such copyright, or if any other person, not being the proprietor for the time being of copyright in any painting, drawing, or photograph, shall, without the consent of such proprietor, repeat, copy, colourably imitate, or otherwise multiply for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, or cause or procure to be repeated, copied, colourably imitated, or otherwise multiplied for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, any such work or the design thereof, or, knowing that any such repetition, copy, or other imitation has been unlawfully made, shall import into any part of the United Kingdom, or sell, publish, let to hire, exhibit, or distribute, or offer for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, or cause or procure to be imported, sold, published, let to hire, distributed, or offered for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, any repetition, copy, or imitation of the said work, or of the design thereof, made without such consent as aforesaid, such person for every such offence shall forfeit to the proprietor of the copyright for the time being a sum not exceeding ten pounds; and all such repetitions, copies, and imitations made without such consent as aforesaid, and all negatives of photographs made for the purpose of obtaining such copies, shall be forfeited to the proprietor of the copyright."

Acts forbidden by 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, s. 7.

Sect. 7 of the Act forbids, under a penalty, the following acts:

(1.) Fraudulently signing or otherwise affixing, or fraudulently causing to be signed or otherwise affixed, to or upon any painting, drawing, or photograph, or the negative thereof, any name, initials, or monogram:(*a*)

(2.) Fraudulently selling, publishing, exhibiting, or disposing of or offering for sale, exhibition, or distribution, any painting, drawing, or photograph, or negative of a

(*a*) It was held in *Reg.* v. *Closs* (7 Cox Cr. Cas. 494; 27 L. J. 54, M. C.) that the putting of the name of a painter upon the copy of one of his pictures, in order that it may be passed off as the original, is not a forgery at common law; but such passing off of the copy of the picture as the original and obtaining money by means of such false representation, is a cheat at common law.

photograph, having thereon the name, initials, or monogram of a person who did not execute or make such work:

(3.) Fraudulently uttering, disposing of, or putting off, or causing to be uttered or disposed of, any copy or colourable imitation of any printing, drawing, or photograph, or negative of a photograph, whether there shall be subsisting copyright therein or not, as having been made or executed by the author or maker of the original work from which such copy or imitation shall have been taken:

(4.) Making or knowingly selling or publishing or offering for sale during the life of the author or maker without his consent any painting, drawing, or photograph made either before or after the passing of the Act, which the author or maker shall have sold, or of which he has parted with the possession, and in which any alteration has afterwards been made by any other person by addition or otherwise, or making or knowingly selling, or publishing, or offering for sale any copies of such work so altered as aforesaid, or any part thereof, as and for the unaltered work of such author or maker.

The section provides that "every offender under" it "shall, upon conviction, forfeit to the person aggrieved a sum not exceeding 10*l.*, or not exceeding double the full price, if any, at which all such copies, engravings, imitations, or altered works shall have been sold or offered for sale; and all such copies, engravings, imitations, or altered works shall be forfeited to the person, or the assigns or legal representatives of the person whose name, initials or monogram shall be so fraudulently signed or affixed thereto, or to whom such spurious or altered work shall be so fraudulently or falsely ascribed as aforesaid; provided always that the penalties imposed by this section shall not be incurred unless the person whose name, initials, or monogram shall be so fraudulently signed or affixed, or to whom such spurious or altered work shall be so fraudulently or falsely ascribed as aforesaid, shall have been living at or within twenty years next before the time when the offence may have been committed."

The Act also contains an absolute prohibition against the unauthorised importation of pirated works, made in any foreign state or in any part of the British dominions.(*a*)

In *Ex parte Beal*,(*b*) a doubt was suggested whether taking the words "the author of any painting, drawing, or photograph," *reddendo singula singulis*, they might

(*a*) Sect. 10. See the chapter on "Remedies for Infringement," *post*.
(*b*) 9 B. & S. 395; L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 387; 18 L. T. N. S. 285; 37 L. J. 161, Q. B.

not "mean where a painting is made which is the copy of another painting, a drawing which is the copy of another drawing, or a photograph which is the copy of another photograph;" but the Court, looking at the very extensive terms in which the copyright is given in sect. 1, on the infringement of which the penalty followed, considered it plain that the photograph of a painting, or the photograph of a drawing of a painting, or the photograph of a photograph, all equally come within the Act, and are infringements of the copyright.

Making an unauthorised photograph of the engraving of a picture is a photographing or copying the picture itself. If the design is copied, it is immaterial whether it is done directly from the original or indirectly through the medium of a copy.(*a*) It would be otherwise if the owner had parted with the right to multiply engravings.(*b*)

Separate penalty for each copy sold.

The penalty inflicted for selling, &c., "*any* repetition, copy, or imitation," is a separate penalty for every copy sold even where a number are sold at the same time. "Look at the nature of the thing," said Blackburn, J. "It would be a monstrous absurdity if a man might import a cargo of pirated works from France and 10*l.* be the utmost penalty that could be imposed. Such a state of the law would render it worth a man's while to do wrong. The Legislature, however, were dealing with an offence which they knew was likely to be committed in a wholesale way. If a man sells ten pirated copies at once that makes ten offences, as much as a man who utters ten bad shillings at one time is guilty of ten utterings of false coin."(*c*)

Sculpture, models, and busts.

The copyright in sculpture, models, and busts, may be infringed by making or importing, or causing to be made or imported, or exposed to sale, or otherwise disposed of, any pirated copy, or pirated cast of any subject within the Sculpture Copyright Acts,(*d*) whether such pirated copy, or pirated cast be produced by moulding or copying from, or imitating in any way any such subject, to the detriment, damage, or loss of the original or respective proprietor or proprietors of any such work so pirated.(*e*)

There are no decided cases on this kind of piracy.

RIGHT OF DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL REPRESENTATION.

Right of representation and performance of dramatic and musical compositions.

The nature and duration of the right (secured by 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, extended by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45) to the sole

(*a*) *Ex parte Beal* (9 B. & S. 395, 401). (*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) *Ib.*
(*d*) *Vide ante*, pp. 124-126. (*e*) 54 Geo. 3, c. 56, s. 3.

representation and performance of dramatic and musical compositions are explained, *ante* pp. 114-118.

Infringement of the right, in the case of dramas, consists in representing or causing to be represented, contrary to the intent of the Act or right of the author or his assignee, without the consent in writing of the author or other proprietor first had and obtained, at any place or places of dramatic entertainment within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Isles of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey, or in any part of the British dominions, any production in which the right exists, or any part thereof.(*a*)

The right which may be infringed in the case of musical compositions, is "the sole liberty of representing or performing, or causing, or permitting to be represented or performed" any musical composition.(*b*)

It will be perceived that the words "at any place or places of dramatic entertainment" contained in 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, are omitted from the enactment relating to musical compositions.(*c*) On this account Vice-Chancellor Shadwell, was of opinion, in *Russell* v. *Smith*,(*d*) that the authors of musical compositions were more extensively protected than the authors of dramatic pieces.

Consent may be by agent.

The consent in writing required by sect. 2 of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, need not be in the author's own handwriting; it may be given in that of an agent having due authority.

Thus, where a society, called the Dramatic Authors' Society, allowed the dramas composed by its members to be represented by others, on the fulfilment of certain conditions, a written permission given by the secretary to the defendant "to play dramas belonging to the authors forming the Dramatic Authors' Society" was held sufficient to bind the plaintiff, a member of the society, and to disentitle him to recover penalties for the performance of certain of his dramas by the defendant.(*e*) The court pointed out that the Act requires only the "consent in writing of the author or proprietor," but does not say that the consent shall be written by the author, or signed by him, or indeed by anybody; and in the case before them there was a consent in writing, and they considered it that of the author, who, by remaining a member of the society, authorised the secretary to do what he had done.

(*a*) 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, ss. 1, 2. (*b*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 20.
(*c*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 20. (*d*) 15 Sim. 187.
(*e*) *Morton* v. *Copeland* (16 C. B. 517; 24 L. J. C. P. 169).

The licence given by the secretary was held to apply to the dramas composed by members of the society after the date of the licence, as well as to those composed before.

A written introduction to a pantomime is, as we have already stated, within the protection of this Act.(*a*)

It was made a question in *Russell* v. *Smith* (*b*) whether the Acts of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, and 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, prohibited the unauthorised performance of musical compositions if they were not dramatic in their nature, or performed at a place of dramatic entertainments; but the court did not find it necessary to decide the point, as they were of opinion that the musical composition in question in that case was of a dramatic nature. It was a song relating the burning of a ship at sea, and the escape of those on board, and describing their feelings in vehement language—sometimes expressing them in the supposed words of the suffering parties. The court held that it was dramatic. Sect. 2 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, declares that "dramatic piece" within that Act includes "tragedy, comedy, play, opera, farce, or" any "other scenic, musical, or dramatic entertainment." "These words," said Lord Denman, C.J., "comprehend any piece which could be called dramatic in its widest sense; any piece which, on being presented by any performer to an audience, would produce the emotions which are the purpose of the regular drama, and which constitute the entertainment of the audience. They comprehend, therefore, the production in question. . . . . The absence of scenes and appropriate dresses and a regular theatre has been urged for the defendant. But we should take away a part of the protection conferred on authors if we held that there could be no public representation without these accompaniments."

Knowledge not necessary to piracy.

To establish the offence prohibited by these statutes it is not necessary to show or to aver in the declaration that the offender *knowingly* invaded the proprietor's right.

"The object of the registration," said Wilde, C.J., in *Lee* v. *Simpson*,(*c*) "was to protect authors against the piratical invasion of their rights. In the sense of having committed an *offence against the Act*, of having done a thing that is prohibited, the defendant is an offender. The plaintiff's rights do not depend upon the innocence or guilt of the defendant: . . . . the allegation and proof of a *scienter* were not necessary to entitle the plaintiff to such protection. The statute would altogether fail to effect its object if it were necessary

(*a*) *Lee* v. *Simpson* (3 C. B. 871).
(*b*) 12 Q. B. 217. (*c*) 3 C. B. 883.

to show that the defendant had a knowledge of the plaintiff's right of property."

What is a place of dramatic entertainment.

The answer to the question, What is a place of dramatic entertainment within the statutes 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, and 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45? is given by the Court of King's Bench in *Russell* v. *Smith*.(*a*) Any place in which a piece of a dramatic character is represented is, for the time being, a place of dramatic entertainment within the meaning of those statutes. "The use for the time in question," says Lord Denman, C.J., in that case, "and not for a former time, is the essential fact. As a regular theatre may be a lecture-room, dining-room, ball-room, and concert-room on successive days, so a room used ordinarily for either of those purposes would become for the time being a theatre, if used for the representation of a regular stage play."(*b*)

Actual participation in representation necessary.

It was decided in *Russell* v. *Briant* (*c*) that no person can be made liable to an action for an offence against these Acts, at the suit of the author or proprietor of a dramatic or musical composition, unless that person by himself or his agent actually takes part in a representation which is a violation of the copyright.

In that case the defendant had let a room in his tavern to a person who gave a musical entertainment there. After the entertainment had been continued for some nights, the defendant received a formal notice from the plaintiff's attorneys that certain of the pieces performed were the copyright property of the plaintiff, and warning him against causing or permitting them to be performed at his house. The defendant, notwithstanding this, permitted the entertainment to be continued, furnished the platform and lights for the performances, allowed bills of them to be put up in the tavern, and tickets of admission to be advertised to be sold at the bar, and he himself sold one ticket. The question for the decision of the Court was, did this conduct on the part of the defendant amount to a "representing or causing to be represented" within the meaning of the Acts? and the Court of Common Pleas held that it did not. "If it were to be held," said Wilde, C.J., "that all those who supply some of the means of representation to him who actually represents, are to be regarded as thereby constituting him their agent, and thus causing the representation within the meaning of the Act, such a

(*a*) 12 Q. B. 217.

(*b*) The court guarded itself against saying that the performance of such a dramatic song as that in question would be unlawful, without a theatrical licence, within the statute 6 & 7 Vict. c. 68.

(*c*) 8 C. B. 836.

doctrine would, we think, embrace a class of persons not at all intended by the Legislature."

The doctrine laid down in *Russell* v. *Briant* was carried a step further in *Lyons* v. *Knowles* by the Court of Queen's Bench, the decision of that court being confirmed on appeal by the Exchequer Chamber. (*a*) In the former case it appeared that the defendant received a fixed sum per night for the room in which the performance took place, and derived no other profit from it. In the latter case the defendant who was the licensed proprietor of a theatre, received as his remuneration for the use of the theatre, one-half of the gross receipts, which were taken by his own servants at the doors, the remainder being handed to one Dillon, to whom the defendant let the use of the theatre for the purpose of dramatic entertainments. Dillon provided the company, and had the selection of the pieces to be represented, together with the entire management of their representation, and exclusive control over the persons employed in the theatre. The defendant, on his part, paid for printing and advertising, furnished the lighting, door keepers, scene shifters, and supernumeraries, and hired the band, music being a necessary part of the performance. Certain of the copyright pieces of the plaintiff having been performed without his consent, an action was brought against the defendant. It was held that the defendant was not liable, the Court being of opinion that he was nothing more than the proprietor of the theatre, who had transferred for the time the exercise of all his rights in it, as such, to Dillon, and that Dillon was the person who "represented, or caused to be represented," any pieces performed there while he had the sole possession. With regard to the scene-shifters, &c., supplied by the defendant, Blackburn, J., said, "Even apart from authority, I do not think that, by furnishing servants to another, a man can be said to do all that is done by those servants while under the command of that other." And with respect to the division of profits, Crompton, J., said, "The question is whether, looking at the present case fairly, it amounts to more than this—that the rent of the theatre is to be paid by part of the profits. In one respect, I do not agree with my brother Pigott;(*b*) I do not think

(*a*) 3 B. & S. 556; 10 L. T. N. S. 876; 12 W. R. 1083.

(*b*) Pigott, Serjt., had argued, on behalf of the defendant, that a person who could neither prevent nor control the representation of a piece could in no sense be considered the party representing it, and that a man who lets a house to another is not responsible for an illegal act done in it by the person who has hired it.

that the defendant's divesting himself of control over the theatre would divest him of liability if he and Dillon were partners. Suppose there had been an agreement of partnership between the defendant and Dillon that each should contribute so much money, or that each should contribute so much capital, though of a different kind, and the theatre were taken between them. I should think the act of either was the act of both. But the authorities clearly show that two persons merely receiving payment out of the *gross* profits of a business does not make a partnership between them, even as against the world." Blackburn, J., added, "If the receipt of the money in this way was only a colourable pretence to escape the consequence of a partnership, I do not say that that would not have made a difference."

If the proprietor of the theatre were also the proprietor of the scenery, lights, &c., and the employer of the actors and actresses, he would be liable for an unauthorised representation of a dramatic piece, even although on the occasion of its representation he had for a fixed sum let his theatre to another person who was to have all the profits and to select the pieces to be performed. Thus, in *Marsh* v. *Conquest* (*a*) the defendant granted to his son, who was also his stage-manager and one of his actors, the use of the company of actors, with the scenery, &c., for a benefit night, in consideration of a fixed sum paid, the son to choose the pieces to be played. A piece belonging to the plaintiff having been played without his consent, the defendant was held liable to pay the statutory penalty. The Chief Justice (Erle) distinguished this case from *Lyons* v. *Knowles*: "There Dillon, to whom the defendant in that case had let his theatre, brought his own company of actors and actresses; whereas here the defendant was the owner of the dramatic company, with whom the son performed the piece. The defendant, therefore, I think, in this case, caused such piece to be performed."

What is a representation within the Acts is a question for the jury. Where the jury found that the singing of two or three songs of the plaintiff's libretto to Weber's opera of "Oberon," was a representation of part of the plaintiff's composition, the Court of Common Pleas refused to grant a new trial.(*b*) "It is difficult" said Tindal, C.J., "to say what is or is not a representation of part of a dramatic production: the subject *patitur majus et minus*, and it must

What is a representation is a question for the jury.

(*a*) 10 Jur. N. S. 989; 33 L. J. 319, C. P.; 10 L. T. N. S. 717; 12 W. R. 309. (*b*) *Planchè* v. *Braham* (4 Bing. N.C. 17).

be left to a jury to determine the fact." Vaughan, J., added, "We should be interfering with the province of the jury, if we did not leave it to them to say whether this was a representation of a part of the plaintiff's production."

CHAPTER XVII.

REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.

Remedies twofold.

THE remedies for infringements of literary property are of a twofold nature, those existing at law and those for which recourse is had to courts of equity. At law there is an action for damages or for the penalty imposed by statute, and further, in the case of engravings and other works of the fine arts, a summary mode of proceeding before justices. To equity peculiarly belongs the remedy by injunction, though Courts of Law are now empowered under certain circumstances to apply that remedy also.(*a*)

UNPUBLISHED WORKS.

Copyright in unpublished works.

We have already seen(*b*) that the author of every unpublished work of an innocent nature has a common law right of property in it—a right to give or withhold publication. Now if a man has a right, he must have a means to vindicate and maintain it, and a remedy if he is injured in the exercise and enjoyment of it: for, as has been observed, it is a vain thing to imagine a right without a remedy; for want of right and want of remedy are reciprocal.(*c*)

An action is the peculiar mode pointed out by the law for enforcing a remedy, or for prosecuting a claim or demand in a court of justice,(*d*) and so an action at law will lie to recover damages for the infringement of copyright in unpublished works.

Courts of Chancery will aid by injunction the proprietor of unpublished innocent works, and restrain the authorised publication of them. In the leading case of *Prince Albert* v. *Strange*(*e*) the Court of Chancery granted an injunction

(*a*) 17 & 18 Vict. c. 125, ss. 79-82; 23 & 24 Vict. c. 126, ss. 32, 33; 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, s. 9. (*b*) *Ante*, p. 48.

(*c*) *Ashby* v. *White* (2 Lord Ray, 953); *Winsmore* v. *Greenbank* (Willes, 577). (*d*) Co. Lit. 285, a.

(*e*) 2 De G. & S. 652; 1 M. N. & G. 25; see the facts of this case, *ante*, pp. 50-54.

to restrain the publication, not only of certain unpublished etchings belonging to the plaintiff, but even of a descriptive catalogue of them.

Equity has also restrained the unauthorised publication of works not previously published, in the case of a conveyancer's clerk, who sought to publish the conveyancing drafts of his deceased master,(*a*) and in the case of an attempted publication of notes belonging to another which had been surreptitiously obtained.(*b*) The Court of Chancery also restrained the publication of a certain paper of trials which the applicant for its aid had bought from the Lord Mayor.(*c*)

In the case of the *Duke of Queensberry* v. *Shebbeare*,(*d*) the defendant was restrained from publishing the Earl of Clarendon's History of the Reign of Charles II., though the Earl of Clarendon had in his lifetime given the defendant permission to take a copy of the original manuscript.

An injunction will also be granted to restrain the publication of letters, except in such cases as are mentioned in chapter ii. of this work.(*e*) The nature of the property which the writer of letters has in them, is explained in that chapter.

The property in unpublished engravings, maps, and charts, would of course be protected in a similar manner.

In the case of *Abernethy* v. *Hutchinson*,(*f*) an injunction was granted to restrain the publication of oral lectures delivered to medical students at a hospital, on the ground of an implied contract between the lecturer and his hearers that the latter should only make use of them for their own information. The property in oral lectures is now regulated by 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65.(*g*)

PUBLISHED WORKS.

Sect. 1.—*Remedies at Law.*

In the case of published works the same remedies are open to the proprietor as in the case of unpublished works, and in addition, special penalties for infringement are by

(*a*) *Webb* v. *Rose* (cited 4 Burr. 2330).
(*b*) *Forrester* v. *Waller* (*Ib.*). (*c*) *Manley* v. *Owen* (*Ib.* 2329).
(*d*) 2 Eden. 329.
(*e*) *Vide ante*, pp. 15-18; *Pope* v. *Curl* (2 Atk. 342); *Thompson* v. *Stanhope* (Amb. 737); *Percival* v. *Phipps* (2 V. & B. 19); *Gee* v. *Pritchard* (2 Swanst. 402); *per* Story, J., in *Folsom* v. *Marsh* (2 St. Rep. 100, 111).
(*f*) 1 H. & T. 39; 3 L. J. 209, Ch.; *ante*, pp. 19, 20.
(*g*) *Vide ante*, pp. 20-22.

PART I.
CHAPTER XVII.

Remedy for piracy of books by action on the case.

statute made recoverable from the offender. The enactments relating to the remedy by action at law are as follow:

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 15, enacts "that if any person shall in any part of the British dominions, after the passing of this Act, print or cause to be printed, either for sale or exportation, any book in which there shall be subsisting copyright, without the consent in writing of the proprietor thereof, or shall import for sale or hire any such book so having been unlawfully printed, from parts beyond the sea, or, knowing such book to have been so unlawfully printed or imported, shall sell, publish, or expose to sale or hire, or cause to be sold, published, or exposed to sale or hire, or shall have in his possession for sale or hire, any such book so unlawfully printed or imported, without such consent as aforesaid, such offender shall be liable to a special action on the case at the suit of the proprietor of such copyright, to be brought in any court of record in that part of the British dominions in which the offence shall be committed."

The same section provides that "in Scotland such offender shall be liable to an action in the Court of Session in Scotland, which shall and may be brought and prosecuted in the same manner in which any other action of damages to the like amount may be brought and prosecuted there."

An interesting point on the construction of this section came before the Court of Common Pleas for decision in the case of *Novello* v. *Sudlow*,(a) in which the defendant had published, unauthorised, a piece of music of the plaintiff's by gratuitously distributing lithographed copies of it. The words of the interpretation clause of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, are wide enough to embrace such a case, as it defines copyright to be "the sole and exclusive liberty of printing or *otherwise multiplying* copies of any subject" to which the word is applied in the Act; thus protecting literary works from unauthorised multiplication by other means than the press. But sect. 15 gives the remedy by special action on the case only where anyone shall "*print* or cause to be printed" any book for sale, hire, or exportation. Did this clause operate to take away the common law remedy by action in all other cases than those which it enumerates? If so, the plaintiff in that action could not recover; if it did not, then the ordinary rule by which the common law gives an action on the case for the violation of rights conferred by statute, would apply, and would render the unauthorised multiplication of copies by lithography the proper subject of an action. The court held that sect. 15 did not take away the common law

(a) 12 C. B. 177.

remedy by action in cases of multiplication of copies, not enumerated in that section, and that if otherwise construed it would destroy the effect of the words "otherwise multiplying" in the interpretation clause.

Any doubt that existed on the subject of multiplication of copies by lithography is now put an end to by sect. 14 of 15 & 16 Vict. c. 12, which declares that the provisions of the Copyright Acts shall apply to prints taken by lithography, or any other mechanical process by which prints or impressions of drawings or designs are capable of being multiplied indefinitely.(*a*)

In a case decided under the repealed statute 9 Geo. 2, c. 36 [see now 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, sec. 17], it was held that two penalties might be recovered from the defendant for two distinct acts of selling, on the same day, pirated copies of books imported into this country. One act of sale was by the defendant himself in the morning, the other by his wife in the afternoon in an open shop.(*b*)

Defendant to give notice of the objections to plaintiff's title on which he means to rely.

The defendant in an action of piracy must give notice in writing of the objections to the plaintiff's title on which he means to rely on the trial.

Sect. 16 provides, "that after the passing of this Act, in any action brought within the British dominions against any person for printing any such book for sale, hire, or exportation, or for importing, selling, publishing, or exposing to sale or hire, or causing to be imported, sold, published, or exposed to sale or hire, any such book, the defendant, on pleading thereto, shall give to the plaintiff a notice in writing of any objections on which he means to rely on the trial of such action; and if the nature of his defence be that the plaintiff in such action was not the author or first publisher of the book in which he shall by such action claim copyright, or is not the proprietor of the copyright therein, or that some other person than the plaintiff was the author or first publisher of such book, or is the proprietor of the copyright therein, then the defendant shall specify in such notice the name of the person whom he alleges to have been the author or first publisher of such book, or the proprietor of the copyright therein, together with the title of such book, and the time when and the place where such book was first published, otherwise the defendant in such action shall not at the trial or hearing of such action be allowed to give any evidence that the plaintiff in such action was not the author

(*a*) See also *Boosey* v. *Tolkien* (5 C. B. 476).
(*b*) *Brooke* v. *Milliken* (3 T. R. 509). See *Ex parte Beal* (9 B. & S. 395; *ante*, p. 210).

or first publisher of the book in which he claims such copyright as aforesaid, or that he was not the proprietor of the copyright therein; and at such trial or hearing no other objection shall be allowed to be made on behalf of such defendant than the objections stated in such notice, or that any other person was the author or first publisher of such book, or the proprietor of the copyright therein, than the person specified in such notice, or give in evidence in support of his defence any other book than one substantially corresponding in title, time, and place of publication with the title, time, and place specified in such notice."

Plea of not guilty.

A plea of not guilty merely, in an action for infringement of copyright, only denies the alleged infringement, whether it be selling, printing, &c., or whatever be the wrongful act; it does not deny the copyright of the plaintiff. This must be done by a special plea.(*a*)

Requisites of sect. 16 must be strictly complied with.

The requisites laid down by sect. 16 as to the notice of objections must be strictly complied with. Thus a general objection to the plaintiff's title to copyright in a book that some person whose name is to the defendant unknown, and not the plaintiff, was the proprietor of the said copyright, was held in *Boosey* v. *Davidson*(*b*) not sufficient to satisfy the words of the section, which require the defendant in such a case to specify in his notice of objections "the name of the person whom he alleges to have been the author or first publisher of such book, or the proprietor of the copyright therein."

"The Copyright Act," says Wightman, J., "throws on a defendant, if he seek to defend the infringement on the ground that the plaintiff is not the proprietor, the onus of showing who is, in order that the plaintiff may not be taken by surprise at the trial."(*c*)

In the subsequent case of *Boosey* v. *Purday*(*d*) the judges of the Court of Exchequer took a less strict view of the requirements of the section, and pointed out the inconveniences which would follow from a rigid adherence to its words. Alderson, B., addressing the counsel, who moved for a rule to amend the notice of objections given in that case, said, "Suppose a man were to enter his name at Stationers' Hall as proprietor of the Εἰκὼν βασιλικὴ; according to your argument he would acquire the property in it, for it would puzzle excessively to find out the author of that book; or, as proprietor of the works of Homer—that

(*a*) See No. 16 of the Pleading Rules, T. T. 1853.
(*b*) *Boosey* v. *Davidson* (4 Dow. & L. 147). See also *Leader* v. *Purday* (7 C. B. 4). (*c*) 4 Dow. & L. 153. (*d*) 10 Jur. 1038.

would raise the question, was there such a man?" Rolfe, B., observed "the Court must endeavour to get at some construction of the statute which shall not force a man to say who first published at one place or another. It may have been that the defendant saw the work at both places." Alderson, B., added "The defendant in his objections ought to show a definite publication by somebody. That construction will remove all the absurdity which otherwise would follow from a literal interpretation of the statute."

Where the defendant intends to rely on the objection that the plaintiff in the action was not the author or first publisher of the book, or the proprietor of the copyright, sect. 16 requires that he should specify, in addition to the name of the proprietor or first publisher, the *title* of the work, the *time* when, and the place *where*, the first publication took place.

"Time when" first published.

"The time when" is sufficiently specified by naming the year of the first publication; it is not necessary to name the day or month.(*a*)

"Place where" first published.

"The place where" a book was first published is not sufficiently specified by a statement that "the work was not first printed or published in the British dominions."(*b*)

Objections too vague.

The following objections were also considered too vague, and were struck out: "That the plaintiff never acquired any title by assignment *or otherwise*" to the copyright claimed; "that there was no *valid* assignment of the copyright to the plaintiff, or to anyone under whom he claims," the word valid being ordered to be struck out; "that there is no copyright in a work first published out of the British dominions, *under such circumstances as the books in question were published*" under.(*c*)

Where, in an action for piracy at the suit of two plaintiffs, it appeared that the defendant had published the work in question pursuant to the conditions of a *cognovit*, given by him to one of the plaintiffs and one P. in a former action for not performing an agreement to write the same work, this was held to be a sufficient defence to the action for infringement of the plaintiff's copyright.(*d*)

Declaration in action.

According to the decision of the Irish Court of Queen's Bench in *Rooney* v. *Kelly*,(*e*) it is not necessary, in an action for the infringement of copyright in a book, to aver that the

(*a*) *Boosey* v. *Davidson* (4 Dow. & L. 155). (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Ib.* The notice of objections as amended is given in a note to this case, p. 155. See also *Boosey* v. *Purday* (10 Jur. 1038).
(*d*) *Sweet* v. *Archbold* (10 Bing. 133).
(*e*) 14 Ir. Com. L. Rep. 158.

defendant published the plaintiff's *book*; and a declaration charging the defendant with publishing "*divers parts* of the book of the plaintiff," states a good *primâ facie* cause of action, though it is open to the defendant to displace such *primâ facie* charge by showing that either from the quantity and quality of such portions, or from the nature and character of defendant's book, the copying and printing, &c., of those portions were justifiable, and should not properly be considered as an infringement of the copyright.(*a*)

It was further held, on demurrer, in this case, that the charge of defendant's book "containing printed therein, various parts" of plaintiff's book, was not answered by a plea, in confession and avoidance, to the effect that the books of the plaintiff and defendant were composed by the same author from common sources of information, and that no part of the defendant's book was copied or colourably altered from that of the plaintiff.

Interrogatories.

Where an action is brought for infringement of copyright in a book, the court will allow interrogatories as to the number of copies sold for a limited period before and after the date of the infringement, to be administered to the plaintiff, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of damage sustained, and enabling the defendant to pay into court a sum sufficient to meet it.(*b*)

Limitation of time for proceedings.

All actions, suits, bills, indictments, or informations for any offence that shall be committed against the Act 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, must be brought, sued, and commenced within twelve calendar months next after such offence committed; otherwise they are void, and of none effect.(*c*)

But this limitation of time is not to extend or be construed to extend to any actions, suits, or other proceedings which, under the authority of the Act, shall or may be brought, sued, or commenced for, or in respect of any copies of books to be delivered for the use of the British Museum, or of any one of the four libraries mentioned in the Act.(*d*)

It was held by the Scotch Court of Session, in *Clarke* v. *Bell*,(*e*) that the limitation of "all actions, suits, bills, indictments, or informations" for offences committed against the Act of 8 Anne, c. 19, applied only to the penalties and forfeitures inflicted by the Act, but not to a prohibition to restrain infringement of copyright.

(*a*) 14 Ir. Com. L. Rep. 174.
(*b*) *Wright* v. *Goodlake* (13 L. T. N. S. 120).
(*c*) Sect. 26. (*d*) *Ib.*
(*e*) 13 Fac. Dec. 335, 29th February, 1804.

And in the case of a book published before 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, an objection that the action to recover damages for infringement of copyright in it was not brought within twelve months after the offence had been committed, was overruled by the same court in the case of *Stewart* v. *Black*.(*a*) No reason is given for the decision.

Proceedings for anything done in pursuance of this Act.

If any action or suit is commenced or brought against any person or persons for doing, or causing to be done, anything in pursuance of the Act 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, the defendant or defendants may plead the general issue and give the special matter in evidence; and if upon such action a verdict is given for the defendant, or the plaintiff is nonsuited or discontinues his action, the defendant is to recover his full costs, for which he is to have the same remedy as a defendant in any case by law has.(*b*)

This enactment embraces, according to the general rule, not only those who in doing or causing to be done anything "in pursuance of the Act" keep strictly within the line of their duty, but also those who, through mistake, transgress that limit, in exercising the powers which they honestly believe the Act confers upon them.(*c*)

Engravings and prints.

We have already seen that the assignee of an engraver of a print may maintain an action for the piracy of it, though none of the Acts expressly gives him such a right.(*d*) The conditions which must be observed in order to ground an action for the piracy of engravings have been stated, *ante*, p. 110-113.

The first Act which gave a copyright in engravings (8 Geo. 2, c. 13), in its first section, inflicts on any printseller or other person whatsoever, who, within the time limited by that Act [fourteen years, since extended to twenty-eight], should engrave, etch, or work, or in any other manner copy and sell, or cause to be engraved, etched, or copied and sold, in the whole or in part, by varying, adding to, or diminishing from the main design, or should print, reprint, or import for sale, or cause to be printed, reprinted, or imported for sale, any such print or prints, or any parts thereof, without the consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing, signed by him or them respectively in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, or, knowing the same to be so printed or reprinted without

(*a*) 9 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2 Ser. 1029. (*b*) Sect. 26.
(*c*) See *Smith* v. *Shaw* (10 B. & C. 277); *Cook* v. *Leonard* (6 B. & C. 351); *Theobald* v. *Crichmore* (1 B. & Ald. 227); *Gaby* v. *The Wilts, &c., Canal Company* (3 M. & Sel. 580).
(*d*) *Thompson* v. *Symonds* (5 T. R. 41), *ante*, p. 165.

PART I. CHAPTER XVII.

the consent of the proprietor or proprietors, should publish, sell, or expose to sale, or otherwise, or in any other manner dispose of or cause to be published, sold, or exposed to sale, or otherwise, or in any other manner disposed of, any print or prints in which copyright is given by the Act, without such consent first had and obtained as aforesaid, the penalty of forfeiting the plate or plates on which such print or prints are or shall be copied, and all and every sheet or sheets (being part of, or whereon such print or prints are or shall be so copied or printed) to the proprietor or proprietors of the original print or prints, who are forthwith to destroy and damask the same; and every such offender or offenders shall also forfeit five shillings for every print which shall be found in his, her, or their custody, either printed or published and exposed to sale, or otherwise disposed of contrary to the true intent and meaning of the Act, one moiety thereof to go to the Crown and the other to any person or persons that shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any of the Courts of Record at Westminster, by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, &c.

All pecuniary penalties incurred, and all unlawful c[illegible], imitations, and other effects and things forfeited by offe[illegible]s pursuant to this Act, may now be recovered either by action or by summary proceeding before justices in England or Ireland, and in Scotland either by action before the Court of Session in ordinary form or by summary action before the sheriff of the county where the offence is committed or the offender resides.(*a*)

A further remedy, by action on the case for damages is given by 17 Geo. 3, c. 57. The words of the enactment are: "From and after the 24th day of June, 1777, if any engraver, etcher, printseller, or other person shall, within the time limited by the aforesaid Acts,(*b*) or either of them, engrave, etch, or work, or cause or procure to be engraved, etched, or worked, in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, or otherwise, or in any other manner copy in the whole or in part, by varying, adding to, or diminishing from the main design, or shall print, reprint, or import for sale, or cause or procure to be printed, reprinted, or imported for sale, or shall publish, sell, or otherwise dispose of, or cause or procure to be published, sold, or otherwise disposed of, any copy or copies of any historical print or prints, or any print or prints of any portrait, conversation, landscape, or architecture, map, chart or plan, or any other print or prints

(*a*) 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, s. 8. *Vide ante*, p. 108.
(*b*) 8 Geo. 2, c. 13; 7 Geo. 3, c. 58.

whatsoever which hath or have been, or shall be engraved, etched, drawn, or designed in any part of *Great Britain* without the express consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing, signed by him, her, or them respectively, with his, her, or their own hand or hands, in the presence of, and attested by, two or more credible witnesses, then every such proprietor or proprietors shall and may, by and in a special action upon the case, to be brought against the person or persons so offending, recover such damages as a jury, on the trial of such action, or on the execution of a writ of inquiry thereon, shall give or assess, together with double costs of suit." (*a*)

In an action in Scotland for damages for infringement of the copyright of certain engravings, the *locus* of the alleged acts of infringement was not specified. The Court of Session considered this a grave defect in the averments, but allowed an amendment on payment of expenses since the closing of the record. (*b*) "In the second article, as it now stands," said the Lord President, "there is no averment as to where the offence was committed. The defender is designed in the summons as being a printseller at 27, Sanchie-hall-street, Glasgow; but we do not know even whether that is his shop or his residence. Be it the one or the other, however, it is not alleged that the defender sold a copy of the print there, nor that he did it in Glasgow, nor even that he did it within the United Kingdom, though that is necessary to bring the case under the statutes. That is a very grave imperfection; but I think it is just one of those which it is the policy of the recent statute to allow to be amended on certain conditions. And therefore I think that we should allow the record to be amended in this respect on payment of expenses since the closing of the record."

In the same case the Lord Ordinary thought it too vague and uncertain for the pursuer to rest his case on an alleged violation of various Copyright Acts, "or one or other of them;" but the Inner House was of a different opinion. "These statutes," said the Lord President, "are all to be read together, I apprehend, in considering the nature and privileges of printers and publishers of engravings. It may very well be that in this case the provisions of one of the statutes may be more applicable than those of another; but it is not necessary for the pursuer to tie himself down to one particular statute or clause of a statute."

(*a*) Double costs are taken away in all cases by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 97.
(*b*) *Graves* v. *Logan* (7 Scotch Sess. Cas. 3 Ser. 204).

According to a decision of Bacon, V.C.,(*a*) it is not necessary to register under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, before suing for a piracy of engravings or lithographs, that Act not mentioning or interfering in any way with the Acts of Geo. 2 and Geo. 3, which confer a copyright in works of this description.

Dramatic and musical compositions.

Dramatic and musical compositions are "books" within the meaning of the Copyright Act, 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45; the word "book" being construed to mean and include "every volume, part or division of a volume, pamphlet, sheet of letterpress, sheet of music, map, chart, or plan separately published." The remedies, therefore, for infringement of copyright in dramatic and musical compositions are the same as in cases of infringement of copyright in books.

For infringement of the right of *representing* and *performing* such compositions remedies are given by 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, and 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 45.

If, during the continuance of the sole liberty of representing or causing to be represented at any place of dramatic entertainment in any part of the United Kingdom, the Isles of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey, or in any part of the British dominions, which the first section of the former Act confers on the author of any dramatic piece, any person shall, contrary to the intent of the Act or right of the author or his assignee, represent or cause to be represented, without the consent in writing of the author or other proprietor first had and obtained, at any place of dramatic entertainment within the limits aforesaid, any such production as aforesaid, every such offender shall be liable for each and every such representation to the payment of an amount not less than forty shillings, or to the full amount of the benefit or advantage arising from such representation, or the injury or loss sustained by the plaintiff therefrom, whichever shall be the greater damages, to the author or other proprietor of such production so represented contrary to the true intent and meaning of the Act, to be recovered, together with double costs of suit, by such authors or other proprietor in any court having jurisdiction in such cases in that part of the United Kingdom or of the British dominions in which the offence shall be committed.(*b*)

It is also provided that in every such proceeding, where the sole liberty of such author or his assignee as aforesaid shall be subject to such right or authority as aforesaid, it shall be sufficient for the plaintiff to state that he has such

(*a*) *Stannard* v. *Lee* (23 L. T. N. S. 306).
(*b*) 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, s. 2.

sole liberty without stating the same to be subject to such right or authority or otherwise mentioning the same.(*a*)

These provisions are extended to musical compositions by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, ss. 20, 21.

All actions or proceedings for infringements of the right are to be brought, sued, and commenced within twelve calendar months next after the offence committed, or else to be void and of no effect: (sect. 3 of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15.)

The onus of proving the consent of the author or proprietor in an action for penalties lies on the defendant.(*b*)

Besides the remedy at law, there is a further remedy in equity by injunction restraining the representation or performance.(*c*)

Paintings, drawings, and photographs.

In the case of paintings, drawings, and photographs, as well as engravings, in addition to the action on the case, the author has now a further remedy by summary proceeding before two justices in England or Ireland or the sheriff in Scotland.

Sect. 8 of 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, enacts that "all pecuniary penalties(*d*) which shall be incurred, and all such unlawful copies, imitations, and all other effects and things as shall have been forfeited by offenders pursuant to this Act, and pursuant to any Act for the protection of copyright engravings, may be recovered by the person hereinbefore, and in any such Act as aforesaid, empowered to recover the same respectively, and hereinafter called the complainant or complainer, as follows:—

"In England and Ireland, either by action against the party offending, or by summary proceeding before any two justices(*e*) having jurisdiction where the party offending resides:

"In Scotland by action before the Court of Session in ordinary form, or by summary action before the sheriff of the county where the offence may be committed or the offender resides, who, upon proof of the offence or offences, either by confession of the party offending, or by the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, shall convict the offender, and find him liable to the penalty or penalties aforesaid, as also in expenses, and it shall be lawful for the sheriff, in pro-

(*a*) 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, s. 2.
(*b*) *Morton* v. *Copeland* (16 C. B. 517; 24 L. J. 169, C. P).
(*c*) *Russell* v. *Smith* (15 Sim. 181).
(*d*) For these penalties, *vide ante*, p. 208, 209.
(*e*) A metropolitan police magistrate, or stipendiary magistrate, or the Lord Mayor or any Alderman of London may now act alone in such a case: (11 & 12 Vict. c. 43, ss. 33, 34.)

nouncing such judgment for the penalty or penalties and costs, to insert in such judgment a warrant, in the event of such penalty or penalties and costs not being paid, to levy and recover the amount of the same by poinding: provided always, that it shall be lawful to the sheriff, in the event of his dismissing the action and assoilzieing the defender, to find the complainer liable in expenses, and any judgment so to be pronounced by the sheriff in such summary application shall be final and conclusive, and not subject to review by advocation, suspension, reduction, or otherwise."

Bankruptcy of offender.

Whether a penalty inflicted under this Act would be provable under the bankruptcy of the person on whom it is inflicted, appears to be doubtful. But it would seem that the prosecutor could not prove for it if he allowed imprisonment to be suffered for non-payment of it.(*a*)

It is now settled by the case of *Ex parte Graves*,(*b*) notwithstanding a decision of the Court of Bankruptcy (Mr. Commissioner Winslow) to the contrary,(*c*) that if a person is imprisoned in default of payment of a penalty inflicted under this section, the execution of a deed of composition containing a release of his debts will not entitle him to his discharge.

In this case nineteen summonses were taken out by Mr. Graves against a printseller to recover penalties for violating his copyright in certain engravings by selling photographs of them, and a penalty of 5*l*. was inflicted for each offence, with fourteen days' imprisonment in each case in default of payment. Before the summonses were heard the offender prepared a deed of composition with his creditors, containing a release from all debts, and whilst the magistrate was giving judgment, and in fact after sentence for two of the offences had been pronounced, the deed was duly executed and was subsequently registered. On application being made to the Court of Bankruptcy to discharge the offender from custody under the 112th section of the Bankruptcy Act, 1849, on the ground that he was not in custody for any criminal offence, the registrar ordered his discharge, but the Lords Justices on appeal reversed this decision, holding that the process under which the debtor was arrested was of a criminal nature and not for a debt. Wood, L.J., considered that the argument that the debtor

(*a*) See *per* Wood, L.J., *Ex parte Graves* (L. Rep. 3 Ch. App. 645;
(*b*) L. Rep. 3 Ch. App. 642; 19 L. T. N. S. 241; 16 W. R. 993. Cf. *Bancroft* v. *Mitchell* (L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 549; 16 L. T. N. S. 558).
(*c*) *Ex parte Johnson* (15 L. T. N. S. 163; 15 W. R. 160).

escapes by paying money, and therefore that imprisonment is only a process to enforce payment of money, was answered by the judgment of Blackburn, J., in *Bancroft* v. *Mitchell*.(a) "Another answer to the same argument," said the Lord Justice, "is that there is the other process against him for damages. The imprisonment is the real punishment for the offence, but he can get off by paying the penalty." Selwyn, L.J., added, "Whether we take the letter or the spirit of the Act the result is the same. If we look at the letter, the words used are 'penalty' and 'conviction,' all pointing to a criminal offence. If we look to the spirit of the act, we find certain acts prohibited and treated as offences, and certain penalties imposed; and in addition to the penalty, the prosecutor may recover damages by action. The application for discharge must be dismissed with costs."

Injunction, inspection, or account at law.

The proprietor may also obtain an injunction from any of the Superior Courts of Record at Westminster or Dublin. Sect. 9 of 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, provides that "in any action in any of Her Majesty's Superior Courts of Record at Westminster and in Dublin, for the infringement of any such copyright as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the court in which such action is pending, if the court be then sitting, or if the court be not sitting then for a judge of such court, on the application of the plaintiff or defendant respectively, to make such order for an injunction, inspection, or account, and to give such direction respecting such action, injunction, inspection, and account, and the proceedings therein respectively, as to such court or judge may seem fit."

Before the passing of this Act, in the case of *Mayall* v. *Higbey*,(b) where photographs were lent by the owner to another person who became insolvent, and, the photographs being sold, the purchaser, by photographically printing from negatives, obtained reduced copies, which he published and sold, it was held that the owner of the originals, irrespectively of copyright, was entitled to a writ of injunction to restrain the further taking or selling of copies, and also to recover them or their value under a count in detinue.

(a) L. Rep. 2 Q. B. 555; 16 L. T. N. S. 558. This was a case of commitment for non-payment of a sum directed by justices' order to be paid for the support of the prisoner's mother. "It seems to me," said Blackburn, J., "that the commitment is not in the nature of civil but of criminal process, to punish the plaintiff for not performing the duty imposed on him by statute. It is quite true that on payment of the money he would get off the imprisonment, but still it is in the nature of criminal process, and consequently the plaintiff was not entitled to his discharge."

(b) 1 H. & C. 148; 6 L. T. N. S. 362; 10 W. R. 631.

PART I
CHAPTER XVII.

Importation of pirated copies

The importation of pirated works is absolutely prohibited, and the copies may be detained by the officers of Her Majesty's Customs.

Sect. 10 enacts that "all repetitions, copies, or imitations of paintings, drawings, or photographs, wherein or in the design whereof there shall be subsisting copyright under this Act, and all repetitions, copies, and imitations of the design of any such painting or drawing, or of the negative of any such photograph, which, contrary to the provisions of this Act, shall have been made in any foreign state, or in any part of the British dominions, are hereby absolutely prohibited to be imported into any part of the United Kingdom, except by or with the consent of the proprietor of the copyright thereof, or his agent authorised in writing; and if the proprietor of any such copyright, or his agent, shall declare that any goods imported are repetitions, copies, or imitations of any such painting, drawing, or photograph, or of the negative of any such photograph, and so prohibited as aforesaid, then such goods may be detained by the officers of Her Majesty's Customs."

Sculpture, models, and busts.

In cases of infringement of the copyright in sculpture, models, and busts,(*a*) sect. 3 of 54 Geo. 3, c. 56, gives to the proprietor or proprietors, or their assignee or assignees, a special action on the case against the person or persons offending, to recover such damages as a jury on the trial of such an action shall give or assess, together with double costs of suit.(*b*)

If the sculpture, model, copy or cast has been registered under the Designs Act, 1850 (13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 6), then in any case of piracy which would render the party offending liable to the special action last mentioned, he is also rendered liable to forfeit for every offence a sum not less than 5*l*. and not exceeding 30*l*. to the proprietor of the sculpture, model, copy or cast of which the copyright has been infringed. This penalty may be recovered in England(*c*) by an action of debt or on the case against the party offending, or by summary proceeding before two justices having jurisdiction where the party offending resides; in Scotland by action before the Court of Session in ordinary form, or by summary action before the sheriff of the county where the offence is committed, or the offender resides; in Ireland either by action in a Superior Court of

(*a*) *Vide ante*, pp. 124-126 and p. 210.
(*b*) Double costs are taken away in all cases by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 97, s. 1, and only the usual costs between party and party may be recovered.
(*c*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 7.

law at Dublin, or by civil bill in the Civil Bill Court of the county or place where the offence is committed.(*a*)

The proprietor of the sculpture, model, copy or cast which is registered under the Designs Act, 1850, is not to be entitled to the benefit of that Act, unless every copy or cast of such sculpture, model, copy or cast which shall be published by him after registration be marked with the word "registered," and with the date of registration.(*b*)

Sect. 2.—*Remedies in Equity.*

Injunction

The great remedial process, which was for a long time peculiar to equity, is the writ of injunction. This may be described to be a judicial process, whereby a party is required to do a particular thing or to refrain from doing a particular thing, according to the exigency of the writ. Its object is generally preventive and protective rather than restorative; it seeks to prevent a meditated wrong more often than to redress an injury already done.(*c*) It is a remedy of a very flexible nature; and it may be total or partial, qualified or unconditional, as well as temporary or perpetual.(*d*)

There are two sorts of injunctions—(1) provisional, *i.e.*, such as are to continue only until a certain specified period, such as the coming in of the defendant's answer, or the hearing of the cause; and (2) perpetual, *i.e.*, such as form part of the decree made at the hearing upon the merits, whereby the defendant is perpetually enjoined from the assertion of a right, or perpetually restrained from the commission of an act which would be contrary to equity and good conscience.(*e*)

Ground of interference by injunction.

Lord Eldon(*f*) thus states the grounds on which equity interferes by injunction in the case of infringements of copyright: "The jurisdiction upon subjects of this nature is assumed merely for the purpose of making effectual the legal right, which cannot be made effectual by any action for damages; as, if the work is pirated, it is impossible to lay before a jury the whole evidence as to all the publications which go out in the world to the plaintiff's prejudice. A court of equity, therefore, acts with a view to make the legal right effectual by preventing the publication altogether; and, accordingly, in the exercise of this jurisdic-

(*a*) Sect. 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 7, and 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 8.
(*b*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 7. (*c*) 2 St. Eq. Jur. ss. 861, 862.
(*d*) 2 St. Eq. Jur. s. 886. (*e*) 2 Daniell's Chanc. Pr. 1462.
(*f*) *Wilkins* v. *Aikin* (17 Ves. 424).

tion, where a fair doubt appears, as to the plaintiff's legal right, the court always directs it to be tried, making some provision in the interim, the best that can be, for the benefit of both parties." Elsewhere the same learned judge says, "The principle of granting the injunction in those cases is, that damages do not give adequate relief; and that the sale of copies by the defendant is in each instance not only taking away the profit upon the individual book, which the plaintiff probably would have sold, but may injure him to an incalculable extent, which no inquiry for the purpose of damages can ascertain."(*a*)

Procedure to obtain injunction.

To obtain an injunction, the course of procedure is for the proprietor to file a bill, stating his title to the original work, the nature of the piracy, and the consequent injury. The particular facts are next to be verified by affidavit, and a special motion may then be made to restrain the publication. The whole question may thus be brought before the court; and an injunction will either be granted forthwith, or an issue directed to try the question before a jury.(*b*)

Where plaintiff's title is doubtful.

An injunction will not be granted where the title is in doubt. Thus, where the plaintiff claimed an injunction as the purchaser, from the composer, of the copyright of certain songs, and the defendant produced affidavits from the composer and one Elliston, from which it appeared that Elliston had a copyright, but whether qualified or absolute was doubtful, Sir John Leach refused to grant an injunction.(*c*)

In a case decided under the Copyright Act of Anne, an injunction obtained by the plaintiff to restrain the unauthorised publication of a book in which he claimed copyright, was dissolved by Lord Chancellor King, on the ground that the plaintiff had not set out a good title in his bill or affidavit, as it was there stated only that he had purchased or legally acquired the copy, which was not sufficient without saying that he purchased or acquired it "of the author."(*d*)

Courts of equity used formerly to direct an issue to be tried by a jury in a court of common law in order to determine the plaintiff's title to copyright. But sect. 1 of 25 & 26 Vict. c. 42, now directs that every question of law or fact, cognizable in a court of common law, on the determination of which the title to the relief or remedy sought in a court of equity depends, shall be determined by or before that court, unless (sect. 2) where questions of fact may be more conveniently determined at the assizes or in a court of

(*a*) *Hogg* v. *Kirby* (8 Ves. 225).
(*b*) Maugham, 169. (*c*) *Lowndes* v. *Duncombe* (2 Cowp. 216).
(*d*) *Gilliver* v. *Snaggs* (2 Eq. Cas. Ab. 522; 4 Viner's Abridg. 279).

common law in Westminster or Middlesex, in which cases issues of fact may be directed to be tried as before.(*a*)

Courts of equity are now also empowered to award damages to the party injured, either in addition to or in substitution for an injunction.(*b*) The measure of damages in a case of piracy was thus stated by James, V.C., in a recent case: "That the defendant is to account for every copy of his book sold as if it had been a copy of the plaintiff's, and to pay the plaintiff the profit which he would have received from so many additional copies."(*c*)

Where injunction would be mischievous.

A provisional injunction, if granted, would sometimes be productive of more mischief than that which it was intended to remedy, *e.g.*, if the book whose publication was sought to be restrained were of such a nature that its chief value depended upon its appearing immediately. "There is a great difference" said Lord Eldon,(*d*) "between works of a permanent and of a transitory nature. The case upon the former may be brought to a hearing. But the effect is very different upon a work of this kind [an East Indian Calendar], perishable; particularly in this instance; consisting of the names of persons continually fluctuating: a work that would be good for nothing in another year."

The difficulty in such cases is forcibly stated and the mode of avoiding it suggested by Lord Cottenham, C., in dealing with the question of an Almanac, alleged to be pirated from another.(*e*) "The greatest of all objections" said the Lord Chancellor, "is that the court runs the risk of doing the greatest injustice in case its opinion upon the legal right should turn out to be erroneous. Here is a publication which, if not issued this month [December], will lose a great part of its sale for the ensuing year. If you restrain the party from selling immediately, you probably make it impossible for him to sell at all. You take property out of his pocket and give it to nobody. In such a case, if the plaintiff is right, the court has some means at least, of indemnifying him, by making the defendant keep an account; whereas, if the defendant is right and he be restrained, it is utterly impossible to give him compensation for the loss he will have sustained. And the effect of the order in that event will be to commit a great and irremediable injury. Unless, therefore, the court is quite clear as to

(*a*) See *Re Hooper* (11 W. R. 130).

(*b*) 21 & 22 Vict. c. 27, s. 2; see *per* Wood, V.C., *Tinsley* v. *Lacy* (11 W. R. 877).

(*c*) *Pike* v. *Nicholas* (20 L. T. N. S. 909; 38 L. J. 529, Ch.).

(*d*) *Mathewson* v. *Stockdale* (12 Ves. 275).

(*e*) *Spottiswoode* v. *Clarke* (2 Phil. 156).

what are the legal rights of the parties, it is much the safest course to abstain from exercising its jurisdiction till the legal right has been determined."

Where the work is of such a nature as those just referred to, the Court of Chancery orders the defendant to keep an account of all copies sold, until the title of the plaintiff is ascertained, when the proceeds must be handed over to him.

Person having legal title should be made a party.

Although an equitable title to the work pirated is sufficient to entitle to the assistance of a court of equity,(*a*) the person who has the legal title should also be made a party to the suit.(*b*)

Joint owners may sue.

The author or the proprietor of the copyright in a work may associate with himself any person or persons he pleases in the book of registry at Stationers' Hall, and such persons will have a right to sue jointly with him in equity for an infringement of the copyright.(*c*)

Joinder of defendants.

On the other hand, where there are distinct infringements of copyright by several persons they cannot be joined as defendants in the same suit. Thus, where different booksellers take copies of a spurious edition of a work for sale there is no privity between them, and they must be proceeded against by separate bills.(*d*)

Form of injunction.

Where a bill for an injunction prayed that the defendant might be restrained from publishing, selling, or otherwise disposing of a number of a periodical containing a piratical abridgment of a work of fiction, and from copying or *imitating* in whole or in part that work, Knight Bruce, V.C., granted the injunction as prayed, except as to the words "or imitating" for which he could find no precedent. "I am not satisfied," said his Honour, "that the words would go too far. Certainly, I am not satisfied that any legal or proper act would be restrained by them; but I am struck with the absence of any precedent for the use of those words in any injunction upon a case merely literary; and as I am of opinion, if I rightly understand it, that what is apprehended by the counsel for the plaintiff this court would restrain, I think it more prudent and safe to narrow the present injunction, rather than to leave in it a word apparently new in such cases, and which may be susceptible of an erroneous interpretation."(*e*)

(*a*) See *Maxman* v. *Tegg* (2 Russ. 385), *Pierpoint* v. *Fowle* (2 Wood. & Min. 35), *Little* v. *Gould* (2 Blatch. 181); *per* Abinger, C.B., in *Chappell* v. *Purday* (4 Y. & C. 493); *per* Shadwell, V.C., in *Bohn* v. *Bogue* (10 Jur. 420), and *Sweet* v. *Cater* (11 Sim. 581).

(*b*) *Colburn* v. *Duncombe* (9 Sim. 151). See *Sweet* v. *Shaw* (3 Jur. 217), and *Sweet* v. *Cater* (11 Sim. 581).

(*c*) *Stevens* v. *Wildy* (19 L. J. 190, Ch.)

(*d*) *Dilly* v. *Doig* (2 Ves. 486). (*e*) *Dickens* v. *Lee* (8 Jur. 185).

"The largest words," said the Vice-Chancellor, "that the registrar has furnished me with are in a case of *Faden* v. *Stockdale*,(a) which are very large indeed." The words of the injunction in that case were: "To restrain the defendant, his servants, agents, and workmen from printing, upon a reduced scale or otherwise, and from publishing or selling any copy or copies of the map of the Island of St. Domingo, compiled, drawn, or engraved by or for the use of the plaintiff, or any other of the like nature or kind, or upon any such or the like plan, until answer or further order."

Plaintiff must not be guilty of laches, or mislead by acquiescence.

It has been observed that nothing, in general, can call forth a court of equity into activity but conscience, good faith, and personal diligence, and one of the leading maxims that guides its interference is—*Vigilantibus non dormientibus æquitas subvenit.*(b) If one slumbers over his rights instead of asserting them in proper time, or if one, by his conduct, acquiesces in or encourages the infringement of a right which he afterwards seeks to enforce, equity will not grant him its aid, but leave him to his remedy at law.

A leading case on this subject is *Saunders* v. *Smith*(c) in which, without pronouncing any judgment on the legal right of the defendant to publish, with notes annexed, certain legal cases previously published by the plaintiff, the Lord-Chancellor (Cottenham) refused to grant an injunction to stay the publication by the defendant of a second volume of his "Leading Cases" on account of the line of conduct pursued by the plaintiffs. Mr. Smith had published his first volume of "Leading Cases" in 1837, containing some cases taken from the plaintiffs' books, and he stated in the preface his intention to publish a second volume which would carry the work down to the time he wrote. Mr. Smith proceeded with his second volume, and a communication on the subject of taking a share in it was made by his publisher (Mr. Maxwell) to the plaintiffs, and the plaintiffs made no remonstrance until the first part of the second volume was published, when they applied for an injunction to restrain its publication. Lord Cottenham, in refusing the injunction, said: "I do not give any opinion upon the legal question. I am only to decide whether the plaintiffs are entitled, under the circumstances, to the interposition of the court to protect their legal right, when that legal right has not yet been established. But I assume the existence of the legal right, and I say that whatever legal

(a) Reg. Lib. A. 1796, fol. 32*.
(b) See 2 Sp. Eq. Jur. 60, 61; St. Eq. Jur. s. 959, a.
(c) 3 My. & Cr. 711.

right the plaintiffs may have, the circumstances are such as to make it the duty of a court of equity to withhold its hand, and to abstain from exercising its equitable jurisdiction, at all events until the plaintiffs shall come here with the legal title established. In doing this, I am only doing what Lord Eldon did in *Rundell* v. *Murray*, and what is very generally done upon questions of patent right. The court always exercises its discretion whether it shall interfere by injunction before the establishment of the legal right."

The circumstances of the case of *Rundell* v. *Murray*,(*a*) referred to by Lord Eldon, were peculiar. The authoress gave her book to the defendant to publish at his expense on condition of giving her a few copies, and she stated in the book that it was given to the public in the idea that it might be useful, and as "she will receive from it no emolument, so she trusts it will escape without censure." The book proved a success, and the publisher sent her 150*l*., which she acknowledged by letter to be a free gift. After the period of fourteen years had elapsed from the first publication, the authoress sought to restrain the further publication of the work by the defendant, but Lord Eldon held that she was not entitled to do so. His Lordship said: "There has often been great difficulty about granting injunctions where the plaintiff has previously, by acquiescing, permitted many others to publish the work; where ten have been allowed to publish, the court will not restrain the eleventh. A court of equity frequently refuses an injunction where it acknowledges a right, when the conduct of the party complaining has led to the state of things that occasions the application; and therefore, without saying with whom the right is, whether it is in this lady or whether it is concurrently in both, I think it is a case in which strict law only ought to govern."

In *Platt* v. *Button* (*b*) Lord Eldon said that where permission was given to some persons to publish, and then others copied, it was necessary for the proprietor to bring his action at law before he could come to equity for an injunction.

If any delay occurs in the assertion of the title to a copyright infringed, the delay must be accounted for to the satisfaction of the court, otherwise no assistance will be given.(*c*)

(*a*) 1 Jac. 311. See also *Southey* v. *Sherwood* (2 Mer. 438), and the American case of *Heine* v. *Appleton* (4 Blatch. 125).

(*b*) Coop. Ch. Cas. 304.

(*c*) See *Baily* v. *Taylor* (1 R. & M. 76; s. c. Tamlyn, 295) *Mawman* v. *Tegg* (2 Russ. 385, 393), *Lewis* v. *Chapman* (3 Beav. 135), *Lewis* v. *Fullarton* (2 Beav. 6), *Buxton* v. *James* (5 De G. & Sm. 80, 84), *per* Wood, V.C., in *Tinsley* v. *Lacy* (11 W. R. 877; 32 L. J. 539, Ch.); and the analogous cases as to patents, *Bridson* v. *Benecke* (12 Beav. 3); *per*

The right to an account in equity appears to be entirely ancillary to the right to an injunction.(*a*)

"The court," says Sir John Leach, M.R.,(*b*) "has no jurisdiction to give to a plaintiff a remedy for an alleged piracy, unless he can make out that he is entitled to the equitable interposition of this court by injunction; and in such case, the court will also give him an account, that his remedy here may be complete. If this court do not interfere by injunction, then his remedy, as in the case of any other injury to his property, must be at law."

Neither has a court of equity any jurisdiction with reference to a mere question of damages unless the primary right to an injunction exists.(*c*)

It was held in an American case(*d*) that commissions on the sale of a pirated work, received by a bookseller from the publisher of it, are profits which the bookseller must account for to the proprietor of the copyright, where a decree for an account has been made.

Curtis, J., in that case, after referring to the law relating to profits made by one member of a partnership, said: "The jurisdiction in cases of copyright rests upon a similar principle. If the proprietor will waive his action for damages, he may have an account of profits, upon the ground that the defendant has, by dealing with his property, made gains which equitably belong to the complainant. And I perceive no sound reason for restricting those gains to the difference between the cost and the sale price of the map or book, or limiting the right to an account to those persons who have sold the work solely on their own account. He who sells on commission does in truth sell on his own account, so far as he is entitled to a percentage on the amount of the sales. What he so receives is the gross profit coming to him from the proceeds of the sales, and what he so receives, diminishes the net profit of the one who employs him to sell. That part of the profits of the sales, being in the hands of the commission merchant, the consignor is not accountable for them. But why should not the commission merchant, who has them, account for them? He was liable to an action for damages for selling. That right is waived. I think he should pay over to the

Lord Brougham, C., in *Crossley* v. *Derby Gas Light Company* (4 L. J. 26, Ch.); *per* Wood, V.C., in *Smith* v. *London and South-Western Railway Company* (1 Kay, 416, 417).

(*a*) 1 Kay, 417.

(*b*) *Bailey* v. *Taylor* (1 R. & M. 75).

(*c*) 1 Kay, 415; *Stevens* v. *Caddy* (2 Curt. 200); and see the case of *Monk* v. *Harper* (3 Edw. Ch. 114).

(*d*) *Stevens* v *Gladding* (2 Curt. 608).

proprietor in lieu of the damages, the gain he has made from the sales. It does not seem to me that the term 'profits' necessarily, or when construed in reference to the subject matter, properly has so restricted a meaning as to exclude commissions received from the proceeds of sales of the property of the complainant."(*a*)

Injunction where value of property is small.

That the value of the property infringed is small does not disentitle the owner to an injunction;(*b*) but it may be of such trifling value that the court will not encourage litigation by interfering to protect it by injunction.

Where some pages of an article on a subject under public discussion at the time, were extracted from a monthly periodical and commented on by a weekly newspaper, Lord Cottenham, in dissolving an injunction which had been obtained, said: "It is impossible to say there is any value in the nature of the property in what is here inserted; the question is so minute as a question of property or value—how far, in point of value, it interferes with the sale of the *Monthly Chronicle*. The injunction is not to depend altogether on a question of account; but to what value the question in point of utility is to be carried. If no other danger were to arise from granting this application than what would be consequent on encouraging the litigation of such minute inquiries, it would be a sufficient ground to refuse it, that the court should not be so occupied to the exclusion of other matters which press upon it. The injunction is dissolved, each party paying their own costs."(*c*)

Where, however, the work of which the copyright is infringed is of value, the court will grant an injunction without proof of actual damage. When once the court has found that there is "*injuria*" the proprietor of the copyright will be allowed to judge of the "*damnum*."(*d*)

Sale of pirated copies after expiration of term.

If copies pirated during the continuance of a term of copyright are not published till after the expiration of the term, equity will, it seems, as in the similar case of patents, restrain such publication by injunction.(*e*)

Injunction where only part of work is pirated.

Where part of a book only is pirated from another work, the

(*a*) *Stevens* v. *Gladding* (2 Curt. 608).

(*b*) *Buxton* v. *James* (5 De G. & Sm. 83).

(*c*) *Bell* v. *Whitehead* (3 Jur. 68). See also *per* Lord Eldon in *Matthewson* v. *Stockdale* (12 Ves. 275); and *Cox* v. *Land and Water Journal Company* (L. Rep. 9 Eq. 324; 21 L. T. N. S. 548; 39 L. J. 152, Ch.; 18 W. R. 207).

(*d*) *Per* Wood, V.C., in *Tinsley* v. *Lacy* (32 L. J., 539, Ch.; 11 W. R. 876).

(*e*) Compare the remarks of Wood, V.C., in *Smith* v. *London and South-Western Railway Company* (Kay, 415) with the arguments in *Sheriff* v. *Coates* (1 R. & M. 165, 166).

extent to which an injunction goes will depend on the particular circumstances of the case. Lord Bathurst seems to have been of opinion that an injunction could not be granted against the whole of such a work, unless the part pirated was such that granting an injunction against that part necessarily destroyed the whole.(*a*)

Lord Eldon thought it was the business of the defendant, where a considerable portion of his work was shown to have been taken from that of the plaintiff, to separate and point out such pirated part.(*b*)

The presiding judge has frequently made the comparison for himself.(*c*) In some cases a reference has been made to the master to report to what extent one book is pirated from another;(*d*) and in one case Lord Hardwicke thought the best course was to get a report from two persons of learning in the law, chosen by the litigants themselves.(*e*)

The effect of an injunction against the whole of a book is sometimes produced by an order against the publication of any copy or copies containing the portions pirated from another work, or any passages taken or colourably altered from such work.(*f*)

The extent to which the injunction ought to go, must, in each case, depend on the particular circumstances of that case.(*g*)

Remedy by injunction sometimes inappropriate.

The peculiar nature of the case may sometimes render the remedy by injunction inappropriate, even where the piracy is clearly established. Sir James Malins, V.C., refused to grant an interlocutory injunction to restrain the publication in a weekly paper of a "list of hounds," which he was satisfied was copied from the list published in another weekly paper.(*h*) The Vice-Chancellor, after referring to the rule that where the information is open to all who seek to obtain it, each publisher must, nevertheless, get it at his own expense and as the result of his own labour, and is not entitled to the results

(*a*) *Per* Wood, V.C., in *Jarrold* v. *Houlston* (3 K. & J. 719).

(*b*) *Mawman* v. *Tegg* (2 Russ. 395).

(*c*) See the cases of *Matthewson* v. *Stockdale* (12 Ves. 277), *Whittingham* v. *Wooler* (2 Swanst. 460), *Lewis* v. *Fullarton* (2 Beav. 8), *Murray* v. *Bogue* (1 Drew, 368), *Spiers* v. *Brown* (6 W. R. 352), *Jarrold* v. *Houlston* (3 K. & J. 708); *Pike* v. *Nicholas* (20 L. T. N. S. 906; 38 L. J. 529, Ch.; L. Rep. 5 Ch. App. 251).

(*d*) *Carnan* v. *Bowles* (2 Bro. C. C. 85); *Nicol* v. *Stockdale* (12 Ves. 277); *Story's Executors* v. *Derby* (4 M'Lean, 160, 161).

(*e*) *Gyles* v. *Wilcox* (2 Atk. 143).

(*f*) See *Lewis* v. *Fullarton* (2 Beav. 6); *Jarrold* v. *Houlston* (3 K. & J. 708).

(*g*) *Per* Lord Eldon, in *Mawman* v. *Tegg* (2 Russ. 393).

(*h*) *Cox* v. *Land and Water Journal Company* (L. Rep. 9 Eq. 324; 21 L. T. N. S. 548; 39 L. J. 152, Ch.; 17 W. R. 207.)

PART I. CHAPTER XVII.

of the labour undergone by others, said: "But in this case, as in many others, the question arises, is it a case for the interference of the Court of Chancery at all? and if it is a case for interference, is it a case for interference on an interlocutory application? Now, I do not think it is a case to be decided on an interlocutory application; and my reason is this: this list must be corrected from week to week; it could not be a correct list from the 1st of November until April, or to the end of the hunting season. Changes must take place; the list of masters, huntsmen, and whips can hardly continue to be correct even for a week. Now, suppose I were to grant an injunction, how can it be acted upon? The defendants have only to issue a fresh circular, make an urgent appeal for answers, or send a person by rail and get the information from the masters of the hunts, and next week bring out a very correct list; and how am I to know the way in which they got their information? At present, I do not see that I can interfere. Whether the plaintiff is entitled to any remedy I do not at present decide, but I do not think it a case for an injunction, though the defendants are not entitled to avail themselves of the plaintiff's labours. . . . . I would suggest to the parties that the wisest thing would be to let the bill be dismissed without costs. But if they do not agree, then I simply refuse the motion, leaving the case to be decided at the hearing. It may be a question for damages, but I shall certainly not grant an injunction."

Where the appropriation of another's work is small in amount, and pervades the whole work, so that no permanent injunction can issue without destroying the whole work, it has been the opinion of some judges that the remedy by injunction would be disproportionate and unsuited to the case, and therefore unjust; and that as the damages sustained might be obtained in a suit at law without destroying the whole work, such would be the most equitable relief.(*a*)

Not necessary to state in bill or affidavit parts pirated.

It is not necessary for a person who complains that his copyright has been infringed and seeks an injunction, to specify, either in his bill or his affidavit, the parts of the defendant's work which he thinks have been pirated from his work. It is sufficient to allege generally that the defen-

(*a*) See *per* Woodbury, J., in the American case of *Webb* v. *Powers* (2 Wood. & Min. 521). "Though this Court," says Lord Eldon, in *Mawman* v. *Tegg* (2 Russ. 394), "has long exercised the jurisdiction of protecting literary property by injunction, there may be much doubt whether it would exercise the jurisdiction, where only a few pirated passages occurred, and would not rather in such a case leave the party complaining to his action at law."

dant's work contains several passages which have been pirated from the plaintiff's, and to verify the rival works by affidavit.(*a*)

The production of his manuscript is sometimes very important on the part of the person charged with piracy.(*b*)

Sale of stereotype plates.

Where the proprietor of copyright notes on the Bible sold the stereotype plates of a quarto edition containing these notes, together with the right of printing from them, and the plates were afterwards sold to a third party at a public sale, at which a specimen leaf of the work was exhibited, the Scotch Court of Session granted an interdict to restrain the purchaser from publishing a folio Bible, printed from the plates, with the addition of a commentary at the foot of each page, on the following grounds: that what was sold were the plates of a particular Bible, of which a specimen leaf had been shown, and had been referred to in the catalogue; that the nature of stereotype plates was to multiply copies of the same work until they were worn out, wherens, if commentaries were added to each page, the work would be a different one, and if sold as cheap as the original quarto the value of the latter would be diminished, and that, not by the multiplication of the same work, but by the production of a different one from the plates, a thing not intended when the sale was made.(*c*)

Publication disparaging a rival work.

An advertisement of a work which merely disparages a rival work will not be restrained by injunction, where it is not such as would induce the public to take the one book for the other.(*d*)

Lord Cottenham, C., said that an allegation that matter contained in a particular edition of a work was spurious and of no value was, if untrue, no subject for an injunction, although it might be the subject of an action, as being a libel on or disparagement of the edition.(*e*)

(*a*) *Sweet* v. *Maugham* (11 Sim. 51).
(*b*) *Murray* v. *Bogue* (1 Drew. 361); *Pike* v. *Nicholas* (20 L. T. N. S. 908; 38 L. J. 529, Ch.).
(*c*) *Fullarton* v. *McPhun* (13 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2nd Ser. 219).
(*d*) *Seeley* v. *Fisher* (11 Sim. 581). (*e*) *Id.* 583.

CHAPTER XVIII.

AMERICAN LAW OF COPYRIGHT.

General law throughout the United States.

THE general law on the subject of copyright is the same throughout the whole of the United States, since the Federal Constitution of 1789,(*a*) gave to the Supreme Congress "power to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries; also to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers."

Local copyright.

But, though a particular state cannot take away from an individual the property given him by an Act of Congress, and though the laws of such state are inoperative as against the laws of the United States with which they may come in collision,(*b*) yet if an author or inventor, instead of resorting to the Act of Congress, should apply to the Legislature of a particular state for an exclusive right to his production, there is nothing to hinder that state granting it, though the operation of such grant would be confined to the limits of the state.(*c*) And the use of the property is exclusively of local cognisance. Like all other property, it must be used and enjoyed within each state, according to the laws of such state.(*d*)

Copyright Acts.

The first Act on the subject of copyright was passed in 1790. Chap. 15 of that Act (designed "for the encouragement of learning by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies") fixed the term of copyright at fourteen years, with a right of renewal for fourteen years more, if at the expiration of the first term the author were living, and a citizen of or resident in the United States. This Act was repealed by an Act passed in 1831, which, amended and enlarged by subsequent Acts (passed in 1834, 1846, 1856, 1859, 1861, 1865, 1867), continued in force down to July, 1870, when an Act was passed to revise, consolidate, and amend the statutes relating to copyrights and patents, repealing the previous enactments on the subject.

Terms of copyright.

The term of copyright fixed by the Act of 1870 is twenty-eight years from the time of recording the title thereof, with a right of renewal for fourteen years more

(*a*) Art. 1, sect. 8. (*b*) See *Gibbons* v. *Ogden* (9 Wheat. 186).
(*c*) *Livingston* v. *Van Ingen* (9 Johns. 581). (*d*) *Ib.*

(thus making the whole term forty-two years), if, at the expiration of the first period, the author, inventor, or designer, is still living, and a citizen of the United States, or resident therein. If he has died, leaving a widow or children, the same exclusive right is continued to them for the further term of fourteen years. But, in either case, all the conditions as to recording the title of the work, &c., required in the first instance, must be observed with respect to this renewed copyright within six months before the expiration of the first term. A copy of the record must, also, within two months from the date of the renewal, be published in one or more newspapers printed in the United States, for the space of four weeks.(*a*)

A claim under a renewal necessarily involves the validity of the right under the first as well as under the second term.(*b*)

It is now settled, however the matter may have been formerly regarded, that copyright is dependent solely on the statute law; and that an author cannot set up any common law right to the exclusive printing or publishing of his work.(*c*)

Unpublished manuscripts.

Even what has been termed copyright before publication is not, in America, dependent solely on the common law. Sect. 102 of the Act of 1870 provides that any person who shall print or publish any manuscripts whatever, without the consent(*d*) of the author or proprietor first obtained (if such author or proprietor be a citizen of the United States or resident therein) shall be liable to said author or proprietor for all damages occasioned by such injury, to be recovered by action on the case in any court of competent jurisdiction.

The similar enactment in the statute of 18 was held not to take away the right of property which the author possesses at common law in his works before publication, and which he may protect by action at law, or by claiming the aid of a Court of Chancery, which will be given on general equitable principles.(*e*)

An author has a common law right in his manuscript until he relinquishes it by contract or some equivocal act.(*f*)

A surreptitious publication of an important part of a

(*a*) Sect. 88. (*b*) *Wheaton* v. *Peters* (8 Pet. 663.)

(*c*) *Dudley* v. *Mayhew* (3 Coms. 12); *Wheaton* v. *Peters* (8 Pet.); *Clayton* v. *Stone* (2 Paine, 383).

(*d*) The Act of 1831 (now repealed) required this consent to be in writing, signed in the presence of two or more credible witnesses: (Sect. 9.)

(*e*) *Woolsey* v. *Judd* (4 Duer. 385; *Wheaton* v. *Peters* (8 Pet. 657); *Jones* v. *Thorne* (1 N. Y. Leg. Obs. 409); *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden* (4 M'Lean, 301). See also *Hoyt* v. *M'Kenzie* (3 Barb. Ch. 323).

(*f*) *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden* (5 M'Lean, 36, 38).

manuscript is as much within the statute as if the manuscript were complete; and the whole of a manuscript need not be printed.(*a*)

The enactment as to unpublished manuscripts operates in favour of a resident of the United States, who has acquired the proprietorship of an *unprinted* literary composition from a non-resident alien author; but it gives no redress for an unauthorised theatrical representation.(*b*)

Definition of copyright.

Copyright has been defined to be "an exclusive right to the multiplication of copies for the benefit of the author or his assigns, disconnected from the plate or any other physical existence."(*c*)

Subject matters in which copyright is granted.

Sect. 86 of the Act enumerates the subject matters in which copyright is granted. It provides "that any citizen of the United States, or resident therein, who shall be the author, inventor, designer, or proprietor of any book, map, chart, dramatic or musical composition, engraving, cut, print or photograph, or negative thereof, or of a painting, drawing, chromo, statue, statuary, and of models or designs intended to be perfected as works of the fine arts, and his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall, upon complying with the provisions of this Act, have the sole liberty of printing, reprinting, publishing, completing, copying, executing, finishing, and vending the same; and in the case of a dramatic composition, of publicly performing or representing it, or causing it to be performed or represented by others; and authors may reserve the right to dramatise, or to translate their own works."

Who may possess copyright.

The Act confers copyright only on those who are citizens of the United States, or resident therein. The word "resident" has been interpreted to mean permanently resident; so that a person temporarily residing in America, even though he has declared his intention of becoming a citizen, cannot take or hold a copyright.(*d*) Nor can the assignee of a work composed by a non-resident alien obtain a copyright in it.(*e*)

The illiberality of the rule, which requires permanent residence in order to entitle to copyright, contrasts very disadvantageously with the rule of our law on the subject, as laid down in the cases of *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* and *Low* v. *Routledge* (*ante*, pp. 27, 33).

(*a*) *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden* (5 M'Lean, 39, 40).
(*b*) *Keene* v. *Wheatley* (9 Amer. Law Reg. 45).
(*c*) *Stephens* v. *Cady* (14 How. 530).
(*d*) *Carey* v. *Collier* (56 Nile's Reg. 262).
(*e*) *Keene* v. *Wheatley* (9 Amer. Law. Reg. 45).

Sect. 103 provides that nothing contained in the Act shall be construed to prohibit the printing, publishing, importation, or sale of any book, map, chart, dramatic, or musical composition, print, cut, engraving, or photograph, written, composed, or made by any person not a citizen of the United States, nor resident therein.

Originality.

The degree of originality required, in order to entitle a book to the protection of the Act, is the same as English courts require. To constitute one an author he must, by his own intellectual labour applied to the materials of his composition, produce an arrangement or compilation new in itself.(*a*) But one who gets another or others to compile a work or engrave a print is not entitled to copyright.(*b*) In the case of subjects open to all, the work of another must not be copied, but recourse must be had to the original sources.(*c*)

A book within the meaning of the Act may consist of a single sheet, as the words of a song, or the music accompanying it.(*d*) But a newspaper or price current is not a book within the meaning of the Act.(*e*)

Requisites to be observed.

No person is to be "entitled to a copyright" unless, before publication, he deposits in the mail a printed copy of the title of the book, or other article, or a description of the painting, drawing, chromo, statue, statuary, or model or design for a work of the fine arts, for which he desires a copyright, addressed to the librarian of Congress, and also, within ten days from the publication, deposits in the mail two copies of such copyright book, or other article, or in case of a painting, drawing, statue, statuary, model, or design for a work of the fine arts, a photograph of the same, to be addressed to the said librarian of Congress.(*f*)

Two complete printed copies of the best edition of every copyright book or other article, or description or photograph of such article as before required must be "mailed" by the proprietor to the librarian of Congress at Washington, within ten days after publication, and also a copy of every subsequent edition in which substantial changes are made, under a penalty of twenty-five dollars.(*g*)

(*a*) *Atwill* v. *Ferrett* (2 Blatch. 46). See *per* Story, J., quoted *ante*, pp. 79, 80.

(*b*) *Pierpont* v. *Fowle* (2 Wood. & Min. 46); *Atwill* v. *Ferrett* (2 Blatch. 46).

(*c*) *Blunt* v. *Patten* (2 Paine, 400, 401); *Emerson* v. *Davies* (3 Story, 781); *Gray* v. *Russell* (1 Story, 17).

(*d*) *Clayton* v. *Stone* (2 Paine, 383, 391). (*e*) *Ib.*

(*f*) For the requisites which had to be observed before this Act, see *Jollie* v. *Jacques* (1 Blatch. 618). (*g*) Sects. 93, 94.

PART I.
CHAPTER XVIII.

The copyright book or other article may be sent to the librarian of Congress by mail, free of postage, provided the words "copyright matter" are plainly written or printed on the outside of the package;(*a*) and the postmaster to whom it is delivered must, if requested, give a receipt for it, and forward it without cost to its destination.(*b*)

If a work is published without a copyright being secured, this is a dedication of it to the public, and any one may republish it.(*c*)

The publication of an official report under the direction of Congress, and for the benefit of the public, is a dedication of it and of what is contained in it, to the public, and any one may reprint it.(*d*)

On the book being sent to the librarian of Congress, that officer is to record the name of the copyright book or other article forthwith in a book to be kept for that purpose, in the words following: "Library of Congress to wit. Be it remembered that on the day of , *Anno Domini* , A. B., of ; hath deposited in this office the title of a book [map, chart, or otherwise, as the case may be, or description of the article], the title or description of which is in the following words, to wit: [here insert the title or description], the right whereof he claims as author, originator [or proprietor, as the case may be], in conformity with the laws of the United States respecting copyrights.—C. D., Librarian of Congress." He is also to give a copy of the title or description, under the seal of the librarian of Congress, to the proprietor whenever he requires it.(*e*)

Fo. recording the title or description, the sum of fifty cents is to be paid to the librarian, and the same amount for every copy under seal. For recording any instrument of assignment of copyright, fifteen cents. must be paid for every hundred words, and for every copy thereof, ten cents for every hundred words. All these moneys when received are to be paid into the treasury of the United States.(*f*)

Notice of entry.

To entitle the proprietor to maintain an action for the infringement of his copyright, a further requisite must be observed: notice must be given by inserting in the general copies of every edition published, on the title-page, or the page immediately following, if it be a book, or if a map,

(*a*) Sect. 95. (*b*) Sect. 96.
(*c*) *Bartlett* v. *Crittenden* (5 M'Lean, 37).
(*d*) *Herne* v. *Appletons* (4 Blatch., cited Law's Digest of Patent, Copyright, and Tradesmark Cases, p. 214).
(*e*) Sect. 91. (*f*) Sect. 92.

chart, musical composition, print, cut, engraving, photograph, painting, drawing, chromo, statue, statuary, or model or design, intended to be perfected and completed as a work of the fine arts, by inscribing upon some portion of the face or front thereof, or on the face of the substance on which the same shall be mounted, the following words—"Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year , by A. B., in the office of the librarian of Congress, at Washington."(*a*)

A penalty of 100 dollars (to be recovered by action in any court of competent jurisdiction) is inflicted on every person inserting or impressing such a notice on any of the articles named, for which he has not obtained a copyright, one moiety of the penalty to go to the person suing for it, and the other to the use of the United States.(*b*)

Piracy of books.

If any one, after the recording the title of any book according to the Act, shall, within the term limited, and without the consent of the proprietor of the copyright first obtained in writing, signed in presence of two or more witnesses, print, publish, or import, or knowing the same to be so printed, published, or imported, shall sell or expose to sale any copy of such book, such offender shall forfeit every copy thereof to the said proprietor, and shall also forfeit and pay such damages as may be recovered in a civil action by such proprietor in any court of competent jurisdiction.(*c*)

Maps, prints, musical compositions, &c.

There is a similar provision as to maps, prints, &c. Sect. 100 enacts, "that if any person after the recording of the title of any map, chart, musical composition, print, cut, engraving, or photograph, or chromo, or of the description of any painting, drawing, statue, statuary or model or design intended to be perfected and executed as a work of the fine arts as provided in the Act, shall, within the term limited, and without the consent of the proprietor of the copyright first obtained in writing, signed in presence of two or more witnesses, engrave, etch, work, copy, print, publish, or import, either in whole or in part, or by varying the main design with intent to evade the law, or knowing the same to be so printed, published, or imported, shall sell or expose to sale any copy of such map or other article as aforesaid, he shall forfeit to the said proprietor all the plates on which the same shall be copied, and every sheet thereof either copied or printed, and shall further forfeit one dollar for every sheet of the same found in his possession, either printing, printed, copied, published, imported, or exposed for sale; and in case of a painting, statue, or statuary, he shall forfeit ten dollars for every copy of the same in his

(*a*) Sect. 97. (*b*) Sect. 98. (*c*) Sect. 99.

possession, or which have by him been sold or exposed for sale; one moiety to go to the proprietor, the other to the United States."

Dramatic representations.

Any person who publicly performs or represents any dramatic composition for which a copyright has been obtained, and without the consent of the proprietor or his heirs or assigns, is to be liable to damages (recoverable by action in any court of competent jurisdiction), to be assessed in all cases at such sum, not less than 100 dollars for the first, and 50 dollars for every subsequent performance, as to the court shall appear to be just.(*a*)

An assignee of a dramatic composition cannot maintain an action for its unauthorised representation unless he has performed *all* the acts required by law to secure a copyright.(*b*)

An authorised public circulation of a printed copy of a drama, for which there is no legislative copyright, is a publication which legalises a subsequent theatrical representation by anybody from such copy.(*c*)

Piracy in general.

If so much is taken as to impair the value of the original work, or so that the labours of the original author are substantially appropriated, that is sufficient to constitute a piracy.(*d*) But the question of piracy does not depend solely on the question of quantity.(*e*)

Intention is not a necessary element in the offence of piracy. If a copyright has been invaded, whether the party knew the work was copyrighted or not, he is liable to the penalty for violation.(*f*)

A translation is not a copy of a book within the meaning of the statute.(*g*) The words "copy of a book" mean a transcript or copy of the entire book.(*h*)

Limitation of actions.

All actions for forfeitures and penalties under the Act must be commenced within two years after the cause of action shall have arisen.(*i*)

Remedies for infringement.

All actions, suits, controversies, and cases are to be originally cognisable, as well in equity as at law, whether civil or penal in their nature, by the circuit courts of the United States, or any district court having the jurisdiction of a circuit court, or in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, or any territory; and the court is empowered upon bill in equity, filed by any party aggrieved, to grant

(*a*) Sect. 101. (*b*) *Keene* v. *Wheatley* (9 Amer. Law Reg. 44).
(*c*) *Ib.* (*d*) *Folsom* v. *Marsh* (2 St. 115).
(*e*) *Story's Executors* v. *Holcombe* (4 M'Lean, 309, 310).
(*f*) *Millett* v. *Snowden* (1 West. L. J. 240).
(*g*) *Stowe* v. *Thomas* (2 Amer. Law Reg. 250).
(*h*) *Rogers* v. *Jewett* (12 Mo. L. Rep. 340, 341). (*i*) Sect. 104.

injunctions to prevent the violation of any rights secured by the copyright laws according to the course and principles of courts of equity, on such terms as the court may deem reasonable.(*a*)

A writ of error or appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States lies from all such judgments and decrees of any court in the same manner and under the same circumstances as in other judgments and decrees of such courts, without regard to the sum or value in controversy.(*b*)

In all recoveries either for damages, forfeitures, or penalties, full costs are to be allowed.(*c*)

In all actions under the copyright laws the defendant may plead the general issue and give the special matter in evidence.(*d*)

The jurisdiction given to the Federal Court by the Acts of Congress has not taken away or diminished the original jurisdiction, which before such Acts (*e*) the State Courts exercised; except where the jurisdiction was made exclusive in express terms, or by the necessary construction of the Federal Constitution.(*f*)

Under the Acts giving to the circuit courts cognisance of these cases, the citizenship of the litigant parties is immaterial.(*g*)

Assignment of copyright.

Copyrights may be assigned in law by *any instrument of writing*. Such assignment is to be recorded in the office of the librarian of Congress within 60 days after its execution, in default of which it is to be void as against any subsequent purchaser or mortgagee for a valuable consideration without notice.(*h*)

The librarian of Congress is made chargeable with all the duties pertaining to copyrights required by law.(*i*) He is to make an annual report to Congress of the number and description of copyright publications for which entries have been made during the year.(*k*)

(*a*) Sect. 106. (*b*) Sect. 107. (*c*) Sect. 108. (*d*) Sect. 105.
(*e*) *Pierpont* v. *Fowle* (2 Wood & Min. 43-45).
(*f*) *Woolsey* v. *Judd* (4 Duer, 382).
(*g*) *Keene* v. *Wheatley* (9 Amer. Law Reg. 44, 45).
(*h*) Sect. 89. (*i*) Sect. 109. (*k*) Sect. 85.

PART II.

LAW RELATING TO NEWSPAPERS.

Whether there is copyright in newspapers.

THE question whether a newspaper is within the Copyright Act (5 & 6 Vict. c. 45), first came before a court for express decision in the recent case of *Cox* v. *The Land and Water Journal Company*,(a) where the plaintiff, the proprietor of the *Field* newspaper, sought to restrain the publication in the *Land and Water Journal* of a "list of hounds," alleged to be copied from a list printed in the former paper. It was contended, on behalf of the defendants—(1) that the plaintiff had no copyright in the article of the piracy of which he complained; (2) that if he had a copyright he could not sue until his paper was registered under the Copyright Act. Malins, V.C., said: "The preliminary objection taken in this case raises a point of vast importance to the proprietors of newspapers and to the public at large. It is so important that it seems almost incredible that the point should never have arisen, namely, whether the proprietor of a newspaper has or has not such a property in articles published in that newspaper, and paid for by the proprietor, as entitles him to prohibit the publication by any other newspaper in any other form whatever." On account of the importance of this, the only case decided on the subject, we shall give in full the Vice-Chancellor's reasons for holding that a newspaper does not require to be registered in order to entitle the proprietor to one in respect of a piracy of its contents.

"For the purposes of the argument," said his Honour, "it must be assumed that the article complained of was a copy of the article of the plaintiff, and upon that ground the defendant takes the objection that there can be no copyright in any article published in this newspaper, because it is not registered under the Act 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, commonly called the Copyright Act. Now suppose, for instance, the

(a) L. Rep. 9 Eq. 324; 21 L. T. N. S. 548; 18 W. R. 206.

proprietor of a newspaper employs a correspondent abroad, and that correspondent, being employed and sent abroad at great expense, makes communications to a newspaper which are highly appreciated by the public, can it be said that another newspaper, published perhaps in the evening of the same day, may take and publish those communications *in extenso*, with or without acknowledgment? If the contention of the defendants is right, the paper which copied might say: 'But they are common property. True it is, I admit, that you have paid for them. I admit that you have given a great deal of money for them, and they are so very valuable that I desire to turn them to account by publishing them in my newspaper; but you have no property in them, although you pay for them; you cannot sue for your newspaper as a book, for then the copyright must be registered, and as you have not registered the book, nothing in the newspaper is protected.' If that is the law, it is a monstrous state of the law—repugnant to common sense and common honesty—because that there is a property in these articles there can be no shadow of doubt. Still, however clear the right of property may be, if the case falls within the Act of Parliament, I must follow the same course which I took in the Brighton Directory case, *Mathieson* v. *Harrod.*(*a*) . . . . Now, I have put the case of letters from correspondents abroad. With foreign papers, we all know, it is the practice to publish novels, and in some English newspapers it is also done. Supposing a newspaper proprietor were to engage the first novelist of the day to write for him a novel to be published in his newspaper, part every day, and pay him highly, is the proprietor of such a newspaper to lose all property because the paper is not registered? What information would it give if it were registered? Would the registration of a paper called the *Field*, registered twenty years ago, give information as to when the copyright would commence and end?—not the slightest; and therefore it is not within the policy of the Act, and I am of opinion that it is not within the words of the Act. The question depends first upon the 2nd section of the Act. What is a book? because every book must, by the 24th section, be registered. We find that 'book' under the 2nd section 'shall be construed to mean and include every volume, part or division of a volume, pamphlet, sheet of letter-press, sheet of music,

(*a*) L. Rep. 7 Eq. 270; 19 L. T. N. S. 629; 38 L. J. 129, Ch. In this case a bill to restrain the piracy of the plaintiff's directory was dismissed with costs because the entry at Stationers' Hall of the date of first publication contained only the month, and not the day of the month, on which it had first been published. *Vide ante*, p. 89.

PART II.

or dramatic piece,' and so forth. Now, certainly, a newspaper does not fall within any of these descriptions, and if it was intended that this Act should be applied to newspapers, it would have been inserted, as the word 'newspaper' is well understood: and that word not being inserted, I must take it as advisedly omitted because it was not the intention of the Legislature that newspapers should be included within the Act. Then comes the section which prescribes what is to be done with regard to periodical publications. Sect. 19 provides 'that the proprietor of the copyright in any encyclopedia, review, magazine, periodical work, or other work published in a series of books or parts, shall be entitled to all the benefits of the registration at Stationers' Hall, under this Act, on entering in the said book of registry the title of such encyclopedia, review, periodical work, or other work, published in a series of books or parts, the time of the first publication of the first volume, number, or part thereof, or of the first numbers or volume first published after the passing of this Act in any such work which shall have been published heretofore, and the name and place of abode of the proprietor thereof and of the publisher thereof, when such publisher shall not also be the proprietor thereof.' That again, does not mention newspapers, and I must come to the same conclusion—that a newspaper was not mentioned, because it was not intended to be included. Then, can a person have any copyright or property in that which is not registered under the Act? This depends, I apprehend, upon the construction of the 18th section, which enacts that when any publisher or other person shall . . . . have projected, conducted, and carried on . . . . any encyclopedia, review, magazine, periodical, work, or work published in a series of books or parts, or any book whatsoever, and shall have employed any person to compose the same, or any volumes, parts, essays, articles, or portions thereof, for publication in or as part of the same, and such work, &c., shall be composed on the terms that the copyright shall belong to such proprietor, and be paid for by him; then the proprietor of such work shall be entitled to copyright (except that after the term of twenty-eight years the copyright shall revert to the author), and shall be entitled to sue upon registering the same at Stationers' Hall. Now, must every right included in this section be registered according to the Act? The present Lord Chancellor decided that question in *Mayhew* v *Maxwell.*(a) Mr. Mayhew wrote a certain

(a) 1 J. & H. 312.

article, or series of articles, in a periodical called the *Welcome Guest*, and the proprietor proceeded to publish them in a separate form. The plaintiff filed his bill to restrain him from publishing in any other form than in that for which he wrote the work. The same point arose in *Strahan* v. *Graham*, where Mr. Graham had sold the right of publishing photographs of the Holy Land in a publication called *Good Words*, in which Dr. M'Leod was publishing a work with regard to the Holy Land, and the proprietors of *Good Words* had given him permission to use the photographs; but Mr. Graham contended that Mr. Strahan had no right to give it to Dr. M'Leod. I decided in that case, and my decision was confirmed by Lord-Chancellor Chelmsford, that there was no right to publish in a separate form that which he had authority only to use in *Good Words*, and that Mr. Graham had a good right of action. But these are distinct authorities to show that there is a property in a publication, although it is not registered. That is the ground upon which Vice-Chancellor Wood commented on the 24th section in *Mayhew* v. *Maxwell*. He says: 'The plaintiff has not registered under the 24th section.' Now I have been referred to the case of *Sweet* v. *Benning*,(*a*) which was a case between Mr. Sweet, the proprietor of the *Jurist*, and Mr. Benning, a bookseller. Sweet brings an action against Benning for copying the marginal notes of cases in a separate publication. This was the subject of the action. I suppose the *Jurist* had been published before this Act of 5 & 6 Vict., and therefore it was not registered at all. If so, the question whether these reports, published in the *Jurist*, were subject to the provisions of the Act, did not arise. Now, in deciding that case, Jervis, C.J., said:(*b*) 'I think that, under the circumstances stated, there is an implied condition, understanding, or arrangement between the proprietors of the *Jurist* and the gentlemen who furnished them with reports, that the former shall acquire a copyright in the articles so written.' Now, therefore, it appears to me that a 'newspaper,' which is the best possible and only definition of such a publication as the *Field*, not being within any of the provisions of this Act, I must infer that it was not the intention of the Legislature to apply the Act to newspapers (for it was absolutely impossible that it should have missed insertion in some of the sections), and that the circumstance of non-registration throws no difficulty in the way of the plaintiff maintaining his right in law or equity; and, though it is seldom worth the while of

(*a*) 16 C. B. 459. (*b*) *Ib.* 480, 481.

PART II.

proprietors to assert the copyright in articles in a newspaper, I am of opinion that, whether it be the letters of a correspondent abroad, or the publication of a tale or a treatise, or the review of a book, or whatever else, he acquires—I will not say as copyright, but as property—such a property in every article for which he pays under the 18th section of the Act, or by the general rules of property, as will entitle him, if he thinks it worth while, to prohibit any other person from publishing the same thing in any other newspaper, or in any other form."

Decision in *Cox v. Land and Water Journal Company* considered.

The effect of this decision, which cannot be considered a satisfactory one, is that the proprietor of a newspaper has a property in its published contents entitling him to restrain the piracy of any portion thereof *for which he has paid*, under the 18th section of the Act, without the necessity of a preliminary registration at Stationers' Hall. This right, it is obvious, is exactly "the sole and exclusive liberty of printing, or otherwise multiplying copies" which sect. 2 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, calls "copyright," a term which the Vice-Chancellor is reluctant to apply to it, but which section 18 does expressly apply to it, enacting that the proprietor who has paid for the article shall have "such term of copyright therein as is given to the authors of books by this Act." Now, it is settled by the decision of the House of Lords, in *Donaldson v. Beckett*,(a) that the common law right of property in literary works after publication, if such right ever existed, has been taken away by statute, and that copyright after publication is now altogether dependent on statutory enactment. It exists only in those works, and can be enforced only on the observance of those conditions which are mentioned and prescribed in the Acts now in force. Considerations of the great hardship of allowing the unauthorised copying and publication of the copies of paintings, drawings, and photographs were not regarded as sufficient to justify the courts of law or equity in interfering for the protection of the owners of such works, and the intervention of the Legislature was necessary to confer a copyright in them; so that the observations of the Vice-Chancellor on the hardship of denying a protection from piracy to the proprietor of newspaper articles, are by no means decisive as to the existence of a right to prevent such piracy independent of the statute. If it be thought only just, as everybody must think it, that the publisher of a newspaper should be able to restrain the wholesale piracy of its contents, there does not seem to be much difficulty in

(a) 4 Burr. 2408.

the way of interpreting a newspaper to be a "book" within the meaning of sect. 2 of the above Act, there construed to mean and include "every volume, part or division of a volume, pamphlet, *sheet of letterpress*, sheet of music, map, chart, or plan separately published," or in holding it to be a "periodical work, or other work published in a series of books or parts," within the meaning of sect. 19 of the same Act; in either of which cases, however, registration would be necessary before the proprietor could sue in respect of an infringement of his copyright.

Nature of property in a newspaper.

Whether a copyright exists at all in the case of newspapers has been doubted by Lord Chelmsford, in *Platt* v. *Walter*,(*a*) and his Lordship refers to the language of Knight Bruce, L.J., in *Ex parte Foss*,(*b*) as seeming to imply a doubt in the mind of that learned judge also whether there was such a thing as copyright in a newspaper. The Lord Justice spoke of the right to publish newspapers bearing a particular name as "that which has been called the copyright of a newspaper." Turner, L.J., however, in the same case, considers copyright in a newspaper as a right "which undoubtedly exists."(*c*)

Though it is somewhat doubtful whether a copyright in newspapers exists, the right of publishing a newspaper is no doubt a species of property. It has been held to be goods and chattels under the Bankruptcy Acts.(*d*)

Name of newspaper

And, though there is nothing analogous to copyright in the name of a newspaper, the proprietor has a right to prevent any other person from adopting the same name for any other similar publication; and this right is a chattel interest capable of assignment.(*e*)

Right of publishing a newspaper.

The right of publishing a newspaper is not capable of seizure by the sheriff under an execution; but the doctrine of reputed ownership under the Bankruptcy Acts was held applicable to it.(*f*)

Where the registered proprietor of certain newspapers published by him, being also the owner of the type and plant used in the printing of them, mortgaged the news-

(*a*) 17 L. T. N. S. 159. See also the American case of *Clayton* v. *Stone* (2 Paine, 383, 391).

(*b*) 2 De G. & J. 230.

(*c*) 2 De G. & J. 239.

(*d*) *Longman* v. *Tripp* (2 Bos. & P., 67); *Ex parte Foss*, 2 De G. & J. 230. See per Lord Chelmsford, C., in *Platt* v. *Walter* (17 L. T. N. S. 159).

(*e*) *Per* Page Wood, L.J., in *Kelly* v. *Hutton* (L. Rep. 3 Ch. App. 708; 19 L. T. N. S. 231; 38 L. J. 917 Ch.; and see the cases referred to in the preceding note, and *Keene* v. *Harris*, referred to 17 Ves. 338).

(*f*) *Ex parte Foss*, *ubi supra*. See also *Longman* v. *Tripp* (2 Bos. & Pul. 67).

PART II.

papers, type, and plant to F., who took no steps to alter the registration of proprietorship, and the sheriff entered under an execution issued by a creditor of the publisher, and though possession was demanded by F., remained in possession till after the publisher became bankrupt, which took place after two days, it was held that the type and plant were not within the order and disposition of the bankrupt at the time of his bankruptcy with the consent of the true owner, but that as the right of publication was not capable of seizure by the sheriff, and the bankrupt continued the sole registered proprietor, and nothing had been done to make it apparent that he was not the sole owner, the doctrine of reputed ownership applied to the newspapers.(*a*)

It was held by the Scotch Court of Session that the goodwill of a newspaper is a right transmissible to the owner's representatives, and that where the surviving joint proprietors of a newspaper do not agree to purchase the share of a deceased partner, that share may be sold for behoof of his representatives.(*b*)

As to the interpretation of an agreement relating to the user by one newspaper of the matter and types of another, see the case of *Platt* v. *Walter*, referred to in the next part (on Contracts between Authors, Publishers, and Printers).

Repealed enactments as to newspapers.

The Government for a long time regarded the press with jealousy, and many enactments were made to facilitate the proof of the publication of newspapers as well as to secure to Government the heavy duties with which they were charged. Even the size of newspapers was to a late period regulated by statute. An Act of the 6 Geo. 4, c. 119, first allowed them to be printed on paper of any size.

Amongst the provisions swept away by the Act of 32 & 33 Vict. c. 24 (called "The Newspapers, Printers, and Reading Rooms' Act") were enactments requiring, before the publication of any newspaper, the delivery at the Stamp Office of a declaration containing the title of the paper, description of the house where it was to be published, and the names and places of abode of the printer, publisher, and proprietor,(*c*) certified copies of which declarations were to be received as conclusive evidence of everything contained in them relating to the newspapers(*d*). Copies of all newspapers published had to be delivered to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, and might be produced in

(*a*) *Ex parte Foss* (2 De G. & J. 230).
(*b*) *M'Cormick* v. *M'Cubbin* (1 Scotch Sess. Cas. 541, 4 July, 1822)
(*c*) 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 6. (*d*) Sect. 8.

evidence.(a) Every supplement to a newspaper must have had the word "supplement" printed on it, and have had the same title and date as the newspaper, and a penalty was incurred by publishing supplements without the newspapers.(b)

Printer must keep a copy of every paper, with name of employer thereon.

Every person who prints any paper for hire, reward, gain, or profit, must still carefully preserve and keep one copy (at least) of every paper so printed by him or her, on which he or she must write, or cause to be written or printed, in fair and legible characters, the name and place of abode of the person or persons by whom he or she is employed to print the same. Every person so printing who neglects to have written or printed the name of the employer, or to keep or preserve it for the space of six calendar months next after the printing thereof, or to produce and show the same to any justice of the peace who within the said space of six calendar months may require to see the same is, for every such omission, neglect, or refusal, to forfeit and lose the sum of twenty pounds.(c)

Exceptions.

This does not apply to any papers printed by the authority and for the use of either House of Parliament;(d) or to the impression of any engraving; or to the printing by letterpress of the name, or the name and address, or business or profession, of any person, and the articles in which he deals; or to any papers for the sale of estates or goods by auction or otherwise.(e)

Neither is it required that the name and residence of the printer should be printed upon any bank note, or bank post bill of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England; upon any bill of exchange, or promissory note, or upon any bond or other security for payment of money; or upon any bill of lading, policy of insurance, letter of attorney, deed, or agreement; or upon any transfer or assignment of any public stocks, funds, or other securities, or upon any transfer or assignment of the stocks of any public corporation or company authorised or sanctioned by Act of Parliament, or upon any dividend warrant of or for any such public or other stocks, funds, or securities; or upon any receipt for money or goods; or upon any proceeding in any court of law or equity, or in any inferior court, warrant, order, or other papers printed by the authority of any public board or public officer in the execution of the duties of their respective offices, notwithstanding the whole

(a) Sect. 13. (b) Sect. 5.
(c) 39 Geo. 3, c. 79, s. 29; 32 & 33 Vict c. 24, sched. 2.
(d) *Ib.* s. 28. (e) Sect. 31.

PART II.

or any part of the said several securities, instruments, proceedings, matters, and things aforesaid shall have been or shall be printed.(*a*)

Recovery of penalties.

Penalties (not exceeding the sum of 20*l*.) may be recovered in a summary way before any justice or justices of the peace for the county, stewartry, riding, division, city, town, or place in which the same are incurred, or the person who has incurred them happens to be; (*b*) and when so recovered, one moiety of the penalty is to go to the informer and the other moiety to the Crown.(*c*)

Prosecutions or actions for penalties under this Act are to be brought within three calendar months next after they are incurred; (*d*) and they can only be brought and prosecuted in the name of Her Majesty's Attorney or Solicitor-General in England, or Her Majesty Advocate in Scotland; every proceeding commenced or prosecuted in the name or names of any other person or persons is to be null and void to all intents and purposes.(*e*)

Printer to print his name and address on papers, &c.

On every person who prints any paper or book whatsoever which is meant to be published or dispersed, and who does not print upon the front of every such paper, if the same shall be printed on one side only, or upon the first or last leaf of every paper or book which shall consist of more than one leaf, in legible characters, his or her name and usual place of abode or business, sect. 2 of 2 & 3 Vict. c. 12,(*f*) inflicts a penalty of not more than five pounds for every copy of such paper so printed. A similar penalty is inflicted on every person who publishes, or disperses, or assists in publishing or dispersing, any printed paper or book on which the name and place of abode of the person printing the same is not printed as aforesaid. But this provision is not to be construed to impose any penalty upon any person for printing any of the papers above excepted.(*g*)

In the case of books or papers printed at the University Press of Oxford or the Pitt Press of Cambridge, the printer, instead of printing his name thereon, is to print the following words, "Printed at the University Press, Oxford," or "The Pitt Press, Cambridge," as the case may be.(*h*)

Proceedings for the recovery of any fine, penalty, or forfeiture under the provisions of this Act must be commenced, prosecuted, entered, or filed in the name of the Attorney or Solicitor-General in England, or Her Majesty's

(*a*) 51 Geo. 3, c. 65, s. 3; 32 & 33 Vict. c. 34, sched. 2.
(*b*) Sect. 35. (*c*) Sect. 36. (*d*) Sect. 34.
(*e*) 9 & 10 Vict., c. 33, s. 1; 32 & 33 Vict. c. 24, sched. 2.
(*f*) 32 & 33 Vict. c. 24, sched. 2. (*g*) *Vide ante*, p. 257.
(*h*) 2 & 5 Vict. c. 12, s. 3.

Advocate for Scotland (as the case may be respectively). All proceedings commenced, prosecuted, or filed otherwise are to be null and void to all intents and purposes.(*a*)

None of the preceding enactments apply to Ireland.(*b*)

Bill for discovery of proprietors, &c. of newspapers.

As to the enforcement by bill in equity of the discovery of the proprietors, printers, or publishers of newspapers, sect. 19 of 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76,(*c*) enacts that, "if any person shall file any bill in any court for the discovery of the name of any person concerned as printer, publisher, or proprietor of any newspaper, or of any matters relative to the printing or publishing of any newspaper, in order the more effectually to bring or carry on any suit or action for damages alleged to have been sustained by reason of any slanderous or libellous matter contained in any such newspaper respecting such person, it shall not be lawful for the defendant to plead or demur to such bill, but such defendant shall be compellable to make the discovery required."

A proviso is added "that such discovery shall not be made use of as evidence or otherwise in any proceeding against the defendant, save only in that proceeding for which the discovery is made."

This enactment applies to Ireland.

Stamp duties.

Previously to the passing of the Act 16 & 17 Vict. c. 63, a duty was payable on all advertisements contained in or published along with newspapers, or periodical or other literary works. Sect. 5 of that Act repealed the duty on advertisements in all such cases. And down to the passing of the Act 18 Vict. c. 27, it was not allowable to print or publish newspapers except on stamped paper. That Act abolished the necessity of stamped paper except for the purpose of free transmission by post. The Customs and Inland Revenue Act of last year (*d*) does away with all stamp duties on newspapers for the future.(*e*)

Registration at Post-Office.

As to the registration of newspapers at the Post Office, the Post Office Act of last year,(*f*) after describing what is a newspaper within its meaning, provides (sect. 7) that the proprietor or printer of any newspaper, and the proprietor or printer of any publication which, regard being had to the proportion of advertisements to other matter therein, is not within the description aforesaid, but which was stamped as a newspaper before the passing of the Act 18 & 19 Vict. c. 27, may register it at the General Post Office in London at such time in each year and in such form and with such particulars as the Postmaster-General from time to time

(*a*) 2 & 3 Vict. c. 12, s. 4. (*b*) See 32 & 33 Vict. c. 24, sched. 2. (*c*) *Ib.*
(*d*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 32. (*e*) Sect. 12. (*f*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 79.

PART II.

directs, paying on each registration such fee not exceeding five shillings as the Postmaster-General, with the approval of the Treasury, from time to time directs.

The Postmaster-General may from time to time revise the register and remove therefrom any publication not being a newspaper.(*a*)

The decision of the Postmaster-General on the admission to or removal from the register, of a publication is final, save that the Treasury may, if they think fit, on the application of any person interested, reverse or modify the decision, and order accordingly.(*b*)

Any publication for the time being on the register is for the purposes of this Act to be deemed a registered newspaper.(*c*)

Postage.

Registered newspapers, book packets, pattern or sample packets, and post cards may be sent by post between places in the United Kingdom, at the following rates of postage :—

On a registered newspaper, with or without a supplement or supplements ...	One halfpenny.
On each registered newspaper in a packet of two or more, with or without a supplement or supplements	One halfpenny.
On a book packet or pattern or sample packet :—	
If not exceeding two ounces in weight	One halfpenny.
If exceeding two ounces in weight, for the first two ounces and for every additional two ounces or fractional part of two ounces	One halfpenny.
On a post card	One halfpenny.

But a packet of two or more registered newspapers with or without a supplement or supplements is not to be liable under this section to a higher rate of postage than the rate chargeable on a book packet of the same weight.(*d*)

The Postmaster-General may from time to time, with the approval of the Treasury, make, in relation respectively to registered newspapers, book packets, pattern or sample packets, and post cards, sent by post, such regulations as he thinks fit, for all or any of the following purposes :—

For prescribing and regulating the times and modes of posting and delivery :

(*a*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 79, s. 7. (*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) *Ib.*

(*d*) Sect. 8. The enactments as to the postage of newspapers, contained in sects. 42 & 44 of 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, are repealed by this Act: (Sect. 4, sched. 1).

For prescribing prepayment and regulating the mode thereof:
For regulating the affixing of postage stamps:
For prescribing and regulating the payment again of postage in case of redirection:
For regulating dimensions and maximum weight of packets:
For regulating the nature and form of covers:
For prohibiting or restricting the printing or writing of marks or communications or words:
For prohibiting inclosures;
and such other regulations as from time to time seem expedient for the better execution of the Act.(*a*)

Any approval of the Treasury under this Act is to be deemed an order within the Documentary Evidence Act, 1868 (31 & 32 Vict. c. 37), which Act is to have effect as if the Postmaster-General were mentioned in the first column, and any secretary or assistant-secretary of the Post Office were mentioned in the second column of the schedule to that Act.(*b*)

Newspapers, &c not sent in conformity with Act.

If any registered or other newspaper, supplement, publication, book packet, pattern or sample packet, or post card, is sent by post otherwise than in conformity with the Act or any Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations, it shall be either returned to the sender thereof or forwarded to its destination, in either case charged with such rate of postage not exceeding the letter rate of postage, or without any additional charge, as the Postmaster-General, with the approval of the Treasury, from time to time directs, having been, if necessary, detained and opened in the Post Office.(*c*)

Indecent or obscene papers.

The Postmaster-General may from time to time, with the approval of the Treasury, make such regulations as he thinks fit for preventing the sending or delivery by post of indecent or obscene prints, paintings, photographs, lithographs, engravings, books, or cards, or of other indecent or obscene articles, or of letters, newspapers, supplements, publications, packets, or post cards, having thereon, or on the covers thereof, any words, marks, or designs of an indecent, obscene, libellous, or grossly offensive character.(*d*)

What are newspapers within the Act.

Any publication coming within the following description

(*a*) Sect. 9. (*b*) Sect. 21.

(*c*) Sect. 15. The enactments contained in sects. 13, 16, & 17 of 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, as to newspapers posted without being stamped or prepaid, or sufficiently stamped, are repealed by the present Act (sect. 4, sched. 1). So also are the enactments contained in sect. 45 of the former Act as to the examination of newspapers by the Postmaster-General.

(*d*) Sect. 20.

PART II.

is, for the purposes of this Act, to be deemed a newspaper—any publication consisting wholly or in great part of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto, or to other current topics, with or without advertisements; subject to these conditions—

That it be printed and published in the United Kingdom;

That it be published in numbers at intervals of not more than seven days;

That it be printed on a sheet or sheets unstitched;

That it have the full title and date of publication printed at the top of the first page, and the whole or part of the title and the date of publication printed at the top of every subsequent page.(*a*)

The definition of a newspaper contained in 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 4 (not repealed by the Act of last year), viz., "any paper containing public news, intelligence, or occurrences, printed in any part of the United Kingdom to be dispersed and made public; also any paper printed in any part of the United Kingdom weekly or oftener, or at intervals not exceeding twenty-six days, containing only, or principally advertisements; and also any paper containing any public news, intelligence, or occurrences, or any remarks or observations thereon, printed in any part of the United Kingdom for sale and published periodically, or in parts, or numbers, at intervals not exceeding twenty-six days between the publication of any two such parts, papers or numbers, where any of the said papers, parts or numbers respectively shall not exceed two sheets of the dimensions"(*b*) specified in the Act, &c., is not to be deemed to contain or affect the definition of a newspaper for the purposes of the Act of last year or any other enactments regulating the sending of newspapers by post.(*c*)

Supplements.

And the following is, for the purposes of the Act, to be deemed a supplement to a newspaper,—a publication consisting wholly or in great part of matter like that of a newspaper, or of advertisements, printed on a sheet or sheets or a piece or pieces of paper, unstitched, or consisting wholly or in part of engravings, prints, or lithographs illustrative of articles in the newspaper; such publication in every case being published with the newspaper, and having the title and date of publication of the newspaper printed at the top of every page, or at the top of every sheet or side on which any such engraving, print, or lithograph appears.(*d*)

(*a*) 38 & 34 Vict. c. 79, s. 6.
(*b*) See *Attorney-General* v. *Bradbury* (7 Exch. 97).
(*c*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 79, s. 4.
(*d*) *Id.*, sect. 6.

If a question arises whether any publication, not being a registered newspaper, is a newspaper or a supplement, or whether any packet is a book packet or pattern or sample packet, within the Act or any Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations, the decision thereon of the Postmaster-General is, by the Act, made final, save that the Treasury may, if they think fit, on the application of any person interested, reverse or modify the decision, and order accordingly.(*a*)

Colonial and foreign postage.

The Treasury may from time to time, by Treasury warrant, allow any newspapers, British, colonial, or foreign, to be sent by post between the United Kingdom and places out of the United Kingdom, or between places out of the United Kingdom, whether through the United Kingdom or not, at such rates of postage, not exceeding threepence for each newspaper irrespectively of any colonial or foreign postage, and on such conditions, as they think fit, and according to Post Office regulations to be from time to time made in that behalf.(*b*)

Any Treasury warrant and Post Office regulations made in that behalf before the passing of the Act of last year, are confirmed by it, and are to continue in force unless and until altered by Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations (as the case may be).(*c*)

A registered newspaper is to be deemed a newspaper for the purposes of any arrangement or convention between Her Majesty's Government and any colonial or foreign government for securing advantages for newspapers sent by post.(*d*)

The foreign postage marked on any newspaper or letter, or printed paper brought into the United Kingdom, is to be received in all courts of justice and other places as conclusive evidence of the amount of foreign postage payable in respect of such newspaper, &c., in addition to the British postage; and such foreign postage is to be recoverable within the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's other dominions as postage due to Her Majesty.(*e*)

Stamps.

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue are from time to time to provide proper dies and other implements for denoting by adhesive or embossed or impressed stamps, or otherwise, the duties of postage payable in the United Kingdom under

(*a*) Sect. 14. The similar provision in sect. 46 of 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, is repealed (sect. 4, sched. 1).

(*b*) Sect. 12. The provisions on this subject contained in sects. 47-51 (both inclusive) of 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, are repealed (sect. 4, sched. 1).

(*c*) *Ib.*

(*d*) Sect. 11.

(*e*) 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, s. 32.

PART II.

this Act, or any Treasury warrant thereunder; and those duties are to be deemed stamp duties, and to be under the management of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.(*a*)

So much of the Act, 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, as relates to stamp duties under that Act is to apply to the stamp duties under this Act.(*b*)

Newspapers liable to postage, if posted in any town or place within the United Kingdom, and inclosed in stamped covers, or having a stamp or stamps affixed thereto (the stamp or stamps being in every case affixed or appearing on the outside, of the proper value, and not used before), are to pass by the post free of postage; and the amount of stamps required may be made up by affixing such a number of adhesive stamps as, alone or in combination with the stamp already impressed, may be required.(*c*)

Forging or counterfeiting stamp dies, &c.

It is a felony to forge or counterfeit, or cause to be forged or counterfeited, the dies, plates, or other instruments used for stamping, or to forge, counterfeit, or imitate, or cause or procure to be forged, counterfeited, or imitated, the stamp, mark, or impression of any such die, &c., or to have in one's possession knowingly and without lawful excuse (the proof whereof lies on the person accused) any false, forged, or counterfeited die, &c., or any part of one, or any instrument resembling or intended to resemble it, wholly or in part; or to stamp or mark, or cause or procure to be stamped or marked any paper, or other substance or material whatsoever, with any such false, forged, or counterfeited die, &c.; or to use, utter, sell or expose to sale, or cause to be used, uttered, or exposed to sale, or knowingly and without lawful excuse (the proof whereof lies on the person accused) to have in one's possession any paper, or other substance or material, having thereon the impression or any part of the impression of any such false, forged, or counterfeit die, &c., or having thereon any false, forged, or counterfeit stamp or impression, resembling or representing, either wholly or in part, or intended or liable to pass or be mistaken for the stamp, mark, or impression of any such die, &c., which has been or shall be, or may be so provided, made or used as aforesaid, knowing such false, forged, or

(*a*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 79, s. 18.

(*b*) *Ib.* The enactments contained in sects. 3 and 4 of 16 & 17 Vict. c. 63, as to stamp duties on newspapers and supplements, and as to the cancelling and allowing for newspaper stamps on hand, are repealed by the present Act: (sect. 4, sched. 1). So is the whole of the Act of 18 & 19 Vict. c. 27, passed to amend the laws relating to the stamp duties on newspapers, and to provide for the transmission by post of printed periodical publications: (*Ib.*)

(*c*) 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, s. 12.

counterfeit stamp, mark, or impression to be false, forged, or counterfeit; or with intent to defraud Her Majesty, her heirs, or successors, privately or fraudulently to use, or cause or procure to be privately or fraudulently used, any die, &c., so provided, made or used, or hereafter to be provided, made, or used as aforesaid, or, with such intent, privately to stamp or mark, or cause or procure to be stamped or marked, any paper, substance, or material whatsoever with any such die, &c., as last mentioned; or knowingly and without lawful excuse (the proof whereof lies on the person accused) to have in one's possession any paper, or other substance or material, so privately or fraudulently stamped, or marked as aforesaid.(*a*)

Fraudulent removal of stamps.

Fraudulently to remove or cause to be removed from any cover or paper the stamp or impression of any such die, &c., as mentioned in the last paragraph, with intent to use it on another; or fraudulently to use a stamp or impression so removed; or fraudulently to erase, cut, &c., or cause to be erased, cut, &c., from any cover or paper, any name, date, or other matter or thing thereon written, printed, or expressed, with intent to use any stamp or mark then impressed or being upon it, or that it may be used for the purpose of defrauding Her Majesty; or to do or be concerned in any other fraudulent act, contrivance, or device whatever, with intent to defraud Her Majesty, &c., of any of the rates or duties provided by the Act, is an offence punishable by a forfeiture of 20*l.*, to be recovered with full costs of suit.(*b*)

Impressed stamped removed from another paper not to be used.

It is unlawful for any person to affix to a newspaper, supplement, publication, packet, letter, or card sent by post, or to the cover thereof (if any), by way of prepayment of postage thereon, an embossed or impressed stamp cut out or otherwise separated from the cover or other paper, card, or thing on which such stamp was embossed or impressed, although such stamp has not been before sent by post or used.(*c*)

If any newspaper, supplement, publication, &c., is sent by post with a stamp affixed thereto, or to the cover thereof, (if any), that has been so cut out or separated, the postage thereof, as far as it purports to be prepaid by that stamp, is to be deemed to be not prepaid.(*d*)

The enactments contained in 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, allowing a discount of 25 per cent. on newspaper stamps in Ireland;(*e*)

(*a*) 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, s. 22.
(*b*) *Ib.*, sect. 23. Cf. sect. 18 of 33 & 34 Vict. c. 79.
(*c*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 79, s. 19. (*d*) *Ib.*
(*e*) 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 2.

PART II.

those relating to the cancelling of stamps rendered useless by that Act;(*a*) and those providing that a separate stamp or die should be used for each newspaper, and that every newspaper should be printed on paper stamped with such appropriate die;(*b*) as well as the section relating to the construction of the terms used in that Act,(*c*) are repealed by the present Act.(*d*)

For the purposes of the Post-Office Act, 1870, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are to be deemed parts of the United Kingdom;(*e*) and the Act of 11 & 12 Vict. c. 117, relating to the postage of newspapers published in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man is repealed.(*f*)

Documents falsely purporting to be printed by Government printer.

Any person who prints any copy of any proclamation, order, or regulation which falsely purports to have been printed by the Government printer, or to be printed under the authority of the Legislature of any British colony or possession, or tenders in evidence any copy of any such proclamation, order, or regulation, which falsely purports to have been printed as aforesaid, knowing that the same was not so printed, is guilty of forgery, and on conviction is liable to be sentenced to penal servitude for such term as is prescribed by the Penal Servitude Act, 1864, as the least to which an offender can be sentenced to penal servitude, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour.(*g*)

For the purposes of this enactment the expression "British colony and possession" includes the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and such territories as may, for the time being, be vested in Her Majesty by virtue of any Act of Parliament for the Government of India, and all other Her Majesty's dominions; "Legislature" signifies any authority, other than the Imperial Parliament or Her Majesty in Council, competent to make laws for any colony or possession; and "Government printer" is to mean and include the printer to Her Majesty, and any printer purporting to be the printer authorised to print the statutes, ordinances, Acts of State, or other public Acts of the Legislature of any British colony or possession, or otherwise to be the Government printer of such colony or possession.(*h*)

Prohibition of advertisements respecting stolen goods.

Advertisements of rewards for the return of stolen goods are prohibited under a penalty.

Sect. 102 of 24 & 25 Vict. c. 96, provides that whosoever

(*a*) Sect. 34. (*b*) Sect. 3. (*c*) Sect. 35.
(*d*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 79, s. 4, sched. 1. (*e*) Sect. 3.
(*f*) Sect. 4 and sched. 1. (*g*) 31 & 32 Vict. c. 37, s. 4.
(*h*) *Ib.*, sect. 5.

shall publicly advertise a reward for the return of any property whatsoever, which shall have been stolen or lost, and shall in such advertisement use any words purporting that no questions will be asked, or shall make use of any words in any public advertisement purporting that a reward will be given or paid for any property which shall have been stolen or lost, without seizing or making any inquiry after the person producing such property, or shall promise or offer in any such public advertisement to return to any pawnbroker or other person who may have bought or advanced money by way of loan upon any property stolen or lost, the money so paid or advanced, or any other sum of money or reward for the return of such property, or shall print or publish any such advertisement, shall forfeit the sum of fifty pounds for every such offence to any person who will sue for the same by action of debt, to be recovered with full costs of suit.

This provision having given occasion to many vexatious proceedings at the instance of common informers against printers and publishers of newspapers, the Legislature intervened in an Act of last year(*a*) to remedy the abuse.

The Act provides that no action shall be brought against the printer or publisher of a newspaper to recover the property under sect. 102 of 24 & 25 Vict. c. 96, unless the assent in writing of the Attorney or Solicitor General for England, if the action is brought in England, or for Ireland, if the action is brought in Ireland, has been first obtained to the bringing of the action.(*b*)

It also limits the time for bringing the action to a period of six months after the forfeiture is incurred;(*c*) and contains a provision for staying proceedings in actions brought before the passing of the Act.(*d*)

The term "newspaper" for the purpose of this Act is to mean a newspaper as defined for the purposes of the Acts for the time being in force relating to the carriage of newspapers by post.(*e*)

(*a*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 65. (*b*) Sect. 3. (*c*) *Ib.*
(*d*) Sect. 4. (*e*) Sect. 2. *Vide ante*, pp. 261, 262.

PART III.

CONTRACTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &c.

Contracts in general, between authors, publishers, &c.

THE foundation on which contracts between publishers, authors, and others rest, is the same as that which forms the basis of all ordinary contracts, and they may be enforced either by action on the special contract, or, where a special contract does not exist, by the usual action for work and labour done.(*a*)

Agreement not to be performed within a year.

If the agreement is one "that is not to be performed within the space of one year from the making thereof" no action can be brought upon it, "unless the agreement upon which such action shall be brought or some memorandum or note thereof is in writing, and signed by the party to be charged therewith,"(*b*) and the word "agreement" includes the *consideration* for the promise as well as the promise itself.(*c*)

The following memorandum was made between the plaintiff, a law bookseller and publisher, and the defendant, the author and proprietor of the copyright in a dictionary of the practice of the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas, and signed with their respective initials: "Dict. of Practice. 80*l*. per annum for five years, commencing Mich. 1828; 60*l*. per annum for the remainder of Mr. Lee's life, if he survive the five years; payable in either case quarterly; the first payment Michaelmas 1828. "T. L.
"S. S.
"Mr. Lee to separate the practices K. B. and C. P."

Parol evidence having been held admissible to explain the document, it was held that inasmuch as it appeared to be a memorandum of a contract that was not to be performed

(*a*) *Planchè* v. *Colburn* (8 Bing. 16).
(*b*) Sect. 4 of Statute of Frauds (29 Car. 2, c. 3).
(*c*) *Wain* v. *Warlters* (5 East, 10), *Saunders* v. *Wakefield* (4 B. & Ald. 595).

within a year, and no consideration was stated on the face of it, it was not capable of being enforced by action.(*a*)

A contract which does not comply with the requirements of the 4th section of the Statute of Frauds is not, however, *per se*, void, though no action can be brought upon it. Therefore it was held that the plaintiff in the case last referred to, having paid the annuity for several years under the above memorandum of agreement, could not recover back the money so paid, as upon a failure of consideration.(*b*)

Contract may be collected from a number of papers.

It is not necessary that a contract, required by the Statute of Frauds to be *in writing*, should be *contained in* one document. It may be collected from any number of papers,(*c*) provided they are, upon the face of them, sufficiently connected in sense, and do not require parol evidence to establish the connection, parol evidence being inadmissible for that purpose.

Thus, where a publisher proposed to publish by subscription an illustrated edition of Shakespeare, to appear in numbers, at the price of three guineas *a number*, two guineas to be paid at the time of subscribing, and the remaining guinea on the delivery of each successive number; the prospectus stating "that one number, at least, should be published *annually*," and that the proprietors were confident that they should be able "to produce *two numbers* within the course of *every year*;" and the defendant, wishing to become a subscriber, wrote his name in a book kept for the purpose in the plaintiff's shop, entitled, "*Shakspeare Subscribers, their Signatures*;" printed copies of the prospectus lying at the same time in the plaintiff's shop, but neither prospectus nor book of subscribers containing any reference the one to the other, it was held that the contract of the defendant was not one to be performed within the space of a year from the making thereof, and therefore that, in order to be enforceable by action, it must be in writing.(*d*)

The defendant having refused to continue to take in the numbers of the book, an action was brought against him by the publisher; but it was held that the action could not be maintained for want of a written agreement or memorandum signed by the party to be charged therewith, as required by the 4th section of the Statute of Frauds. The

(*a*) *Sweet* v. *Lee* (4 Scott's N. R. 77; 3 M. & Gr. 452). (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Jackson* v. *Lowe* (1 Bing. 9); *Phillimore* v. *Barry* (1 Camp. 513); *Saunderson* v. *Jackson* (2 B. & P. 398); *Johnson* v. *Dodgson* (2 M. & W. 653); &c. (*d*) *Boydell* v. *Drummond* (11 East. 142).

PART III.

prospectus contained the terms of the agreement, and if it could be coupled with the book of subscribers in which the defendant had signed his name, it would be a sufficient memorandum of the agreement to satisfy the statute; but as it contained no reference to the book, nor the book to it, there was no connection in sense between them which would enable the court to couple them together, and treat them as one document; and parol evidence to establish such a connection was inadmissable.(*a*) "If," said Le Blanc, J., "there had been anything in the book which had referred to the particular prospectus, that would have been sufficient: if the title to the book had been the same with that of the prospectus, it might perhaps have done: but as the signature now stands, without reference of any sort to the prospectus, there was nothing to prevent the plaintiff from substituting any prospectus, and saying that it was the prospectus exhibited in his shop at the time, to which the signature related: the case therefore falls directly within this branch of the Statute of Frauds."(*b*)

Defective form of agreement.

A difficulty in the interpretation of an agreement between an author and a publisher for the publication of the author's book, sometimes arises from the neglect to state distinctly in the agreement whether it is intended by the parties to operate as an assignment of the copyright, or merely as a licence to publish. The cases of *Stevens* v. *Benning* and *Reade* v. *Bentley*, already referred to (*ante*, pp. 160-162), exemplify the difficulty; in the latter of which cases the Vice-Chancellor (Wood) refused to allow costs to either party, considering each of them to blame for the defective form of the agreement.

Fixing price and choosing embellishments.

Where the agreement is that the publisher shall take the whole charge and risk, and the whole duty of bringing out the work as he thinks best for the interest of both parties, it seems, according to Lord Hatherley, to be necessarily incident to the duty which the publisher has to perform, that he shall(*c*) also have the right of fixing the price at which the work is to be brought out.

His Lordship considered that it was further implied in the agreement in the case before him (*vide ante*, p. 161), that the publisher was to choose the embellishments and everything else connected with the publication, and that he was to do this for all editions which should be brought out during the subsistence of the agreement.(*d*) "Several difficulties," said his Lordship, "arising upon

(*a*) *Boydell* v. *Drummond* (11 East. 142). (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Reade* v. *Bentley* (3 K. & J. 276). (*d*) *Ib.*

such a construction have been suggested. It was argued, can it be supposed that the plaintiff intended to give to the publisher the power, if he chooses, of bringing out the work with absurd embellishments beneath its character and injurious to the reputation of the author? The simple answer to that is, the author will take care of himself in that respect by going to a respectable publisher, who would not commit any such absurdity. If he employed a publisher who was in the habit of adding ridiculous illustrations to his works, he would not have reason to complain if the work were so published. The author would select a publisher who, he would presume, would bring out the work in a manner creditable and desirable. So again with regard to the price, it is suggested that the publisher might just so arrange the balance of prices as to enable himself, by an accurate calculation, to get his 10*l.* per cent. commission, and leave nothing to pay the author. The answer is similar: it is not to be supposed that the author would deal with any publisher who was in the habit of so treating authors. If a publisher were to act in such a manner, although perhaps such conduct could not strictly be called a fraud, because it might not be a violation of the specific terms of the agreement, the result would be, that the author whom he so treated would never contract with him again."

In an agreement like the foregoing, where the work was to be brought out at the publisher's expense and the profits to be divided, the addition of a clause providing that the books sold should be "accounted for at the trade sale price, reckoning twenty-five copies as twenty-four, unless it be thought advisable to dispose of any copies, or of the remainder at a lower price, which is left to the judgment and discretion" of the publisher, does not justify an inference that the publisher has no discretion in fixing the price except in the particular case there mentioned. The meaning of such a clause is explained by Lord Hatherley, (when Vice-Chancellor) in *Reade* v. *Bentley*.(*a*) "It is quite obvious that this clause was introduced with no such view, but because Mr. Bentley is to bring out the work, and in bringing it out, he is to fix a certain price to the trade; he is aware that there are persons who are in the habit of purchasing all these works for re-sale; there is a certain quantity in the first instance offered to the trade, as it is called, who send in their orders, each buyer for a certain quantity of copies, and it is brought out to the trade at a price which

(*a*) 3 K. & J. 277.

PART III.

is fixed upon each edition. Then it might happen that some copies would remain unsold. Mr. Bentley first agrees to account with the author for all copies at the trade price; but then, as that might be too hard upon the publisher, who has had all the expense of bringing out the work, it is agreed that, if any copies remain unsold, he is to have liberty, as regards that edition, to dispose of the unsold copies at a lower price. That is the obvious meaning of this clause, and it has no reference to the general question of fixing or not fixing the price."

Time and mode of publication.

On the same principle, the publisher is, in such a case, the proper person to fix the time and mode of publication.(*a*)

Agreement for division of profits after payment of expenses.

An agreement between an author and a publisher that the latter should publish, at his own risk and expense, a work belonging to the former, on the terms of an equal division of the profits after all expenses had been paid, may be regarded in the double light of a licence and a partnership—a licence for the publication of the work, and then a joint adventure between the author and publisher in the copies so to be published.(*b*) The publisher cannot be considered in such a case as merely the agent of the author, as a mere agent never embarks in the risk of the undertaking.(*c*)

Power to determine agreement.

When it is sought to put an end to such a joint adventure, a difficulty may sometimes arise in the choice of the time for making the requisite application. If the author seeks to determine the contract, and to prevent the publication of any subsequent edition by the publisher, he must take steps for the purpose before any expense is incurred by the publisher in respect to such subsequent edition. If the publisher has incurred expense of this nature, he has a right to be recouped it, and to have the benefit of all the profit, the hope of obtaining which induced him to incur such expenditure.(*d*) But where expense has not been incurred by the publisher in respect to a subsequent edition, the author has a right to determine the joint undertaking, and to prevent the further publication of his work by the publisher, even though the publisher has stereotyped the work previously to the publication of the last published edition.(*e*)

In determining the point last referred to, Lord Hatherley

(*a*) *Reade* v. *Bentley* (4 K. & J. 665).
(*b*) *Stevens* v. *Benning* (6 D. M. & G. 231); *Reade* v. *Bentley* (4 K. & J. 663).
(*c*) 4 K. & J. 662. (*d*) 3 K. & J. 279. (*e*) 4 K. & J. 656.

stated the difficulties that beset the question, and the grounds on which his decision rested. On the one hand it might be said on behalf of the publisher that he had given to the undertaking the benefit of his talents and position as a publisher, and had incurred expenses in bringing out the first edition, in the expectation of being recouped the cost of the first by the sale of the second and subsequent editions; and that to hold the author entitled, at his own instance, to determine the agreement when the first edition had been published, would be to enable him by an arbitrary and unreasonable exercise of that power to deprive the publisher of all his profits. On the other hand, it may be urged on the part of the author that, unless he has the power of determining the agreement, the consequence would be that he may be under an obligation to the publisher during the whole of the publisher's life, while the publisher will be under no reciprocal obligation to him. The publisher could compel the author to abstain from publishing a single copy of the work so long as he expressed his readiness to continue publishing, while the author has no reciprocal power: he could never compel the publisher to publish more than a single edition of the work. Further, the publisher, in the *bonâ fide* exercise of his discretion as to the fitting time and mode of publication, might decline indefinitely to publish, but without resigning his contract; while the author might, at the same time, be of a contrary opinion, and yet for months or even years might be kept in suspense and prevented from publishing on his own account, until his publisher should be of opinion that the time had come for the revival of the public interest in the work. His Lordship considered the position of the author, under such circumstances, to be one of so great hardship and difficulty, that unless it were clearly shown to have been contemplated by both parties to the agreement, it should not be forced upon him.(*a*)

Where the agreement between author and publisher states that after payment of the expenses of publication, &c., "the profits remaining of *every edition* that should be printed of the work are to be divided into two equal parts," one moiety to go to the author and the other to the publisher, this points out certain definite times for the adjustment of the accounts, and at which the author becomes entitled to terminate his agreement with the publisher.(*b*)

Meaning of "edition."

By stereotyping the work the publisher does not deprive the author of this right. It was objected in *Reade* v. *Bentley*,

(*a*) 4 K. & J. 664-666. (*b*) *Ib.*

PART III.

that when a work has once been stereotyped the term "edition" is no longer applicable; that when a work is published in what is called "thousands," twenty thousand or thirty thousand being circulated, each thousand could not properly be called an edition. To this Lord Hatherley replied: "I apprehend that not merely in point of etymology, but having regard to what actually takes place in the publication of any work, an 'edition' of a work is the putting of it forth before the public, and if this be done in batches at successive periods, each successive batch is a new edition; and the question whether the individual copies have been printed by means of movable type or by stereotype does not seem to me to be material. If movable type is used, the type having been broken up, the new edition is prepared by setting up the type afresh, printing afresh, and repeating all the other necessary steps to obtain a new circulation of the work. In that case the contemplated break between the two editions is more complete, because, until the type is again set up, nothing further can be done. But I apprehend it makes no substantial difference, as regards the meaning of the term 'edition,' whether the new 'thousand' have been printed by a re-setting of movable type, or by stereotype, or whether they have been printed at the same time with the former thousand or subsequently. A new 'edition' is published whenever, having in his storehouse a certain number of copies, the publisher issues a fresh batch of them to the public. This, according to the practice of the trade is done, as is well known, periodically, and if, after printing 20,000 copies, a publisher should think it expedient for the purpose of keeping up the price of the work, to issue them in batches of a thousand at a time, keeping the rest under lock and key, each successive issue would be a new edition in every sense of the word."(*a*)

It was held by the Scotch Court of Session that a reprint of part of a book, to replace copies destroyed by an accidental fire, in the hands of the publisher, was not an edition entitling the editor of the work to insist on superintending the issue and receiving remuneration in pursuance of a contract by which he was to "superintend any other edition or editions of the work which should be thereafter published, for doing which he should receive" a certain remuneration.(*b*)

(*a*) 4 K. & J. 667.
(*b*) *Blackwood* v. *Brewster* (23 Scotch Sess. Cas. 2nd ser. 142, December 7th, 1860).

Selling copies after expiration of limited period of copyright.

Where the copyright in a work for a limited period is sold, the purchaser may continue to sell after the expiration of that period copies printed before its expiration, unless in a case of actual fraud.(*a*).

In a case where the copyright for four years in a book was sold to a publishing firm, a motion for an injunction to restrain the selling of copies, four years after the expiration of the term, was refused. It was suggested that the effect of permitting the sale might be to destroy altogether the author's copyright, as the purchaser of the copyright for a limited period might during that period print off copies enough to last for all time. To this Wood, V.C. replied: "A nice question might arise as to the number of copies of which an edition might consist; but a publisher was not likely to incur the useless expense of printing copies enough to exhaust the demand for all time, and have them lying upon his hands unprofitably. Besides this, even if the effect of a sale for four years might operate in this way to deprive the author of all copyright in his work, the answer was, that he had not guarded himself against such a contingency. If a manifest case of fraud upon the author were established, the court would know how to deal with it; but nothing of the sort was shown. The defendants had acted quite *bonâ fide*, and were making a perfectly legitimate use of their contract."(*b*)

More license not assignable.

Where there is a mere licence to publish, and not an assignment of the copyright, the contract is of a personal nature on both sides, and the benefit of it is not assignable by either party without the consent of the other.(*c*)

Where a contract in writing was entered into between an author and a firm of publishers, whereby the former agreed to give unto the latter "the exclusive right to print and publish an edition of one thousand copies of a work to be written" by the author; in consideration whereof the publishers agreed "to print and publish an edition above mentioned (one thousand copies) at their own cost and expense, and pay the author the sum of fifteen cents each for all and every copy sold;" it being further agreed that if the publishers "find a second edition called for, the said author should revise and correct a copy of the first edition ready for the press, which the said publishers agree to have stereotyped at their own cost, having the exclusive use and control of the plates, printing as many copies as they can

(*a*) *Howitt* v. *Hall* (10 W. R. 381; 6 L. T. N.S. 348). (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Stevens* v. *Benning* (6 De G. M. & G. 223). See *Pulte* v. *Derby* (5 M'Lean, 335).

PART III.

sell, paying to the said author the sum of twenty cents for each and every copy sold; settlement to be made semi-annually from the day of publication, on their note at four months from the date of settlement;" and the publishers, with the author's knowledge and acquiescence, had themselves recorded as proprietors of the copyright, it was held, in America, that they had the legal title to the copyright in them, but only for the purposes of the contract. "The right," said the courts, "covers their interest, and protects it so long as they shall be engaged in the publication and sale of the work. Beyond this, they are not considered as having the right. They cannot transfer it. They have no power to assign the copyright, nor to publish the work except upon the terms of the contract. In this respect the parties are bound to each other, and the contract, it is considered, covers the entire printing and publishing of the work."(*a*)

The first edition of the work in this case having been exhausted, the publishers stereotyped the corrected manuscript of the second edition, but printed only 1500 copies of the first impression, and when these were sold 2000 more copies were published, being called in the title page the third edition. The author then revised a third edition, caused it to be stereotyped and printed, and took out a copyright in his own name, and filed a bill for an injunction to prevent the publishers from further printing, publishing, or selling their third edition, as contrary to his wishes and desires, and in fraud of his rights. The court held that the publishers were not limited under the contract to the number of copies which they might strike off at the first impression of the second edition, but might print any number they could sell, as they should be wanted during the existence of the copyright; and that the author had no right to print an edition for himself and take out a copyright, so long as the publishers complied with the contract.(*b*)

The court also held that though the publishers could not transfer their copyright to a third party, they might sell him the plates and authorise him to publish, still accounting to the author, pursuant to the contract. It was further held that the publishers were bound to keep the market supplied, and could not refuse to print if they could sell.(*c*)

A writer agreed with a publisher to edit a translation of Montaigne, adding notes and a biographical sketch of the author, for a particular sum, which was to be increased by other sums as further editions should be published. It was intended that the publisher should have the sole right of

(*a*) *Pulte* v. *Derby* (5 M'Lean, 328, 335). (*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) *Ib.*

multiplying copies of the work, but there was no assignment to him of the copyright. After the publisher's death his widow and executrix, with the author's knowledge and assent, registered the copyright in her own name. On the publication of a fresh edition, the widow paid the author money, and gave him copies of the work on the same terms as were contained in the agreement made with her husband in his lifetime; and on three occasions, when the author claimed remuneration on those terms, she did not repudiate all liability, but disputed merely the amount. This was held by the Court of Queen's Bench to be evidence from which a jury might infer an agreement on the part of the widow to remunerate the author on the same scale as in the agreement with her husband, in consideration of the author assenting to her registering the copyright in her own name.(*a*)

Payment to author's representatives for unfinished work.

An author agreed with a bookseller for the publication of a work of science, to be entitled the "Elements of Mechanical Philosophy," and to be published in parts, each part to be paid for when published. After the publication of one volume, which constituted in itself a complete part, the progress of the work was interrupted by the death of the author. It was held by the Scotch Court of Session, that the representatives of the deceased author were entitled to payment of the stipulated price of the published volume. One judge dissented, thinking the contract was one for the entire work, and that the object of partial payment was the accommodation of the author, and not any qualification of the original obligation.(*b*)

Specific performance not decreed.

Courts of equity have no jurisdiction to decree specific performance of contracts between authors and publishers for the composition by the former of works to be published by the latter.(*c*)

Where a barrister agreed with a publisher to write, for a stipulated remuneration, reports of cases decided in the Court of Exchequer, to be printed and published by the publisher, Lord Eldon refused an injunction to restrain the barrister from permitting reports written by him to be published by another person. "I have no jurisdiction," said his Lordship, "to compel Mr Price to write reports for the plaintiffs. I cannot, as in *Morris* v. *Colman*,(*d*) say that I will induce him to write for the plaintiffs by preventing him from writing

(*a*) *Hazlitt* v. *Templeman* (13 L. T. N. S. 593).
(*b*) *Constable* v. *Robison's Trustees* (14 Fac. Dec. 166, 1 June, 1808).
(*c*) *Clarke* v. *Price* (2 Wils. Ch. Cas. 157).
(*d*) 18 Ves. 437. *Vide post*, p. 282.

PART III.

for any other person, for that is not the nature of the agreement. The only means of enforcing the execution of this agreement would be to make an order compelling Mr. Price to write reports for the plaintiffs, which I have not the means of doing. If there be any remedy in this case, it is at law. If I cannot compel Mr. Price to remain in the Court of Exchequer for the purpose of taking notes, I can do nothing. I cannot indirectly, and for the purpose of compelling him to perform the agreement, compel him to do something which is merely incidental to the agreement. It is also quite clear that there is no mutuality in this agreement. I am of opinion that I have no jurisdiction in this case."(*a*)

In the case of an agreement between an author and a publisher, that the latter should publish at his own risk and expense the work of the former, on the terms that the profits should be equally divided, and that the author should, if a subsequent edition were required, prepare it for the press, and the publisher should print it on the same terms, Knight Bruce, L.J., was of opinion that the duties on neither side were of such a nature that their performance could be specifically enforced by a court of equity.(*b*)

Damages for breach of contract.

Either party may, however, in such a case be made liable in damages for breach of contract.

Thus, where a person was employed to write a treatise on a particular subject to be published in the *Juvenile Library*, but before he had completed the treatise the *Juvenile Library* was abandoned by the defendants who had employed him, he was held entitled to recover damages for the breach of contract on the part of the defendants, without any tender or delivery of the treatise on his own part.(*c*)

And the publisher may maintain an action against the author for breach of contract to deliver the manuscript of a work to be published, provided the work is of an innocent character.(*d*)

Though the terms of the contract between author and publisher be that the latter should bring out the work at his own expense, and that the profits should be divided between both, this does not prevent the bringing of such an action as last referred to, because it is not brought to recover part-

(*a*) 2 Wils. Ch. Cas. 165.

(*b*) *Stevens* v. *Benning* (6 De G. M. & G. 229).

(*c*) *Planchè* v. *Colburn* (8 Bing. 14; 5 C. & P. 58); and see *Colnaghi* v. *Ward* (6 Jur. 969), where an action was brought for breach of contract to deliver an engraved plate to be published by the plaintiff.

(*d*) *Gale* v. *Leckie* (2 Stark. N. P. 107).

nership profits from the author, but to make him liable for not contributing his labour towards the attainment of profits to be subsequently divided between the parties.(a) Lord Ellenborough indicated the amount of damages to be given in such a case as that which would include the expenses of publication, and the profits which would probably have been derived from it.(b)

Agreement between publishers not to sell under a certain price.

The defendant, having printed a book, sold 300 copies of it to the plaintiff, a bookseller, at 40*s.* a copy, and agreed by letter "only to sell to others at 48*s.* in quires, and single copies at 50*s.* until" the plaintiff's 300 copies were sold or the plaintiff should consent. The letter also contained these words: "I do not expect you to sell under 48*s.* and 50*s.*; but do as you like." The plaintiff, when he had sold part of the 300 copies, went into partnership with S., and transferred all his stock at the cost price; and also sold some copies at 45*s.* and 46*s.* An action being afterwards brought by him against the defendant for selling copies under the stipulated price, it was contended on behalf of the defendant, first, that the plaintiff was bound by implication not to sell the work himself under the price at which the defendant was to sell, and that his selling at 45*s.* and 46*s.* was an answer to the action, as being against the good faith and honour of the contract, inasmuch as it would tend to prevent the defendant from selling his copies at all; and, secondly, that the contract was put an end to by the plaintiff's going into partnership with S., and transferring his interest to a firm at 40*s.* a copy; because the undertaking of the defendant was only to continue in force till the 300 copies were sold by the plaintiff, and his parting with them to the firm of which he was only a partner was in fact a selling, just as much as it would be in the case of a joint-stock company. Lord Denman, C.J., held that he could not nonsuit on either ground;—upon the first ground, as the facts relied on did not appear to have been communicated to the defendant; and with respect to the second, enough did not appear of the terms on which the partnership commenced, to justify the decision that there was a parting with the books by the plaintiff, within the meaning of the agreement. His Lordship held, however, that on the question of damage it might be considered whether the plaintiff's own underselling had or had not contributed to affect the price of the work in the market.(c)

Contract to print within a specified time.

A contract between a publisher and a printer, whereby the

(a) *Gale* v. *Leckie* (2 Stark. N. P. 107). (b) *Ib.*
(c) *Benning* v. *Dove* (5 Car. & P. 427).

PART III.

latter undertakes to print a work within six months, does not bind the former to furnish the materials within the six months in the absence of an express stipulation to that effect.(*a*) Such an engagement to print within six months is only conditional upon the copy being supplied to the printer fast enough; but it does not create by inference an engagement by the employer to furnish it within that time. It would, however, be an answer to any action that might be brought against the defendant for not printing the work within the six months, to say that the copy was not supplied fast enough.(*b*)

Specific performance of contract for sale of copyright.

Courts of equity have jurisdiction to enforce the specific performance of a contract for the sale of a copyright; even when other matters are mixed up with it.(*c*) Lord Langdale, M.R., overruled a demurrer to a bill for the specific performance of a contract for the purchase of a copyright, stereotype sheets, prints, stock-in-trade, &c.(*d*)

It has not been decided whether, on the sale of a copyright, the law would imply a warranty of title in the absence of an express warranty.

Warranty on sale of copyright.

Where the executor (who was also the son) of a deceased author, in reply to an offer from a publishing house relating to one of his father's works, replied that he would be happy to treat with them "respecting the copyright" in it; and, in another letter, said he had accepted their offer "for the exclusive right of publishing it," and gave a receipt for the money paid "for permission to publish the work so long as the copyright may endure; that right to be exclusively their [the publishers'] own for ten years from this date," it was held that this amounted to an express warranty of title; and an equitable assignment of the copyright having, unknown to the executor, been previously made to another publisher, the executor was held liable to an action for breach of the warranty.(*e*)

Contracts between joint owners of copyright.

Joint owners of a copyright in a work may, no doubt, make what contract they please between themselves as to the printing and publishing of it, and neither will be permitted to set up against the other his original rights as a joint owner in violation of such contract.(*f*)

(*a*) *Mawman* v. *Gillett* (2 Taunt. 325). (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Thombleson* v. *Black* (1 Jur. 198). (*d*) *Ib.*
(*e*) *Sims* v. *Marryat* (17 Q. B. 281).
(*f*) See the American case of *Gould* v. *Banks* (8 Wend. 568). "There is no principle or authority," said the Court, "which will inhibit such a contract between parties, because they may be partners in the subject matter of it. They may bind themselves by a private agreement concerning the partnership business, but so far as third persons may be

Alteration of work by publisher.

If a person contracts to supply another with a composition in such a form as to enable the latter to publish it as his own, a court of equity will not restrain the publication of the manuscript in an altered or mutilated form.(*a*) The present Lord Chancellor (when Vice-Chancellor Wood) expressed an opinion that, unless there is a special contract, express or implied, reserving to the author a qualified copyright, the purchaser of a manuscript is at liberty to alter and deal with it as he thinks proper.(*b*)

But it seems that if a publisher puts forth an inaccurate edition of an author's work, purporting to be executed by him, the author may maintain an action against the publisher for injury to his reputation, even where the publisher is the owner of the copyright.(*c*)

Payment of author.

An injunction will not be granted to restrain the publication of a manuscript on the ground that the sum agreed to be paid to its author for contributing it, has not been paid; for such payment may be enforced at law, and the title to it is not a ground for the interposition of a court of equity.(*d*)

If an author has agreed with a publisher for the publication of his book, and the publisher has in consequence made advances of money, an injunction would, it seems, be granted to restrain the publication of the work by another publisher until the former had been repaid.(*e*)

Right of author to publish a continuation of his work.

Where a bookseller agreed with an author for an edition of a new translation of Buchanan's "History of Scotland," with a continuation to the time of the Union, to be contained in four volumes, and had obtained subscriptions for all that could fall within his edition, he was held by the Court of Session not entitled to prevent the author from publishing in a fifth volume a continuation of the history, which embraced part of the period, and also some of the matter contained in the last of the four volumes, this being repeated in order to keep up the connection.(*f*)

An arrangement was entered into between Dr. Brewster and Professor Jameson, on the one part, and an Edinburgh publishing firm on the other part, for the publication of a work, to be edited by the former, called *The Edinburgh Philosophical Journal;* the agreement to be binding for five years, or till the termination of the twentieth number of the journal. On the title-page the journal was stated to be

interested, it would be inoperative as to them." See also Lindley on Partnership, 869, 870, 2nd edit.

(*a*) *Cox* v. *Cox* (11 Hare, 118). (*b*) *Ib.*

(*c*) *Archbold* v. *Sweet* (1 M. & Rob. 162).

(*d*) *Cox* v. *Cox* (11 Hare, 118). (*e*) *Brook* v. *Wentworth* (3 Anstr. 381).

(*f*) *Blackie* v. *Aikman* (5 Scotch Sess. Cas. 719, 26 May, 1827).

PART III.

"conducted by Dr. Brewster and Professor Jameson." After the twentieth number had appeared, Dr. Brewster, having differed with the firm, published a prospectus of "No. 1 of the New Series of the *Edinburgh Journal*, conducted by Dr. Brewster," whereupon the firm presented a bill of suspension and interdict of a work under this title, on the ground that they were proprietors of the original journal, the publication of which they intended to continue, and that the proposed work was an invasion of their property. The Lord Ordinary, "in respect the copyright of the publication in question is the property of the complainers," passed the bill, and granted the interdict. The Court of Session recalled this interlocutor as deciding the question to be discussed on the passed bill; but at the same time remitted to pass the bill and continue the interdict.(*a*)

Contract not to compose for any other than a particular theatre.

A covenant in articles of partnership, by which a dramatic writer undertakes not to compose pieces for any other than a particular theatre, is a legal covenant.(*b*) Such a covenant was compared in argument before Lord Eldon to contracts in restraint of trade, which are void on principles of public policy; but his Lordship said, "I cannot perceive any violation of public policy in this provision. The case of trade to which it has been compared, is perfectly distinct. . . . . The contract is not unreasonable upon either construction; whether it is that Mr. Colman shall not write for any other theatre without the licence of the proprietors of the Haymarket Theatre, or whether it gives to those proprietors merely a right of pre-emption."

The court could not compel Colman to write for the Haymarket Theatre; but it did the only thing in its power —it induced him indirectly to do one thing by prohibiting him from doing another.(*c*)

Contract not to publish a work which would prejudice another work.

In the case of *Barfield* v. *Nicholson and Kelly*,(*d*) the defendant Nicholson had sold to the plaintiff his copyright in a work called "The Architectural Dictionary," and had covenanted for himself, his executors, and administrators, that he would not, by publishing any other work which might be prejudicial to the sale of it, or in any manner, directly or indirectly, prejudice the circulation or publication of the dictionary. The defendant Kelly, according to his affidavit, after this, and in total ignorance of the arrangement between the plaintiff and Nicholson, employed the latter in

(*a*) *Constable* v. *Brewster* (3 Scotch Sess. Cas. 215).
(*b*) *Morris* v. *Colman* (17 Ves. 437).
(*c*) *Per* Lord Eldon in *Clarke* v. *Price* (2 Wils. 164).
(*d*) 2 Sim. & St. 1.

the composition of a work called "The Practical Builder," which was published by Kelly. The plaintiff charged that this work was in part pirated from "The Architectural Dictionary," and filed a bill to restrain the publication of it. Sir John Leach, V.C.—being of opinion that the plaintiff had no property in the figures and letter-press of "The Architectural Dictionary," alleged to have been pirated in "The Practical Builder," as they had all been given to the world before either of those works appeared—dissolved an injunction which had been granted against Kelly. But the Lord Chancellor (Eldon), on appeal, ordered that an injunction should be awarded to restrain Kelly from publishing or selling in the name of Nicholson "The Practical Builder," or any portions of it. The grounds on which the order was made are not stated; but the injunction was granted most probably on account of the covenant between Nicholson and the plaintiff, which was considered sufficient to hinder the defendant, though ignorant of its existence, from publishing, through the instrumentality of Nicholson, any book which would be detrimental to the sale of "The Architectural Dictionary."

If an author contracts not to write or edit any other work on the subject treated in a work already written by him, a court of equity will not interfere until there is a violation of the agreement by actual printing and publication.(*a*)

Where the plaintiff purchased of the defendant the copyright of a treatise written by him upon the criminal law, the defendant undertaking not to write or edit any other work upon that subject, and an advertisement appeared that the defendant was about to edit "Burn's Justice," Lord Brougham refused a motion to restrain him from editing articles on the criminal law in that book, saying that the defendant was at liberty to write in his closet what he pleased. The court interfered only when actual printing and publication took place.(*b*)

Mortgage of a newspaper.

There is nothing analogous to copyright in the name of a newspaper, and a mortgage of a share in a "newspaper and the copyright and right of publication thereof and all profits arising therefrom," is not an assignment of copyright which requires registration at Stationers' Hall, but merely an assignment of a chattel interest in the publishing adventure, which derives no additional efficacy from the registration. Such a registration is quite futile.(*c*)

(*a*) *Brooke* v. *Chitty* (2 Cowp. 216). (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Kelly* v. *Hutton* (L. Rep. 3 Ch. App. 703; 19 L. T. N. S. 228; 38 L. J. 917, Ch.

PART III.

The lien on the mortgaged share of any co-adventurer in the undertaking, for capital advanced by him, must first be satisfied before the mortgage can be made available by the mortgagee.(*a*)

A suit having been instituted between Messrs. Beeton and Hutton as to the proprietorship of the *Sporting Life* newspaper, which ultimately decided that they were entitled in equal shares, Mr Beeton, during the progress of the suit, assigned by way of mortgage his share in the newspaper, "and the copyright and right of publication thereof, and all profits arising therefrom," to Messrs. Wrigley and Son, the assignment containing a recital of the proceedings in the suit, and a power of sale. Beeton subsequently mortgaged the same share to his partner Hutton, to secure two sums due to Hutton of 2000*l.* and 512*l.*, with interest at 7½ per cent.; the former sum being the amount Beeton had been over-paid on a settlement of accounts with Hutton, the latter sum being the balance of Beeton's purchase-money for his moiety of the newspaper. Messrs. Wrigley and Son registered the assignment to them at Stationers' Hall, under the provisions of the Copyright Act, and, subsequently, under their power of sale, sold the mortgaged share to the plaintiff, Kelly, who filed a bill for a declaration that he was entitled to a moiety of the newspaper. Both Wrigley and Son and the plaintiff Kelly had permitted the newspaper to be carried on as formerly by Beeton and Hutton. The Lords Justices of Appeal held that the plaintiff could only take Beeton's share in the newspaper, subject to the equities subsisting between the parties. "Many points have been raised before us," said Lord Hatherley (then Sir W. Page Wood, L.J.), "as regards the property which was the subject of the mortgage to Wrigley and Son, of the 21st April, 1864. It appears to us that Beeton and Hutton the elder were engaged in a joint adventure, namely, the publishing of the paper in question. Capital was required for this adventure, and the co-partners or co-adventurers possessed leasehold premises and type, and other chattels necessary for carrying it on. The mortgage to Wrigley and Son assigned to them Beeton's share in the newspaper, whatever it might be, and all profits belonging thereto or arising therefrom. In the habendum the deed speaks of the copyright of the newspaper, and the right of continuation and publication thereof. Now it appears to us that there is nothing analogous to copyright in the name of

(*a*) *Kelly* v. *Hutton* (L. Rep. 3 Ch. App. 703; 19 L. T. N. S. 228; 38 L. J. 917, Ch.).

a newspaper, but that the proprietor has a right to prevent any other person from adopting the same name for any other similar publication; and that this right is a chattel interest capable of assignment was held in *Longman* v. *Tripp*(*a*) and *Ex parte Foss.*(*b*) The mortgage, then, to Wrigley and Son, was that of Beeton's share of a chattel, which formed the principal subject of the co-adventure between Beeton and Hutton the elder. Considerable stress has been laid in argument, on the part of the appellants, on the necessity of notice being given of such an assignment either by direct notice to Hutton the elder, or by an entry at the Inland Revenue Office; and much controversy has arisen in evidence as to whether Hutton the elder had or had not in fact such notice prior to the 9th of March, 1866. The entry of their mortgage by Wrigley and Son at Stationers' Hall was clearly futile; but we do not pause to consider the question further, because it is clear on the face of their mortgage deed that Wrigley and Son were aware of the litigation between Beeton and Hutton the elder. They allowed the joint adventure to be worked jointly, whether with or without notice, and it is impossible that they can now take to themselves the subject of that adventure and the profits arising therefrom without being subject to every equity of the co-adventurer. A judgment creditor in execution against one partner, his debtor, takes only the interest of the debtor, subject to his co-partner's equities; and Wrigley and Son could not claim the asset without satisfying in the first place the lien of £512 for the unpaid purchase-money of Beeton's moiety, nor without satisfying the balance of account due from Beeton to his co-adventurer Hutton the elder. The lien of Hutton the elder as *quasi* partner in the adventure must be satisfied before the subject matter of the adventure can be passed over to any person claiming under an assignment from Beeton; and this lien must continue so long as Wrigley and Son, as the assigns of Beeton by way of mortgage, allow the business to be carried on in co-partnership by Beeton and Hutton the elder. Irrespective of the doctrine of notice, they cannot take the benefit of Hutton's capital in carrying on the concern (whether they have given him notice or not) and then ask to have the share of Beeton in the chattel, and still less in the profits of the concern, handed over to them without first satisfying the lien of the co-adventurer for what may be due to him on taking the accounts of the adventure. The same reasoning applies to

(*a*) 2 Bos. & P. 67. (*b*)2 De G. F. & J. 230

PART III.

the plaintiff as purchaser. His letter of the 27th of December, 1866, to Hutton the elder, set out in the amended bill, shows that he, at least up to that time, acquiesced in the arrangement under which the newspaper was to be carried on. In fact, having acquired the interest of Beeton in the newspaper, his mortgagees allow Beeton to conduct the business, and he must be taken to act as their agent and on their behalf. They do not advance any capital, and ask no question as to how it is to be provided. They must therefore take the business as they found it, at least up to the time of the actual exclusion of the plaintiff by Hutton the elder from the concern, and even after that time profits cannot be claimed without making all just allowances in respect of such moiety. Hutton the elder, therefore, wholly irrespective of his mortgage of the 9th of October, 1866, would be entitled to a lien on Beeton's share in the newspaper for £512, the unpaid purchase-money. He would also, we think, be entitled to the balance on the account settled, on the 9th of March, 1866, with Beeton (which account came down to the 30th of September, 1865), and to the £2000 due to Hutton the elder as the result of that account and the arrangement subsequent on it. We think, also, that interest at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum must be allowed on those two sums; for Hutton the elder was clearly entitled to decline carrying on the business, whether with or without the knowledge of Wrigley and Son's mortgage, except on the terms of being allowed interest on his capital. It is in fact advanced to the plaintiff. As regards Hutton the elder's alleged sale to Hutton the younger on the 13th of September, 1866, we are of opinion that no such sale has been proved, certainly none that can be upheld against the plaintiff. As to the whole case, therefore, we conclude that the plaintiff has become entitled to the interest of Beeton in the newspaper. We see no reason why that interest should not be dealt with as on former occasions, by directing the defendants to concur in procuring the plaintiff's name to be registered at the Office of Inland Revenue as such owner, subject to the lien before mentioned."

Agreement for use by one newspaper of the matter and type of another.

A novel point came before the Court of Chancery for decision in the case of *Platt* v. *Walter*.(*a*) The defendant's grandfather had established both the *Times* and *Evening Mail* newspapers, the former in 1788, and the latter in 1789. The *Evening Mail*, as described in the answer of the defendant, consisted of "a republication, on the evenings of the Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in each week, of the

(*a*) 17 L. T. N. S. 157.

matter (other than the advertisements) contained in the two preceding numbers of the *Times*, with such omissions and abridgments as were considered desirable, but with the addition of a postscript containing the latest market intelligence, and also such advertisements as had been separately bespoken and paid for, for the *Evening Mail*." This mode of publishing both newspapers continued down to the year 1864, although in 1820 one fourth share in the *Evening Mail* became, by purchase from a son of the original founder, vested in a stranger, from whom the plaintiffs derived their title. The object of the suit instituted in Chancery was to have it declared that the arrangement which had been so long in existence gave the proprietors of the *Evening Mail* certain rights and interests in and over the *Times*, which the proprietors of the latter newspaper could not at their mere will determine, viz., the right of republishing the matter of the two last preceding numbers of the *Times*, or any selection and abridgment of it, and the right of causing to be edited, printed, and published the *Evening Mail* whenever the *Times* should from time to time be edited, printed, and published. The bill further prayed that, in case a notice given by defendant for the dissolution of the partnership had been properly given, it might be declared to be dissolved, and directions should be given for the sale as a going concern of the *Evening Mail*, and the copyright and goodwill thereof, including particularly the rights and interests in and over the *Times*, and the copyright and goodwill and other property thereof; and in case the proprietors of the *Times* should be unwilling to carry it on subject to such rights and interests of the *Evening Mail*, then that the proprietors of the latter paper should be declared entitled to have the *Times* and the copyright, &c., thereof sold, subject to such rights and interest. The Vice-Chancellor (Stuart) dismissed the plaintiff's bill, except so much of it as prayed a dissolution of the partnership and an account; and the Lord Chancellor (Chelmsford) confirmed this decision.

It was contended for the plaintiffs that, although so long as the original founder continued to be sole proprietor of both newspapers, no rights or interests could be said to belong to the *Evening Mail* either in connection with or independently of the *Times*; yet when the original founder had made a separate grant to one of his sons of one fourth share in the *Evening Mail*, he thereby not only gave birth to rights in that paper, but also created a kind of servitude over the *Times*; *i.e.*, he took upon himself an irrevocable obligation to allow the matter in its columns to be copied into the

PART III.

Evening Mail, and to permit it to be printed at the same place and with the same types as the *Times*. In reply to this, Lord Chelmsford says: "Suppose a covenant to this effect to be good against the grantor, who was sole proprietor and also printer of the *Times*, how could it bind the future proprietors and printers of that newspaper? The covenant relates not to the property granted, but it imposes what may be properly described as a servitude upon the property, which is of a personal nature. It is at the utmost, therefore, a mere personal covenant, binding upon the covenantor and his personal representatives, but the burthen of it not running with the property of the *Times* against assigns."

In answer to a further argument on behalf of the plaintiffs, based on the length of time during which the arrangement had continued, the Lord Chancellor observed: "The presumption of a grant from long continued usage arises only where the origin of the usage is unknown. But in the present case, if the right claimed by the plaintiffs originated in the grant to William Walter [the founder's son], the usage is not required to establish it; and if it did not so originate, the usage is of no avail. The claim of the plaintiffs makes it necessary for them to prove that, either by the original grant of the shares in the *Evening Mail* to William Walter, or by some subsequent right obtained by the plaintiffs against the proprietors of the *Times*, a perpetual benefit to the *Evening Mail*, and a perpetual burthen on the *Times* were established, however prejudicial it might prove to the interests of the proprietors of the *Times*; and that upon the dissolution of the partnership in the *Evening Mail*, and the consequent sale of the property in that newspaper, the proprietors of the *Times* were bound to give a value to the goodwill by continuing the arrangement for its publication as long as the *Times* should continue to be published. There is certainly no express contract to anything like this effect between John Walter, the grandfather, and his sons, when the separate interests in the *Evening Mail* were first created; and it would be a strong implication to draw from the transaction, that the burthen of such an obligation was intended to be assumed by Mr. Walter for himself and for all future proprietors of the *Times*." Finally, the Lord Chancellor said: "What are called in the bill the rights and interests of the *Evening Mail* over the *Times* appear to me to have begun in will and pleasure, and to have continued throughout upon the same footing. They could, at no time, have been enforced; and upon the dissolution of the

partnership in the *Evening Mail* and its consequent sale, the court has no power to direct that they shall be included in the goodwill and property of that newspaper."

Contract to print is not within 17th section of Statute of Frauds.

A contract by a printer to print, and find the paper for printing, a number of copies of a work is not a contract for the sale of goods within the 17th section of the Statute of Frauds as extended by the 9 Geo. 4, c. 14, s. 7; and the printer, consequently, may recover the price in an action for work, labour, and materials, where the contract is a verbal one.(*a*)

"In such cases," said Pollock, C.B., "it seems to me that the true criterion is, whether work is the essence of the contract, or whether it is the materials supplied. . . . . I am inclined to think that it is only where the bargain is for *goods* thereafter to be made, and not where it is a mixed contract for work and materials to be found, that Lord Tenterden's Act (9 Geo. 4, c. 14) applies." "The defendant," said Martin, B., "having a manuscript, takes it to a printer to print for him. Then what does he intend shall be done? He intends that the printer shall use his type, shall set it up in a frame and impress it on paper, that the paper shall be submitted to the author, that the author having corrected it shall send it back to the printer, who shall again exercise labour and make it into a complete thing in the shape of a book. That being so, I think that the plaintiff was employed to do work and labour and supply materials, and for that he is entitled to be paid. It seems to me that the true criterion is this: Suppose there was no contract as to payment, and the printer brought an action to recover what by law he was entitled to receive, would that be the value of the book as a book? I apprehend not; for the book might not be worth half the value of the paper on which it was printed, but he would be entitled to recover for his work, labour, and materials supplied; therefore this is in strictness work, labour, and materials done and provided by the plaintiff for the defendant. In the case of *Bensley* v. *Bignold*,(*b*) where the defence was that the printer had not affixed his name to the book as required by the 39 Geo. 3, c. 79, s. 27, it was treated by Abbott, C.J., Bayley, J., and Holroyd, J., as a contract for work, labour, and materials."(*c*)

Printer's lien.

A printer who is employed to print certain numbers, but not all consecutive numbers, of an entire work has a lien

(*a*) *Clay* v. *Yates* (1 H. & N. 73).
(*b*) 5 B. & Ald. 335.
(*c*) *Clay* v. *Yates* (*ubi suprà*).

PART III.

upon the copies not delivered for his general balance due for printing the whole of those numbers.(*a*)

Where a printer was so employed by one Stratford, and printed 8750 copies, of which he delivered only 5987 to Stratford, the residue remaining in his own warehouse, though Stratford supplied the paper for printing the several numbers from time to time as they were to be printed, and the printer made a separate charge for each number, the assignees of Stratford, who afterwards became bankrupt, were held not entitled to recover from the printer the copies remaining in his possession, on tendering to him so much as was due for the printing of those copies in proportion to his charge for the whole. Lord Ellenborough, C.J., said: "I think the defendant had a lien for the whole balance, the work being an entire work in the course of prosecution, upon the same principle that a tailor, who is employed to make a suit of clothes, has a lien for the whole price upon any part of them. It would be inconvenient if he was obliged to make stops in the course of the work: the nature of the work affords a reason for his general lien." And Le Blanc, J., added: "The supplying the paper from time to time did not make it the less one entire work."(*b*)

It seems that a stereotype printer has not a general lien on stereotype plates not manufactured by himself, but only put into his hands for the purpose of printing from them.(*c*)

To establish a general lien in such a case, the stereotype printer must show, according to Tindal, C.J., such a custom of trade that the other party to the transaction must be taken to have contracted with reference to it. "Nothing short of this," said the Chief Justice, "will dispense with an express contract; for generally that is the only mode of creating such a lien as this, which the common law does not recognise. In trades long established such a usage may not improbably have grown up; but it requires strong evidence to show its existence in a new trade like that of stereotype printing, which has sprung up within a short period,(*d*) and in which it is not very probable that any such general usage has yet been established."(*e*)

Customs of trade between printers and publishers.

It seems that by the custom of trade a printer cannot recover for the printing of a work before the whole is completed and delivered.(*f*)

(*a*) *Blake* v. *Nicholson* (3 M. & S. 167). (*b*) *Ib.*

(*c*) *Bleaden* v. *Hancock* (M. & Mal. 465; 4 C. & P. 152. *Per* Tindal, C.J.)

(*d*) This case was decided in 1829.

(*e*) *Bleaden* v. *Hancock* (*ubi suprà*).

(*f*) *Gillett* v. *Mawman* (1 Taunt. 137). See also *Adlard* v. *Booth* (7 C. & P. 108).

And it would seem that there is a usage of trade between the printers and proprietors of newspapers, that the latter should give to the former four weeks' notice of an intention to put an end to the employment, or pay them four weeks' wages.(*a*) But there does not appear to be a reciprocal obligation on the part of the printers.(*b*)

It would appear that there is no general custom of trade binding printers to insure for booksellers the paper given for works to be printed.(*c*)

For many years the business of printing in London, as between the master printers and compositors, has been regulated by committees of each body, who have from time to time agreed upon rules, which, so long as they remain unaltered, are treated and acted upon as binding between master and compositor, and are imported into every engagement to which they are applicable.(*d*)

Payment of compositors for advertisements on wrappers.

The following rules, agreed upon in 1839, relating to the payment of compositors for printing advertisements on wrappers, came before the Court of Exchequer in 1858 for interpretation: "Every companionship (which means the compositors) on a magazine or review to be entitled to the first or title page of the wrapper of the magazine or review, but not to the remaining pages of such wrapper, or to the advertising sheets which may accompany the magazine or review. Standing advertisements, or stereo blocks, forming a complete page, or, when collected together, making one or more complete pages in a wrapper or advertising sheet of a magazine or review, not to be chargeable. The compositor only to charge for his time in making them up. The remainder of the matter in such wrappers or advertising sheets, including standing advertisements or stereo blocks, not forming a complete page, to be charged by the compositor and cast up according to the 8th and 20th Articles of the scale as they may respectively apply." The interpretation given by the Court of Exchequer, whose judgment was affirmed by that of the Exchequer Chamber,(*e*) was as follows: "We think it clear that the paragraph or sentence of the rule beginning 'standing advertisements' has reference to the wrapper or advertisement sheet then about to be composed and printed, and that the master has the right to direct in what manner they shall be printed. He may direct that they all, as far as possible, be put into

(*a*) *Cunningham* v. *Fonblanque* (6 C. & P. 44, Park, J.)
(*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) *Mawman* v. *Gillett* (2 Taunt. 325).
(*d*) *Per* Watson, B., *Hill* v. *Levey* (3 H. & N. 8).
(*e*) 3 H. & N. 702.

PART III.

complete pages, or that they may be distributed through the wrappers or advertising sheets, as he may think fit. The first provision of the part of the rule before quoted is for the case of standing advertisements forming a complete page. This seems directed to the case of a page of the former number being reprinted in the succeeding one. The second case is of the standing advertisements collected together, making one or more complete page or pages in the wrappers or advertising sheets. We think this refers to the case when the master shall direct that standing advertisements shall be printed in the same page or pages, so far as they will fill up. In such case, when they completely fill a page or pages, the advertisements are not to be chargeable according to the scale, but the compositor is only entitled to charge for his time in making up. But if any standing advertisements are left over, or if the master thinks fit to direct that they shall be distributed through the other pages of the advertising sheet, so that they do not form a complete page, we think that the latter part of the rule applies, and that the compositor is entitled to charge according to the scale." (*a*)

Where, therefore, in the November number of a monthly magazine there were composed and printed, on one page, two advertisements which occupied the entire page, and the type of which was left standing, and in the December number the same two advertisements were printed, but on different pages, each advertisement occupying about half a page, the remainder of the page being filled up by other advertisements, it was held that the compositor was entitled, under the latter part of the rule, to charge for the composing, and that the case did not come within the first part of the rule, under which the compositor would be entitled to charge only for his time in making up. (*b*)

A dispute, similar to that just referred to, having arisen in 1856 between a compositor and a master printer, the matter was referred, in pursuance of certain of the rules agreed upon, to the arbitration of three master printers, three journeymen, and a barrister, whose casting vote was to be decisive; the result being an award in favour of the master, the barrister having given his casting vote in favour of the view taken by the three masters. The plaintiff subsequently entered the defendant's service knowing of that decision, and also that the defendant was one of the three masters; but nothing was said as to the terms of payment, each party understanding that it was to be made according to the rules. It was held

(*a*) 3 H. & N. 12, 13. (*b*) *Ib.*

that the decision of the arbitrators was not, at the time of the employment of the plaintiff, binding between the parties as an interpretation of the rule above set out, and that, notwithstanding their decision, it was competent for the court to entertain the question of its construction.(*a*)

Contract to insure.

If there is an express undertaking by the printer to insure the paper given him for a work which he contracts to print within six months, he is liable for a loss by fire which takes place after that time, even though the completion of the work within the specified time has been prevented by the failure of his employer to supply copy fast enough.(*b*) If he wishes to exonerate himself from all risk after the specified time has elapsed, he must abandon the contract altogether; if, whilst complaining of the delay in supplying copy, he continues to print, his contract to insure continues.(*c*)

Loss by fire.

Where certain printers were employed to print a work, of which the impression was to be 750 copies, and a fire broke out on their premises before the whole number of copies had been delivered, in an action to recover the amount to be paid for the work, Tindal, C.J., held that the printers' right to recover depended on the question whether the whole 750 copies had been printed when the fire broke out, or whether the fire took place while the press was set and before the whole was printed off, in which latter case they would not be entitled to recover anything.(*d*)

Illegal or immoral contracts.

In the case of authors, publishers, and printers, as in all other cases, our law refuses to aid any of the parties to a contract of an illegal or immoral character.

No person who has had anything to do with the composition of an immoral or libellous work can maintain an action against the person who employed him, to recover remuneration for his labour. This applies to printers, as well as authors and publishers.(*e*)

Best, C.J., in dealing with the case of a book which recounted the amours of a courtesan, said: "I have no hesitation in saying that no person who has contributed his assistance to the publication of such a work, can recover in a court of justice any compensation for labour so bestowed. The person who lends himself to the violation of the public morals and laws of the country shall not have the assistance of these laws to carry into execution such a purpose. It would be strange if a man could be fined and

(*a*) 3 H. & N. 12, 13. (*b*) *Mawman* v. *Gillett* (2 Taunt. 325).
(*c*) *Ib.* (*d*) *Adlard* v. *Booth* (7 C. & P. 108).
(*e*) *Poplett* v. *Stockdale* (Ry. & M. 337).

PART III.

imprisoned for doing that for which he could maintain an action at law. Every one who gives his aid to such a work, though as a servant, is responsible for the mischief of it."(*a*)

A printseller cannot recover the price of libellous or immoral publications sold by him.(*b*)

Where the plaintiff, a printer, agreed to print for the defendant a certain number of copies of a treatise to which a dedication was to be prefixed, and, after the treatise was printed, and the proof sheet of the dedication was revised by the defendant and returned to the plaintiff, the latter, for the first time, discovered that it contained libellous matter, and on that account refused to complete the printing, it was held that he was justified in so refusing, and was also entitled to recover for printing the treatise. "I told the jury," said Pollock, C.B., in this case,(*c*) "that if the plaintiff agreed to print the dedication and the treatise, and so undertook to print that which he knew to be libellous, and afterwards said that he would not print both; in such case he could not recover. I think his right to recover rests entirely on this ground, that he had been furnished with the treatise without the dedication. The dedication was afterwards sent, but he had no opportunity of reading it until after it was printed; he then discovered that it was libellous, and refused to permit the defendant to have it. I think that if a contract is *bonâ fide* entered into by a printer to print a work consisting of two parts, and at the time he enters into the contract he has no means of knowing that one part is unlawful, and he executes both, but afterwards suppresses that which is unlawful, there is an implied undertaking on the part of the person employing him to pay for so much of the work as is lawful."

Although the illegality or immorality of an intended publication would be a good defence to an action brought against the author for breach of contract to deliver his manuscript for publication, this illegality or immorality is not to be presumed where the work itself is not produced at the trial.(*d*)

A printer whose name did not appear on the periodical paper printed by him, as was required by 38 Geo. 3, c. 78 (since repealed by 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 32), was held not entitled to maintain an action for work and labour done in printing it.(*e*) And the proprietor of a newspaper,

(*a*) *Poplett* v. *Stockdale* (Ry. & M. 338).
(*b*) *Fores* v. *Johnes* (4 Esp. 97). (*c*) *Clay* v. *Yates* (1 H. & N. 73)
(*d*) *Gale* v. *Leckie* (2 Stark. N. P. 110).
(*e*) *Marchant* v. *Evans* (2 B. Moore, 14).

ublished before the filing of the affidavit required by that tatute, when in force, was, on the ground of having done an ct prohibited by law, nonsuited in an action brought to ecover damages for breach of contract to print certain opies of his newspaper.(*a*) For the same reason a printer as held not entitled to recover for labour or materials sed in printing a pamphlet, on which he had not printed is name, and the name of the city or place where he dwelt, s required by sect. 27 (now repealed) of 39 Geo. 3, c. 79.(*b*)

But to an action by the proprietor of the copyright in a book against a defendant for having, without the proprietor's consent in writing, printed for sale copies of the work, and also for having in his possession for sale and selling copies of the work so unlawfully printed, it was held no defence to plead that the book was printed and published without the name and place of abode of the printer upon the first or last leaves thereof, as directed by 2 & 3 Vict. c. 12, s. 2.(*c*)

Whilst the enactment (6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 8) requiring the filing at the Stamp Office of a declaration as to the proprietorship of newspapers was still in force, it was held that where a person entered specifically into a contract with the real proprietor, who was not registered as such, a person whose name was registered could not be made liable on the contract.(*d*)

(*a*) *Houston* v. *Mills* (1 M. & Rob. 325).
(*b*) *Bensley* v. *Bignold* (5 B. & Ald. 335).
(*c*) *Chappell* v. *Davidson* (18 C. B. 194; 25 L. J. 225, C. P.).
(*d*) *Holcroft* v. *Hoggins* (2 C. B. 488).

PART IV.—LAW OF LIBEL.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

Libels in general.

We have been treating hitherto of the rights and privileges of the authors and proprietors of literary and artistic works; but such works, besides conferring rights and privileges, also impose duties and entail liabilities. Writing, printing, and other modes of publication furnish, unhappily, no exception to the general rule that there is nothing, however beneficial its normal tendency, which may not be perverted to the worst of uses. Those arts which have done so much to enlighten mankind, to elevate their moral, social, and political condition, and to diffuse innocent gratification and amusement, have also been made the instruments of wanton attack upon religion and morals, upon the government and constitution of the state, and upon all that is most dear in private life. Of injuries thus caused either to the community at large or to its individual members the law takes cognizance, and those injurious publications which it punishes are designated *libels*.(*a*)

There is no satisfactory definition of libels in general—which really explains what they are and fully describes their various species; nor is it of importance to endeavour to obtain such a definition, since its very wide generality would render it practically valueless.(*b*) A definition may

(*a*) The word libel is derived from the *libellus* (dim. of *liber*, a book) *famosus* of the Roman law.

(*b*) Lord Lyndhurst, in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Lords, on whose report the Act of 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96 was framed, says on this subject, "A definition in order to satisfy the requisites of a good logical definition, ought not only to be sufficiently precise so that it shall take in nothing except what was intended to be specified, but also sufficiently comprehensive to omit nothing which *ought to be included*. I have never yet seen, nor been able myself to hit upon anything like a definition of libel, or even of sedition which possessed those requisites of a definition; and I cannot help thinking that the difficulty is not accidental, but essentially inherent in the nature of the subject matter."

with more profit be attempted of each of the different classes of libels which are embraced under the general head.(*a*)

How expressed.

It need here be only added, in general, that a libel may be expressed in a variety of ways, and not only by means of writing or printing, whether in the form of book, pamphlet, placard, letter, &c., but also by means of pictures, drawings, photographs, or other signs.(*b*)

Division of libels.

Libels may, for the purposes of the present work, be conveniently divided into two great classes—public and private; and public libels may be subdivided into those (1) which are of a blasphemous or irreligious character; (2) those which offend against decency and morality; and (3) those directed against the sovereign, the government, or the law.

Of the various kinds of public libels we shall treat in order, before proceeding to deal with the subject of private libels or libels on individuals.

CHAPTER II.

BLASPHEMOUS LIBELS.

Grounds of legal interference.

It is not with a view to avenging any insults offered to the Deity that our law professes to punish blasphemy, but on account of the temporal consequences to society which it tends to produce. Society, it is said, cannot exist without those religious and moral restraints which blasphemous attacks on natural or revealed religion weaken, if not destroy; the sanction of an oath in all proceedings connected with the administration of justice is rendered of no avail, if the belief in a moral governor of the universe who punishes vice and rewards virtue is shaken; and where Christianity, as is the case with us, is the religion of almost

(*a*) Of what little utility, for the purpose of conveying any precise knowledge of a practical character, a definition must be which attempts to describe at once all kinds of libels, may be seen from the two following examples taken from standard writers. "*Libelli famosi*," says Blackstone, "taken in their largest and most extensive sense, signify any writings, pictures, or the like of an immoral or illegal tendency:" (4 Com. 150.) "Considering the offence in its relation as well to the public as to individuals," says Starkie, "libels may not inconveniently or improperly be defined to be 'any writings, pictures, or other signs which immediately tend to injure the character of an individual, or to occasion mischief to the public:'" (Law of Slander and Libel, Commentary.)

(*b*) Bacon's Abridg. tit. Libel; Salk. 418; 3 Bl. Com. 125; *Austen* v. *Culpepper* (Skin. 123; Show 314).

the entire nation, unseemly attacks on its doctrines provoke to the commission of acts of violence.(a) It is on these grounds that our legal authorities base the right of the state to prohibit and punish blasphemous libels, though there can be little doubt that the judges have often been influenced, in their decisions, by those purely religious considerations which in words they professed to ignore.

An American writer, Bishop,(b) thus speaks as to the grounds on which the legal doctrine is based: "Whether the principle on which this doctrine rests is that they [blasphemy and profane swearing] tend to undermine Christianity, which is a part of our law, or that they disturb the peace and corrupt the morals of the community, is a question not fully settled. Perhaps we may even take another view, namely, that reverence toward God and religion—Christianity being our form of religion—is essential to man, who is injured in his nature and being when this reverence is impaired; or still another view, that these offences so shock his purer and higher sensibilities as to create an injury to him against which he needs protection, precisely as against an assault. Probably these several considerations, and some others also, may each be deemed to enter more or less into the policy of the law."(c)

(a) This view of the matter is put broadly by Michaelis, quoted 2 Stark. (2nd edit.) 131. He says: "On God's account, then, punishments for blasphemies are not necessary; but perhaps they are necessary for the sake of our neighbour, who, if he believes in a God, or holds his religion, whether true or false, to be true, always feels himself extremely scandalized by them. Nor is it only blasphemy against the *true* God that ought to be punished, but even that against false gods, supposed saints, and fictitious religion, whenever they happen to be the gods, saints, and religion of the people." (b) Crim. Law, vol. ii., § 87.

(c) The Commissioners on Criminal Law*, in their 6th report (p. 80), thus state their view of the reasons by which laws against blasphemy may be defended: "Laws for the punishment of offences against religion generally are justifiable, on mere temporal grounds, upon two principles. In the first place, religion, by enforcing moral conduct and applying to that object some of the strongest motives that operate on human nature, is so effectual an assistant in securing a general obedience to social laws, that actions tending directly to expose it to ridicule and contempt, and thus to weaken its authority with the ignorant and unthinking, are mischievous to the community, and on that account may properly be repressed by penal enactments. Secondly, as the great mass of the inhabitants of civilized countries regard religious faith, in one form or other, as of vital interest and importance, the criminal law may properly be employed to protect the feelings and opinions of the community on this subject from wanton insult. Upon these two principles, as it appears to us, the interference of the penal law in matters of

* Thomas Starkie, Henry Bellenden Ker, William Wightman (afterwards Justice of the Queen's Bench), Andrew Amos and David Jardine, Esquires.

In what the offence consists.

Blackstone (*a*) describes the offence of blasphemy as consisting in a denial of the being or providence of the Almighty; or in contumelious reproaches of Our Lord and Saviour Christ, or in profane scoffing at the Holy Scripture, or exposing it to contempt and ridicule, for Christianity is part of the laws of England.

Common law decisions.

Spoken words, equally with written, may subject the utterer to the penalties imposed by law for blasphemy. Some of the earlier cases on the subject are referred to in the note; (*b*) but the doctrines laid down in them would probably now be applied with considerable limitations, though the cases themselves are still unquestioned authorities.

In one of those cases (*c*) Lord Hale thus states the foundation on which the infliction of punishment for blasphemous publications is based: "To say religion is a cheat is to dissolve all those obligations whereby civil societies are preserved. Christianity is parcel of the laws of England; (*d*) and therefore to reproach the Christian religion is to speak in subversion of the law."

religion is to be justified; and we think that rules framed strictly with reference to these principles neither invade the rights of opinion and legitimate discussion, nor endanger any general or particular interests which can properly be protected by the criminal law."

(*a*) 4 St. Black. 287.

(*b*) *Atwood's case* (Cr. J. 421), *Rex* v. *Taylor* (Vent. 293; 3 Keb. Rep. 607), *Rex* v. *Clendon* (cited Str. 789), *Rex* v. *Hall* (1 Str. 416).

(*c*) *Rex* v. *Taylor* (*ubi supra*).

(*d*) As to this dictum of Lord Hales, that Christianity is parcel of the laws of England, Archbishop Whately says, in the preface to his "Elements of Rhetoric," that he never met with any one who could explain the precise meaning of it. Its practical value may be estimated from the following observations of the Commissioners on Criminal Law (6th Report, p. 83): "The meaning of the expression used by Lord Hale, that 'Christianity was parcel of the laws of England,' though often cited in subsequent cases, has, we think, been much misunderstood. It appears to us that the expression can only mean either that as a great part of the securities of our legal system consist of judicial and official oaths sworn upon the gospels, Christianity is closely interwoven with our municipal law; or that the laws of England, like all municipal laws of a Christian country, must, upon principles of general jurisprudence, be subservient to the positive rules of Christianity. In this sense Christianity may justly be said to be incorporated with the law of England, so as to form parcel of it; and it was probably in this sense that Lord Hale intended the expression should be understood. At all events, in whatsoever sense the expression is to be understood, it does not appear to us to supply any reason in favour of the rule; for it is not criminal to speak or write either against the common law of England generally, or against particular portions of it, provided it be not done in such a manner as to endanger the public peace by exciting forcible resistance; so that the statement that Christianity is parcel of the law of England, which has been so often urged in justification of laws

In a subsequent case,(*a*) relating to a book designed to show that the Christian miracles were not to be taken in a literal but in an allegorical sense, the court would not suffer it to be debated whether to write against Christianity *in general* was not an offence punishable in the temporal courts at common law. They laid stress on the word "general," and stated that they did not intend to include disputes between learned men upon particular controverted points. Raymond, C.J., in delivering the judgment of the court, said, "I would have it taken notice of that we do not meddle with any differences of opinion, and that we interpose only where the very root of Christianity itself is struck at," which the court considered to be done in the book in question.

The same doctrine was laid down in *Rex* v. *Williams*,(*b*) where the defendant was convicted of having published an impious and blasphemous libel, called "Paine's Age of Reason," which denied the authority of the Old and New Testament, asserted that reason was the only guide by which the conduct of men ought to be directed, and ridiculed the prophets, Jesus Christ, his disciples, and the Scriptures. The judgment of Ashurst, J., in that case exhibits a union of the different reasons which influence the determination of cases of blasphemy. He remarked that, "although the Almighty did not require the aid of human tribunals to vindicate his precepts, it was nevertheless fit to show our abhorrence of such wicked doctrines, which were not only an offence against God, but against all law and government, from their direct tendency to dissolve all the bonds and obligations of civil society. It was upon this ground that the Christian religion constituted part of the law of the land. But if the name of our Redeemer was suffered to be traduced, and his holy religion treated with contempt, the solemnity of an oath, on which the due administration of justice depended, would be destroyed, and the law be stripped of one of its principal sanctions—the dread of future punishment."(*c*)

It is a blasphemous libel to represent by a published

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Woolston* (Str. 834).

(*b*) In 1797. See Holt on Libel, 69, note (*e*).

(*c*) The judgment in that case was—that the defendant should be imprisoned in the house of correction for one year, there to be kept to hard labour, and that, at the expiration thereof, he should give security to the amount of 1000*l*. for his good behaviour during the rest of his life.

writing that Jesus Christ is an impostor, the Christian religion a mere fable, and those who believe in it infidels to God; (*a*) or that Jesus Christ was an impostor and a murderer in principle and a fanatic.(*b*)

It has been held a blasphemous libel to publish anything which tends to question or cast disgrace upon the Old Testament alone. A ruling to that effect of Lord Denman, C.J., was excepted to in *Reg.* v. *Hetherington*; (*c*) but the court upheld the ruling on the ground that the Old Testament is so connected with the New, that a reflection on the one was a reflection on the other also.

Legislative enactments.

In addition to the doctrines of the common law relating to blasphemous libels, there are some express enactments of the Legislature on the subject. Several of the old statutory provisions have been repealed, but the following still remain in force:

1 Edw. 6, c. 1, enacts that persons reviling the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by contemptuous words or otherwise, shall be punished by fine and imprisonment.

1 Eliz. c. 2, enacts that if any *minister* shall speak anything in derogation of the Book of Common Prayer, he shall, if not beneficed, be imprisoned one year for the first offence, and for life for the second; and if he be beneficed, shall for the first offence be imprisoned six months, and forfeit a year's value of his benefice; for the second, shall be deprived and suffer one year's imprisonment; and for the third, shall in like manner be deprived and suffer imprisonment for life. And that if any person whatsoever shall in plays, songs, or other open words, speak anything in derogation, depraving, or despising of the said book, &c., he shall forfeit for the first offence, 100 marks; for the second, 400; and for the third, shall forfeit all his goods and chattels, and suffer imprisonment for life.

The most important of the statutes now in force is the 9 & 10 Will. 3, c. 32. It enacts that if any person educated in or having made profession of the Christian religion, shall by writing, printing, teaching, or advised speaking, deny any one of the persons of the Holy Trinity to be God [repealed by 53 Geo. 3, c. 160, s. 2, "so far as the same relates to persons denying as therein mentioned respecting the Holy Trinity"], or assert or maintain that there

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Eaton* (31 Howell's St. Tr., 927, *et seq.*) Eaton was sentenced by Lord Ellenborough to be imprisoned for eighteen months in Newgate, and to stand in the pillory, between the hours of twelve and two, once within a month.

(*b*) *Rex* v. *Waddington* (1 B. & C. 26). (*c*) 5 Jur. 529.

are more gods than one, or deny the Christian religion to be true, or the Holy Scriptures to be of divine authority, he shall, upon the first offence, be rendered incapable to hold any office or place of trust; and for the second, be rendered incapable of bringing any action, being guardian, executor, legatee, or purchaser of lands, and shall suffer imprisonment without bail for three years. But the person convicted for a first offence is to be discharged from all penalties and disabilities for that offence, if he renounce his error in open Court within four months after conviction.(*a*) Information of an offence against the Act must be given within four days after it has been committed, and the prosecution must be within three months after such information.(*b*)

There is no recorded instance of a prosecution under this Act.

Effect of Statutes.

This statute has not altered the common law on the subject of blasphemous libels, but has only introduced certain peculiar disabilities cumulative upon the penalties previously inflicted by the common law; (*c*) for it is a general rule that, where an offence is already punishable by a common law proceeding, a statute providing a particular punishment for it does not exclude the common law punishment, but only supplies an alternative or a cumulative one.(*d*)

53 Geo. 3, c. 160.

Neither, it seems, does the 53 Geo. 3, c. 160, alter the common law doctrine as to blasphemous libels: it only removes the penalties imposed by 9 & 10 Will. 3, c. 32, upon persons denying the Trinity, and extends to them the benefits of the Toleration Act of 1 Will. & M. sess. 1, c. 18.

In *Rex* v. *Waddington*,(*e*) where the libel stated that Jesus Christ was an impostor, and a murderer in principle, and a fanatic, the defendant, in moving for a new trial, urged that the Lord Chief Justice had misdirected the jury by stating that any publication in which the divinity of Jesus Christ was denied was an unlawful libel; and he argued that, since the 53 Geo. 3, c. 160, the denying one of the persons of the Trinity to be God was no offence, and consequently that a publication in support of such a position was not a libel. The Court of King's Bench unanimously refused a rule for

(*a*) Sect. 3. (*b*) Sect. 2.

(*c*) *Rex* v. *Carlile* (3 B. & Ald. 161), *Rex* v. *Williams* (26 Howell's St. Tr. 656; 2 Str. 884; Barnard, K. B., 162).

(*d*) *Rex* v. *Robinson* (Burr. 799); *Rex* v. *Carlile* (3 B. & Ald. 163).

(*e*) 1 B. & C. 26; compare the remarks of Bramwell, B., in *Cowan* v. *Milbourn* (L. Rep. 2 Ex. 233; 36 L. J. 124, Ex.; 16 L. T. N. S. 290).

a new trial, and hold that the publication was a blasphemous libel. Best, J., said: "The 53 Geo. 3, c. 160, has made no alteration in the common law relative to libel. If, previous to the passing of that statute, it would have been a libel to deny, in any printed work, the divinity of the second person in the Trinity, the same publication would be a libel now. The 53 Geo. 3, c. 160, as its title expresses, is an Act to relieve persons who impugn the doctrine of the Trinity from certain penalties. If we look at the body of the Act to see from what penalties such persons are relieved, we find that they are the penalties from which the 1 Will. & M. sess. 1, c. 18, exempted all Protestant Dissenters, except such as denied the Trinity, and the penalties or disabilities which the 9 & 10 Will. 3, c. 32, imposed on those who denied the Trinity. The 1 Will. & M. sess. 1, c. 18, is, as it has been usually called, an Act of toleration, or one which allows Dissenters to worship God in the mode that is agreeable to their religious opinions, and exempts them from punishment for non-attendance at the Established Church, and non-conformity to its rights. The Legislature, in passing that Act, only thought of easing the consciences of Dissenters, and not of allowing them to attempt to weaken the faith of the members of the Church."

What forms of religion may be attacked.

From the fact that a particular form of the Christian religion is established here by law, this consequence follows —that a person may, without being liable to prosecution for it, attack Judaism, or Mahomedanism, or even any sect of the Christian religion, except the established religion of the country; and the only reason, says Alderson, B.,(*a*) why the latter is in a different situation from the others is "because it is the form established by law, and is therefore a part of the constitution of the country. In like manner, and for the same reason, any general attack on *Christianity* is the subject of criminal prosecution, because Christianity is the established religion of the country."

Liberty of discussion.

How far, then, is liberty of discussion allowed on questions relating to the fundamental doctrines of religion? or, is the expression of all views adverse to those now received prohibited and punishable? Would the law now make no distinction in favour of the fair and temperate expression of opinions sincerely entertained? It is by no means easy to give an answer, for there is no reported English case in which the question has been fairly raised and broadly dealt with.

Malice is a necessary ingredient in the crime; and were it not that our law implies malice wherever anything unlaw-

(*a*) *Reg.* v. *Gathercole* (2 Lewin, 254).

ful is done wilfully or intentionally, whatever the motive which prompted the action, this consideration might help us to a conclusion. As the law stands, it throws no light on the subject.

In America the question has been more fully discussed than with us, and the doctrines laid down by the courts of that country are much more consonant to the tolerant views of the present day than any which can be extracted from our own authorities. In *The People* v. *Ruggles*,(a) after a verdict and sentence for blasphemous words spoken against Jesus Christ, Kent, C.J., on appeal, said: "After conviction we must intend that the words were uttered in a wanton manner and, as they evidently import, with a wicked and malicious disposition, and not in a serious discussion upon any controverted point in religion. The language was blasphemous, not only in a popular, but in a legal sense; for blasphemy, according to the most precise definitions, consists in maliciously reviling God or religion, and this was reviling Christianity through its Author. The jury have passed upon the intent or *quo animo*, and if those words spoken, in any case, will amount to a misdemeanor the indictment is good. . . . . The free, equal, and undisturbed enjoyment of religious opinion, whatever it may be, and free and decent discussions on any religious subject, are granted and secured; but to revile, with malicious and blasphemous contempt, the religion professed by almost the whole community, is an abuse of that right." Another American judge speaks still more plainly. "No author or printer," says Duncan, J.,(b) "who fairly and conscientiously promulgates opinions with whose truth he is impressed, for the benefit of others, is answerable as a criminal. A malicious and mischievous intention is, in such a case, the broad boundary between right and wrong; it is to be collected from the offensive levity, scurrilous and opprobrious language, and other circumstances, whether the act of the party was malicious." And the criminal code of New York speaks in a similar tone. Art. 31, extracting a definition from existing common law decisions, describes blasphemy as consisting in "wantonly uttering or publishing words, casting contumacious reproach or profane ridicule

American definition of blasphemy.

(a) 8 Johns. 292.

(b) *Updegraph* v. *Commonwealth* (11 S. & R. 394, 405, 406), quoted 2 Bish. Crim. Law, 93. The author subjoins to the above quotation: "Still, one who should utter words or sentiments calculated, according to common judgment, to corrupt the public morals, or to shock the sensibilities of mankind in a Christian community, would, doubtless, not be permitted to excuse himself under the plea of conscientious conviction."

upon God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost, the Holy Scriptures, or the Christian religion;" and Art. 32 adds—"If it appears beyond reasonable doubt that the words complained of were used in the course of serious discussion, and with intent to make known or recommend opinions entertained by the accused, such words are not blasphemy."

A law against blasphemy, based on such grounds as the foregoing, is rational as well as intelligible; for no good man will attack, in a wanton, offensive, or scurrilous manner, the religious opinions which are sincerely entertained by the vast majority of the inhabitants of the country where he lives; and, on the other hand, no man who fairly and temperately seeks to spread the views which he himself conscientiously holds, should be subjected to any penalty for doing so.

Present state of the law in England.

No such liberal exception as obtains in America in favour of the honest and temperate expression of opinions opposed to the received doctrines of religion, is made by any of our authorities.(*a*) The exemption from penal consequences, allowed in *Rex* v. *Woolston*,(*b*) goes no further than the case of "disputes between learned men upon particular controverted points:" an attack on Christianity *in general* was held to be clearly a punishable offence. The exception admitted by Blackstone does not extend beyond "rational and dispassionate discussions of the rectitude and propriety

(*a*) Starkie on Libel, vol. 2, pp. 146, 147 (3rd edit. p. 590), states the law with a degree of liberality which, however desirable it may be in itself, the decided cases seem hardly to warrant. He says: "The very absurdity and folly of an ignorant man who professes to teach and enlighten the rest of mankind are usually so gross as to render his errors harmless; but be this as it may, the law interferes not with his blunders, so long as they are honest ones. . . . . It is the mischievous abuse of this state of intellectual liberty which calls for penal censure. The law visits not the honest errors, but the malice of mankind. A wilful intention to pervert, insult, and mislead others by means of licentious and contumelious abuse applied to sacred subjects, or by wilful misrepresentations or artful sophistry, calculated to mislead the ignorant and unwary, is the criterion and test of guilt. A malicious and mischievous intention, or what is equivalent to such an intention, in law as well as morals—a state of apathy and indifference to the interests of society—is the broad boundary between right and wrong. If it can be collected from the circumstances of the publication, from a display of offensive levity, from contumelious and abusive expressions applied to sacred persons or subjects, that the design of the author was to occasion that mischief to which the matter which he publishes immediately tends, to destroy or even weaken men's sense of religious or moral obligations, to insult those who believe, by casting contumelious abuse and ridicule upon their doctrines, or to bring the established religion and form of worship into disgrace and contempt, the offence against society is complete."

(*b*) Str. 834; Fitzgib. 66.

of the established mode of worship."(a) There is, indeed, a dictum of Best, J., in *Rex* v. *Burdett*(b)—"Every man may fearlessly advance any new doctrines, provided he does so with proper respect to the religion and government of the country;" and the same judge, in *Rex* v. *Waddington*,(c) dealing with a libel which contained a very gross and offensive attack on the character of Christ, speaks as if he considered *express* malice a necessary ingredient in the offence. "A work," he says, "containing such arguments published maliciously (which the jury in this case have found) is by the common law a libel." But in the most recent case in which the question has been raised, the old doctrine is asserted in all its stringency. In *Cowan* v. *Milbourn*,(d) where a breach of contract to let rooms for the purpose of delivering lectures was justified on the ground that the lectures to be delivered were of a blasphemous and illegal nature, some of them being advertised as follows: "The Character and Teachings of Christ: the former defective, the latter misleading;" "The Bible shown to be no more inspired than any other book;" the counsel for the intending lecturer argued that the test of blasphemy lies rather in the manner than the matter of what is said, and that, according to the current of opinion in modern times, to support a prosecution for blasphemy, there must be a scurrilous and indecent attack upon commonly received opinions, or a maintenance of views flagrantly opposed to ordinary morality. But the Court of Exchequer, without any reference to the motives which might prompt the delivery of the lectures, held that the publication of the doctrines stated in the advertisements referred to was blasphemy, and that, therefore, the breach of contract was justifiable. "It would be a violation of duty," said Kelly, C.B., "to allow the question raised to remain in any doubt. . . . . There is abundant authority for saying that Christianity is part and parcel of the law of the land; and that, therefore, to support and maintain publicly the proposition I have above mentioned [that Christ's character was defective, and his teaching misleading] is a violation of the first principles of the law, and cannot be done without blasphemy. I therefore do not hesitate to say that the defendant was not only entitled, but was called on and bound by the law to refuse his sanction to this use of his rooms."

(a) 4 St. Black. 289. (b) 4 B. & Ald. 132.
(c) 1 B. & C. 26.
(d) L. Rep. 2 Ex. 230; 36 L. J. 124, Ex.; 16 L. T. N. S. 290; 15 W. R. 750.

In the case last referred to the question of the blasphemous nature of the lectures intended to be delivered arose only incidentally, in dealing with a civil contract; and it is a matter of some doubt whether a criminal prosecution could, with the tolerant views now prevailing, be successfully maintained for the *bonâ fide* publication of opinions sincerely and conscientiously entertained, and temperately expressed, though hostile to the doctrines of Christianity. The actual decisions on the subject do not warrant a more confident statement; and the language of the statute 9 & 10 Will. 3, c. 32, which is still in force, hardly warrants even this, as that statute, making no distinction of motive, manner, or occasion, in or on which any person brought up a Christian denies, "by writing, printing, teaching, or advised speaking," the divine authority of the Bible or the truth of Christianity, punishes all such modes of utterance.

The Act 60 Geo. 3 & 1 Geo. 4, c. 9, contained various provisions for securing (by recognisance or bond with sureties) the payment of fines inflicted for the publication of blasphemous and other libels in newspapers; but this Act is now repealed by 32 & 33 Vict. c. 24.

In 1841 Mr. Moxon was indicted for publishing the poems of Shelley,(*a*) a work described in the indictment as a "scandalous, impious, profane, and malicious libel of and concerning the Christian religion, and of and concerning the Holy Scriptures, and of and concerning Almighty God, in which were contained certain passages charged as blasphemous," the indictment setting out some passages from the poem of Queen Mab and a passage in prose from the notes. Serjeant (afterwards Mr. Justice) Talfourd, himself a poet, addressed the jury, for the defence, in a noble speech, in which he asked whether it could be blasphemy in Mr. Moxon to present to the world, or rather to the calm, the laborious, the patient searchers after wisdom and

(*a*) 2 Mod. State Trials, 356. The prosecutor in this case was Hetherington, who had, a short time before, been found guilty of publishing certain libels on the Old Testament (see *Reg.* v. *Hetherington*, *ante*, p. 301), and his object in instituting the prosecution against Mr. Moxon is not very clear. His counsel concluded his opening speech by expressing the satisfaction he should feel if the result of the trial were to establish that no publication on religion should be a subject for prosecutions in future (2 Mod. State Trials, 365); but Mr. Moxon's counsel treated the prosecution as one prompted solely by an indiscriminate desire, on the part of the prosecutor, of retaliating on some other person the punishment which he had himself suffered. And Blackburn, J., says of it, "I believe, as everybody knows, that it was a prosecution instituted merely for the purpose of vexation and annoyance:" (*Reg.* v. *Hicklin*, L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 374; S. C. 37 L. J. 89, M. C.; 18 L. T. N. S. 395, *nom. Reg.* v. *The Recorder of Wolverhampton.*)

beauty, who alone would peruse the volume, the awful mistakes, the mighty struggles, the strange depressions, and the imperfect victories of such a spirit as Shelley's, because the picture has some passages of frightful gloom? "In the wise and just dispensations of Providence," said the accomplished advocate, in a passage which I may be excused for citing, "great powers are often found associated with weakness or with sorrow; but when these are not blended with the intellectual greatness they countervail, but merely affect the personal fortunes of their possessors, as when a sanguine temperament leads into vicious excesses, there is no more propriety in unveiling the truth, because it is truth, than in exhibiting the details of some physical disease. But when the greatness of the poet's intellect contains within itself the elements of tumult and disorder, when the appreciation of the genius in all its divine relations and all its human lapses depends on a view of the entire picture, must it be withheld? It is not sinful Elysium, full of lascivious blandishments, but a heaving chaos of mighty elements, that the publisher of the early productions of Shelley unveils. In such a case, the more awful the alienation, the more pregnant with good will be the lesson. Shall this life, fevered with beauty, restless with inspiration, be hidden? or, wanting its first blind but gigantic efforts, be falsely because partially revealed? If to trace back the stream of genius from its greatest and most unearthly breadth to its remotest fountain, is one of the most interesting and instructive objects of philosophic research, shall we, when we have followed that of Shelley through its majestic windings, beneath the solemn gloom of 'The Cenci,' through the glory-tinged expanses of 'The Revolt of Islam,' amidst the dream-like haziness of 'Prometheus,' be forbidden to ascend with painful steps its narrowing course to its farthest spring, because black rocks may encircle the spot whence it rushes into day, and demon shapes, frightful but powerless for harm, may gleam and frown on us beside it?" He urged also that the poem of "Queen Mab" was presented with the distinct statement that Shelley himself in mature life departed from its offensive dogmas; that it was accompanied by his own letter in which he expresses his wish for its suppression; that therefore it was not given as containing his deliberate assertions, but only as a feature in the development of his intellectual character. He asked also whether it was not "antidote enough to the poison of a pretended athoism that the poet, who is supposed to-day to deny Deity, finds Deity in all things?"

Lord Denman, C.J., told the jury that he and they "were bound to take the law as it had been handed down to them. The only question for their consideration was, whether in their opinion the work, which had been made the subject of prosecution, deserved the imputations that were cast upon it by the indictment, and whether the publisher had sent it forth deliberately into the world, knowing its character to be such. The purpose of the passage cited from 'Queen Mab' was, he thought, to cast reproach and insult upon what in Christian minds were the peculiar objects of veneration; it was not, however, sufficient that mere passages of such an offensive character should exist in a work in order to render the publication of it an act of criminalty; it must appear that no condemnation of such passages appeared in the context. It had been said that the extraordinary poem in question was the production of a mere youth. Were the lines indicted calculated to shock the feelings of any Christian reader? Were their points of offence explained, or was their virus neutralized by any remarks in the margin, by any note of explanation or apology? If not, they were libels on God, and indictable." The jury returned a verdict of guilty; but the prosecutor abandoned all further proceedings on payment of his costs. (*a*)

A person accused of wickedly and feloniously publishing, vending, and exposing for sale certain blasphemous books containing a denial of the truth and authority of the Holy Scriptures and the Christian religion, and devised, contrived, and intended to asperse, vilify, ridicule, and bring them into contempt, was not allowed in his speech to the jury to quote passages from the Bible for the purpose of justifying his opinion of it. (*b*) "No animadversions," said the Lord Justice Clerk, "can have the slightest effect in making the court swerve from its duty. We tell you what the law is, that the publication of works tending to vilify the Christian religion is an offence in law; and it is no answer to say that, in your opinion, the passages contained in those works are true, and that the Bible deserves the character ascribed to it. If you can show that the Lord Advocate has mistaken the meaning of these passages,

(*a*) 2 Mod. State Trials, 362. Blackburn, J., alluding to this case in *Reg.* v. *Hicklin* (L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 374), says, "I hope I may not be understood to agree with what the jury found, that the publication of 'Queen Mab' was sufficient to make it an indictable offence." For Lord Lyndhurst's view of the prosecution see Parl. Debates in the House of Lords for 13th July, 1857.

(*b*) *Paterson's case* (1 Brown 627). See also *Robinson's case* (*ib.* 643).

that they do not deny the truth of the Bible, that they do not vilify it, that is a point of which the jury will judge." In charging the jury, his Lordship thus stated the law: "The Holy Scriptures and Christian religion are part of the statute law of the land; and whatever vilifies them is therefore an infringement of the law. There can be no controversy in a court of justice as to the merits or demerits of a law. Our duty is to interpret and explain the law as established, while it is yours to apply it. Now the law of Scotland, apart from all questions of Church Establishment, or Church government, has declared that the Holy Scriptures are of supreme authority. It gives every man the right of regulating his faith or not by the standard of the Holy Scriptures, and gives full scope to private judgment, regarding the doctrines contained therein; but it expressly provides that all 'blasphemies shall be suppressed', and that they who publish opinions 'contrary to the known principles of Christianity,' may be lawfully called to account, and proceeded against by the civil magistrate. This law does not impose upon individuals any obligation as to their belief. It leaves free and independent the right of private belief, but it carefully protects that which was established as part of the law from being brought into contempt."(*a*)

How punishable.

Blasphemous publications are punishable either by indictment at common law (*b*) or by criminal information. Persons convicted were formerly compelled to stand in the pillory,(*c*) besides suffering other punishments. The Act of 56 Geo. 3, c. 138, which abolished the punishment of the pillory in most cases, provides (sect. 2) that the court may in all cases where it was formerly used, pass such sentence of fine or imprisonment, or of both, in lieu of the sentence of pillory, as to it shall seem most proper.

The punishment by banishment was abolished by 11 Geo. 4 & 1 Will. 4, c. 73, s. 1.

Scotland.

The Scotch law is not different from the English law on the subject of blasphemous libels.(*d*) An Act of 6 Geo. 4, c. 47, after reciting the expediency of making the crime punishable in the same manner as if committed in England, enacted

(*a*) The prisoner in this case was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment, the court telling him that if, after the completion of his punishment, he should again attempt to follow the same trade, either in Scotland or in any other part of Great Britain, there was no extent of punishment by "imprisonment *and fine*" which it would not be the duty of the court in such a case to award.

(*b*) *Reg.* v. *Hetherington* (5 Jur. 529).

(*c*) *Rex* v. *Taylor* (Vent. 293; 3 Keb. 607), *Rex* v. *Waddington* (1 B. & C. 26), *Rex* v. *Carlile* (3 B. & Ald. 161).

(*d*) See the direction given to the jury in *Patterson's case*, *supra*.

that any person convicted of blasphemy shall be liable to be punished only(*a*) by fine or imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court; and(*b*) that if any person after being so convicted shall offend a second time and be convicted, he may be adjudged, at the discretion of the court, either to suffer the punishment of fine or imprisonment, or both, or to be banished from the United Kingdom, and all other parts of the Sovereign's dominions, for such term of years as the court in which such conviction shall take place shall order; and(*c*) in case the person so adjudged to be banished shall not depart from the United Kingdom within thirty days after the pronouncing of such sentence, for the purpose of going into banishment, he may be conveyed to such parts out of the dominions of the Sovereign, as the Sovereign, by advice of the Privy Council, may direct. If the person sentenced to be banished, after the end of forty days from the time the sentence has been pronounced, is at large within any part of the United Kingdom, or any other part of the Sovereign's dominions, without some lawful cause, before the expiration of the term for which the offender has been adjudged to be banished, every such offender being so at large and being thereof convicted, shall be transported to such place as the Sovereign shall appoint for any term not exceeding fourteen years.(*d*) This statute still remains in force with the exception of the provisions as to punishment by banishment, which are repealed by 7 Will. 4 & 1 Vict. c. 5.

CHAPTER III.

OBSCENE LIBELS.

Jurisdiction of courts.

THE jurisdiction of our common law courts in cases of publications of an immoral nature, though now unquestioned, was for some time not free from doubt. After the abolition of the Star Chamber, it seems that the Court of King's Bench came to be regarded as the *custos morum* of the

(*a*) Before the repeal of the Acts of 1661, c. 21, and 1695, c. 11, by the 53 Geo. 3, c. 160, s. 3, blasphemy was punishable, for the first offence, by public atonement in sackcloth to the parish where the scandal was committed; for the second offence, by payment of a fine of a year's rent of his real estate, and a twentieth part of his personal effects, and by imprisonment till the offender should again make satisfaction to the parish; for the third offence, with death.

(*b*) Sect. 2. (*c*) Sect. 3. (*d*) Sect. 4.

nation, having cognisance of all offences against the public morals.(a) But, though one Hill was indicted in Michaelmas, 10 Will. 3,(b) for printing and publishing some obscene poems of Lord Rochester tending to the corruption of youth, and on going abroad was outlawed for the offence; yet in Easter, 6 Anne, in the case of Read,(c) who was indicted and convicted for publishing a lascivious and obscene libel, Holt, C.J., and Powell, J., on a motion in arrest of judgment were so strongly of opinion that the offence was only punishable in the ecclesiastical courts, that no judgment was pronounced against the defendant. However, the case of *Rex* v. *Curl*,(d) in 1 Geo. 2, settled the question in favour of the jurisdiction of the temporal courts. An information was filed against the defendant in that case for having published a base and obscene libel entitled "Venus in the Cloister, or the Nun in her Smock," and he was found guilty. An argument took place on a motion in arrest of judgment, and the preceding cases were referred to, the Attorney-General urging in defence of the temporal jurisdiction that to destroy morality was to destroy the peace of the government, since government is no more than public order, which is morality; and that although every immoral act is not indictable, such as telling a lie, &c., yet if it is destructive of morality in general and does, or may, affect all the subjects of the realm, it then becomes an offence of a public nature. The court, dissenting from the opinions expressed in Read's case, upheld the temporal jurisdiction, and Curl was pilloried for his offence. Since this decision the temporal character of the offence of publishing obscene and immoral works has not been questioned.

Wilkes was convicted in 1764, imprisoned and heavily fined for publishing an obscene and impious libel called "An Essay on Woman;"(e) and very many unreported cases of convictions for a similar offence have since taken place.(f)

Test of obscenity.

The test of obscenity in any publication, according to Cockburn, C.J.,(g) is this: "Whether the tendency of the

(a) *Sir Charles Sedley's case*, 1663 (Keb. 720, 2 Str. 790).
(b) 2 Str. 790; Dig. L. L. 60. (c) Fort. 98.
(d) 2 Str. 789. One of the members of the court when this case first came before it, Fortescue, J., was of opinion that the offence though great, was not punishable by law. *Ib.* 790. (e) 4 Burr. 2527.
(f) As to other forms of obscene or indecent publication, see *Sir Charles Sedley's case* (*ubi supra*); *Rex* v. *Crunden* (2 Camp. 89); *R.* v. *Rouverard* (cited 1 Den. C. C. 338; 2 Car. & K. 933); *Reg.* v. *Webb* (1 Den. C. C. 338); *Reg.* v. *Watson* (2 Cox Crim. Cas. 376); *Reg.* v. *Holmes* (1 Dears. C. C. 207).
(g) *Reg.* v. *Hicklin* (L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 371; 18 L. T. N. S. 398; 36 L. 9, J. 8 M. C.

matter charged as obscenity is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such immoral influences, and into whose hands a publication of the sort may fall."

Having possession of obscene works for purpose of selling.

"Preserving and keeping in one's possession" obscene works for the purpose of uttering and selling them is not an indictable offence. But "obtaining and procuring" them for that purpose is an indictable misdemeanor at common law.(*a*) With reference to counts charging the former as an offence, Lord Campbell, C.J., said: "We must hold them bad, because they are consistent with the possibility that the plaintiff in error may have had the pictures in his possession with an innocent intention; and there is no act shown to be done which can be considered as the first step in the prosecution of a misdemeanor. . . . . Procuring is an overt act, an unlawful step taken in pursuance of the abominable offence of circulating obscene prints to deprave and corrupt the public morals."

Selling obscene works.

By 14 & 15 Vict. c. 100, s. 29, it is enacted that, "whenever any person shall be convicted of any public selling, or exposing for public sale or to public view, of any obscene book, print, picture, or other indecent exhibition, it shall be lawful for the court to sentence the offender to be imprisoned for any term now warranted by law, and also to be kept to hard labour during the whole or any part of such term of imprisonment."

In 1857 a Bill was introduced into Parliament by Lord Campbell for more effectually preventing the sale of obscene books, pictures, prints, and other articles, by giving power to magistrates to issue warrants to search for and seize them. The Bill, on its second reading in the House of Lords, was opposed by several learned lords as unnecessary, vexatious, and likely to be inoperative with respect to the class of works aimed at. The absence of any definition of the word "obscene" was warmly animadverted upon by Lord Lyndhurst, in a speech pointing out that copies of some of the pictures of the greatest masters, and the writings of many of the greatest dramatists and novelists, might be included under the operation of the Act. Alterations were made by Lord Campbell to meet the objections raised, and the Bill became law the same year.(*b*)

(*a*) *Dugdale's case* (1 Dears. C. C. 64.)

(*b*) "The Bill, as it originally stood," said Lord Campbell in committee, "only required an affidavit that the person making it had reasonable ground to suspect that these books were kept for sale and exhibition. The Bill, as now amended, required that the complainant should swear that he had reason to believe, and did believe, that these books or prints were kept in store for sale or exhibition. Another

PART IV
CHAPTER III.

Power to search for obscene books, pictures, &c.

Sect. 1 of this Act (20 & 21 Vict. c. 83) provides that, "it shall be lawful for any metropolitan police magistrate, or other stipendiary magistrate, or for any two justices of the peace, upon complaint made before him or them upon oath that the complainant has reason to believe, and does believe, that any obscene *books, papers, writings, prints, pictures, drawings, or other representations* are kept in any house, shop, room, or other place within the limits of the jurisdiction of any such magistrate or justices, *for the purpose of sale or distribution, exhibition for purposes of gain, lending upon hire, or being otherwise published for purposes of gain,* which complainant shall also state upon oath that one or more articles of the like character have been sold, distributed, exhibited, lent, or otherwise published as aforesaid, at or in connection with such place, so as to satisfy such magistrate or justices that the belief of the said complainant is well founded; and upon such magistrate or justices being also satisfied that any of such articles so kept for any of the purposes aforesaid are of such a character and description that the publication of them would be a misdemeanor, and proper to be prosecuted as such, to give authority by special warrant to any constable or police officer into such house, shop, room, or other place, with such assistance as may be necessary, to enter in the daytime, and, if necessary, to use force by breaking open doors or otherwise, and to search for and seize all such books, papers, writings, prints, pictures, drawings, or other representations as aforesaid found in such house, shop, room, or other place, and to carry all the articles so seized before the magistrate or justices issuing the said warrant, or some other magistrate or justices exercising the same jurisdiction; and such magistrate or justices shall thereupon issue a summons, calling upon the occupier of the house or other place which may have been so entered,

amendment enacted that the complainant should set forth the facts on which he entertained that belief, and if the justice were satisfied on these facts that the books and prints were kept as alleged, he might issue his search warrant, with this additional guard, that he must be satisfied they were such books and prints as that their publication would constitute a misdemeanor by the common law. There was also this further security, that the magistrate must not only be satisfied that the publication of these books and prints was a misdemeanor, but a misdemeanor which ought to be prosecuted by indictment:" (Parliamentary Debates, July 3rd, 1857.)

The Bill, as originally introduced, contained a clause empowering the Chief Commissioner of Police, where he had reasonable information that obscene works were kept, to grant a warrant in the same manner as a magistrate or justices; but the clause, being objected to, was omitted: (*Ib.*)

by virtue of the said warrant, to appear within seven days before such police stipendiary magistrate or any two justices in petty sessions for the district, to show cause why the articles so seized should not be destroyed; and if such occupier or some other person claiming to be the owner of the said articles shall not appear within the time aforesaid, or shall appear, and such magistrate or justices shall be satisfied that such articles, or any of them, are of the character stated in the warrant, and that such, or any of them, have been kept for any of the purposes aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said magistrate or justices, and he or they are hereby required to order the articles so seized, except such of them as he or they may consider necessary to be preserved as evidence in some further proceeding, to be destroyed at the expiration of the time hereinafter allowed for lodging an appeal, unless notice of appeal as hereinafter mentioned be given, and such articles shall be in the meantime impounded; and if such magistrate or justices shall be satisfied that the articles seized are not of the character stated in the warrant, or have not been kept for any of the purposes aforesaid, he or they shall forthwith direct them to be restored to the occupier of the house or other place in which they were seized."

Three things of which justices must be satisfied

The magistrate or justices, before ordering a search and seizure under this section, are to be satisfied of three things: first, that the belief of the complainant is well founded; secondly, that any of the articles published for any of the purposes mentioned are of such a character and description that the publication of them would be a misdemeanor; and thirdly, that the publication in the manner alleged would be proper to be prosecuted.(*a*) And the justices in petty sessions are also in effect to be satisfied of the same three things. Before ordering the works seized to be destroyed, they must be satisfied that the articles complained of have been kept for any of the purposes mentioned, that they are of such a character that it would be a misdemeanor to publish them, and that it would not only be a misdemeanor to publish them, but that it would be proper to be prosecuted as such.(*b*)

The words "and proper to be prosecuted as such," were, according to Blackburn, J.,(*c*) inserted in the section with

(*a*) See per Blackburn, J., *Reg.* v. *Hicklin* (L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 373; 18 L. T. N. S. 398; 37 L. J. 89, M. C.) (*b*) *Per* Blackburn, J., *ib.*

(*c*) *Ib.* "The magistrate," said Lord Lyndhurst, on the third reading of the Bill in the House of Lords, "must also be satisfied that the case is a proper one for a prosecution, so that if indecent passages were

the object of guarding against the vexatious prosecution of publishers of old and recognized standard works, in which there may be some obscene or mischievous matter, *e.g.*, the works of Dryden.

Intention of publisher immaterial.

If a work be in itself obscene, however innocent may be the motive of its publisher, the publication of it is an indictable misdemeanor, and the work may be seized by a magistrate or justices under sect. 1 of 20 & 21 Vict. c. 83.(*a*)

Where a pamphlet called "The Confessional Unmasked; showing the depravity of the Romish priesthood, the iniquity of the confessional, and the questions put to females in confession," containing extracts in Latin, with translations of the same, from various writers, half the pamphlet relating to controversial matters, and the other half being grossly obscene as relating to impure and filthy acts, words, and deeds, was circulated by the appellant, a member of "The Protestant Electoral Union," not for profit or gain, but for the purpose of exposing what he deemed to be the errors of the Church of Rome, and particularly the immorality of the confessional, the pamphlet in fact containing a preface and notes condemnatory of the tenets and principles of the writers cited from, the Court of Queen's Bench held that the justices were right in ordering a number of copies of the pamphlet to be seized in the appellant's house and destroyed as obscene books within this section.(*b*) "I take it," said Cockburn, C. J., "that, apart from the ulterior object which the publisher of this work had in view, the work itself is, in every sense of the term, an obscene publication, and that consequently, as the law of England does not allow of any obscene publication, such publication is indictable. We have it therefore that the publication itself is a breach of the law. But then it is said for the appellant, 'Yes, but his purpose was not to deprave the public mind; his purpose was to expose the errors of the Roman Catholic religion, especially in the matter of the confessional.' Be it so. The question then presents itself in this simple form: May you commit an offence against the law in order that thereby you may effect some ulterior object which you have in view, which may be an honest and even a laudable one? My answer is, emphatically, no. The law says, you shall not taken out of such authors as Dryden or Pope, he would say—'Although these are very indecent passages, and ought never to have been inserted in these works, yet this is not a case for a prosecution:'" (Parliamentary Debates, July 13, 1857).

(*a*) *Reg.* v. *Hicklin* (L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 373; 37 L. J. 89, M.C.; 18 L. T. N. S. 398.

(*b*) *Ib.*

publish an obscene work. An obscene work is here published, and a work, the obscenity of which is so clear and decided that it is impossible to suppose that the man who published it must not have known and seen that the effect upon the minds of many of those into whose hands it would come, would be of a mischievous and demoralizing character. . . . I think the old sound and honest maxim that you shall not do evil that good may come, is applicable in law as well as in morals; and here we have a certain and positive evil produced for the purpose of effecting an uncertain, remote, and very doubtful good. I think, therefore, the case for the order is made out; and although I quite concur in thinking that the motive of the parties who published this work, however mistaken, was an honest one, yet I cannot suppose but what they had that intention which constitutes the criminalty of the act: at any rate, that they knew perfectly well that this work must have the tendency which in point of law makes it an obscene publication, namely, the tendency to corrupt the minds and morals of those into whose hands it might come. The mischief of it, I think, cannot be exaggerated. But it is not upon that I take my stand in the judgment I pronounce. I am of opinion, as the learned recorder has found, that this is an obscene publication. I hold that where a man publishes a work manifestly obscene he must be taken to have had the intention which is implied from that act; and that, as soon as you have an illegal act thus established, *quoad* the intention and *quoad* the act, it does not lie in the mouth of the man who does it to say, 'Well, I was breaking the law, but I was breaking it for some wholesome and salutary purpose.' The law does not allow that. You must abide by the law, and if you would accomplish your object, you must do it in a legal manner, or let it alone; you must not do it in a manner which is illegal."

Appeal from act of magistrate or justices.

Any person aggrieved by any act or determination of the magistrate or justices in or concerning the execution of the above Act may appeal to the next general or quarter sessions for the county, riding, division, city, borough, or place in and for which such magistrate or justices shall have so acted, giving to the magistrate or justices of the peace whose act or determination shall be appealed against notice in writing of such appeal, and of the grounds thereof within seven days after such act or determination, and before the next general or quarter sessions, and entering within such seven days into a recognisance with sufficient surety, before a justice of the peace for the county, city,

borough, or place in which such act or determination shall have taken place, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal, and to abide the order of and pay such costs as shall be awarded by such court of quarter sessions, or any adjournment thereof; and the court at such general or quarter sessions shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and such court upon hearing and finally determining such appeal shall, and may, according to their discretion, award such costs to the party appealing or appealed against, as they shall think proper; and if such appeal be dismissed or decided against the appellant, or be not prosecuted, such court may order the articles seized forthwith to be destroyed: provided always that it shall not be lawful for the appellant on the hearing of any such appeal to go into or give evidence of any other grounds of appeal against any such order, act, or determination, than those set forth in such notice of appeal.(*a*)

Wrongful acts, done in execution of the Act.

Sect. 2 enacts that "no plaintiff shall recover in any action for any irregularity, trespass, or other wrongful proceeding made or committed in the execution of this Act, or in, under, or by virtue of any authority hereby given, if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made by or on behalf of the party who shall have committed such irregularity, trespass, or other wrongful proceeding, before such action brought; and in case no tender shall have been made, it shall be lawful for the defendant in any such action by leave of the court where such action shall depend, at any time before issue joined, to pay into court such sum of money as he shall think fit, whereupon such proceeding, order, and adjudication shall be had and made in and by such court as in other actions where defendants are allowed to pay money into court."

No action, suit, or information, or any other proceeding, of what nature soever, is to be brought against any person for anything done or omitted to be done in pursuance of this Act, or in the execution of the authorities under this Act, unless notice in writing has been given by the party intending to prosecute such action, suit, information, or other proceeding to the intended defendant, one calendar month at least before prosecuting the same.(*b*) Such action, suit, information, or other proceeding must be brought or commenced within three calendar months next after the act or omission complained of, or in case there shall be a

(*a*) 20 & 21 Vict. c. 83, s. 4. (*b*) Sect. 3.

continuation of damage, then within three calendar months next after the doing such damage shall have ceased.(a)

The stats. 18 & 19 Vict. c. 41, and 23 & 24 Vict. c. 32, have taken away the jurisdiction in suits for defamation which the Ecclesiastical Courts formerly possessed in England, Wales, and Ireland.

CHAPTER IV.

SEDITIOUS LIBELS.

Summary of history of freedom of the press.

During a long period of our history the press of the country was under a rigorous censorship. The number of printers,(b) and of the presses used by them, was strictly limited, and the publication of new works was prohibited unless previously authorised by licensers. The censorship of the press was part of the prerogative of the Crown, exercised chiefly through the tribunal of the Star Chamber. On the abolition of the Star Chamber, in 1641, the Long Parliament assumed to itself the jurisdiction exercised by that court in matters relating to the press, and passed many severe ordinances in restraint of printing. The restraints of the press were continued after the Restoration by the Licensing Act of 13 & 14 Car. 2, c. 33 ("An Act for preventing the frequent abuses in printing seditious, treasonable, and unlicensed books and pamphlets, and for regulating of printing and printing presses"). This Act interdicted the printing of pamphlets and books except in London, York, and the Universities; limited the number of master printers to twenty; regulated the number of their presses and apprentices; appointed licensers, and imposed severe penalties on offenders against its provisions. Many cruel punishments were inflicted under this Act.(c) It continued in force till 1679, and in 1685

(a) 20 & 21 Vict. c. 83, s. 3.

(b) Queen Elizabeth prohibited printing except in London, Oxford, and Cambridge (1 St. Tr. 1263).

(c) In 1680, when the Licensing Act had ceased for a time to operate, the opinion of the judges on the subject of unlicensed printing was expressed by Chief Justice Scroggs in the following manner. At the trial of Benjamin Harris, a bookseller, for the publication of a libel entitled "An Appeal from the Country to the City for the Preservation of his Majesty's Person, Liberty, Property, and the Protestant Religion," the Chief Justice said, "It is not long since that all the judges met by the King's command—as they did some time before, too—and they both times declared unanimously that all persons that do write or print or sell any pamphlet that is either scandalous to public or private persons, such books may be seized and the person punished

was revived (by 1 Jac. 2, c. 17) for seven years. In 1692 it was continued (by 4 Will. & M. c. 24) until the end of the session of 1693, since when its operation has ceased, notwithstanding several attempts to revive it.(*a*) The liberty of the press dates from that year.

Liberty of press.

The liberty of the press, according to Blackstone,(*b*) when rightly understood, "consists in laying no *previous* restraints upon publications; not in freedom from censure for criminal matter when published."(*c*) Though this is true, it cannot, as Hallam remarks,(*d*) be said to exist in any security, or sufficiently for its principal ends, where discussions of a political or religious nature, whether general or particular, are restrained by too narrow and severe limitations. What the actual limitations are in matters political will be dis-

by law; that all books which are scandalous to the Government may be seized, and all persons so exposing them may be punished; and, further, that all writers of news, though not scandalous, seditious, or reflective upon the Government or the State, yet if they are writers (as there are few others) of false news, they are indictable and punishable upon that account": (7 St. Tr. 929.)

(*a*) "While the Abbey was hanging with black for the funeral of the Queen, the Commons came to a vote which at the time attracted little attention, which produced no excitement, which has been left unnoticed by voluminous annalists, and of which the history can be but imperfectly traced in the archives of Parliament, but which has done more for liberty and for civilisation than the Great Charter or the Bill of Rights. Early in the session a select committee had been appointed to ascertain what temporary statutes were about to expire, and to consider which of those statutes it might be expedient to continue. The report was made; and all the recommendations contained in that report were adopted, with one exception. Among the laws which the committee advised the House to renew was the law which subjected the press to a censorship. The question was put 'that the House do agree with the committee in the resolution that the Act entitled An Act for preventing abuses in printing seditious, treasonable, and unlicensed pamphlets, and for regulating of printing and printing presses, be continued.' The Speaker pronounced that the 'noes' had it; and the 'ayes' did not think fit to divide:" (Macaulay, Hist. of Eng. vol. 4, p. 540.) As to the reasons which induced Parliament to discontinue the Licensing Act, see p. 541 of the volume last referred to. (*b*) 4 Steph. Com. 346.

(*c*) To the same effect Lord Mansfield: "The liberty of the press consists in printing without any previous licence, subject to the consequence of law:" (*The King* v. *Dean of St. Asaph*, 3 T. R. 429.) Lord Ellenborough: "The law of England is a law of liberty, and, consistently with this liberty, we have not what is called an *imprimatur*; there is no such preliminary licence necessary; but if a man publish a paper he is exposed to the penal consequences, as he is in every other act, if it be illegal:" (*Rex* v. *Cobbett*, 29 Howell's St. Tr. 49.) And Fitzgerald, J.: "By liberty of the press I mean complete freedom to write and publish without censorship and without restriction, save such as was absolutely necessary for the preservation of society:" (11 Cox Cr. Cas. 49.)

(*d*) Const. Hist. vol. 3, p. 227 (edit. 1832).

cussed in this chapter, in treating of libellous attacks on the Sovereign, on the Administration, and on the Constitution generally.

Form of publication

It is to be observed, in the first place, with respect to seditious, as well as other libels, that pictures, engravings, or woodcuts may be libellous as well as written or printed words.(*a*)

Function of jury.

It is to be observed, in the second place, that in these, as in other cases of libel, the jury are the sole judges of both law and fact: they are to determine not only the fact of publication, but also whether the libel was published with the seditious intention charged in the indictment or information.

"You," said Fitzgerald, J., to the jury, in a case of this sort, "are the sole judges of the guilt or innocence of the defendant. The judges are here to give any help they can, but the jury are the judges of law and fact, and on them rests the whole responsibility. In this sense the jury are the true guardians of the liberty of the press."(*b*) "The questions of law are usually for the judge, and on them the jury are bound to take his direction; the questions of fact are solely for their determination. In this peculiar case of libel the law of the land says that the jury shall determine the whole question, whether the publication is a libel or a seditious libel."(*c*)

The fact that the House of Commons has resolved a particular publication to be a malicious, scandalous, and seditious libel, tending to create jealousies and divisions amongst the liege subjects of the Sovereign, and to alienate the affections of the people of this country from the constitution, does not deprive the jury of their right to determine whether the publication is really a seditious libel or not.(*d*) In a case of this sort, Lord Kenyon, C.J., told the jury that in this country a defendant could never be crushed by the name of his prosecutor, however great that name might be; this was not the first prosecution commenced under the direction of the House of Commons which had failed: in the *King* v. *Stockdale* the House of Commons were also the prosecutors, but the defendant in that case was not weighed down by the weight of the prosecution, nor did the jury hold themselves

(*a*) See *Reg.* v. *Sullivan* (11 Cox Crim. Cas. 51, 53-55).

(*b*) *Ib.* p. 50; see also *per* Deasy, B., *ib.* p. 60. Lord Kenyon thus gives the substance of all that has been said on this subject: "That a man may publish anything which twelve of his countrymen think is not blameable, but that he ought to be punished if he publishes that which is blameable:" (*Rex* v. *Cuthell*, 27 Howell's St. Tr. 675).

(*c*) *Ib.* p. 52.

(*d*) *The King* v. *Reeves* (2 Peake's N. P. Cas. 84).

bound to find the publication a libel because the House o Commons had voted it to be such.(*a*)

Gist of offence.

The criminal intention is the gist of the offence. "Th crime laid," said Fitzgerald, J., to a grand jury,(*b*) "is the intent, and you can only find a bill against the accused when you come conscientiously to the conclusion—assuming you find the articles to be seditious—that they were published with the intent laid in the indictment, namely, to spread, stir up, and excite disaffection and sedition against the Queen's subjects, to excite hatred and contempt towards Her Majesty's Government and Administration," &c.

LIBELS AGAINST THE SOVEREIGN PERSONALLY.

The old law on the subject of words spoken or written against the Sovereign personally has undergone considerable alteration in more recent times.

Statutory enactments.

The following statutory enactments on the subject are still in force:

An Act of 3 Edw. 1, c. 34, provides "that from henceforth none be so hardy to tell or publish any false news or tales whereby discord, or occasion of discord or slander may grow between the king and his people, or the great men of this realm."

Sect. 1 of 6 Anne, c. 7, made it high treason for any person maliciously, advisedly, and directly, by writing or printing to maintain and affirm that the then sovereign was not the lawful and rightful queen of these realms, or that the Pretender had any right or title to the Crown, or that any other person or persons has or have any right or title to the same, otherwise than according to the Bill of Rights,(*c*) the Act of Settlement,(*d*) and the Acts for the Union of England and Scotland; or that the kings or queens of this realm, with and by the authority of Parliament, are not able to make laws and statutes of sufficient force and validity to limit and bind the Crown, and the descent, limitation, inheritance, and government thereof.

Words spoken against the king were in more than one case, before the time of Charles I., held to be treasonable. To accuse the king of having committed murder,(*e*) or to say that a king *de facto* and not *de jure* was the rightful

(*a*) 2 Peake's N. P. Cas. 86, 87. The jury in this case returned a verdict of not guilty. *Rex* v. *Stockdale* was the case of a criminal information filed against the defendant, in accordance with a vote of the House of Commons, for publishing a review of the articles of impeachment against Warren Hastings. The jury found the defendant not guilty.

(*b*) See *Reg.* v. *Sullivan* (11 Cox Crim. Cas. 47). See also *The King* v. *Reeves* (2 Peake's N. P. Cas. 84). (*c*) 1 Will. & M. sess. 2, c. 2.

(*d*) 12 & 13 Will. 3, c. 2. (*e*) *Juliana Quick's case* (21 Hen. 6).

king,(*a*) was held to amount to high treason.(*b*) But in the case of Hugh Pine,(*c*) who was accused of having spoken several disparaging words concerning the king (Charles I.), all the judges having been commanded to assemble themselves, to consider and resolve what offence the speaking of those words was, it was resolved by them "that the speaking of the words before mentioned, though they were as wicked as might be, were not treason; that, unless it were by some particular statute, no words will be treason."

To charge the king with a personal vice was held by the judges, upon debate of Peacham's case, not to be treason.(*d*)

Unpublished writing.

The law as to words spoken, one would have imagined, ought to have been held equally applicable to unpublished writings. Nevertheless, a clergyman named Peacham was found guilty of treason, in the reign of Charles I., for certain passages in a sermon found in his study, which was never preached or intended to be preached. Many of the judges, however, were of opinion that this was not treason, and Peacham was not executed.(*e*) "This case," says Sir Michael Foster,(*f*) "therefore weigheth very little; and no great regard has been paid to it ever since."(*g*) In the case of Algernon Sidney, an unpublished paper, forming part of a theoretical work on Government, found in his house, was given in evidence against him, and the Chief Justice (Jefferies) in his charge to the jury, insinuated that the doctrines contained in the paper were treasonable in themselves and without reference to other evidence.(*h*) If this paper had related to the treasonable practices charged in the indictment, it would no doubt have been admissible in evidence against the accused, though unpublished; "but papers not capable of such connection, while they remain in the hands of the author unpublished, as Mr. Sidney's did,

(*a*) *Germaine's case* (2 Edw. 4).
(*b*) See also *Challercomb's case*, cited Cro. Car. 125.
(*c*) Cro. Car. 117, 126. (*d*) *Ib.* 126. (*e*) *Ib.* 125.
(*f*) First Discourse of High Treason, chap. 1, 199.
(*g*) The King (James I.) instructed the Attorney-General (Bacon) as to the best measures to be taken for the defendant's examination, and the judges were sounded separately before they could have an opportunity of conferring together, the Attorney-General himself undertaking to practice upon the Chief Justice (Coke) of whom some doubt was entertained. A conviction procured by such means is of little value as a precedent.
(*h*) 9 St. Tr. 889, 893. He said: "In the next place I am to tell you, that though some judges have been of opinion that words of themselves were not an overt act, but my Lord Hale, nor my Lord Coke, nor any other of the sages of the law, ever questioned but that a letter would be an overt act, sufficient to prove a man guilty of high treason; for *scribere est agere*." "If you believe that that was Colonel Sidney's book, writ by him, no man can doubt but it is a sufficient evidence that he is guilty of compassing and imagining the death of the king."

will not make a man a traitor."(*a*) The judgment in Sidney's case was reversed by Act of Parliament in 1689.(*b*)

Though neither words spoken nor an unpublished writing will amount to an overt act of treason, to make good an indictment of compassing the death of the sovereign, under 25 Edw. 3, c. 2, yet a writing which imports such a compassing, if it be published, will amount to an overt act of treason under that statute.(*c*)

Attacks on the sovereign.

Apart from statute, all contempts against the sovereign's person or government, are, according to the text books, very highly criminal, and punishable with fine and imprisonment, by the discretion of the judges, upon consideration of all the circumstances of the case.(*d*) Under this head is ranked contemptuously speaking of the sovereign, as by cursing him, &c., or giving out that he wants wisdom, valour, or steadiness; or in general, doing anything which may lessen him in the esteem of his subjects, weaken his government, or raise jealousies between him and his people.(*e*) Stating or insinuating that he acts from partial or corrupt motives, or with an intention to favour or oppress any individual, or class of men, would be a seditious libel; but not the imputation of honest error without moral blame.(*f*)

It is a criminal libel to publish falsely of the Sovereign, as of any other person, that he is insane.(*g*)

Lord Ellenborough's exposition of law as to attacks on sovereign personally.

A leading case on the subject of seditious libels is that of *The King* v. *Lambert and Perry*,(*h*) in which the law relating to seditious libels which attack the Sovereign personally is fully stated by Lord Ellenborough, C.J., in his summing up to the jury. The defendants were the printer and the proprietor of the *Morning Chronicle*, and the libel for the publication of which the criminal information was filed was the following: "What a crowd of blessings rush upon one's mind that might be bestowed upon the country in the event of a total change of system! Of all monarchs, indeed, since the Revolution, the successor of George the Third will have the finest opportunity of becoming nobly popular."(*i*) Lord

(*a*) Foster, chap. 1, p. 198.
(*b*) See the Act (a private one) in 9 St. Tr. 996.
(*c*) Hale's P. C. 118; Foster's First Discourse on Treason, chap. 1, 198; *Williams's case* (2 Roll. Rep. 88; 3 Inst. 121).
(*d*) Hawk. P. C., book 1, c. 6. (*e*) *Ib.*
(*f*) *Per* Lord Ellenborough, *Rex* v. *Lambert and Perry* (2 Camp. 402, 403).
(*g*) *Rex* v. *Harvey* (2 B. & C. 257). (*h*) 2 Camp. 398.
(*i*) The information charged that the defendants "being seditious, malicious, and ill-disposed persons, and being greatly disaffected to our present Sovereign Lord, George the Third, &c., and to his administra-

Ellenborough said: "The fair meaning of the expression 'change of system,' I think is a change of political system—and not a change in the frame of the established government—but in the measures of policy which have been for some time pursued. By total change of system is certainly not meant *subversion* or *demolition;* for the descent of the crown to the successor of his Majesty is mentioned immediately after. The writer goes on to speak of the blessings that may be enjoyed upon the accession of the Prince of Wales; and therefore cannot be understood to allude to a change inconsistent with the full vigour of the monarchical part of the constitution. Now, I do not know that merely saying that there would be blessings from a change of system, without reference to the period at which they may be expected, is expressing a wish or a sentiment that may not be innocently expressed in reviewing the political condition of the country. The information treats this as a libel on the person of his Majesty, and his personal administration of the government of the country. But there may be error in the present system, without any vicious motives, and with the greatest virtues, on the part of the reigning sovereign. He may be misled by the ministers he employs, and a change of system may be desirable from their faults. He may himself, notwithstanding the utmost solicitude for the happiness of his people, take an erroneous view of some great question of policy, either foreign or domestic. I know but of ONE BEING to whom error may not be imputed. If a person who admits the wisdom and the virtues of his Majesty, laments that in the exercise of these he has taken an unfortunate and erroneous view of the interests of his dominions, I am not prepared to say that this tends to degrade his Majesty, or to alienate the affections of his subjects. I am not prepared to say that this is libellous. But it must be with perfect decency and respect, and without any imputation of bad motives. Go one step farther,

tion of the government of this kingdom, and most unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously devising, designing, and intending as much as in them lay, to bring our said Lord the King and his administration of the government of this kingdom, and the persons employed by him in the administration of the government of this kingdom into great and public hatred and contempt among all his liege subjects, and to alienate and withdraw from our said Lord the King, the cordial love and affection, true and due obedience, fidelity, and allegiance of the subjects of our said Lord the King, did unlawfully, seditiously, and maliciously print and publish, and cause, &c., a certain scandalous, malicious, and seditious libel of and concerning our said Lord the King and his administration of the government of this kingdom, to the tenor and effect following," &c.

and say or insinuate that his Majesty acts from any partial or corrupt view, or with an intention to favour or oppress any individual or class of men, and it would become most libellous. However, merely to represent that an erroneous system of government obtains under his Majesty's reign, I am not prepared to say exceeds the freedom of discussion on political subjects which the law permits. Then comes the next sentence: 'Of all monarchs, indeed, since the Revolution, the successor of George the Third will have the finest opportunity of becoming nobly popular.' This is more equivocal; and it will be for you, gentlemen of the jury, to determine what is the fair import of the words employed. Formerly it was the practice to say, that words were to be taken in the more lenient sense; but that doctrine is now exploded; they are not to be taken in the more lenient or more severe sense; but in the sense which fairly belongs to them, and which they were intended to convey. Now, do these words means that his Majesty is actuated by improper motives, or that his successor may render himself nobly popular by taking a more lively interest in the welfare of his subjects? Such sentiments, as it would be most mischievous, so it would be most criminal to propagate. But if the passage only means that his Majesty, during his reign, or at any length of time, may have taken an imperfect view of the interests of the country, either respecting our foreign relations or the system of our internal policy, if it imputes nothing but honest error without moral blame, I am not prepared to say that it is a libel. The extract read at the request of the defendants (*a*) does seem to me too remote in point of situation in the newspaper to have any material bearing on the paragraph in question. If it had formed a part of the same discussion, it must certainly have tended strongly to show the innocence of the whole. It speaks of that which everybody in his Majesty's dominions knows, his Majesty's solicitude for the happiness of his people; and it expresses a respectful regard for his paternal virtues. What connection it has with the passage set out in the information, it is for you to determine. Taking that passage substantively and by itself, it is a matter, I think, somewhat doubtful, whether the writer meant to calumniate the person and character of our august Sovereign. If you are satisfied that this was his intention, by the application of your understandings honestly and fairly to the words com-

(*a*) The defendant was allowed to read another paragraph from the same newspaper, at a considerable distance from the alleged libel and printed in a different type, for the purpose of explaining it.

plained of, and you think they cannot properly be interpreted by the extract which has been read from the same paper, you will find the defendants *guilty*. But if, looking at the obnoxious paragraph by itself, you are persuaded that it betrays no such intention, or if, feeling yourselves warranted to import into your consideration of it a passage connected with the subject, though considerably distant in place and disjoined by other matter, you infer from that connexion that this was written without any purpose to calumniate the personal government of his Majesty and render it odious to his people, you will find the defendants not guilty. The question of intention is for your consideration. You will not distort the words, but give them their application and meaning as they impress your minds. What appears to me most material is the substantive paragraph itself; and if you consider it as meant to represent that the reign of his Majesty is the only thing interposed between the subjects of this country and the possession of great blessings, which are likely to be enjoyed in the reign of his successor, and thus to render his Majesty's administration of his government odious, it is a calumnious paragraph, and to be dealt with as a libel. If on the contrary, you do not see that it means distinctly, according to your reasoning, to impute any purposed maladministration to his Majesty or those acting under him, but may be fairly construed as an expression of regret that an erroneous view has been taken of public affairs, I am not prepared to say that it is a libel."(*a*) This direction of Lord Ellenborough has been quoted at length, as being at once the most recent and the fullest authoritative exposition of the law relating to this branch of our subject.

Liability of printers.

In 1729, an information was filed against John Clerk, charging him with printing and publishing an infamous libel called *Mist's Weekly Journal*, wherein the King's title to the Crown was openly struck at, his legitimacy called in question, and the persons of several of the royal family scandalously traduced under borrowed names; by representing the late King (George I.) under the name of Merewits, his present Majesty under that of Esreff, the Queen under that of Sultana; and at the same time drawing a beautiful character of the Pretender by the name of the Young Sophi, and setting forth the tyranny and subjection all Englishmen lay under, by representing them under the name of the Persians. The charge against the defendant was for maliciously and traitorously printing off one of these

(*a*) The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

papers in particular; but, according to the report, the evidence produced at the trial was that he acted merely as servant to the printer, and that his business was only to clap down the press; and few or no circumstances were offered of his knowing the import of the paper, or being conscious of doing anything illegal. It was objected, by the counsel for the defendant, that the paper ought not to be thought a libel upon the royal family, because the characters drawn in it were by no means agreeable to the persons supposed to be represented; but, if anything related to them, it was entirely opposite to what each was known to deserve; and, secondly, that the evidence did not come up to the charge, the fact of printing being charged to be attended with a malicious and traitorous design, whereas it was only proved that it was done through ignorance and in obedience to his master's authority. It was answered by the counsel for the Crown that they were only called on to show that the construction they put upon the paper was such as the generality of readers would put upon it, according to its obvious and natural sense; and, secondly, that if they could have given evidence of express malice, that fact would have been treason within the statute of 6 Anne, c. 7; but the charge being only for printing and publishing a seditious libel, the circumstance of malice was entirely immaterial: and the Lord Chief Justice (Raymond) having agreed the law to be so, the jury found the defendant guilty.(*a*)

A similar information was filed against a compositor named Knell, one of two servants of Mist, for printing and publishing the same work. The evidence being that the defendant and his fellow servant set up the type, and that one took one column of it downwards and the other the other column, the Chief Justice directed the jury to acquit the defendant as to the publication; but, if they believed the evidence, to find him guilty of the printing; and the jury did so.(*b*) An old bed-ridden woman was indicted for publishing the same libel; the only evidence being that she kept a pamphlet shop at which the libel was sold, the shop being shown to be a mile distant from the house in which she had for a long time lain bed-ridden. The jury refused to do anything else than find specially the circumstances given in evidence before them, and the Attorney-General at length consented to withdraw a juror.(*c*)

The North Briton. In 1763, an information was filed against John Wilkes, for printing and publishing a certain malicious, seditious,

(*a*) 1 Barnardiston's Rep. 304. (*b*) *Ib.* 305.
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Nutt* (*Ib.* 306).

and scandalous libel, intituled "*The North Briton*, number 45," tending to vilify and traduce the King and his government, to impeach and disparage his veracity and honour, and to represent and make it to be believed that his Majesty's most gracious speech delivered from his throne to the Parliament, on the 19th day of April, 1763, contained many falsities and gross impositions upon the public, and that his Majesty had suffered the honour of his Crown to be sunk and prostituted, and the interests of his subjects and allies to be treacherously betrayed; and also to render the King and his government contemptible and odious, and to excite tumults, commotions, and insurrections; and to violate and disturb the public tranquillity, good order, and peace of the kingdom. He was found guilty, and sentenced to be fined and imprisoned. George Kearsley was convicted of printing and publishing, and John Williams of publishing the same number of *The North Briton*.(*a*)

Treason felony.

The condition of Ireland, in 1848, induced the Government of that time to introduce a bill into Parliament for the better security of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom, by making it treason felony to publish or utter for the future such seditious writings or language as then incited the people to disaffection and rebellion.(*b*) The bill became law the same year (11 & 12 Vict. c. 12).

(*a*) Dig. L. L. 69, K. B. MSS., Easter Term, 3 Geo. 3, and Hilary Term, 4 Geo. 3. See also the cases of *Rex* v. *Woodfall* (5 Burr. 2661), and *Rex* v. *Almon* (*ib.* 2686), where the defendants were convicted of publishing certain letters of "Junius."

(*b*) Previously to the passing of this Act, the law on the subject stood thus: The only statute relating to treason, which beyond doubt extended to Ireland, was that of the 25 Edw. 3, c. 2, by which any person compassing or imagining the death of the Sovereign, levying war against him, or being adherent to the king's enemies in his realm, giving to them aid or comfort in the realm or elsewhere, is guilty of high treason. An Act of 36 Geo. 3, c. 7, made perpetual by 57 Geo. 3, c. 6, extended the law of treason by making it applicable to persons who should, within the realm or without, compass, imagine, invent, devise, or intend death or destruction, or any bodily harm tending to death or destruction, maim or wounding, imprisonment or restraint of the person of his Majesty, his heirs or successors, or to deprive or depose him or them from the style, honour, or kingly name of the Imperial Crown of this realm, or of any other of his Majesty's dominions or countries, or to levy war against his said Majesty, his heirs and successors within this realm, in order by force or constraint to compel him or them to change his or their measures or counsels, or in order to put any force or constraint upon or to intimidate or overawe both Houses or either House of Parliament, or to move or stir any foreigner or stranger with force to invade this realm, or any other of his said Majesty's dominions, or countries under the obeisance of his said Majesty, his heirs and successors, and such compassings, imaginations, inventions, devices, or intentions, or any of them, should express,

Sect. 3 enacts, "that if any person whatsoever after the passing of this Act shall, within the United Kingdom or without, compass, imagine, invent, devise, or intend to deprive or depose our most gracious lady the Queen, her heirs or successors from the style, honour, or royal name of the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom, or of any other of Her Majesty's dominions and countries, or to levy war against Her Majesty, her heirs, or successors, within any part of the United Kingdom, in order by force or constraint to compel her or them to change her or their measures or counsels, or in order to put any force or constraint upon, or in order to intimidate or overawe both Houses or either House of Parliament, or to move or stir any foreigner or stranger with force to invade the United Kingdom, or any other Her Majesty's dominions or countries, under the obeisance of Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, and such compassings, imaginations, inventions, devices, or intentions, or any of them, shall express, utter, or declare *by publishing any printing or writing*, or by open and advised speaking, or by any overt act or deed, every person so offending shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the court, to be transported(*a*) beyond the seas for the term of his or her natural life, or for any term not less than seven years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, as the court shall direct."

Sect. 8 provides that in the case of every felony punishable under this Act, every principal in the second degree and every accessory before the fact shall be punishable in utter, or declare by *publishing any printing or writing*, or by any overt act or deed. The punishment for the offence was death. The preponderance of legal opinion was in favour of the view that the statute of 36 Geo. 3, c. 7, as made perpetual by 57 Geo. 3, c. 6, did not extend to Ireland. The present Act (11 & 12 Vict. c. 12) was passed to make the law on the subject uniform throughout the United Kingdom, by extending to Ireland (sect. 2) all the provisions of the former Act which are not by the present Act repealed. Sect. 1 repeals all the provisions of 57 Geo. 3, c. 6, on this subject, except such as relate to the compassing, imagining, inventing, devising, or intending death or destruction, or any bodily harm tending to death or destruction, maim or wounding, imprisonment or restraint of the *person* of the Sovereign, and the expressing, uttering, or declaring of such compassings, imaginations, inventions, devices, or intentions, or any of them.

(*a*) The punishment by transportation beyond the seas has been abolished by the Act. 16 & 17 Vict. c. 99, and 20 & 21 Vict. c. 3, and that by penal servitude substituted for it. By 27 & 28 Vict. c 47, no person is in any case to be sentenced to penal servitude for a shorter period than five years, or, if previously convicted for felony (either on indictment or by way of summary conviction) for less than seven years.

the same manner as the principal in the first degree is by the Act punishable; and every accessory after the fact to any such felony shall, on conviction, be liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two years.

In an indictment under this Act, the offender may be charged with any number of the matters, acts, or deeds by which such compassings, &c., as aforesaid, or any of them, shall have been expressed, uttered, or declared.(*a*) If the facts or matters alleged in the indictment shall amount in law to treason, the indictment is not by reason thereof to be deemed void, erroneous, or defective; neither, if the facts or matters proved on the trial of any person indicted for felony under the Act amount in law to treason, is the person tried to be entitled by reason thereof to be acquitted of the felony; but no person tried for such felony is afterwards to be prosecuted for treason upon the same facts.(*b*)

Nothing in this Act contained is to lessen the force of, or in any manner to affect anything enacted by, the statute of 25 Edw. 3, c. 2.(*c*)

LIBELS ON THE ADMINISTRATION.

How far criticisms on Government are allowed.

Everybody may, with impunity, criticise the conduct of the Government, provided he does it fairly and honestly; but imputations of corrupt motives in the administration of affairs, or other writings calculated to alienate the affections of the people by bringing the Government into disesteem,(*d*) or likely to excite sedition,(*e*) whether such be the writer's intention or not,(*f*) come within the denomination of seditious libels, and are punishable as such.

"It is certain," says Hawkins,(*g*) "that it is a very high aggravation of a libel that it tends to scandalise the Government by reflecting on those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs, which doth not only endanger the public peace, as all other libels do, by stirring up the parties immediately concerned in it to acts of revenge, but also has a direct tendency to breed in the people a dislike of their governors, and incline them to faction and sedition."

"It has been observed," said Lord Ellenborough,(*h*) "that it is the right of the British subject to exhibit the

(*a*) Sect. 5. (*b*) Sect. 7. (*c*) Sect. 6.
(*d*) See *per* Lord Ellenborough in *Rex* v. *Cobbett* (29 Howell's St. Tr. 49). (*e*) See *per* Best, J., in *Rex* v. *Burdett* (4 B. & Ald. 131).
(*f*) *Ib.* See also *per* Littledale, J., in *Rex* v. *Lovett* (9 C. & P. 466).
(*g*) P. C., Book I, chap. 28, "Libels," s. 7.
(*h*) *Rex* v. *Cobbett* (29 Howell's St. Tr. 53).

folly or imbecility of the members of the Government. . . . If, in so doing, individual feelings are violated, there the line of interdiction begins, and the offence becomes the subject of penal legislation."

"A writer," says Fitzgerald, J.,(*a*) "may criticise or censure the conduct of the servants of the Crown or the acts of the Government; he can do it freely and liberally, but it must be without malignity, and not imputing corrupt or malicious motives. With the same motives a writer may freely criticise the proceedings of courts of justice and of individual judges—nay, he is invited to do so, and to do so in a free and fair and liberal spirit. The law does not seek to put any narrow construction on the expressions used, and only interferes when plainly and deliberately the limits are passed of frank and candid and honest discussion. . . . . There is no sedition in censuring the servants of the Crown, or in just criticism on the administration of the law, or in seeking redress of grievances, or in the fair discussion of all party questions."

Test of libel.

Many cases have been decided under this head of the law of libel, but no finer test of what constitutes the offence can be deduced from them than the following—the plain intrinsic tendency of the particular publication to produce public disorder, and the malicious intention of its author.(*b*)

Cases decided.

In *Rex* v. *Tutchin* (*c*) the defendant was charged with having falsely, seditiously, and scandalously written, composed, and published a certain false, malicious, seditious, and scandalous libel, intituled "The Observator." The information set forth several passages from "The Observator," some of which lamented the sad state of the country owing to the influence of French gold on those who had the conduct of affairs; whilst others complained of the mismanagement of the navy, attributing ignorance and incapacity to those who had the management of it. It having been contended on behalf of the defendant that the publications could not be libels, because they did not reflect upon particular persons, Lord Holt, C.J., said to the jury:(*d*) "This is a very strange doctrine, to say it is not a libel reflecting on the Government, endeavouring to possess the people that the Government is maladministered by corrupt

(*a*) 11 Cox Crim. Cas. 49, 50.

(*b*) Starkie on Libel, 617, 3rd Edit.; Holt's Rep. 424. *Rex* v. *Beere* (12 Mod. Rep. 219, Holt's Rep. 422), *Rex* v. *Laurence* (12 Mod. 311), and *Rex* v. *Bliss* (Dig. L. L. 122) are cases, amongst others, in which publications of this nature have been punished; but they throw no additional light on the principle above stated.

(*c*) 14 Howell's St. Tr. 1095. (*d*) *Ib.* 1127.

persons that are employed in such or such stations either in the navy or army. To say that corrupt officers are appointed to administer affairs is certainly a reflection on the Government. If people should not be called to account for possessing the people with an ill opinion of the Government, no Government can subsist; for it is very necessary for all Governments that the people should have a good opinion of it (*sic*). And nothing can be worse to any Government than to endeavour to procure animosities as to the mismanagement of it; this has been always looked upon as a crime, and no Government can be safe without it be punished. Now you are to consider whether these words I have read to you do not tend to beget an ill opinion of the administration of the Government." (*a*)

Richard Francklin was tried and convicted in 1731 for printing and publishing in *The Craftsman* a seditious libel, intituled "A Letter from the Hague," (*b*) wickedly, maliciously, and seditiously contriving and intending to disturb and disquiet the public peace and tranquillity of the kingdom, and to bring the treaty of peace into contempt and disgrace, and also to detract, scandalise, traduce, and vilify the administration of His Majesty's present Government of this kingdom and his principal officers and ministers of state, and to represent his said officers and ministers of state as persons of no integrity and ability, and as enemies to the public good of this kingdom, and to cause it to be believed that His Majesty by the advice of his said principal officers and ministers intended to break and violate the said treaty last mentioned, &c. "Even a private man's character," said Lord Raymond, C.J., "is not to be scandalised, either directly or indirectly, because there are remedies appointed by the law in case he has injured any person, without maliciously scandalising him in his character; and much less is a magistrate's, minister of state, or other public person's character to be stained either directly or indirectly, because the law hath pointed out another remedy than publishing libels, if they have injured any person either in a public or private capacity. And the law always punishes libels even among private persons, because they flow from malice and tend to create disturbance, quarrels, and revenge between them, their families and kindred, and disturb the public peace; and the law reckons it a greater offence when

(*a*) Tutchin was convicted; but a new trial was afterwards granted on a technical point, and he was not tried again.

(*b*) 9 St. Tr. 255 (17 Howell's St. Tr. 626). The "Letter from the Hague" was said to have been written by Bolingbroke.

the libel is pointed at persons in a public capacity, as it is a reproach to the Government to have corrupt magistrates, &c., substituted by his Majesty, and tends to sow sedition and disturb the peace of the kingdom." And his Lordship refused to allow the admission of any evidence to prove that the matters charged in the libels were true.(*a*)

In 1777 an information was filed against John Horne, charging that the defendant wickedly, maliciously, and seditiously intending, devising, and contriving to stir up and excite discontents and seditions amongst his Majesty's subjects, and to alienate and withdraw the affection, fidelity, and allegiance of his Majesty's subjects from his said Majesty, and to insinuate and cause it to be believed that divers of his Majesty's innocent and deserving subjects had been inhumanly murdered by his said Majesty's troops in the province, colony, or plantation of the Massachuset's Bay, in New England, in America, belonging to the Crown of Great Britain, and unlawfully and wickedly to seduce and encourage his said Majesty's subjects in the said province, colony, or plantation to resist and oppose his Majesty's Government, &c., did wickedly, maliciously, and seditiously write and publish a certain false, wicked, malicious, scandalous, and seditious libel of and concerning his said Majesty's Government and the employment of his troops.(*b*) The information was tried before the Earl of Mansfield by a special jury, and the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of 200*l.* to the king, to be imprisoned for twelve months and until the fine should be paid, and to find sureties for his good behaviour for three years.(*c*)

In 1804 an information was filed against William Cobbett for a libel upon the administration of the Irish Government,

(*a*) Francklin was sentenced to pay a fine of 100*l.*, to be imprisoned for a year, and to find security for his good behaviour for seven years.

(*b*) The seditious libel set out in the information was as follows:—"*King's Arms Tavern, Cornhill, June* 7, 1775.—At a special meeting this day of several members of the Constitutional Society, during an adjournment, a gentlemen proposed that a subscription should be immediately entered into (by such of the members present as should approve the purpose) for raising the sum of 100*l.*, to be applied to the relief of the widows, orphans, and aged parents of our beloved *American* fellow subjects, who, faithful to the character of Englishmen, preferring death to slavery, were for that reason only inhumanly murdered by the king's troops at or near Lexington and Concord, in the Province of Massachuset, on the 19th of last April, which sum being immediately collected, it was thereupon resolved, that Mr. Horne do pay to-morrow into the hands of Messrs. Brownes and Collison, on the account of Dr. Franklin, the said sum of 100*l.*, and that Dr. Franklin be requested to apply the same to the above mentioned purpose."

(*c*) 11 St. Tr. (20 How. St. Tr. 651); Cowp. Rep. 672.

and upon the public conduct and character of the Lord Lieutenant and Lord Chancellor of Ireland. The libel was contained in a letter signed "Juverna," published in the *Weekly Register;* and the information charged that the defendant, unlawfully and maliciously devising and intending to move and incite the liege subjects of the King to hatred and dislike of his Majesty's administration and Government of this kingdom, and to insinuate and cause it to be believed that the people of that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland were oppressed, aggrieved, and injured by our said lord the King's Government of the said part of the United Kingdom, and to traduce, defame, and vilify the persons employed by our said lord the King, in the administration of the Government of the said part of the said United Kingdom, &c., did unlawfully and maliciously print and publish the said libel. Mr. Cobbett was not the author, but only the publisher of the letter. Lord Ellenborough, C.J., in his summing up to the jury, said: "It is no new doctrine that if a publication be calculated to alienate the affections of the people, by bringing the Government into disesteem, whether the expedient be by ridicule or obloquy, the person so conducting himself is exposed to the inflictions of the law. It is a crime. It has ever been considered as a crime, whether it be wrapped in one form or in another. The case of *The King* v. *Tutchin*, decided in the time of Lord Chief Justice Holt,(*a*) has removed all ambiguity from this question; and although, at the period when that case was decided, great political contentions existed, the matter was not again brought before the judges of the court by any application for a new trial. . . . . If you are of opinion that the publications are hurtful to the individuals or to the Government, you will find the defendant guilty; if on the contrary you consider them neither destructive of the peace of the one or the other, you will acquit him of the charges under this information."(*b*)

An information was filed in 1811 against John Hunt and John Leigh Hunt for printing and publishing in *The Examiner* a libel tending to create disaffection in the army. "The information," said Lord Ellenborough to the jury, "states that the defendants, being malicious, seditious, and

(*a*) 14 Howell's St. Tr. 1095.

(*b*) Mr. Cobbett was found guilty, but was not called up for judgment, having redeemed himself by giving up the author of the letter (the Hon. Robert Johnson, one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland), who was subsequently prosecuted and convicted: (See *Rex* v. *Johnson*, in the same volume of Howell's St. Tr. and 7 East. 65).

ill-disposed persons, and unlawfully and maliciously devising and intending to injure the military service of our lord the King, and to insinuate and cause it to be believed that an improper and cruel method of punishment was practised in the army of our said lord the King, and that persons belonging to the said army were punished according to such method with great and excessive severity, and thereby to raise and excite discontent and disaffection in the minds of the persons belonging to the said army, and to deter the liege subjects of our said lord the King from entering into the same, published the paper in question, and the question for you to try is, whether the publication has fairly the tendency imputed to it. If it has that tendency the persons must be punished who have published it, intending to produce that effect. If it shall appear to you that such is the obvious tendency of the paper which is in evidence, then what it is incumbent on the prosecutor to prove will have been made out."(*a*)

In 1820 an information was filed against Sir Francis Burdett for writing and publishing a certain scandalous, malicious, and seditious libel of and concerning the Government of this realm, and of and concerning the troops of our lord the King, unlawfully and maliciously devising and intending to raise and excite discontent, disaffection, and sedition among the liege subjects of the King and amongst the soldiers of our said lord the King, and to move and excite the liege subjects of our said lord the King to hatred and dislike of the Government of this realm, and to insinuate and cause it to be believed by the liege subjects of our said lord the King that divers of the liege subjects of our said lord the King had been inhumanly cut down, maimed, and killed by certain troops of our said lord the King at Loughborough, in the county of Leicester, on the 16th of August, 1819; the libel being contained in an address to the electors of Westminster.(*b*) Best, J., told the jury that whether the address was published with the intention alleged in the information was peculiarly for their consideration, but added that the intention was to be collected from the paper itself, unless the import of the paper were explained by the mode of publication or any other circumstances; that if it appeared that the contents of the paper were likely to excite sedition and disaffection, the defendant must be presumed to intend that which his act was likely to produce; and that if they should be of opinion that such was the intention of the defendant, the paper published with such an intent was a libel.(*c*) The

(*a*) 31 Howell's St. Tr. 408. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.
(*b*) 4 B. & Ald. 95. (*c*) *Ib.* 120.

jury found the defendant guilty, and on motion for a new trial the Court of King's Bench held that the question had been correctly left to the jury.(*a*)

A body of police having dispersed an assembly of people at Birmingham, an indictment for seditious libel was preferred against the writer and publisher of certain resolutions agreed to by a body called the General Convention, condemning the act of the police as "a wanton, flagrant, and unjust outrage upon the people of Birmingham by a bloodthirsty and unconstitutional force from London, acting under the authority of men who, when out of office, sanctioned and took part in the meetings of the people, and now, when they share in the public plunder, seek to keep the people in social slavery and political degradation;" asserting that the people of Birmingham were "the best judges of their own right to meet in the Bullring or elsewhere, have their own feelings to consult respecting the outrage given, and are the best judges of their own power and resources to obtain justice;" and that the arrest of a particular individual (Dr. Taylor) "affords another convincing proof of the absence of all justice in England, and clearly shows that there is no security for life, liberty, or property till the people have some control over the laws they are called upon to obey."(*b*) Littledale, J., thus directed the jury as to the law: "You will first have to consider whether the statement at the commencement of the indictment, that there was an unlawful assembly which was dispersed by the police, be true or not, and, if it be true, you will then have to consider whether this publication was or was not a calm and temperate discussion of the events which had occurred; for if the object of it was merely to show that the conduct of the police was improper, that would not be illegal, because every man has a right to give every public matter a candid, full, and free discussion. If the language of this paper was intended to find great fault with the police force, even that might not go beyond the bounds of fair discussion; and you have to say, looking at the whole of this paper, whether or not it does so. With respect to the first resolution, if it contains no more than a calm and quiet discussion, allowing something for a little feeling in men's minds—for you cannot suppose that persons in an excited state will discuss subjects in as calm a manner as if they were discussing matters in which they felt no interest—that

(*a*) Sir Francis Burdett was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, and a fine of 2000*l*.

(*b*) *Rex* v. *Collins*; *Rex* v. *Lovett* (9 Car. & P. 456, 462).

PART IV. CHAPTER IV.

would be no libel; but you will consider whether the kind of terms made use of in this paper have not exceeded the reasonable bounds of comment on the conduct of the London police. With respect to the second resolution, it is no sedition to say that the people of Birmingham had a right to meet in the Bullring or anywhere else; but you are to consider whether the words that 'they are the best judges of their own power and resources to obtain justice,' meant the regular mode of proceeding by presenting petitions to the Crown or either House of Parliament, or by publishing a declaration of grievances; or whether they meant that the people should make use of physical force as their own resource to obtain justice, and meant to excite the people to take the power into their own hands, and meant to excite them to tumult and disorder. The third resolution refers to the arrest of Dr. Taylor; and if the arrest of Dr. Taylor was considered to be illegal, the defendant had a right to discuss it in a calm, quiet, and temperate manner; and if Dr. Taylor had been arrested in a manner wholly illegal and improper, we may allow for some warmth of expression. I have already said that the people have a right to discuss any grievance that they have to complain of, but they must not do it in a way to excite tumult. It is imputed that the defendant published this paper with that intent, and, if he did so, it is in my opinion a seditious libel."(*a*)

"With respect to the intent of the defendant," said the same learned judge, "a man must be taken to intend the natural consequences of what he has done; and if this paper has a direct tendency to cause unlawful meetings and disturbances, and to lead to a violation of the laws, that is sufficient to bring it within the terms of this indictment, and it is a seditious libel."(*b*)

LIBELS ON THE CONSTITUTION GENERALLY.

What publications are libellous.

"If it be the highest crime known to our laws to attempt to subvert by force the Constitution and State, it is certainly a crime, though of inferior magnitude, yet of great enormity to endeavour to despoil it of its best support—the veneration, esteem, and affection of the people. It is, therefore, a maxim of the law of England, flowing by natural consequence and easy deduction from the great principle of self-defence, to consider as libels and misdemeanors every species

(*a*) 9 Car. & P. 460, 461.
(*b*) 9 Car. & P. 466. The jury returned a verdict of guilty in each case.

of attack by speaking or writing, the object of which is wantonly to defame or indecorously to calumniate that economy, order, and constitution of things which make up the general system of the law and government of the country."(a)

"It is scarcely necessary to point out," said Fitzgerald, J., to the grand jury in the recent prosecutions of newspaper writers in Ireland for seditious libels,(b) "that to accomplish treasonable purposes, and to delude the weak, the unwary, and the ignorant, no means can be more effectual than a seditious press. With such machinery the preachers of sedition can sow widecast those poisonous doctrines, which, if unchecked, culminate in insurrection and rebellion. . . . . Words may be of a seditious character, but they might arise from sudden heat, be heard only by a few, create no lasting impression, and differ in malignity and permanent effect from writings."

Much of what has already been said in general as to the other kinds of seditious libels, applies also to the present class. Criticism on any part of the Constitution, made with a view to bring about improvements in it, are not interdicted; but attacks calculated to promote insurrection, and circulate discontent, to degrade and vilify the Constitution, to asperse its justice and anywise impair the exercise of its functions, are termed seditious libels, and punished as such.(c)

"It is open to the community and to the press," said a learned judge,(d) "to complain of a grievance. Well, the mere assertion of a grievance tends to create a discontent, which in a sense may be said to be seditious; but no jury, if a real grievance was put forward, and its redress *bonâ fide* sought, although the language used might be objected to—no jury would find that to be a seditious libel. It might be the province of the Press to call attention to the weakness or imbecility of a Government, when it was done for the public good. How closely that trenches on the law of sedition; and yet such writing, when *bonâ fide*, would receive protection from a jury."

State of country and public mind to be considered.

The state of the country and of the public mind when the publication takes place are material to be considered in determining whether the libel was published with a seditious intention.

"[illegible]," said Fitzgerald, J.,(e) in one of the late prosecutions

(a) Holt's Law of Libel, 81 (2nd Edit.). (b) 11 Cox Crim. Cas. 46.
(c) *Ib.* 86. See *per* Fitzgerald, J., *Reg.* v. *Sullivan* and *Reg.* v. *Pigot* (11 Cox Crim. Cas. 44).
(d) Fitzgerald. J., 11 Cox Crim. Cas. 57.
(e) 11 Cox Crim. Cas. 50. See also p. 59.

PART IV. CHAPTER IV.

for seditious publications in Ireland, "the country was free from political excitement and disaffection, was engaged in the peaceful pursuits of commerce and industry, the publication of such articles as have been extracted from American papers might be free from danger and comparatively innocent; but in a time of political trouble and commotion, when the country has just emerged from an attempt at armed insurrection, and whilst it is still suffering from the machinations and overrun by the emissaries of a treasonable conspiracy hatched and operating in a foreign land, the systematic publication of articles advocating the views and objects of that conspiracy seems to admit but of one interpretation. The intentions of men are inferences of reason from their actions where the action can flow but from one motive, and be the reasonable result of but one intention."

Whole publication to be looked at.

A particular passage in a work may constitute a seditious libel; but although the jury are to form their judgment upon the particular passage charged as such, they may compare it with the whole book, and see how it is qualified by it.(*a*) So with regard to newspaper articles: the jury are to consider not isolated passages, but the whole of the articles complained of.(*b*)

Latitude allowed to political writers.

A considerable latitude is allowed to the publications of political writers. "In a free country like ours," said Lord Kenyon, C.J.,(*c*) "the productions of a political author should not be too hardly dealt with." And Fitzgerald, J., told the jury, in the case already referred to, not to pause, in dealing with the articles charged as seditious libels, upon an objectionable sentence here, or a strong word there; that it was not mere strong or turgid language that was to influence them; that to public political articles great latitude is given: dealing as they do with the public affairs of the day, such articles, if written in a fair spirit, and *bonâ fide*, often result in the production of great public good; and therefore the learned judge advised and recommended the jury to deal with the publications before them in a free, fair, and liberal spirit, and not to view them with an eye of narrow criticism.(*d*)

Seditious publications copied from foreign newspapers.

The fact that the seditious writings are only copies of articles published in foreign newspapers, does not exempt the publisher in this country from liability.

It was contended in *Reg.* v. *Pigott* (*e*) that the defendant

(*a*) *Per* Lord Kenyon, C.J., *R.* v. *Reeves* (2 Peake's N. P. Cas. 87). See also *Rex* v. *Lambert and Perry* (2 Camp. 400).
(*b*) *Per* Fitzgerald, J. (11 Cox Crim. Cas. 58). (*c*) *Ib.* 86.
(*d*) 11 Cox Crim. Cas. 59. (*e*) See 11 Cox Crim. Cas. 46.

was justified in publishing, as foreign news, articles of a seditious and treasonable character, extracted from American newspapers. "I am bound," said Fitzgerald, J., to the grand jury, "to warn you against this very unsound contention; and I may now tell you, with the concurrence of my learned colleague (Deasy, B.), that the law gives no such sanction, and does not, in the abstract, justify or excuse the republication of a treasonable or seditious article, no matter from what source it may be taken. In reference to all such republications, the time, the object, and all the surrounding circumstances are to be taken into consideration, and may be such as to rebut any inference of a criminal intention in republication. If, for instance, one of the leading newspapers should, in good faith, publish the proceedings of a foreign conspiracy, with a view to communicate intelligence or a warning to the nation, accompanying it with proper editorial comments, the circumstances would in every rational mind, negative the idea of any seditious design. If, on the other hand, at a period of great political excitement, where a treasonable confederacy existing amongst them was urging the deluded people to armed insurrection, a journal was found habitually devoting a considerable portion of its space to the republication from a foreign source of treasonable or seditious articles, addressed to the people of this country, without one word of warning, or one note of disapproval, then it would be reasonable to infer that the publisher intended what would be the natural consequences of his acts, namely, to promote some seditious object. If the law be powerless in the case of such publications, then we may as well blot out from the statute-book the chapter on seditious libel, which would take away from society the great protection which the law affords to their institutions."(*a*)

Whether a newspaper article is original or not, may, however, be a material consideration in determining the intention with which it was published.(*b*)

Summary of the older cases.

The following is a summary of the older cases decided under this head, which are not numerous, owing probably to the fact that in the early times of our history, libels of this class were considered as partaking of the nature of treason.(*c*)

(*a*) 11 Cox Crim. Cas. 46, 47. Compare the remarks of the same learned judge at the end of p. 56. (*b*) See *per* Fitzgerald, J., *Ib.* 56.

(*c*) Holt, L. L. 86. Williams, a barrister of the Middle Temple, was in the seventeenth year of James I. indicted, convicted, and executed for high treason, in writing two books, the one called "Balaam's Ass," and the other called "Speculum Regale," in which he predicted that the king would die in the year 1621: (2 Roll. Rep. 88.)

One Brewster was indicted and convicted in the 15th Chas. II., for printing and publishing a libel called "The Phœnix, or the Solemn League and Covenant," in which it was declared that a king abusing his power to the overthrow of religion, laws, and liberties, may be controlled and opposed; and if he sets himself to overthrow all these by arms, then they who have the power, as the estates of the land, may and ought to resist by arms.(*a*)

In the 29th Chas. II. an information was filed against one Harrison, charging that he, maliciously and traitorously intending to stir up sedition and to create a disturbance between the King and his people, had published, uttered, and proclaimed of and concerning the Government and rule of England, and of and concerning the traitors who adjudged King Charles I. to death, that the Government of the kingdom consists of three estates, and that if a rebellion should happen in the kingdom, unless that rebellion was against the three estates, it was no rebellion. The court, supposing that the words did tend to set on foot that position upon which the war levied in 1641 by the two Houses against the King was grounded, were much displeased that the counsel for the defendant would pretend to defend them, or to put any tolerable sense upon them, and gave judgment for the King.(*b*)

In the 5th Anne Dr. Brown was convicted, on an information, of having published a libel, entitled "Mercurius Politicus," reflecting on the State and Constitution, as settled at the Revolution, which he represented as the "destruction of the laws of England."(*c*)

A treatise on hereditary right, by Bedford, was held to be a libel, though it contained no reflection upon any part of the then Government, in the 12th Anne.(*d*)

An information was filed in 1754 against Richard Nutt for printing and publishing a certain false, wicked, scandalous, seditious, and malicious libel, entitled *The London Evening Post*, tending to represent this kingdom in a miserable and wretched state and condition, and with a view to traduce the late happy Revolution, and to suggest that it was an unjustifiable and unconstitutional proceeding; and also to dispute and call in question the settlement and limi-

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Brewster* (Hil. Term, 15 Car. 2; Dig. L. L. 76).

(*b*) *Rex* v. *Harrison* (3 Keb. 841; Vent. 324). Harrison was sentenced to pay a fine of 1000*l*., to find surety for his good behaviour for seven years, and to renounce his error in open court. He brought error in Parliament.

(*c*) *Reg.* v. *Brown* (Trin. Term, 5 Anne; 11 Mod. 86). He was sentenced to the pillory, and to pay a fine of forty marks. (*d*) 2 Str. 789.

tation of the succession of the Crown of this realm in the present most illustrious family; and to represent the same as illegal and unwarrantable, and to make it be believed that the said late most happy Revolution and the settlement of the Crown of this realm as now by law established had been attended with fatal and pernicious consequences to the subjects of this realm. He was found guilty, and sentenced to the pillory, a fine of 500*l*., and imprisonment in the King's Bench for two years.(*a*)

Dr. John Shebbeare was convicted in 1758 of printing and publishing a certain false, wicked, scandalous, seditious, and malicious libel, entitled "A Sixth Letter to the People of England on the Progress of national Ruin, in which it is shown that the present Grandeur of France and the Calamaties of this Nation are owing to the Influence of Hanover on the Councils of England;" tending to traduce the Revolution, and to represent it as the foundation of all those imaginary evils and calamities which the defendant would falsely insinuate the subjects of this kingdom did labour under; and also to asperse the memory of King William III. and of King George I.; and to represent the public measures which were taken and pursued during the course of their respective reigns as wicked, corrupt, and fatal measures to this kingdom; and also to asperse, scandalise, and vilify the late King and his administration of the government of this kingdom; and to make it thought that the public affairs of this kingdom were in a most unhappy and declining state; and that the subjects of this kingdom were unnecessarily and most intolerably loaded and oppressed with taxes, debts, and subsidies; and also to insinuate that the late King had no concern for the people of England, nor any regard for the interest, honour, or welfare of this kingdom, but that the treasure and riches of this kingdom were misapplied, wasted, and dissipated in support of the Electorate of Hanover and his German dominions.(*b*)

Thomas Paine was convicted in 1792 upon an information charging him with being the author and publisher of a seditious libel, the tendency of which was "to traduce and vilify the late happy Revolution, the settlement of the Crown and regal Government as by law established, and also the Bill of Rights, the Legislature, Government, laws, and Parliament of this kingdom."(*c*)

(*a*) Mich. Term, 27 Geo. 2, Dig. L. L. 68.

(*b*) *Rex* v. *Shebbeare* (Hil. Term, 31 Geo. 2, K. B. MSS.). The defendant was fined 5*l*., sentenced to the pillory, and to be imprisoned three years.

(*c*) *Rex* v. *Paine* (32 Geo. 3, K. B. MSS.) The defendant, not appearing to receive the judgment of the court, was outlawed.

PART IV. CHAPTER IV.

John Cuthell, a bookseller, was found guilty in 1799, of publishing a seditious libel written by the Rev. G. Wakefield; but, on filing an affidavit that he had no knowledge whatever of the contents or nature of the book, he was discharged on payment of a fine of thirty marks.(*a*)

CHAPTER V.

OTHER LIBELS NOT OF A PRIVATE CHARACTER.

Libels of a quasi public character.

BESIDES the libels of a public character which have hitherto engaged our attention, and which the State in its corporate capacity punishes, there are others of a *quasi*-public character which present themselves for consideration next in order before we enter on the discussion of libels on private individuals.

I. LIBELS ON HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

Contempts of Houses of Parliament.

Of libels of this kind one class forms a division of the general head of offences called contempts. Libels on either House of Parliament have frequently been treated as breaches of privilege, and punished as such by the immediate action of the House itself. Oftentimes they have been dealt with by prosecutions in the courts of common law, directed by the House which has been libelled either in its collective character or in the person of one of its members.

The general principle relating to contempts of this kind has been thus stated: "Whatever grossly reflects on the character of a member of either House, or whatever imputes to him what it would be a libel to impute to an ordinary person, is a contempt, and thereby breach of privilege; it is a direct assault upon his character, and through the odium presumed to be excited thereby, a consequential obstruction of his political duties."(*b*)

House of Lords.

The House of Lords formerly inflicted fine, imprisonment, and the pillory for offences of this kind against its members; but in more recent times commitment, with or without fine, has been the ordinary punishment inflicted by both Houses of Parliament.(*c*)

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Cuthell* (27 Howell's St. Tr. 642).
(*b*) Holt's Law of Libel, p. 118.
(*c*) 22 Lords' J. 351, 367, 380. "This summary proceeding is usually defended by a technical analogy to what are called attachments for contempt, by which every court of record is entitled to punish by

Punishments of the latter description were inflicted by the House of Lords in 1663 for a libel on Lord Gerard of Brandon; in 1688 for printing a paper reflecting on Lord Grey of Wark;(*a*) and in 1779 for a libel on the Bishop of Llandaff.(*b*) In 1722 persons were attached for printing libels concerning Lord Strafford(*c*) and Lord Kinnoul;(*d*) and in 1776 for sending an insulting letter to the Earl of Coventry, the offender in the last case being afterwards reprimanded and ordered "to be continued in custody until he find security for his good behaviour.(*e*) For examples of the punishment of pillory, see the cases of Thos. Morley in 1623, for a libel on the Lord Keeper,(*f*) and William Carr in 1667, for dispersing scandalous and seditious printed papers against Lord Gerard of Brandon.(*g*)

In 1834, a leading article having appeared in the *Morning Post* reflecting upon the conduct of the Lord Chancellor (Lord Brougham) with reference to a case which had come before the House of Lords on appeal, the House resolved that the paragraph was a gross breach of their privileges, and committed the editor to the custody of the Usher of the Black Rod.(*h*)

House of Commons.

In the case of Arthur Hall in 1581, himself a member of Parliament, the House of Commons inflicted the threefold penalty of imprisonment, fine, and expulsion for a printed libel, "not only reproaching some particular good Members of the House, but also very much slanderous and derogatory to its general authority, power, and state, and prejudicial to the validity of its proceedings in making and establishing of laws."(*i*) imprisonment, if not also by fine, any obstruction to its acts or contumacious resistance of them. But it tended also to raise the dignity of Parliament in the eyes of the people, at times when the Government, and even the courts of justice, were not greatly inclined to regard it, and has been also a necessary safeguard against the insolence of power. The majority are bound to respect, and indeed have respected, the rights of every member, however obnoxious to them, on questions of privilege. Even in the case most likely to occur in the present age, that of libels, which by no unreasonable stretch come under the head of obstructions, it would be unjust that a patriotic legislator, exposed to calumny for his zeal in the public cause, should be necessarily driven to a troublesome and uncertain process at law, when the offence so manifestly affects the real interests of Parliament and the nation. The application of this principle must, of course, require a discreet temper, which was not perhaps always observed in former times, especially in the reign of William III.": (Hallam, Const. Hist., chap. 16.)

(*a*) 14 Lords' J. 144. (*b*) 42 Lords' J. 129.
(*c*) 22 Lords' J. 129 (*d*) *Id.* 149. (*e*) 39 Lords' J. 314, 331.
(*f*) 3 Lords' J. 276. (*g*) 12 Lords' J. 174.
(*h*) 66 Lords' J. 704, 737, 743, 764.
(*i*) D'Ewes, 291; Hatsell, 93; 1 Com. J. 125, 126. "This," says Hallam (Const. Hist., chap. 5), "is the leading precedent, as far as

In 1805, Peter Stuart was committed to the custody of the Serjeant-at-arms for a breach of privilege in printing and publishing in the *Daily Advertiser*, *Oracle*, and *True Briton*, certain libellous reflections on the character and conduct of the House.(*a*) In 1810, Sir F. Burdett, a member of the House, was sent to the Tower for publishing "a libellous and scandalous paper reflecting upon the just rights and privileges of the House."(*b*) In 1819 the House resolved that a certain pamphlet, of which Mr. Hobhouse acknowledged himself to be the author, was "a scandalous libel containing matter calculated to inflame the people into acts of violence against the Legislature, and against this House in particular," and that it was "an high contempt of the privileges and of the constitutional authority of this House;" and the writer of the pamphlet was committed to Newgate.(*c*)

In 1680 two persons, named Yarrington and Groome, were committed for a libel against a member.(*d*) In 1689, one Smelt was committed for spreading a false and scandalous report of a member,(*e*) and John Rye in 1696 for having caused a libel reflecting on a member to be printed and delivered at the door.(*f*) The House committed one Woodfall in 1774 for publishing a letter reflecting on the character of the Speaker,(*g*) and, in 1821, the author of a paragraph in the *John Bull* newspaper containing a libel on one of the members.(*h*) In 1832 two solicitors were called to the bar of the House for a libel contained in a printed handbill, being a copy of an official letter signed by them and addressed to a committee sitting on the Sunderland Wet Docks Bill, reflecting on the conduct of certain members of the committee, and containing a statement of the manner in which the members had voted in the committee. The writers having expressed regret for their offence, the House resolved that the letter contained libellous matter reflecting on the committee, and that the two solicitors had been guilty of a high breach of the privileges of the House; and that they should be

records show, for the power of expulsion, which the Commons have ever retained without dispute of those who would most curtail their privileges." This is the first instance of a libel punished by the House: (*Per* Lord Ellenborough, C.J., 14 East. 142).

(*a*) 60 Com. J. 214, 216. (*b*) 65 Com. J. 252.

(*c*) 75 Com. J. 57. See also the case of O'Connell, who was reprimanded in his place by the Speaker for certain defamatory expressions contained in a speech delivered at a public meeting (93 Com. J. 307, 312, 316). (*d*) 9 Com. J. 654, 656. (*e*) 10 Com. J. 244.

(*f*) 11 Com. J. 656. (*g*) 34 Com. J. 456. (*h*) 76 Com. J. 335.

admonished by the Speaker.(*a*) In 1858, an article having been published in the *Carlisle Examiner* and *North-Western Advertiser*, imputing partial and corrupt motives to the chairman of a committee on a railway bill, and containing reflections on other members of the committee, it was resolved by the House that the article was a false and scandalous libel on the chairman and members of the committee, and that the proprietor and publisher of the newspaper had been guilty of a breach of the privileges of the House, and should be committed to the custody of the Serjeant-at-arms. He was discharged from custody on unreservedly retracting all imputations contained in the article, and paying the fees.(*b*)

Resolutions of the House of Commons.

The following resolutions relating to this subject have been passed by the House of Commons.

In 1699 (22nd April) it was resolved "that the publishing the names of the members of this House, and reflecting upon them, and misrepresenting their proceedings in Parliament, is a breach of the privilege of this House, and destructive of the freedom of Parliament."(*c*)

In 1701 (26th February) a resolution of a committee was agreed to by the House, "that to print or publish any books or libels reflecting upon the proceedings of the House of Commons, or any member thereof, for or relating to his service therein, is a high violation of the rights and privileges of the House of Commons."(*d*)

In 1790 (21st May) a general resolution was passed by the House, "that it is against the law and usage of Parliament, and a high breach of the privilege of this House, to write, or publish, or cause to be written or published, any scandalous and libellous reflection on the honour and justice of this House, in any of the impeachments or prosecutions in which it is engaged."(*e*)

Legality of commitment

The legality of commitments by the House of Commons, on the Speaker's warrant, was discussed and fully recognised by the Court of King's Bench in the case of *Burdett* v. *Abbott*.(*f*) That was an action against the Speaker of the House of Commons for breaking and entering the house of the plaintiff (a member of Parliament), arresting him, taking him to the Tower of London, and imprisoning him there; acts which the defendant justified under a resolution of the House that a certain letter published by

(*a*) 87 Com. J. 278, 294.
(*b*) 113 Com. J. 189, 192, 203. See also 72 *Ib.* 232; 93 *Ib.* 436.
(*c*) 12 Com. J. 661.
(*d*) 13 Com. J. 767.
(*e*) 45 Com. J. 508.
(*f*) 14 East. 1.

the plaintiff in *Cobbett's Weekly Register*, was "a libellous and scandalous paper, reflecting on the just rights and privileges of that House," and that the plaintiff had thereby been guilty of a breach of the privileges of the House; whereupon it was ordered that the Speaker should issue his warrant to commit him to the Tower. "Can the High Court of Parliament," said Lord Ellenborough, C.J., in his judgment, "or either of the two Houses of which it consists, be deemed not to possess intrinsically that authority of punishing summarily for contempts which is acknowledged to belong, and is daily exercised as belonging, to every superior court of law, of less dignity undoubtedly than itself? And is not the degradation and disparagement of the two Houses of Parliament, in the estimation of the public, by contemptuous libels, as much an impediment to their efficient acting with regard to the public, as the actual obstruction of an individual member by bodily force, in his endeavour to resort to the place where Parliament is holden? And would it consist with the dignity of such bodies, or, what is more, with the immediate and effectual exercise of their important functions, that they should wait the comparatively tardy result of a prosecution in the ordinary course of law for the vindication of their privileges from wrong and insult? The necessity of the case would therefore, upon principles of natural reason, seem to require that such bodies, constituted for such purposes and exercising such functions as they do, should possess the powers which the history of the earliest times shows that they have in fact possessed and used."(*a*)

(*a*) It has been held in America, by the Supreme Court of the United States, that the House of Representatives has, by necessary implication, a general power of punishing and committing for contempts, notwithstanding that the *lex scripta*, "the Constitution of the United States," had expressly conferred upon it a power to punish "its members;" thereby, as it was argued, on the principle that *enumeratio unius est exclusio alterius*, prohibiting the jurisdiction in the case of persons not members of the House. "It is true," said Johnson, J., delivering the judgment of the court, "that such a power, if it exists, must be derived from implication, and the genius and spirit of our institutions are hostile to the exercise of implied powers. . . . . That a deliberate assembly, clothed with the majesty of the people, and charged with the care of all that is dear to them; composed of the most distinguished citizens, selected and drawn together from every quarter of a great nation; whose deliberations are required by public opinion to be conducted under the eye of the public, and whose decisions must be clothed with all that sanctity which unlimited confidence in their wisdom and purity can inspire; that such an assembly should not possess the power to suppress rudeness or repel insult, is a supposition too wild to be suggested:" (*Anderson* v. *Dunn*, 6 Wheat. Rep. 204.)

The Speaker, in issuing such a warrant, does not, according to Bayley, J.,(*a*) act in the character of a subordinate officer, but in that of a member of the House. "When the House make an order that their Speaker shall issue his warrant, they do not direct him to do it as a subordinate minister to them, but only as being the individual member of greatest dignity in the House, by whom on this and other occasions the House speaks and acts; and his act in this respect is not, I think, the act of an officer, but the act of a member of the House. But if," adds the learned judge, "it were the act of an officer of the House, acting under and by virtue of its judgment on the subject matter, I cannot help thinking that, where a court has competent jurisdiction to decide upon a point, and has decided and given judgment upon it, and they direct their officer to carry that judgment into execution, the officer is protected by that judgment."(*b*)

This was so decided by the Court of Exchequer Chamber(*c*) (Parke, Alderson, and Rolfe, BB., Coltman, Maule, and Creswell, JJ.), reversing the decision of the majority of the Court of Queen's Bench, who held a Speaker's warrant void because it did not show a sufficient authority on the face of it to justify the defendant in all he admitted to have done. Parke, B., in delivering the unanimous judgment of the Exchequer Chamber, says: "Writs issued by a superior court, not appearing to be out of the scope of their jurisdiction, are valid and of themselves, without any further allegation, a protection to all officers and others in their aid acting under them; and that, although they be on the face of them irregular, as a *capias* against a peeress—*Countess of Rutland's case*;(*d*) or void in form, as a *capias ad respondendum* not returnable the next term—*Parsons* v. *Lloyd*;(*e*) for the officers ought not to examine the judicial act of the court whose servants they are, nor exercise their judgment touching the validity of the process in point of law, but are bound to execute it, and are therefore protected by it—*Turner* v. *Filgate*,(*f*) *Cotes* v. *Michill*.(*g*) . . . . If in these courts the writ of attachment need not state any special grounds in order to show that the court is acting duly, formally, and regularly, what good reason can be

(*a*) 14 East. 159.

(*b*) *Id.* 160. Sir Francis Burdett brought an action also against the Serjeant-at-arms of the House of Commons for an assault and false imprisonment in the execution of the Speaker's warrant, but did not succeed: (*Burdett* v. *Colman*, 14 East. 163.)

(*c*) *Howard* v. *Gosset* (10 Q. B, 359). (*d*) 6 Rep. 54 a.
(*e*) 3 Wils. 341. (*f*) 1 Lev. 95. (*g*) 3 Lev. 20.

assigned for requiring the House of Commons to do so? If the writ of attachment in the general form used is a protection to the sheriff, the officer of the court executing it (as it undoubtedly is), and he need state nothing in his plea but the issuing of the attachment—Levinz's Entries, p. 191; *Britton* v. *Cole* (1 Salk. 408; Com. Dig. "Pleader," 3 M. 24),—why should not the warrant of the Speaker in a general form be equally a protection to the Serjeant-at-arms, the proper officer of the House? We are clearly of opinion that at least *as much* respect is to be shown and as much authority to be attributed to these mandates of the House as to those of the highest courts in the country; and if the officers of the ordinary courts are bound to obey the process delivered to them, and are therefore protected by it, the officer of the House of Commons is as much bound and equally protected. . . . . The possibility of abuse, which is urged as an objection to the power of either House to issue its mandate in such a form, is no valid argument against its existence. If it were, it would apply equally to all the superior courts, which, without doubt, have such power; and it would apply also to the other admitted legal powers of these courts, which may be abused without adequate remedy. In case of an improper exercise of the power of attachment by a court of law or equity, or by either branch of the High Court of Parliament, there can be no appeal: the only remedy is by application to the sense of justice of each court; and it would be improper to suppose that any one of them would be more likely to abuse the power, or less likely to grant redress, than another."

The warrant of commitment is not to be construed strictly as that of an inferior court or justice of the peace, but it is to be construed as a writ of a superior court, not appearing on the face of it to be beyond the scope of its jurisdiction;(*a*) and therefore the warrant, though it does not specify the

(*a*) *Howard* v. *Gosset* (10 Q. B. 359, 411). Powys, J., says in *Reg.* v. *Paty* (2 Ld. Ray, 1108) that "the House of Commons is a great court, and all things done by them are intended to have been *ritè acta*, and the matter need not be so specially recited in their warrants; by the same reason as we commit people by a rule of court of two lines, and such commitments are held good because it is intended that we understand what we do." So Blackstone, J. (*Brass Crosby's case*, 3 Wils. 205): "Little nice objections of particular words and forms and ceremonies of execution are not to be regarded in the acts of the House of Commons; it is our duty to presume the orders of that House and their execution are according to law." Hawkins (3 Pl. Cr. 219, B. 2, c. 15, s. 73) says: "There can be no doubt but that the highest regard is to be paid to all the proceedings of either of those Houses, and that wherever the contrary *does not plainly and expressly appear*, it shall be presumed that they act within their jurisdiction, and equally to the usages of Parliament, and the rules of law and justice."

cause of arrest, furnishes a justification to the officer who executes it.(a)

Courts of law will not examine propriety of commitment.

Each House of Parliament is the sole judge whether its privileges have been violated, and whether thereby any person has been guilty of a contempt of its authority. The courts of common law will not inquire into or review its decision in this respect.(b)

A commitment by the House of Commons is not reversible for form by a court of common law.(c) "We cannot," says Lord Tenterden in *Reg.* v. *Hobhouse*,(d) "inquire into the form of the commitment, even supposing it open to objection on the ground of informality."

Where the commitment is for a libel, the Speaker's warrant need not set out what the libel is. "That point is perfectly settled in the case of *Burdett* v. *Abbott*, and it is also established by all the cases on this subject, that if one court commit for a contempt, no other court can inquire into that contempt."(e)

Colonial assemblies.

Colonial legislative assemblies have not the same power, in this respect, as the Imperial Parliament.

"The privilege of committing for contempt," said Lord Denman, C.J.,(f) "is inherent in every deliberative body invested with authority by the constitution." In similarly unqualified language, Parke, B., in *Beaumont* v. *Barret*,(g) stated it "to be inherent in every assembly that possesses a supreme legislative authority, to have the power of punishing contempts, and not merely such as are a direct obstruction to its due course of proceeding, but such also as have a tendency indirectly to produce such an obstruction, in the same way as courts of record may not only remove or punish persons who actually are interrupting their functions, but may also repress those who indirectly impede the administration of justice by disparaging and weakening their authority." And on this ground chiefly, but partly on that of usage and acquiescence,(h) coupled with the adoption of the power in question by virtue of legislative enactment forming the Act of Settlement of the island, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held, in that case, that the Jamaica House of Assembly had the power of committing a person who had

(a) *Howard* v. *Gosset* (*ubi suprà*).
(b) See *Stockdale* v. *Hansard* (9 A. & E. 169, 195).
(c) *Per* Gould, J., *Reg.* v. *Paty* (2 Ld. Ray. 1106).
(d) 2 Chit. Rep. 210. (e) *Per* Parke, B. (1 Moore's P. C. C. 80).
(f) See *Stockdale* v. *Hansard* (9 A. & E. 114).
(g) 1 Moore's P. C. C. 76.
(h) See also the language of Lord Ellenborough, C.J., in *Burdett* v. *Abbott* (14 East. 137).

published certain libellous paragraphs which the House had resolved to be a breach of its privileges.(*a*) But this case, so far as it lays it down that all assemblies possessed of supreme legislative authority have inherent in them the power of committing for contempts, must be taken to be distinctly overruled by subsequent decisions of the Privy Council and of the Court of Queen's Bench. In *Kielley* v. *Carson*(*b*) it was decided by the Privy Council, on appeal from the Supreme Court of Judicature of Newfoundland, that the House of Assembly of that island did not possess, as a legal incident, the power of arrest with a view of adjudication on a contempt committed out of the House; but only such powers as are reasonably necessary for the proper exercise of its functions and duties as a local legislature.

"It is said," said Parke, B., in delivering the judgment, "that this power belongs to the House of Commons in England; and this, it is contended, affords an authority for holding that it belongs as a legal incident, by the common law, to an assembly with analogous functions. But the reason why the House of Commons has this power is not because it is a representative body with legislative functions, but by virtue of ancient usage and prescription; the *lex et consuetudo Parliamenti*, which forms a part of the common law of the land, and according to which the High Court of Parliament, before its division, and the Houses of Lords and Commons since, are invested with many peculiar privileges, that of punishing for contempt being one. . . . . Nor can the power be said to be incident to the legislative assembly by analogy to the English courts of record which possess it. This assembly is no court of record, nor has it any judicial functions whatever; and it is to be remarked that all those bodies which possess the power of adjudication upon, and punishing in a summary manner, contempts of their authority, have judicial functions and exercise this as incident to those which they possess, except only the House of Commons, whose authority in this respect rests upon ancient usage." And his Lordship thus referred to the judgment delivered by him in the previous case of *Beaumont* v. *Barrett*: "Their Lordships do not consider that case as one by which they ought to be bound on deciding the present question. The opinion of their Lordships, delivered

(*a*) The members of the Judicial Committee present were Lord Brougham, Bosanquet and Erskine, JJ., and Parke, B.

(*b*) 4 Moore's P. C. C. 63. Present: Lord Lyndhurst, C., Lords Brougham, Denman, Abinger, Cottenham, and Campbell the Vice-Chancellor of England (Sir L. Shadwell), the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas (Tindal), Parke, B., Erskine, J., and Dr. Lushington.

by myself immediately after the argument was closed, though it clearly expressed that the power was incidental to every legislative assembly, was not the only ground on which that judgment was rested, and therefore was in some degree extra-judicial; but besides, it was stated to be and was grounded entirely on the dictum of Lord Ellenborough, in *Burdett* v. *Abbott*, which dictum, we all think, cannot be taken as an authority for the abstract proposition, that every legislative body has the power of committing for contempt. The observation was made by his Lordship with reference to the peculiar powers of Parliament, and ought not, we all think, to be extended any further."

The case of *Kielley* v. *Carson* was approved and followed in that of *Fenton* v. *Hampton*,(*a*) which had reference to the Legislative Council of Van Dieman's Land. In this case it was held also that there was no distinction, in respect of the power of commitment for contempt, between colonial legislative councils and assemblies whose power is derived by grant from the Crown, and those created under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

The effect of the preceding decisions has thus been stated by Cockburn, C.J.: "It has been decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council that when the local legislature has not by prescription or by statute the power of committing for contempt, that power is not necessarily inherent in it."(*b*)

The House of Keys (the legislative assembly of the Isle of Man) having committed for contempt the publisher of certain libels in a newspaper, it was held by the Court of Queen's Bench that the House of Keys had not inherent in it as a legislative body the power to commit for contempt.(*c*)

A provision in a Manx Act of 1817, "that the House of Keys, the Clerk of the Rolls, and the registrars of the ecclesiastical courts, when in the execution of their respective offices, have and shall have the power of punishing contempts in like manner as any court or magistrate within the said island," was construed by the Court of Queen's Bench as referring to the House of Keys when acting in its judicial and not in its legislative capacity.(*d*)

So, in the case of *Doyle* v. *Falconer*,(*e*) it was held by the Privy Council that the Legislative Assembly of the island of Dominica had not the power of committing for a contempt,

(*a*) 11 Moore's P. C. C. 347. (*b*) 5 B. & S. 293.
(*c*) *Ex parte Brown* (5 B. & S. 280; 33 L. J. 193, Q. B.)
(*d*) *Ib.* (*e*) L. Rep. 1 P. C. App. 328; 36 L. J. 33, P. C.

though committed in its presence and by one of its members. Reliance having been placed in argument on the common law maxim, *Quando lex aliquid concedit, concedere videtur et illud, sine quo res ipsa esse non potest*, Sir J. W. Colville, in delivering the judgment of the Privy Council, said: "It is necessary to distinguish between a power to punish for a contempt which is a judicial power, and a power to remove any obstruction offered to the deliberations or proper action of a legislative body during its sitting, which last power is necessary for self-preservation. If a member of a colonial house of assembly is guilty of disorderly conduct in the house whilst sitting, he may be removed or excluded for a time, or even expelled; but there is a great difference between such powers and the judicial power of inflicting a penal sentence for the offence. The right to remove for self-security is one thing, the right to inflict punishment is another. The former is, in their Lordships' judgment, all that is warranted by the legal maxim that has been cited, but the latter is not its legitimate consequence. If the good sense and conduct of the members of colonial legislatures prove, as in the present case, insufficient to secure order and decency of debate, the law would sanction the use of that degree of force which might be necessary to remove the person offending from the place of meeting, and to keep him excluded. The same rule would apply, *à fortiori*, to obstructions caused by any person not a member."

The Legislative Assembly of Victoria stands on a peculiar footing. Being constituted by a colonial Act (which was ratified by a subsequent imperial Act), by one enactment of which the legislature of Victoria was empowered to "define" the privileges, immunities, and powers to be held, enjoyed, and exercised by the council and assembly, and by the members thereof respectively, and having, in pursuance of this power, enacted that it, and the committees and members thereof respectively, should hold, enjoy, and exercise such and the like privileges, immunities, and powers as at the time of the passing of the imperial Act (*a*) were held, enjoyed, and exercised by the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, and by the committees and members thereof, it has the power of committing for contempt. (*b*) The printer and publisher of a newspaper containing an article upon the subject of the Police Committee of the Legislative Assembly, with

(*a*) 18 & 19 Vict. c. 55.
(*b*) *Dill* v. *Murphy* (1 Moore's P. C. C. N. S. 487).

particular reference to one member of the assembly, was arrested on the Speaker's warrant, and committed to the custody of the serjeant-at-arms.(*a*)

Duration of commitment.

Where the power of committing for contempt exists, the punishment can last only so long as the existing session of the body that inflicts it. "However flagrant the contempt," says Lord Denman, C.J.,(*b*) "the House of Commons can only commit till the close of the existing session. Their privilege to commit is not better known than this limitation of it. Though the party should deserve the severest penalties, yet, his offence being committed the day before a prorogation, if the House ordered his imprisonment but for a week, every court in Westminster Hall, and every judge of all the courts, would be bound to discharge him by *habeas corpus*."

So in America, the imprisonment terminates with the adjournment or dissolution of Congress. "Even to the duration of imprisonment," says an American judge, (Johnson)(*c*) "a period is imposed by the nature of things, since the existence of the power that imprisons is indispensable to its continuance; and although the legislative power continues perpetual, the legislative body ceases to exist on the motion of its adjournment or periodical dissolution. It follows, that imprisonment must terminate with that adjournment."

Prosecution instead of commitment.

Parliament has sometimes, instead of punishing the publishers of libels by commitment, prayed the Crown to direct the Attorney-General to prosecute either by indictment or criminal information.

One *Rainer* was convicted in 1733, of having printed a scandalous libel upon the Lords and Commons, and sentenced by the Court of King's Bench to pay a fine of 50*l*., and to be committed for two years, and until he should pay the fine, and likewise till he should find security for his good behaviour for seven years.(*d*)

In 1752, William Owen, a bookseller, having published a

(*a*) *Dill* v. *Murphy* (1 Moore's P. C. C. N. S. 487).

(*b*) *Stockdale* v. *Hansard* (9 A. & E. 114).

(*c*) *Anderson* v. *Dunn* (6 Wheat's Rep. 231). "In England," says Kent (1 Com. Amer. Law, 236, n.), "libels upon the character or proceedings of either House of Parliament, or any of its members, are regarded as breaches of privilege, and punishable as for contempts by imprisonment. But with us, such a course of redress has not been adopted, and the House that was injured would probably, if redress was sought, direct a public prosecution by indictment. The Act of Congress of 14 July, 1798, made it an indictable offence to libel the Government, Congress, or President of the United States."

(*d*) *Rex* v. *Rainer* (2 Barnard, 293).

pamphlet condemning the proceedings in the House of Commons with reference to the commitment of one of their members, Alexander Murray, for dangerous and seditious practices, the House of Commons resolved that the pamphlet was "an impudent, malicious, scandalous, and seditious libel," and that an address should be presented to his Majesty to give directions to the Attorney-General to prosecute the author, printers, and publishers. Owen was accordingly tried upon an information charging him with having published a wicked, false, scandalous, seditious, and malicious libel, "most unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously devising, contriving, and intending to asperse, scandalise, and vilify the whole body of the Commons of this kingdom, in Parliament assembled, and most wickedly and audaciously to represent their proceedings in Parliament as cruel, arbitrary and oppressive; and to make it be believed and thought as if the Commons in Parliament assembled were a most wicked, base, and degenerate set of persons, and had acted in their legislative capacity in open violation of the constitution of this kingdom, and had most daringly prostituted their power and acted in defiance of those laws which had been made and provided for the security and welfare of the subjects of this kingdom; and also most unlawfully, wickedly, and audaciously to represent the said House of Commons as a court of inquisition; and most impudently to insinuate as if the commitment of the said Alexander Murray to his Majesty's said gaol of Newgate was founded in violence and oppression, and by that means to arraign the public justice and proceedings of the said House, and to bring all the Commons of this kingdom in Parliament assembled into an ill and bad opinion, and into the utmost hatred and contempt with all the subjects of this kingdom," &c. The Chief Justice (Lee), according to the report, delivered it as his opinion that the jury ought to find the defendant guilty; for he thought the fact of publication was fully proved; and if so, they could not avoid bringing in the defendant guilty.(*a*) The jury, however, returned a verdict of not guilty.

In pursuance of a similar resolution and address of the House of Commons, John Stockdale was tried in 1789 upon an information charging him with having published a certain false, scandalous, wicked, seditious, and malicious libel concerning the impeachment of Warren Hastings, intending to asperse, scandalise, and vilify the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, and most wickedly

(*a*) 18 Howell's St. Tr. 1203, 1228.

and audaciously to represent their proceedings in Parliament as corrupt and unjust, &c. After a brilliant speech on behalf of Mr. Stockdale by Erskine, who took the line of defence that the intention of the author was to charge with injustice, not the House of Commons as a body, but the *private accusers* of Mr. Hastings, Lord Kenyon, C.J., told the jury that he acceded to the doctrine that they must be convinced that the pamphlet "was meant as an aspersion upon the HOUSE OF COMMONS;" and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

In 1796, John Reeves was tried upon an information filed against him by the Attorney-General in consequence of a resolution of the House of Commons that a pamphlet published by him entitled, "Thoughts on the English Government," was a malicious, scandalous, and seditious libel, and was also a high breach of the privileges of the House, and that an address should be presented to his Majesty asking him to direct a prosecution of the publisher. The jury acquitted the defendant.(*a*)

II. LIBELLOUS CONTEMPTS OF COURTS OF JUSTICE.

Various kinds of libellous contempts.

Libellous contempts of courts of justice may consist in scandalising the court itself; in the calumniation of the parties who are concerned in causes before the court; or in prejudicing mankind against persons before the cause is heard.(*b*) As such libels obstruct the law, and corrupt the very fountains of justice, the wisdom of the Constitution has enabled the courts who are the subjects of such scandal, with a view to protect themselves and their suitors, to proceed immediately against the offenders by the summary remedy of an attachment.(*c*) It is, therefore, a rule, founded on the reason of the common law, that all contempts to the process of the court, to its judges, juries, officers, and ministers, when acting in the due discharge of their respective duties, whether such contempts be by direct obstruction or consequentially; that is to say, whether they be by act or writing, are punishable by the court itself, and may be abated *instanter*, as nuisances to public justice, and subject the party so offending to fine and imprisonment.(*d*)

Libels of this character are also punishable by indictment or by criminal information.(*e*)

(*a*) 26 Howell's St. Tr. 530. (*b*) *Per* Lord Hardwicke (2 Atk. 471).
(*c*) Holt. L. L. 153. (*d*) *Ib.* 154.

(*e*) Lord George Gordon was tried upon an information in 1787, and found guilty of publishing a false, wicked, malicious, scandalous, and seditious libel on the judges and the administration of the law; and Thos. Wilkins was found guilty of printing and publishing the same.

There is a full discussion of the whole subject of commitments for contempt in an elaborate judgment, referred to with approval in subsequent cases, of Lord Chief Justice Wilmot, which he had prepared, and intended to deliver in the case of an application made in 1765 by the Attorney-General for an attachment against J. Almon for publishing a pamphlet entitled, "A Letter concerning Libels, Warrants, Seizure of Papers, &c.," containing many libellous passages upon the Court of King's Bench, and the Chief Justice for his conduct both in court and out of it, and charging the Court, and particularly the Chief Justice, with having introduced a method of proceeding to deprive the subject of the benefit of the Habeas Corpus Act.(*a*) The Chief Justice summarises the objections to the proceeding by commitment as follows: that it is an invasion upon the ancient simplicity of the law; that it took its rise from the Statute of Westminster (c. 2), and that Act applies only to persons resisting process; and though this mode of proceeding is very proper to remove obstructions to the execution of process, or to any contumelious treatment of it, or to any contempt of the authority of the court, yet that papers reflecting merely upon the qualities of judges themselves are not the proper objects of an attachment; that judges have proper remedies to recover a satisfaction for such reflections by actions of *scandalum magnatum*; and that in the case of a peer the House of Lords may be applied to for a breach of privilege; that such libellers may be brought to punishment by indictment or information; that there are but few instances of this sort of libels on courts or judges; that libels of this kind have been prosecuted by actions and indictments; and that attachments ought not to be extended to libels of this nature, because judges would be determining in their own cause; and that it is more proper for a jury to determine *quo animo* such libels were published.(*b*)

The Chief Justice, in the first place, denies that attachments derived their origin from the Statute of Westminster (c. 2). "The power which the courts in Westminster Hall

The libel was a pamphlet called "The Prisoners' Petition to the Right Honourable Lord George Gordon, to preserve their rights and liberties, and prevent their banishment to Botany Bay." The defendant was sentenced to three years imprisonment in Newgate: (*Rex* v. *Gordon*, 22 Howell's St. Tr. 177.)

(*a*) The prosecution of Mr. Almon having dropped, in consequence, it is supposed, of the resignation of the then Attorney-General, Sir Fletcher Norton, the judgment prepared by Chief Justice Wilmot was not delivered in court; but it is frequently referred to as an authority.

(*b*) See Wilmot's Notes and Opinions, p. 253.

have of vindicating their own authority is coeval with their first foundation and institution; it is a necessary incident to every court of justice, whether of record or not, to fine and imprison for a contempt to the court acted in the face of it.(*a*) And the issuing of attachments by the supreme courts of justice in Westminster Hall for contempts out of court, stands upon the same immemorial usage as supports the whole fabric of the Common Law: it is as much the *lex terræ*, and within the exception of Magna Charta, as the issuing any other legal process whatsoever."

To the objection that there is not such necessity for summary punishment in the case of libels upon courts or judges as in the case of resistance of process, his Lordship replies: "When the nature of the offence of libelling judges for what they do in their judicial capacity, either in court or out of court, comes to be considered, it does, in my opinion, become more proper for an attachment than any other case whatsoever. . . . . The arraignment of the justico of the judges is arraigning the King's justice: it is an impeachment of his wisdom and goodness in the choice of his judges, and excites in the minds of the people a general dissatisfaction with all judicial determinations, and indisposes their minds to obey them; and whenever men's allegiance to the law is so fundamentally shaken it is the most fatal and most dangerous obstruction of justice, and, in my opinion, calls out for a more rapid and immediate redress than any other obstruction whatsoever; not for the sake of the judges as private individuals, but because they are the channels by which the King's justice is conveyed to the people. To be impartial, and to be universally thought so, are both absolutely necessary for the giving justice that free, open, and uninterrupted current which it has for many ages found all over this kingdom, and which so eminently distinguishes and exalts it above all nations upon the earth,"(*b*)

After alluding to the action of *scandalum magnatum*, which only redresses the private injury, and the proceedings in the House of Lords for breach of privilege, the Chief Justice proceeds: "The Constitution has provided very apt and proper remedies for correcting and rectifying the involuntary mistakes of judges, and for punishing and

(*a*) 1 Vent. 1.

(*b*) In a later part of the judgment (Wilmot's Notes and Opinions, p. 270) his Lordship says: "The principle upon which attachments issue for libels upon courts is of a more enlarged and important nature [than that upon which attachments are granted in respect of bailiffs]—it is to keep a blaze of glory around them, and to deter people from attempting to render them contemptible in the eyes of the public."

removing them for any voluntary perversions of justice. But if their authority is to be trampled upon by pamphleteers and news-writers, and the people are to be told that the power given to the judges for their protection is prostituted to their destruction, the court may retain its power some little time, but I am sure it will instantly lose all its authority. The power of the court will not long survive the authority of it."(*a*)

Libelling judge in chambers.

His Lordship then considers whether a judge making an order at his house or chambers is not acting in his judicial capacity as a judge of the court, and both his person and character under the same protection as if he were sitting in court. "It is conceded," he says, "that an act of violence upon his person when he was making such an order would be a contempt punishable by attachment: upon what principle? for striking a judge in walking along the streets would not be a contempt of the court. The reason, therefore, must be, that he is in the exercise of his office, and discharging the function of a judge of this court; and if his person is under this protection, why should not his character be under the same protection? It is not for the sake of the individual, but for the sake of the public, that his person is under such protection; and in respect of the public, the imputing corruption and the perversion of justice to him, in an order made by him at his chambers, is attended with much more mischievous consequences than a blow; and, therefore, the reason of proceeding in this summary manner applies with equal, if not superior, force to one case as well as the other. There is no greater obstruction to the execution of justice from the striking a judge, than from the abusing him, because his order lies open to be enforced or discharged, whether the judge is struck or abused for making it. . . . . It may perhaps merit a less punishment to libel a single judge in court or out of court than to libel the whole court; but the question of the offence does not vary the mode of prosecuting it; it is an offence *ejusdem generis*, although *inferioris gradus*; and I cannot explore a single reason which can be urged to cover the judges in court against calumny and detraction for what they do there, which does not hold equally true, though in a less degree, when applied to what they do in their judicial capacities out of court; the

(*a*) "The word 'authority' is frequently used to express both the right of declaring the law, which is properly called jurisdiction, and of enforcing obedience to it, in which sense it is equivalent to the word power; but by the word 'authority' I do not mean that coercive power of the judges, but the deference and respect which is paid to them and their acts, from an opinion of their justice and integrity:" (*lb.* p. 256.)

quantum of the offence is different, but the quality of the offence is the same."

There is, however, no instance of a judge at chambers fining or imprisoning without the authority of the court, for any insult offered to him there. We must distinguish in this respect between a judge of a court of record and the court of record itself. "No one of the rights, privileges, and incidents of a judge of a court of record," says Alderson, B.,(*a*) "necessarily carries with it the power of committing for contempt." And Lord Abinger, C.B., observes:(*b*) "A judge of a court of record very often is engaged in the performance of functions which are wholly unconnected with his power of committing. A judge of the Court of King's Bench who grants a warrant at chambers is protected, although he should mistake the jurisdiction. Nobody would imagine that a judge, because he might grant a warrant on an information laid before him, could, in his private capacity as a judge of a court of record, punish any man for a contempt by fining him. Suppose an application is made for a warrant, and at the moment he is about to grant it, any letter were presented to him, or any insult offered to him, I believe there is no case to be found where a judge has ventured to fine or imprison without the authority of the court. Again; the judges of the different courts, who are discharging their judicial functions separately and in chambers, as ancillary to the general business of the court, have never yet ventured to act as courts of record; they are judges of record, but they do not, when they act individually, even when they are discharging part of their judicial functions, assume to themselves the power of a court of record, which is illustrated by the instance referred to, that an order of a judge at chambers cannot be enforced by attachment, but must be made first a rule of court, before there is any contempt in violating it."

An attorney of the King's Bench, in the reign of Edward III., was committed to the custody of the marshal, and found sureties for his good behaviour, for having written a letter to one of the King's council, reflecting on the judges, saying: "That neither Sir William Scot, Chief Justice, nor his fellows the King's justices, nor their clerks, any great thing would do by the commandment of our lord the King, nor of Queen Philippa, in that place more than of any other of the realm."(*c*)

The temperate and respectful discussion, by the newspaper

Discussion of judicial decisions not prohibited

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Faulkner* (2 Mont. & Ayr. 344).
(*b*) 2 Mont. & Ayr. 338, 339.
(*c*) 3 Inst. 174.

press, of the judicial determinations of our courts of justice is not interdicted; but mere invective or abuse, and still more the imputation of false, corrupt, or dishonest motives, to those who are engaged in the administration of justice, is punishable as a libel.

In a case of this sort, where the proprietor and printer of a newspaper were tried upon an information filed by the Attorney-General, for a libel upon Le Blanc, J., and the jury before whom the captain of a merchant-ship had been tried for murder at the Old Bailey, Grose, J., said: "It certainly was lawful with decency and candour to discuss the propriety of the verdict of a jury, or the decisions of a judge; and if the defendants should be thought to have done no more in this instance, they would be entitled to an acquittal; but, on the contrary, they had transgressed the law, and ought to be convicted, if the extracts from the newspapers set out in the information contained no reasoning or discussion, but only declamation and invective, and were written not with a view to elucidate the truth, but to injure the characters of individuals, and to bring into hatred and contempt the administration of justice in the country."(*a*)

In similar language Fitzgerald, J. directed the jury, in dealing with a seditious libel which related, amongst others things, to the case of certain men who had been tried and executed for murder:(*b*) "The defendant had a right to discuss fairly and *bonâ fide* the administration of justice as evidenced at this trial. It is open to him to show that error was committed on the part of the judge or jury; nay, further, for myself I will say that the judges invite discussion of their acts in the administration of the law, and it is a relief to them to see error pointed out, if it is committed; yet, whilst they invite the freest discussion, it is not open to a journalist to impute corruption."(*c*)

(*a*) *Rex* v. *White and another* (1 Camp. N. P. 359). According to the report, the libel in this case affirmed the prisoner to have been guilty of murdering one of his crew, and in a gross and abusive style censured the judge and jury for acquitting him. The defendants having been found guilty, were sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

(*b*) *Reg.* v. *Sullivan* (11 Cox Crim. Cas. 57).

(*c*) A lieutenant in the royal marines having, in the year 1743, been sentenced by a court martial to fifteen years imprisonment, brought an action against the president of the court martial, and recovered 1000*l.* damages, and, in pursuance of what fell from the judge at the trial, commenced actions also against the other members of the court martial who had passed the sentence, and they were arrested by *capias* at the breaking up of a court martial against another officer, of which they were also members. This latter court martial then passed certain resolutions reflecting on Sir John Willes, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, which

Libel published when court is not sitting.

Though the libel be published whilst the court is not sitting, and at a place somewhat distant, a court of record has still the power of punishing by commitment.(*a*) The publisher and the writer of an article in a newspaper which reflected intemperately on certain proceedings of the Court of Chancery of the Isle of Man, were committed to prison for the contempt, though the court was not sitting at the time of publication, and the publication took place in Douglas, ten miles distant from where the court sat.(*b*) "It is objected," said Patterson, J., "that the court could have no general power of commitment for a libel published out of court some time before. This point has not been expressly decided upon. In *Van Sandau's case*(*c*) the libel appears to have been published both in court and out of it. In *Rex* v. *Almon*(*d*) there was a very learned judgment by Chief Justice Wilmot, which he intended to deliver, though it was not delivered in fact, the case having dropped. He satisfactorily shows that a court of record has power to punish by commitment for contempt, a libel published while the court is not sitting." And Erle, J., added: "The commitment here was for a contempt in publishing, while the court was not sitting, and perhaps at some distance of time and place, a libel on the proceedings of the court. In the elaborate judgment to which my brother Patterson has referred, it is shown that such a publication may have a strong and immediate tendency to paralyse the proceedings of the court. Such cases may easily be conceived; the propriety of the decision in the particular case is a question for the court itself."

An information was granted in 1788, against the members of the corporation of Yarmouth, for having entered upon their books an order stating "that the assembly were sensible that Mr. W. [against whom an action had been

were laid before the King. Upon this the Chief Justice caused every member of the court to be taken into custody, and was proceeding to assert and maintain the authority of his office, when a written and contrite submission signed by all the members of the court, stayed the progress of justice. The submission transmitted to the Lord Chief Justice was ordered to be read in open court, and to be registered in the Remembrancer's office. It also appeared in the *London Gazette*, "a memorial (as observed by the Lord Chief Justice) to the present and future ages, that whoever set themselves up in opposition to the laws, or think themselves above the law will, in the end, find themselves mistaken:" (C. Pl. M. S. 1743; Holt. L. L. 158, 159.)

(*a*) *Crawford's case* (13 Q. B. 613). (*b*) *Ib.*

(*c*) *Van Sandau* v. *Turner* (6 Q. B. 773); *Ex parte Van Sandau* (1 Phill. 445, 605).

(*d*) Wilmot's Notes and Opinions, 243, 252, 291.

brought for a malicious prosecution, and a verdict returned for 3000*l.* damages, which the court refused to disturb] was actuated by motives of public justice, of preserving the rights of the corporation to their admiralty jurisdiction, and of supporting the honour and credit of the chief magistrate; and therefore they vote him the sum of 2300*l.*"(*a*) "Nothing," said Buller, J., "can be of greater importance to the welfare of the public than to put a stop to the animadversions and censures which are so frequently made on courts of justice in this country. They can be of no service, and may be attended with the most mischievous consequences. Cases may happen in which the judge and the jury may be mistaken: where they are, the law has afforded a remedy, and the party injured is entitled to pursue every method which the law allows to correct the mistake. But when a person has recourse, either by a writing like the present, by publications in print, or by any other means, to calumniate the proceedings of a court of justice, the obvious tendency of it is to weaken the administration of justice, and in consequence to sap the very foundation of the constitution itself. . . . . They say 'that W. was actuated by motives of public justice,' &c. But the judge and jury who tried the cause, confirmed as to their opinion by the Court of Common Pleas, have said that, instead of his having been actuated by motives of public justice, or by any motives which should influence the actions of an honest man, he had acted from malice. These opinions are not reconcilable; if the one be right, the other must be wrong. It is, therefore, a direct insinuation that the court had judged wrong in all they have done in this case, and it is therefore clearly a libel on the administration of justice. . . . . The defendants have, indeed, said that they never meant to reflect on the public justice of the country; but that alone is no answer to this application. Where particular allegations are made in applying for an information, some answer must be given. If the thing charged be capable of different explanations, it is fair to take the defendants' explanation in their affidavits that they did not intend anything wrong; but if it be only capable of one interpretation, we are not to be guided by such a general answer. I am of opinion that the information should go against all."(*b*)

Publication by person engaged in a suit.

A solicitor in a bankruptcy proceeding was held guilty of a gross contempt of court in publishing a pamphlet contain-

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Watson* (2 T. R. 199).
(*b*) See also the remarks of Ashurst and Grose, JJ., in the same case.

ing insulting observations on the Court of Review, and on certain parties engaged in litigation before it. The pamphlet spoke of the judgment of the Chief Judge in Bankruptcy (Sir J. Knight Bruce) as "an elaborate production, wholly beside the merits of the case, free from all allusions to the facts or statements in the affidavits, which it was but charity to suppose were never referred to by the judge; free from all denunciations against fraud; and that the only object of it seemed to have been to deter solicitors from every attempt to expose and correct abuses in bankruptcy." The Judge of the Court of Review (Sir G. Rose) considered this to be a gross and scandalous contumacy of the learned judge, and a gross libel upon him, which ought to be visited as a contempt of that court, and committed the writer to custody, from which he was released on humbly apologising and paying all the costs incidental to the application.(*a*)

A barrister and member of Parliament who wrote a letter in threatening and insulting terms to a Master in Chancery, before whom he had appeared in support of a petition presented by himself and others, the tendency of the letter being to induce the master to alter the opinion he was supposed to have formed upon the case, was committed by the Lord Chancellor (Cottenham) to the Fleet during pleasure.(*b*) "The power of committal," said his Lordship, "is given to courts of justice for the purpose of securing the better and more secure administration of justice. Every writing, letter, or publication which has for its object to divert the course of justice is a contempt of the court. It would be strange, indeed, if the judges of the court were the only persons not protected from libels, writings, and proceedings, the direct object of which is to pervert the cause of justice. Every insult offered to a judge in the exercise of the duties of his office is a contempt; but when the writing or publication proceeds further, and when, not by inference, but by plain and direct language, a threat is used, the object of which is to induce a judicial officer to depart from the course of his judicial duty, and to adopt a course he would not otherwise pursue, it is a contempt of the very highest order."(*c*)

(*a*) *Ex parte Turner* (3 Mont. D. & De G. 523, 551, 558).
(*b*) *Mr. Lechmere Charlton's case* (2 My. & Cr. 316).
(*c*) *Ib.* 339. Lord Abinger, C.B., and Alderson, B., seem to have taken a different view of the mode of dealing with insulting letters addressed to a judge, touching a matter under consideration. "I can only say," said Lord Abinger, "that if I received such a letter I should not consider myself at liberty to commit the writer." To which

The writer of a letter to Lord Hardwicke relative to a threatened suit, and inclosing a bank-note, was held guilty of contempt;(*a*) and so was the writer of a letter to Chief Baron Parker, making mention of a cause depending in the Court of Exchequer, and containing a scandalous offer to his lordship.(*b*)

A threatening letter sent to one of the parties or witnesses in a suit is as much a contempt of court as one addressed to a judge or officer of the court.(*c*)

Lord Erskine, C., committed to prison the committee of a lunatic and his wife for having published a pamphlet, with a dedication to the Lord Chancellor, reflecting upon the conduct of certain persons acting, in the management of the affairs of a lunatic, under orders from the Court of Chancery. His lordship committed also the printer, and held that ignorance of the contents of the pamphlet would not excuse him.(*d*)

A judge of assize (Blackburn, J.), having ordered part of the court to be cleared on account of the noise made by the persons assembled there, the High Sheriff of the county caused a placard, signed by him, to be posted up in the town opposite the court, in which he recorded his protest against "this unlawful proceeding" of the learned judge, and said "I have given directions that the court shall be opened again to the public according to the custom and the law. All persons, so long as they conduct themselves with decorum, have a lawful right to be present in court; and I hereby prohibit my officers from aiding and abetting any attempt to bar out the public from free access to the court." For this contempt the High Sheriff was fined 500*l.* by Cockburn, C.J., who was sitting in the next court.(*e*)

Alderson, B., added: "There would be a great many committals if such a course were pursued by the judges." "Do you mean to say," asked Lord Abinger of counsel, "that one of the judges has the power to fine a man for sending him a silly letter, or an impudent letter about any matter that he has decided? I can only say I should be very much afraid of exercising it: (See *Rex* v. *Faulkner*, 2 Mont. & Ayr. 321, 322).

(*a*) *Martin's case* (2 Russ. & Myl. 674).

(*b*) *Macgill's case* (2 Fow. Ex. Prac. 404).

(*c*) *Smith* v. *Lakeman* (26 L. J. 305, Ch.); *Shaw* v. *Shaw* (31 L. J. Prob. 35; 6 L. T. N. S. 477; 2 S. & T. 515); *Re Mulock* (33 L. J. Prob. 205; 10 Jur. N. S. 1188).

(*d*) *Ex parte Jones* (13 Ves. 237).

(*e*) *In re the High Sheriff of Surrey* (2 F. & F. 237). The same gentleman having persisted in addressing the grand jury in court after a prohibition from the presiding judge, was fined 500*l.* and threatened with commitment if he did not desist. This fine was remitted on his reading a written apology in court: (*Ib.* 234.)

The Scotch courts exercise the same powers as to commitments for contempt which the English courts do. Hume,(*a*) after dealing with the case of contemptuous demeanor in court, says: "It is equally indispensable to repress in the like speedy and effectual manner all attempts which may be made with relation to any trial depending at the time, or which has recently been so, to slander the proceedings of the court, or depreciate the character, or sully the honour of the judges; or to impose on their wisdom and pollute the demands of justice, to the prejudice of a fair and an impartial trial. In former times they scrupled not summarily to inflict high corporal pains, for transgressions of the first of these kinds. As in the case of Donald Campbell, who, in the course of a trial, when standing among the multitude by the courthouse, had openly accused the Earl of Athol, Justice-General, of gross partiality and corruption in the case; he had sentence, therefore, to stand two hours upon the cuck-stool and make public confession of his fault, and to have his tongue bored by the common executioner. More lately, after the conviction of Nairn and Ogilvy, certain printers were rebuked (and, on account of their submission, were dismissed without further answer) for publishing an opinion of English counsel on the case, accompanied with notes highly injurious to the court and the jury. In a still later instance, an account had been published of a certain trial, equally slanderous of the proceedings of the court, and contemptuous of the persons of the judges; and here, as the offence was not followed with the like symptoms of contrition, the culprits Johnson and Drummond were sent to gaol for three months, and till they should find surety for their good behaviour for the future. In these several instances the court guarded their own honour. In the following they were no less jealous of the interest of justice and a fair trial. One Gilkie, a writer, agent for the prosecutor in a case of murder, was condemned to a month's imprisonment and to find caution for his good behaviour: after execution of the criminal letters, he had published sundry memorials and other addresses commenting on the charge, and tending to prejudice the public against the accused. The Lords declared on this occasion 'that such publications are a high indignity to the court and most dangerous to the course of justice, as tending to prepossess and inflame the minds of the country against the persons accused, and thereby obstruct the course of a fair trial.' A fine was awarded, and the

(*a*) 2 Com. 139.

like censure of all such unfair practices was inserted in the record, on occasion of the trial of Ewan Macewen before the Lords Justice-Clerk and Eskgrove at Perth, in May, 1785: after service of the indictment, the agent for the pannel had rashly published and circulated in the neighbourhood, a sort of narrative on his part, giving an account of the charge, and the circumstances of the case."

In 1820, Gilbert M'Leod was sentenced to be imprisoned and find caution, under a penalty, for his good behaviour for three years, for having published, in a periodical called *The Spirit of the Union*, a false and slanderous account of what had passed in court at giving sentence of fugitation against George Kinloch, and one which was calculated to raise groundless doubts and jealousies of the due administration of justice in the Court of Justiciary.(*a*)

A newspaper having published (pending the trial of this Gilbert M'Leod, the same year, on a charge of sedition) a paragraph inserted by William Watson, which gave a false and exaggerated account of the charge against the accused, and made his case the subject of public discussion, the court found "that such conduct is derogatory to the authority of this court, dangerous to parties, whether prosecutors or pannels, and subversive of the principles of a fair trial;" but in respect of circumstances of extenuation stated by Watson, they dismissed him with a rebuke and a fine of five pounds.(*b*)

It appears that in those cases where the publication of statements having a tendency to interfere with the administration of justice, does not call for punishment, the court may nevertheless interfere to prohibit such publication. Thus, in 1829, William Haire being charged with the murder of James Wilson, on the motion of the counsel for the accused with reference to an advertisement of a forthcoming publication of the confessions of William Burke, which had been announced in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, the Lords "prohibit the editor and publisher of the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* from publishing or circulating any statement relative to the alleged murder of James Wilson, or anything prejudicial to the prisoner, William Haire, in the said confession, or doing anything whereby the same may be published, till the proceedings now in dependence against the said William Haire shall be brought to a conclusion, and recommend to the publishers of all newspapers to abstain in like manner from doing so."(*c*)

(*a*) Shaw's Cases, No. 4. (*b*) *Ib.* No. 6.
(*c*) Bell's notes, 165. See also *Emond's case* (7 December, 1829, Shaw,

Colonial courts of record possess the same power of commitment for contempt that the home courts do, and an appeal will not lie from such a commitment to the Privy Council.(*a*)

In these cases, however, it must appear clearly on the face of the order that the party had committed a contempt, that he had been duly summoned to make his defence, and that the punishment awarded for the contempt was an appropriate one.(*b*)

Where a barrister and attorney wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, reflecting on the judges and the administration of justice generally in the court, but wrote it not in his professional capacity, but in his private capacity as a suitor in respect of a supposed grievance and injury done him as a suitor, the Privy Council held that an order suspending the writer from practising in the court was not an appropriate punishment for the offence, and on that ground advised Her Majesty to discharge the order.(*c*)

"The letter," said Lord Westbury, in delivering the judgment of the Privy Council, "was a contempt of court which it was hardly possible for the court to omit taking cognisance of. It was an offence, however, committed by an individual in his capacity of a suitor in respect of his supposed rights as a suitor and of an imaginary injury done to him as a suitor, and it had no connection whatever with his professional character, or anything done by him professionally either as an advocate or an attorney. It was a contempt of court committed by an individual in his personal character only. To offences of that kind there has been attached by law and by long practice a definite kind of punishment, viz., fine and imprisonment. It must not, however, be supposed that a court of justice has not the power to remove the officers of the court if unfit to be entrusted with a professional *status* and character. If an advocate, for example, were found guilty of crime, there is no doubt that the court would suspend him. If an attorney

229). For Lord Cottenham's opinion as to the jurisdiction of the Court of Session to prevent by interdict the publication of libellous statements, see 1 H. L. Cas. 376.

(*a*) *McDermott* v. *The Judges of British Guiana* (L. Rep. 2 P. C. App. 341; 20 L. T. N. S. 47). See also *Rainy* v. *The Justices of Sierra Leone* (8 Moore's P. C. C. 47, 54), and *Hughes* v. *Porral* (4 Moore's P. C. C. 41).

(*b*) See *per* Lord Chelmsford (L. Rep. 2 P. C. App. 363), and *Re Wallace* (L. Rep. 1 P. C. App. 283; 14 L. T. N. S. 286; 36 L. J. 9, P. C. C.; 14 W. R. 609); *Re Pollard* (5 Moore's P. C. C. 111; L. Rep. 2 P. C. App. 106); *Re Downie and Arrindell* (3 Moore's P. C. C. 414).

(*c*) *Re Wallace* (*ubi supra*). See also *Re Downie and Arrindell* (3 Moore's P. C. C. 414).

be found guilty of moral delinquency in his private character, there is no doubt that he may be struck off the roll. But in this particular case there is no *delictum* brought forward or assigned, except that which results from the fact of addressing an improper and contemptuous letter to the chief justice of the court, in respect of something supposed to have been done unjustly to the writer in his private capacity as a suitor. We think, therefore, there was no necessity for the judges to go further than to award to that offence the customary punishment for contempt of court."(*a*)

Publications which tend to prejudice the hearing of a cause.

The calumniation of parties who are concerned in a cause before the court, or any publication which attempts to create prejudice against any of them before the cause is heard, and thus tends to influence its result, constitutes a contempt.

The rules which have been laid down as to fair comment on matters of public interest and notoriety, do not extend to comments on matters still pending, waiting for argument

(*a*) Besides contempts of court committed by means of libellous writings (with which alone this work professes to deal), the courts have frequently punished by attachment the utterance of contemptuous or contumelious words, and also the contemptuous demeanour of parties before it. Contempts of court by means of words are also indictable. The following are examples of this general head of contempts: Calling a magistrate, in a court of justice, a fool, but not so speaking of him in his absence, and without reference to the execution of his office (*Simmons* v. *Sweete*, Cro. Eliz. 78; *Reg.* v. *Wrightson*, Salk. 698; see also 2 Roll. Rep. 78; 4 Inst. 181; *Ex parte the Mayor of Yarmouth*, 1 Cox Crim. Cas. 122); giving the lie to the steward of a manor holding a court leet (*Earl of Lincoln* v. *Fisher*, Cro. Eliz. 581; Ow. 113; Mo. 470), or telling him in court that he is forsworn (2 Rol. Abridg. 78); saying to justices in session "Though I cannot have justice here, I will have it elsewhere" (*Rex* v. *Mayo*, 1 Keb. 508; 1 Sid. 144); putting on one's hat in presence of the lord of a court leet, and saying he cared not what he could do (*Bathurst* v. *Coxe*, 1 Keb. 451, 465; Raym. 78); saying to a justice of the peace in the execution of his office that he was a rogue and liar (*Rex* v. *Revel*, 1 Str. 420); but not saying of a justice in his absence that he was a scoundrel and a liar (*Rex* v. *Veltje*, 2 Camp. 142). And a court may be insulted by the most innocent words uttered in a peculiar manner and tone (*Per* Lord Denman, C.J., *Carus Wilson's case*, 7 Q. B. 1015). Wherever a justice may commit for such words, the offender may also be indicted for the misdemeanour (Str. 420). A justice can commit only where the contemptuous words are spoken in his presence; in other cases the remedy is by indictment of the offender: (*Rex* v. *Revel, ubi supra.* See also *Rex* v. *Wrightson, ubi supra*, and 1 Vent. 169; 2 Keb. 249; Hutt. 131; 3 Mod. 139; *Rex* v. *Selby*, Mich. 4 Anne K. B.; *Rex* v. *Penny*, 1 Ld. Raym.; *Rex* v. *Pocock*, Str. 1157.) A barrister may also commit a contempt of court in the conduct of a cause: (*Re Pater*, 33 L. J. 142, Q. B.); and so may one of the parties to the cause in the course of addressing the jury: (*Rex* v. *Davison*, 4 B. & Ald. 329.) As to contempts of county courts see sect. 113 of 9 & 10 Vict. c. 95, and the case of *Levy* v. *Moylan* (19 L. J. 308, C. P.); and as to contempts of ecclesiastical courts, see 2 & 3 Will. 4, c. 93.

and decision, which have a direct tendency towards directing and swaying the mind of the court or jury, by whom the cause is to be determined.(*a*)

The publication by a newspaper of a paragraph taxing certain witnesses in a pending cause with "turning affidavit men," was held a contempt of court by Lord Hardwicke. His lordship construed the words "affidavit men" to mean "persons who are ready upon all occasions to make affidavits without regarding whether they have any cognisance of the facts," and committed the printers to prison, observing(*b*) that "nothing is more incumbent upon courts of justice than to preserve their proceedings from being misrepresented; nor is there anything of more pernicious consequence than to prejudice the minds of the public against persons concerned as parties in causes, before the cause is finally heard. . . . . There cannot be anything of greater consequence than to keep the streams of justice clear and pure, that parties may proceed with safety both to themselves and their characters."

The publication in a newspaper, pending a cause in Chancery, of articles reflecting on the plaintiff and his witnesses, and characterising the Chancery proceedings as vexatious and unprincipled, and representing the affidavits as containing glaring misrepresentations which the editor believed, and heartily hoped, would lead to an indictment for perjury, was held a contempt of court by the Master of the Rolls (Lord Langdale). "If parties in the prosecution of their rights," said his Lordship, "are to be exposed to this species of attack, and are to be placed in such a situation that they cannot safely proceed in the defence of their rights, and if witnesses are in this way deterred from coming forward in aid of legal proceedings, it will be impossible that justice can be administered. It would be better that the doors of the courts of justice were at once closed."(*c*)

It was held a gross contempt of court to publish in a newspaper an article commenting on affidavits which had been filed on behalf of the plaintiff in a suit, but were not yet before the court; and the publisher, after making an ample apology, was ordered to pay the costs of a motion to commit him.(*d*)

Reprint of article.

It is also a contempt to reprint in another newspaper an

(*a*) See *per* Wood, V.C., *Tichborne* v. *Mostyn* (17 L. T. N. S. 7; L. Rep. 7 Eq. 57).

(*b*) 2 Atk. 469.

(*c*) *Littler* v. *Thompson* (2 Beav. 129).

(*d*) *Tichborne* v. *Mostyn* (17 L. T. N. S. 5; L. Rep. 7 Eq. 55). See the language of Wood, V.C., on this subject, cited *ante*, p. 45, 46.

article of this sort. In the case last referred to, a motion to commit the publishers of two newspapers which had simply reprinted the article was refused, but the publishers had to pay their own costs. The printer of a newspaper which had gone beyond merely reprinting the article, was made to pay the costs of the motion.(*a*)

Vice-Chancellor Kindersley committed to prison the publisher of a newspaper, for having published a leading article commenting on affidavits made in a suit in Chancery, which had not yet come on for hearing, and holding up to ridicule the makers of the affidavits, and characterising their conduct as utterly disgraceful.(*b*)

If a court make an order prohibiting the publication of the proceedings pending a trial likely to continue for several successive days, it is a contempt of court to disobey such order.(*c*)

Printing brief.

On a similar ground, viz., that the publication tended to prejudice the world with regard to the merits of the cause before it was heard, the act of a party who printed his brief before the cause came on, was held a contempt of court, though there was nothing in the publication reflecting upon the court in any way.(*d*)

Publishing a petition to Court of Chancery.

It was also held a contempt of court for a newspaper to publish, before it was heard, a petition which had been presented to the Court of Chancery for the winding-up of a company, containing grave charges against the directors. It was contended, on behalf of the newspaper proprietor, that the case of a petition to wind-up was an exceptional one, because under the Act it must be advertised, and the advertisement must be accompanied by a statement that

(*a*) *Ib.* See also *Tichborne* v. *Tichborne* (22 L. T. N. S. 55).

(*b*) *Felkin* v. *Herbert* (9 L. T. N. S. 635; 33 L. J. 294, Ch.) In this case the publisher was released from custody after ten days' confinement, on payment of costs and fees, and humbly apologising to the court for the contempt which he had committed. The motion for his discharge was opposed on the ground that he should also have apologised to the persons who had made the affidavits, and whom he had injured by the reflections contained in the leading article. The Vice-Chancellor, however, thought that the making of such an apology could not be made a condition precedent to his discharge. "He was not," said his Honour, "committed for an offence against anything appertaining to the honour or character of the defendants, but because the language used was a contempt of this court, and tending to impede the course of justice; not because it was an offence against any given individuals; and when he applies to be discharged, and expresses his contrition, how can the judge say he will not discharge him, unless he does something in respect of a matter for which he was not committed?" (*Ib.*) (*c*) See *Rex* v. *Clement* (4 B. & Ald. 218).

(*d*) See *per* Lord Hardwick (2 Atk. 471); S. C. *nom. Roach* v. *Garvan* (2 Dick. 794).

persons desiring to possess it might obtain copies from the solicitor by an ordinary application. Malins, V.C., said: "No doubt, every contributory and creditor can obtain such copies, but it is not open to any one of the public, strangers to the matter, and does not give a general licence to publish the petition. It is the duty of the solicitor, before he gives copies of such a petition, which frequently contains unpleasant charges, to ascertain whether the applicants are contributories or creditors: he cannot give copies to anyone who will pay for them. There is nothing in the Act or rules which sanctions the publication of a petition of this kind, any more than a bill in Chancery. It was said that there was no intention to injure in this publication; but it is a sound rule that you cannot dive into men's minds, but must draw inferences from their acts. In this case I must attribute to these proprietors, that they did not print these grave charges of fraudulent conduct against these directors unknowingly and unwittingly. They may be true or false, but that must be decided on the evidence. If you once permit such a publication as this, any person may file a petition, and any proprietor of a newspaper may print and publish it, and thus it may be made the vehicle of grievous injury to an individual character."(*a*)

Publication of letters by solicitor of one of the parties.

It is a contempt of court for the solicitor of one of the parties in a suit to write letters for publication in a newspaper, which tend to influence the result of the suit.(*b*) "It is highly important," said Lord Romilly, M.R.,(*c*) "that the court should not allow steps of this sort to be taken by the officers of the court in causes in which they are engaged, which possibly may have an effect favourable to their client or unfavourable to the other side; and I may further say that if I am to go minutely into every sentence of a letter which is written in a public newspaper, to say this is questionable, and that is doubtful, and the like, it is imposing a task and a duty upon the court which it will be impossible to perform. There is one distinct line drawn, which is this, that gentlemen who are concerned for contending clients in this court, whether solicitors or counsel, should abstain entirely from discussing the merits of those questions in public print; if they do it at all, they ought to put their names to their communications. But to let the public suppose that it is merely done by a person who takes a great interest in, and has great knowledge of the subject, and discusses

(*a*) *Re Cheltenham and Swansea Railway Carriage and Wagon Company* (20 L. T. N. S. 169; L. Rep. 8 Eq. 580).
(*b*) *Daw* v. *Eley* (L. Rep. 7 Eq. 49). (*c*) *Ib.* 61.

it from a public point of view, when, if the fact were known, he is the solicitor of the defendant, and has the strongest possible interest in his success, is in my opinion, highly reprehensible."

Liability of editor for insertion of anonymous letters.

The letters published in this case were anonymous. The suit was to restrain the infringement of a patent, one of the issues raised being as to the novelty of the plaintiff's invention, and the letters written by the defendant's solicitor stated facts tending to disprove the novelty of the invention. On the appearance of the first letter, the plaintiff wrote to the editor referring to the suit, and suggesting that the writer of the published letter was an interested party. Notwithstanding this, the editor, besides refusing to insert the plaintiff's letter, as containing personal imputations, afterwards published a further anonymous letter from the defendant's solicitor, knowing that he was a solicitor, but not knowing that he was the solicitor in the pending suit. A motion was made to commit the editor also for a contempt of court, but the motion was refused, the editor, however, having to pay his own costs. Lord Romilly said: "The case of the editor of a newspaper is very different from that of persons who write letters to the paper for publication. His duty is simply to take no part in matters purely personal between individuals, or in matters which are the subject of a lawsuit. But it often happens that private matters are so mixed up with public matters into which it is his duty to enter, that it is very difficult to draw the distinction between them. In this case, if the editor had inserted Mr. D.'s [the plaintiff's] letter, I should have thought that there was nothing in his conduct calling for the interference of the court; but he did not insert it, and afterwards, with notice that a suit was pending, with the knowledge that the author of the letters was Mr. C., and that Mr. C. was a solicitor, which ought to have induced him to inquire further, and ascertain the exact position which Mr. C. occupied, he allowed further letters on both sides to be published. I am inclined to think, by what the plaintiff told him, he was put upon inquiry whether 'Copper Cap' [the *nom de plume* of the letter-writer] was connected with the suit." His Lordship, having taken time to consider the matter, said, on a subsequent day: "As regards the case of the editor, I think that he did not show quite the forbearance towards Mr. D. that he might have done, considering how materially interested Mr. D. was in the matter; and that he might have made some little excuse for the warmth which Mr. D. showed upon the subject. At the same time there is nothing I can find against the editor

for which I can require him either to make an apology or to pay the costs of this motion; but, for the reasons I stated on the last occasion, I cannot give him costs. That is out of the question. He has certainly shown a tendency to decide against Mr. D.; but I also feel for the difficult position in which an editor is placed in such cases. But, as I said before, with respect to him I can make no order."

Party supplying newspaper with information cannot complain of contempt

If one of the parties to a suit has himself supplied the newspaper with the information upon which comments are made, he is not in a position to complain of the contempt.

Where the plaintiff in a suit procured the insertion in a local newspaper of a statement of his claim, and his agent gave the newspaper proprietor a copy of the bill, a motion having been made to commit the proprietor for contempt in publishing certain articles disparaging the plaintiff's claim, Bacon, V.C., refused to make any order whatever in the matter, saying: "I am not considering the offence committed against the court by contempt, but the right which the plaintiff in the suit, who has endeavoured to make use of a newspaper for his own purpose, has to come afterwards and complain of subsequent statements or comments, not malevolent and not libellous, upon the subject which he has submitted to the editor of that newspaper. What right has he to be here to complain? I cannot conceive that he has the slightest right in the world."(*a*)

Publication by one party does not justify publication by the other

Though one party to a suit in Chancery publish newspaper attacks on the conduct of his opponent, the latter will not be allowed, by way of defence, to publish, pending litigation, *ex parte* garbled accounts of any of the proceedings in court or before the examiner.(*b*)

In a case of this kind, Lord Hatherley (when Vice-Chancellor Wood) restrained, by injunction, the publication of a pamphlet containing an unfair account of the evidence of one of the witnesses, taken before the examiner, saying: "If the one party endeavours to prejudice the public in any way against the other litigant party, there is not the slightest justification for the other party doing the same; and this court, in the administration of justice, always takes care that neither party shall do it. . . . . I quite agree with the respondent's counsel in thinking that the present times are very different from those of Lord Hardwicke, and that the present feeling and the general judgment of mankind as to what is or is not proper to be published, are

(*a*) *Vernon* v. *Vernon* (23 L. T. N. S. 697).
(*b*) *Coleman* v. *West Hartlepool Harbour and Railway Company* (2 L. T. N. S. 766; 8 W. R. 734).

PART IV. CHAPTER V.

exceedingly different to what they were at that time. That may at once be conceded; but at the same time, even as regards the publicity of proceedings in courts of justice, and when it is a question between parties who are not litigant, but between one of the parties litigant and the publisher of a newspaper, for instance; even as between these parties the court, in these days, recognising in the highest possible degree the importance of the public being duly and fairly informed of all that takes place, yet does take care that there shall only be such proper information published in a fair and reasonable manner. I mean that courts of justice, in giving directions to a jury as to the ultimate result in that which is or is not a fair publication, always leaves it for the consideration of such jury whether or not an independent, or supposed to be independent, person, who has published a narrative of proceedings of a court of justice, has published them in a fair and reasonable manner, being anxious to inform the public; or whether there is evidence of malice in the modes in which the report was framed. Now, this court, in dealing between litigants, takes care that the litigants shall not, by such foolish attempts as appear to me to have been made on both sides here, create public prejudice, each against his opponent, in the progress of the litigation, which ought to be conducted with all proper calmness and discretion, and for the purpose of eliciting truth."(*a*)

Distinction between publication by newspaper reporter, and publication by one of the litigants.

The publication of the proceedings in court, pending litigation, by a newspaper reporter, differs from a publication by one of the parties to the litigation in this, that there is a *primâ facie* presumption against the fairness of the latter publication. "Nobody," said Lord Hatherley, in the case last referred to,(*b*) "feels more sensibly than myself the advantage of having a fair publication of all that takes place in a court of justice; but I make this observation, that whenever one of the litigants is the party making the statement, that is a very strong *primâ facie* presumption against its being at all fair, and that in any case in which a litigant makes a publication, it is exceedingly different from that which a newspaper reporter would publish simply in the discharge of what was his duty. Such a case is widely different. I am not aware that any case precisely like this has occurred before; but I had no hesitation in granting the *interim* order for the injunction in the first instance, because I was aware of what the course of all the courts at all times has been, with reference to keeping their proceedings pure from this false description of excite-

(*a*) 2 L. T. N. S. 767. (*b*) 2 L. T. N. S. 768.

ment, which would tend to bring witnesses into the witness-box with their imaginations coloured and prejudiced by *ex parte* statements sent and circulated among them by one of the litigant parties; and, consequently, it is a case in which one ought to prevent any such undue use being made of the proceedings of the court."

Advertisements of rewards for evidence.

On similar grounds the publication in a newspaper of an advertisement offering a reward to any one who should make legal proof of a marriage, in question before the Court of Chancery in a pending suit, was held a contempt of court, as having a tendency to produce false evidence. "It is a reproach to the nation," said the Lord Chancellor (Parker), "and an insufferable thing, to make a public offer in print to procure evidence; and is tantamount to saying, that such persons as will come in and swear, or procure others to swear such a thing, shall have 100*l*. reward, and this in a cause now depending here. If 100*l*. is to be allowed, the same reason will hold as to the allowing of 500*l*. or 1000*l*. And though the intention of the person so advertising may be innocent (and I, knowing the man, believe it was so, inasmuch that if a court may be said to have inclinations or impressions from thence, I must own, I should be influenced by my knowing Mr. Pool to be an honest man), yet the justice of the court, nay the justice of the nation, being concerned in so public a case, I cannot dismiss the party, though his counsel offer to pay costs to the other side, but in justice and for example's sake, he must stand committed."(*a*) Lord Hardwicke also committed a person who published an advertisement relating to the answer put in by the defendant in a Chancery suit; saying, that his reason for committing was "not only for the sake of the party injured by such advertisement, but for sake of the public proceedings in court, to hinder such advertisements which tend to prepossess people as to the proceedings in the court."(*b*)

Injunction is in discretion of court.

It is not every unfair report that the court will interfere to restrain by injunction.(*c*) "Every court," said Turner, L.J., "has the power of preventing the publication of its proceedings pending litigation; but it is not to be exercised in all cases, and it is a question quite in the discretion of the court."(*d*)

Publications concerning a person charged with a crime.

The exhibition in an assize town of inflammatory publications respecting a prisoner about to be tried for murder,

(*a*) *Pool* v. *Sacheverel* (1 P. Wms. 675).
(*b*) *Mrs. Farley's case* (2 Ves. Sen. 520).
(*c*) *Brook* v. *Evans* (29 L. J. 616, Ch.)
(*d*) *Ib*

was considered by Littledale and Gaselee, JJ., not to be a contempt which the judge of assize could interfere to stop by commitment, though they thought it "highly indecorous and improper, and one that might subject the man to punishment." (*a*) There is no doubt that a criminal information would be granted against him.

Whether proceedings must be pending.

It was the opinion of Sir G. Rose, judge of the Court of Review in Bankruptcy, that the pendency of proceedings was not necessary to give the court jurisdiction to commit for contempt in publishing insulting observations respecting the parties to a proceeding before it.

In a case in which judgment had been finally pronounced upon a petition, but the order had not been drawn up when the libel was published, that learned judge said: "A distinction has been attempted to be maintained, that in this case the proceeding is not a pending proceeding, but a proceeding that has been concluded; but, even if this case could be so looked at, it is not in my humble opinion a right conclusion, that parties are at liberty to attack each other with abuse or libellous statements as to what has been done in any particular litigation, though that litigation has been brought to a close. And if the principle be the protection of the subject in all fair matter of litigation, in order that his mind may be unbiassed by threat or intimidation, and that he may go on freely through that course of proceeding which the laws of his country have provided for him, I cannot but consider it the duty of the court to protect him against an impression, that when the proceeding is concluded he may be liable to imputations and abuse, and have no protection but by going into a court of law for damages in an action for libel. I apprehend it is the duty of the court to the suitors, to tell them that, though the matter is ended with respect to them, the court will still protect them, as if the litigation or the business of the court were still pending, and that the principle is not varied by the circumstance that the matter is altogether concluded. And I am rather fortified in that mode of dealing with the question, because, if the attention of the learned counsel be directed, I think, to that case in *Atkins*, unless I am mistaken, it will be found that the decree was pronounced, and that what took place did not take place until after the court had dismissed the matter." (*b*)

A petition on which judgment had been finally pronounced,

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Gilham* (1 Mood. & Malk. 165).
(*b*) *Ex parte Turner* (3 Mont. D. & De G. 544, 545).

but on which the order had not been drawn up, was considered by the same learned judge to be a pending proceeding for the purpose of rendering a publication reflecting on any of the parties a contempt of court, if the actual pendency of a proceeding were necessary to give the court jurisdiction to commit.(*a*)

Warrant of commitment.

A warrant of commitment by the judge of a superior court may be in general terms;(*b*) but it must be for a time certain.(*c*)

Attachment.

The court may proceed against the offender by granting an attachment in the first instance, or by granting a rule calling on him to show cause why an attachment should not issue against him.(*d*)

III. Libels on Foreign Rulers, Ambassadors, &c.

Any publication which tends to degrade, revile, and defame persons in considerable situations of power and dignity in foreign countries, may be taken to be and treated as a libel, and particularly where it has a tendency to interrupt the pacific relations between the two countries: if the publication contains a plain and manifest incitement and persuasion addressed to others to assassinate and destroy the persons of such magistrates, as the tendency of such a publication is to interrupt the harmony subsisting between two countries, the libel assumes a still more criminal complexion.(*e*)

Thus was the law laid down by Lord Ellenborough on the trial of Jean Peltier, in 1803, upon an information for a libel on Napoleon Bonaparte, first consul of the French Republic. The libel contained the following passages, amongst others: "Oh! eternal disgrace of France! Cæsar, on the banks of the Rubicon, has against him, in his quarrel, the Senate, Pompey, and Cato; and in the plains of Pharsalia, if fortune is unequal—if you must yield to the destinies, Rome, in this sad reverse—at least there remains to avenge you a poniard among the last Romans:"(*f*) "He is proclaimed chief and

(*a*) *Ex parte Turner* (3 Mont. D. & De G. 544, 545).
(*b*) *Ex parte Fernandez* (10 C. B. N. S. 3; 6 H. & N. 717).
(*c*) *Rex* v. *James* (5 B. & Ald. 894).
(*d*) See *Lechmere Charlton's case* (2 My. & Cr. 316); *Rex* v. *Clements* (4 B. & Ald. 218); Anon. (2 Barnard 43); *Rex* v. *Wyatt* (8 Mod. 123).
(*e*) *Per* Lord Ellenborough, C.J., *Rex* v. *Peltier* (28 Howell's St. Tr. 617).
(*f*) "De la France, ô honte eternelle!
César, au bord du Rubicon,
A contre lui dans sa querelle
Le Sénat, Pompée, et Caton.
Et dans les plaines de Pharsale,
Si la fortune est inégale—

consul for life. As for me, far from envying his lot, let him name—I consent to it—his worthy successor. Carried on the shield, let him be elected! Finally (and Romulus recalls the thing to mind), I wish that on the morrow he may have his apotheosis. Amen."(*a*) Lord Ellenborough, having called the attention of the jury to these passages, said that it appeared to him that the aim and tendency of the passages was to degrade and villify, to render odious and contemptible, the person of the First Consul in the estimation of the people of this country and of France, and likewise to excite to his assassination and destruction. "That appearing to be the immediate and direct tendency of these publications, I cannot," said his Lordship, "in the correct discharge of my duty, do otherwise than state, that these publications, having such a tendency in respect of a foreign magistrate, and being published within this country, and the consequence of such publications having a direct tendency to interrupt and destroy the peace and amity between the two countries, are, in point of law, libels. And in the correct discharge of your duty, I am sure no memory of past, or expectation of future injury, will warp you from the straight and even course of justice; but your verdict will mark with reprobation all projects of assassination and murder. Consider, likewise, how dangerous projects of this sort may be, if not discountenanced and discouraged in this country; they may be retaliated on the head of all those whose safety is most dear to us."(*b*)

In 1799, John Vint, George Ross, and John Parry, were tried upon an information for publishing in the *Courier* newspaper the following libel upon the Emperor Paul I., of Russia: "The Emperor of Russia is rendering himself obnoxious to his subjects by various acts of tyranny, and ridiculous in the eyes of Europe by his inconsistency. He has now passed an edict prohibiting the exportation of timber, deals, &c. In consequence of that ill-timed law,

S'il te faut céder aux destins,
Rome, dans ce revers funeste—
Pour te venger au moins il reste
Un poignard aux derniers Romains."

(*a*) "Il est proclamé chef et consul pour la vie.
Pour moi, loin qu'à son sort je porte quelqu' envie,
Qu'il nomme, j'y consens, son digne successeur,
Sur le pavois porte qu'on l'elise Empereur.
Enfin, et Romulus nous rappelle la chose,
Je fais vœu—dès demain qu'il ait l'apothéose. Amen."

(*b*) The jury returned a verdict of guilty; but, war between Great Britain and France being renewed soon after this trial, the defendant was never called upon to receive judgment.

upwards of 100 sail of vessels, are likely to return to this kingdom without freights." Lord Kenyon, C.J., told the jury that such a publication, holding up the Sovereign of Russia as a tyrant and ridiculous over Europe, might tend to his calling for satisfaction, as for a national affront, if it passed unreprobated by our government, and in our courts of justice.(*a*)

Lord George Gordon was tried in 1787, and found guilty, upon an information charging him with publishing, in the *Public Advertiser*, certain false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory libels on the Queen of France, Marie Antoinette, and on the French Ambassador in London, imputing to the former tyranny and oppression, and charging the latter with being the tool employed in carrying them on.(*b*)

For a libel upon a previous French Ambassador (Count de Guerchy), an information was filed against a French gentleman, named D'Eon de Beaumont, in Easter term, 4 Geo. 3, 1764. The libel principally consisted of some angry reflections on the public conduct of the ambassador, charging him with ignorance in his special capacity, and of having used stratagem to supplant and depreciate the defendant at the Court of Versailles. After the defendant had been found guilty, Lord Mansfield observed to the Prussian and other foreign ambassadors then attending the court, that the law of England paid as high a regard to the function of ambassadors, and would equally protect them from all insults, as well on their reputation as their persons or property, as the laws of any other country.(*c*)

Scotland.

The Scotch law on this subject appears to be the same as the English.(*d*)

Libels on a body of persons.

The law will also punish a libel on a body of persons where no particular individual is reflected on. The Court

(*a*) 27 Howell's St. Tr. 627, 643. The defendants were all found guilty, and the proprietor of the paper was sentenced to six months imprisonment, to pay a fine of 100*l*., and to give security for his good behaviour for five years, himself in 500*l*., and two sureties in 250*l*. each. The printer and the publisher were sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

(*b*) 22 Howell's St. Tr. 175. For the above libel Lord George Gordon was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Newgate (to be computed from the expiration of a three years' imprisonment to which he was sentenced on the same day for another libel, *vide ante*, p. 357, note *e*), and to a fine of 500*l*.; and at the expiration of his term of imprisonment, to find sureties for his good behaviour for the space of fourteen years, himself in 10,000*l*., and two sureties in 2500*l*. On the 18th of January, 1793, he was brought into court for the purpose of being admitted to bail, but being unable to provide the requisite security, he was remanded to prison, where he remained until his death on the 1st of November, 1793.

(*c*) *The King* v. *D'Eon* (W. Black Rep. 501, 517; Dig. L. L. 88).

(*d*) Borthwick's Law of Libel, 74, 75.

PART IV. CHAPTER V.

of King's Bench in 1732, made absolute a rule for an information against the publisher of a paper, entitled "A true and surprising revelation of a murder and cruelty that was committed by the Jews lately arrived from Portugal; showing how they burnt a woman and a newborn infant the latter end of February, because the infant was begotten by a Christian."(a)

Publication of false news.

It seems that the publication of false news producing detriment to the public is punishable by indictment; such as false rumours to raise the price of provisions or other necessaries of life.(b)

It appears from a case in the 43rd Edw. 3,(c) that the attempt by words to enhance the price of merchandise was punishable by law.

In 1814, one De Berenger, with seven other persons, were indicted for conspiring by false rumours to raise the price of the public government funds on a particular day, with intent to injure such of the subjects of the realm as should purchase on that day;(d) but the crime here lay in the act of conspiracy and combination to effect the illegal purpose.(e)

CHAPTER VI.

LIBELS ON INDIVIDUALS.

Protection of character.

THE English law has been always and justly careful to preserve to every man that most valuable of all his possessions, his good character: and, as time rolls on, the need of legal intervention to secure this object becomes perhaps greater instead of less; for advancing civilization, whilst it produces increased refinement and sensitiveness to the aspersions of calumny, involves also a decay of those rude codes of honour which served a purpose that cannot be wholly ignored in an age of enlightenment.

Distinction between oral and written defamation.

Defamatory language, whether spoken or written, subjects the utterer to consequences, partly of a criminal and partly of a civil character. But, for a long time, there has

(a) *Rex* v. *Osborne* (Kel. 30; 2 Barn. K. B. 138, 166). See also *Reg.* v. *Gathercole* (2 Lew. C. C. 237).

(b) 3 Inst. 196; Dig. L. L. 23; *Rex* v. *Waddington* (1 East, 143).

(c) Lib. Ass. Pl. 38.

(d) *Rex* v. *De Berenger* (3 M. & S. 67). The false rumour was that Napoleon Buonaparte, with whom we were then at war, was dead.

(e) *Ib.* p. 72, 74, 75.

existed an important distinction between the two kinds of defamation. The law—proceeding on the ground that words uttered orally, possibly in the heat of passion, are less likely to be in themselves malicious or productive of injury to reputation than those which are deliberately committed to writing and published—has treated the former kind of defamation in a much more lenient manner than the latter. Many words which, if spoken, would not render the speaker liable to an action of slander, would, if written and published, lay him open to an action of libel; and, even where the words spoken do furnish a ground for a civil action, if written and published, they furthermore expose the writer to a criminal prosecution.

The soundness of the distinction which our law makes between oral and written defamation has been doubted by more than one authority entitled to respect;(*a*) and it is certainly not easy to see why the imputation of disgraceful conduct to another person should be punishable by action

(*a*) "I cannot, upon principle," said Mansfield, C.J., "make any difference between words written and words spoken as to the right which arises on them of bringing an action. For the plaintiff in error it has been truly urged, that in the old books and abridgments no distinction is taken between words written and spoken. But the distinction has been made between written and spoken slander as far back as Charles the Second's time, and the difference has been recognised by the courts for at least a century back. . . . . In the arguments both of the judges and counsel, in almost all the cases in which the question has been whether what is contained in a writing is the subject of an action or not, it has been considered whether the words, if spoken, would maintain an action. It is curious that they have also adverted to the question whether it tends to produce a breach of the peace: but that is wholly irrelevant, and is no ground for recovering damages. So it has been argued that writing shows more deliberate malignity; but the same answer suffices, that the action is not maintainable upon the ground of the malignity, but for the damage sustained. So it is argued that written scandal is more generally diffused than words spoken, and is therefore actionable; but an assertion made in a public place, as upon the Royal Exchange, concerning a merchant in London, may be much more extensively diffused than a few printed papers dispersed, or a private letter: it is true that a newspaper may be 'very generally read,' but that is all casual. These are the arguments which prevail on my mind to repudiate the distinction between written and spoken scandal; but that distinction has been established by some of the greatest names known to the law—Lord Hardwicke, Hale I believe, Holt, C.J., and others. . . . . If the matter were for the first time to be decided at this day, I should have no hesitation in saying that no action could be maintained for written scandal which could not be maintained for the words if they had been spoken:" (*Thorley* v. *Lord Kerry*, 4 Taunt. 364.) So Best, C.J.: "It is not easy to perceive why any distinction should be made between written and oral slander; but the case referred to (*Lord Kerry* v. *Thorley*) has established it too firmly to be shaken:" (*Archbishop of Tuam* v. *Robison*, 5 Bing. 21.)

if the imputation is contained in a letter addressed to a third party, though it be seen by nobody but the party to whom it is addressed, whilst the very same imputation may be made orally in the hearing of hundreds, and the slandered party have no remedy, in most cases,(*a*) unless he can prove that special damage has been thereby occasioned to him. The injury to reputation may be far greater in the latter case than in the former, and the tendency to produce a breach of the peace—the reason assigned for making written defamation punishable criminally—is indisputably greater in the case of a slanderous assertion made orally in the hearing of the slandered person, than in the case of a written or even a printed libel. But, whatever we may think of the soundness of the distinction, it is now well established.(*b*)

Definition of libel.

A libel of the kind we are now dealing with has been defined to be "a malicious defamation, expressed either in printing or writing, or by signs, pictures, &c., tending either to blacken the memory of one who is dead, or the reputation of one who is alive, and thereby exposing him to public hatred, contempt, or ridicule."(*c*) "But," says Hawkins, in his "Pleas of the Crown,"(*d*) "it is said that in a larger sense the notion of a libel may be applied to any defamation whatsoever, expressed either by signs or pictures,(*e*) as by fixing up a gallows against a man's door, or by painting him in a shameful and ignominious manner."

Various kinds of libel.

It is obvious that a definition of this wide character must include writings of very various kinds; and accordingly we find it laid down(*f*) that libels on private persons embrace all those "which by accusing a man of a crime, bring him within the danger of the law;" or "which have a tendency to injure him in his office, profession, calling, or trade;" or "which by holding him up to scorn and ridicule, and still more to any stronger feeling of contempt or execration, impair him in the enjoyment of general society, and injure

(*a*) The exceptions are where, first, the commission of an indictable offence; or, secondly, the present possession of an infectious or contagious disorder is imputed; or thirdly, where the imputation is made on a person in respect of his office, profession, trade, or calling.

(*b*) See *per* Hale, C.B., *King* v. *Lake* (2 Vent. 28), *Austen* v. *Culpepper* (2 Show. 313; Skinner, 123); *per* Best, C.J. (*Archbishop of Tuam* v. *Robison* (5 Bing. 17); *per* Bayley, J., *Clement* v. *Chivis* (9 B. & C. 174).

(*c*) Bacon's Abridg. tit. Libel. (*d*) 8th edit. 542.

(*e*) The civil law made a distinction between defamation by pictures and by writing, treating the former as a real and the latter only as a verbal injury: (*Vide* Heineccius, Antiq. Rom. lib. 4, tit. 4, § 5).

(*f*) See Holt's Law of Libel, p. 75.

those imperfect rights of friendly intercourse and mutual benevolence which man has with respect to man."(a)

Immaterial in what language libel is conveyed.

It matters not in what language the libel is written, whether in grammatical or ungrammatical phraseology; whether the imputation be made directly or only insinuated, even by means of a question;(b) whether the language be ironical,(c) or figurative, or allegorical.(d) Whatever the character of the language, provided the publication tends to convey an imputation injurious to the reputation of the person attacked, it is equally a libel.(e)

Words to be taken in their popular sense

"The rule," says Lord Ellenborough, C.J., in dealing with a case of slander(f), "which at one time prevailed that words are to be understood in *mitiori sensu*(g) has been long ago superseded; and words are now construed by courts, as they always ought to have been, in the plain and popular sense in which the rest of the world naturally understand them."(h)

The reason of the former rule and of the change was thus stated by the Court of Queen's Bench in *Harrison* v. *Thornborough*:(i) "In this kind of action for words, which are not of very great antiquity, the courts did at first, as much as they could, discountenance them, and that for a wise reason, because generally brought for contention and vexation; and, therefore, when the words were capable of two constructions, the court always took them *mitiori sensu*. But latterly these actions have been more discountenanced (? countenanced);

(a) The civil code of the State of New York (sect. 29) defines libel to be "a false and unprivileged publication by writing, printing, picture, effigy, or other fixed representation to the eye, which exposes any person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy, or which causes him to be shunned or avoided, or which has a tendency to injure him in his occupation." The Penal Code (sect. 309) defines it to be "any malicious publication, by writing, printing, picture, effigy, sign, or otherwise, which exposes any person, or the memory of any person deceased, to hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy, or which causes any person to be shunned or avoided, or which has a tendency to injure any person or corporation or association of persons, in their occupation or business."

(b) *Gathercole's case* (2 Lew. C. C. 255).

(c) Hob. 215; 11 Mod. 86; *Boydell* v. *Jones* (4 M. & W. 446).

(d) See *Hoare* v. *Silverlock* (12 Q. B. 624, 632), and *Woodgate* v. *Rideout* (4 F. & F. 202).

(e) See *Fisher* v. *Clement* (10 B. & C. 472).

(f) *Roberts* v. *Camden* (9 East. 96). Cf. *Woolnoth* v. *Meadows* (5 East. 463); and *per* Holt, C.J., *Somers* v. *House* (Holt's Rep. 39).

(g) See for examples, Cro. Jac. 204, *Forster* v. *Browning* (Cro. Jac. 688), *Holland* v. *Stoner* (Cro. Jac. 315), and *King* v. *Bagg* (Cro. Jac. 331).

(h) Cf. the language of Pratt, C.J., Eyre, and Fortescue, J.J., in *Button* v. *Hayward* (8 Mod. 24); of Lord Mansfield in *Rex* v. *Horne* (2 Cowp. 672); and of Buller, J., in *Rex* v. *Watson* (2 T. R. 206).

(i) 10 Mod 197.

for men's tongues growing more virulent, and irreparable damage arising from words, it has been by experience found, that unless men can get satisfaction by law, they will be apt to take it themselves. The rule, therefore, that has now prevailed is, that words are to be taken in that sense that is most natural and obvious, and in which those to whom they are spoken will be sure to understand them."

Libel badly spelt.

An indictment for libel was demurred to on the ground that, by reason of its bad spelling, it was unintelligible, and wanted a meaning. The libel as set out in the indictment was as follows: "Here is three *cockels* in this place (meaning *cuckolds*), we *now* (meaning *know*) them well, *he* (meaning *Lambert*) is a *nave* (meaning *knave*), he cheats and *rongs* (meaning *wrongs*) the county, and is the cur of a son of a whore." The indictment was held good, Raymond, C.J., saying: "The present libel is plain to all men and easily to be understood, and it would be hard that a court of justice must not understand it is badly spelt, when all the world besides make no scruple to find the signification of the words."(*a*)

Imputation only insinuated.

In a case(*b*) where a great portion of the libel consisted of insinuations by means of questions, Alderson, B., directed the jury that "if a man *insinuates a fact* in asking a question, meaning thereby *to assert it*, it is the same thing as if he asserted it in terms." The libel in that case containing the following passage, "We should be glad to know how many popish priests enter the nunneries at Scorton and Darlington each week? and also how many infants are born in them every year, and what becomes of them? whether the holy fathers bring them up or not, or whether the innocents are murdered out of hand or not?" The learned judge told the jury that if they thought that the defendant, by asking the questions, "meant to insinuate and to state that infants are born in the nunnery at Scorton, and that holy fathers bring them up or murder the innocents," then it was a libel on those persons.(*c*)

General language.

However general the language of the defamatory publication may be, if its application to a particular individual can be generally perceived, it is a libel upon him.

"If a party," said Lord Cottenham,(*d*) "can publish a libel so framed as to describe individuals, though not naming them,

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Edgar* (2 Sess. Cas. 29; 5 Bac. Abr. tit. Libel, 199).
(*b*) *Gathercole's case* (2 Lew. C. C. 255).
(*c*) Cf. *Hunt* v. *Thimblethorpe* (Moo. 418; 1 Vin. Ab. 429); *Earl of Northampton's case* (12 Rep. 134); *Delany* v. *Jones* (4 Esp. C. 191; *Woolnoth* v. *Meadows* (5 East. 463); *Hemming* v. *Power* (10 M. & W. 564).
(*d*) *Le Fanu* v. *Malcomson* (1 H. L. Cas. 664).

and not specifically describing them by any express form of words, but still so describing them that it is known who they are; and if those who must be acquainted with the circumstances connected with the party described may also come to the same conclusion, and may have no doubt that the writer of the libel intended to mean those individuals, it would be opening a very wide door to defamation, if parties suffering all the inconvenience of being libelled were not permitted to have that protection which the law affords. If they are so described that they are known to all their neighbours as being the parties alluded to; and if they are able to prove to the satisfaction of a jury that the party writing the libel did intend to allude to them, it would be unfortunate to find the law in a state which would prevent the party being protected against such libels." "Whether a man," said Lord Campbell,(*a*) "is called by one name, or whether he is called by another, or whether he is described by a pretended description of a class to which he is known to belong, if those who look on know well who is aimed at, the very same injury is inflicted, the very same thing is in fact done, as would be done if his name and Christian name were ten times repeated." In the case in which these opinions were expressed, the libel consisted of a newspaper article imputing in general terms that "in some of the Irish factories" (the declaration adding an innuendo that thereby the plaintiffs' factory was meant) cruelties were practised upon the workpeople. After verdict for the plaintiff, the declaration was held good by the House of Lords.

Ironical language.

A libel may be expressed in ironical language, the *quo animo* with which it is used being a question for the jury to determine.(*b*) It was held to be a libel to publish of an attorney the following *ironical*, false, malicious, and defamatory matter—"An honest lawyer. A person of the name of C. B., &c., was severely reprimanded the other day by one of the masters of the Queen's Bench, for what is called sharp practice in his profession."

Hieroglyphics. rebus, anagrams

For similar reasons a libel disguised in hieroglyphics, if it be not really unintelligible, will be narrowly examined by a court of law and judged of according to the intention of the maker and the influence it may have upon the injured party's reputation.(*c*) And, on the same ground, not only an allegory, but a rebus or anagram may be a libel, and courts

(*a*) 1 H. L. Cas. 668.
(*b*) See Holt's Rep. 425; *Reg.* v. *Brown* (11 Mod. 86; Hob. 215; Poph. 139).
(*c*) Holt's L. L. 235.

of law, notwithstanding its obscurity and perplexity, may judge of its meaning as well as other readers.(*a*)

Initials only used.

A defamatory writing expressing only one or two letters of a name in such a manner that, from what goes before and follows after, it must necessarily be understood to signify a *certain* person, in the plain, obvious, and natural construction of the whole, and would be nonsense if strained to any other meaning, is as properly a libel as if it had expressed the whole name at large.(*b*) "All the libellers of the kingdom now know," said Lord Hardwicke, so far back as 1742,(*c*) "that printing initial letters will not serve their turn, for that objection has been long got over."

Libellous pictures, caricatures, &c.

On the same footing as written or printed libels stand those which are published by means of pictures, prints, or caricatures,(*d*) modes of publication which, it is obvious, may be quite as efficacious as any other in damaging the character. In the case *De Libellis Famosis* (*e*) it was resolved, amongst other things, that a "*famosus libellus sine scriptis* may be *picturis*, as to paint the party in any shameful and ignominious manner." "In case upon a libel," says Holt, C.J.,(*f*) "it is sufficient if the matter be reflecting: as to paint a man playing at cudgels with his wife."(*g*) Lord Ellenborough, C.J., said of a libellous picture of a gentleman and his lady, which was entitled "La Belle et la Bête," that the person who exhibited it in public was "both civilly and crimiually liable for having exhibited it."(*h*)

(*a*) Holt's L. L. 235.

(*b*) *Ib.* 233. (*c*) See the case of *Read* v. *Huggonson* (2 Atk. 470).

(*d*) There are other modes, with which we are not concerned here, in which a libel may be expressed, as by fixing a gallows or other reproachful and ignominious signs at a person's door, or elsewhere (5 Coke 125; see *Jefferies* v. *Duncombe*, 11 East. 226, where a lamp was set up in front of the plaintiff's house, and kept burning in the daytime, in order to defame him as the keeper of a bawdy house); or by the custom known as "riding Skimmington" (see *Cropp* v. *Tilney*, 3 Salk. 225, 226, and *Bolton* v. *Dean*, referred to by the Court in *Austin* v. *Culpepper*, 2 Show. 314). (*e*) 5 Cok. 125. (*f*) Anon. 11 Mod. 99.

(*g*) According to Blackstone (in a statement omitted in the later editions of his "Commentaries"), in the case of signs or pictures it seems necessary to show not only the import and application of the scandal, but also "that some special damage has followed;" and he gives as a reason—that "otherwise it cannot appear that such libel by picture was understood to be levelled at the plaintiff, or that it was attended with any actionable consequences" (see 3 Com. 126). There appears to be no authority whatever for the proposition that, in the case of signs or pictures, specia damage must be shown to have followed from the publication; and there is as little force in the reason assigned for making a distinction between libellous signs or pictures and written or printed libels, for the former tell their tale, in general, even more unmistakably than the latter.

(*h*) *Du Bost* v. *Beresford* (2 Camp. 511). See also *Austin* v. *Culpepper*

Partners may jointly maintain an action of libel for a publication defamatory of the partnership.(*a*)

Libels on a body of persons.

A publication defamatory of a society of persons, or a company, whether incorporated or not, is also a libel; *e.g.*, a publication insinuating that the members of a nunnery led immoral and depraved lives,(*b*) or one attacking the mode in which an insurance company carries on its business,(*c*) or imputing insolvency, mismanagement, and a dishonest carrying on of its affairs to a joint-stock company incorporated under 19 & 20 Vict. c. 47.(*d*)

It has been held that such a company can maintain an action against one of its own shareholders for a libel published by him.(*e*)

A society of persons, or company, are also themselves liable for any defamatory matter published by them; as, for example, the committee of a reform union for publishing a report charging a person with bribery at an election,(*f*) or a railway company for telegraphing that a bank had stopped payment.(*g*)

Meaning of malice.

When libel is described as a "malicious defamation," and when malice is said to be the gist of the action for libel, the legal import of the word malice must be borne in mind. "Malice," says Lord Campbell,(*h*) "in the legal acceptation of the word, is not confined to personal spite against individuals, but consists in a conscious violation of the law to the prejudice of another." "Malice," says Bayley, J.,(*i*) "in common acceptation, means ill-will against a person; but in its legal sense it means a wrongful act done intentionally without just cause or excuse. If I give a perfect stranger a blow likely to produce death, I do it of *malice*, because I do it *intentionally*, and without just cause or excuse. If I maim cattle without knowing whose they are; if I poison a

(2 Show. 314; Skin. 123), where the defendant was held liable in an action for having forged an order of the Court of Chancery defamatory of the plaintiff, and drawn on the bottom of it the picture of a pillory with the words subscribed, "For Sir J. Austin and his witnesses by him suborned."

(*a*) *Le Fanu* v. *Malcomson* (1 H. L. Cas. 637); *Haythorn* v. *Lawson* (3 C. & P.); *Ward* v. *Smith* (6 Bing. 749).

(*b*) *Reg.* v. *Gathercole* (2 Lew. C. C. 237).

(*c*) *Williams* v. *Beaumont* (10 Bing. 260; 3 M. & Scott, 705).

(*d*) *Metropolitan Saloon Omnibus Company (Limited)* v. *Hawkins* (4 H. & N. 87; 28 L. J. 201, Ex.).

(*e*) *Ib.*

(*f*) *Wilson* v. *Reed and others* (2 F. & F. 149).

(*g*) *Whitfield* v. *South-Eastern Railway Company* (El. Bl. & E. 115; 27 L. J. Q. B. 229).

(*h*) *Ferguson* v. *Earl of Kinnoul* (9 Cl. & Fin. 321).

(*i*) *Bromage* v. *Prosser* (4 B. & C. 255).

fishery without knowing the owner, I do it of *malice*, because it is a wrongful act, and done intentionally. If I am arraigned of felony, and wilfully stand mute, I am said to do it of *malice*, because it is intentional, and without just cause or excuse. And if I traduce a man, whether I know him or not, and whether I intend to do him an injury or not, I apprehend the law considers it as done of malice, because it is wrongful and intentional. It equally works an injury whether I meant to produce an injury or not, and if I had no legal excuse for the slander, why is he not to have a remedy against me for the injury it produces?" "If a person writes defamatory matter of another," says Bramwell, B.,(*a*) "however honestly he may believe it to be true, if it be in fact untrue the law implies malice."(*b*) And Alderson, B.: "The law implies malice from the publication of a libel, except where the occasion justifies the publication."(*c*) "A man," said Lord Denman, C.J., "may wilfully publish a mischievous libel without intending to injure the party, yet may be responsible."(*d*)

Intention of writer immaterial.

The intention of the writer or publisher of the defamatory matter is then, in the case of unprivileged communications, wholly immaterial, except so far as it may affect the amount of damages which a jury will award. "Everything printed or written," says Parke, B.,(*e*) "which reflects on the character of another, and is published without lawful justification or excuse, is a libel, whatever the intention may have been."

A judge who, in an action of libel left it to the jury to say whether the defendant intended by his publication to injure the plaintiff, was held to have wrongly directed them.(*f*) "If the tendency of the publication," said Littledale, J., "was injurious to the plaintiff, then the law will presume that the defendant, by publishing it, intended to produce that injury which it was calculated to effect. If it had that tendency, there can be no doubt it was a libel." "The judge," said Lord Tenterden, C.J., "ought not to have left it as a question to the jury whether the defendant *intended* to injure the plaintiff, for every man must be presumed to intend the natural and ordinary consequences of his own act."(*g*)

What are privileged occasions will hereafter be considered.(*h*)

(*a*) *Darby* v. *Ouseley* (1 H. & N. 9; 25 L. J. 230, Ex.).
(*b*) Cf. *per* Parke, B., *O'Brien* v. *Clement* (15 M. & W. 437).
(*c*) 1 H. & N. 9. (*d*) *Baylis* v. *Lawrence* (11 A. & El. 924).
(*e*) *Ib.* (*f*) *Haire* v. *Wilson* (9 B. & C. 643).
(*g*) *Ib.* 645. See also *Darby* v. *Ouseley* (*ubi supra*) and *Fisher* v. *Clement* (10 B. & C. 472).
(*h*) See the chapter on "Privileged Publications," *post*.

Scotch law as to malice.

By the Scotch law it is not necessary, in the case of a civil action for libel, that malice should be either proved or presumed; but it is necessary in the case of a criminal proceeding. "In general," says Hume,(*a*) "the criminal is herein distinguished from the civil process, that to warrant the inflicting of any punishment the *animus injuriandi*, or special malice of the act, must be shown; whereas mere petulance or indiscretion may be the just ground of an award for the reparation of damage, though the parties are not even known to each other, if the things said are naturally and in themselves of an injurious tendency."

Whole publication to be looked at.

The whole publication, however, is to be looked at; and if the jury think that the effect of one part of it, which if taken alone would be injurious to the plaintiff's character, is removed by the other part of it, they should find for the defendant.(*b*) The jury are to take the whole together and say whether the result of the whole is calculated to injure the plaintiff's character; if in one part of the publication something disreputable to the plaintiff is stated, but that is removed by the conclusion, the bane and antidote must be taken together.(*c*)

"In *Dicas* v. *Lawson*," says Alderson, B.,(*d*) "I directed the jury to look to the whole of the publication to see whether it was calculated to injure the plaintiff's character. The publication there complained of was the report of a trial in which there were strong observations on the character of the plaintiff, but in which the plaintiff had recovered a verdict for 30*l*. It was said that the report was libellous, because it set forth the charge made on the trial against the plaintiff. I left it to the jury to say whether, taking the whole of the publication together, they thought it likely to depreciate his character. The jury thought not, and on application for a new trial, this Court (Exchequer) approved of my direction."

Falsehood.

The libellous matter, in order to be actionable, must be *falsely* as well as *maliciously* published of the plaintiff. The truth of an alleged defamatory publication is a complete answer to an action for it;(*e*) "not," according to Littledale, J.,(*f*) "because it negatives the charge of malice (for

(*a*) 1 Com. 342. See Borthwick, 190, 195.
(*b*) See *Chalmers* v. *Payne* (2 C. M. & R. 156; 5 Tyrw. 766).
(*c*) *Ib. per* Alderson, B. (*d*) *Ib.*
(*e*) Something more is required in the case of criminal proceedings for libels. As to these, *vide post*.
(*f*) *McPherson* v. *Daniels* (10 B. & C. 272). See also *per* Holt, C.J. (Anon. 11 Mod. 99); *per* Parke, J., *Cockayne* v. *Hodgkisson* (5 C. & P. 548), *Weaver* v. *Lloyd* (2 B. & C. 678), *Tighe* v. *Cooper* (7 El. & B.

a person may wrongfully or maliciously utter slanderous matter though true, and thereby subject himself to an indictment), but because it shows that the plaintiff is not entitled to recover damages; for the law will not permit a man to recover damages in respect of an injury to a character which he either does not or ought not to possess."

If the libel be false it is no justification, even in the case of public criticism appearing in the leading articles of newspapers, that the writer *bonâ fide* believes in its truth.(*a*) "*Bonâ fide* belief in the truth of what is written," says Blackburn, J.,(*b*) "is no defence to an action; it may mitigate the amount, but it cannot disentitle the plaintiff to damages. Moreover, that honest belief may be an ingredient to be taken into consideration by the jury in determining whether the publication is a libel; that is, whether it exceeds the limits of a fair and proper comment; but it cannot in itself prevent the matter being libellous."

A publication is libellous if any material part be not true.

The publication, however, is actionable if any material part of it be not proved true, and a plea which, professing to justify the entire libel, fails to justify a material part of it, is a bad plea.(*c*)

Thus, if a libel imputes to a person that he has been guilty of murder in killing his opponent in a duel, and alleges further that the duel was supposed to have been fought under circumstances revolting to the ordinary notions of honour (it being suggested that the plaintiff had spent the whole of the night preceding the duel in practising pistol firing), it is not a sufficient defence to prove merely that the plaintiff had killed his antagonist, and had been tried for murder and acquitted.(*d*) "When an action is brought for a libel," said Maule, J., in this case(*e*) "to make a good plea to the whole charge, the defendant must justify everything that the libel contains which is injurious to the plaintiff. If the libel charges the commission of several crimes, or the commission of a crime in a particular manner, the plea must justify the charge as to the number of crimes(*f*) or the manner of committing the crime. If the crime is charged

639), *Biggs* v. *The Great Eastern Railway Company* (18 L. T. N. S. 482).

(*a*) *Campbell* v. *Spottiswoode* (3 B. & S. 769; 8 L. T. N. S. 201; 32 L. J. 185, Q. B.) (*b*) *Ib.*

(*c*) See *per* Jervis, C.J., *Helsham* v. *Blackwood* (11 C. B. 128; 20 L. J. 187, C. P.).

(*d*) *Ib.* (*e*) *Ib.* 129.

(*f*) See *Clarkson* v. *Lawson* (6 Bing. 266, 587); *Clarke* v. *Taylor* (2 Bing. N. C. 654; 3 Scott, 95).

with circumstances of aggravation as here, the plea is clearly bad if it omit to justify that. . . . . If the libel had imputed murder *simpliciter*, it would have been enough to show in the plea that the plaintiff had committed murder. But if the libel goes further, and states something besides, which is injurious to the plaintiff's character, it is clear upon every principle of the law of libel, that that must be justified as well as the rest, or the defence fails."(*a*)

Where the libel charged the plaintiff with having in *two* mayoralties bought coals at 6*d.* a bushel, sold them to the poor at 4*d.*, and charged the corporation 8*d.*, thereby pocketing 2*d.* a bushel, a plea that the plaintiff did this in his first mayoralty, and in his second altered his charges, buying the coals at 6*d.*, selling them to the poor at 3*d.*, and charging the corporation 6*d.*, was held a bad plea.(*b*)

So where the libel alleged that the plaintiff, a proctor, had been suspended from practice three times for extortion, a plea in justification which alleged only one suspension was held bad.(*c*) It was urged on behalf of the defendant in this case, that it was sufficient if the sting and substance of the libel were answered by the plea, and that the discredit attaching to a single suspension from office was not substantially aggravated by a repetition of similar reproof; but the court did not agree that a man's character would not fall into lower discredit by the imputation of repeated offences than by the imputation of one only, and held that the plea fell within that class which, professing to justify the whole of the libel, in effect justify only a part, and are therefore bad.

And where the libel consisted of a paragraph published in a newspaper, stating in substance that the plaintiff was a confederate of blacklegs; that he had sought admission into a yacht club; that he gave an entertainment in the expectation of being elected, but was blackballed, and the next morning *bolted*, and some of the tradesmen of the town had to lament the fashionable character of his entertainment; a plea of justification, which, after alleging facts to show that the plaintiff was the confederate of persons who had been guilty of cheating at cards, and the facts of his giving an entertainment, and being blackballed, &c.,

(*a*) See also *Cuddington* v. *Wilkins* (Hob. 81); *Hilsden* v. *Mercer* (Cro. J. 676); *Upsheer* v. *Betts* (Cro. J. 578).

(*b*) *Goodburne* v. *Bowman* (9 Bing. 532). See also *Clarke* v. *Taylor* (2 Bing. N. C. 654) and *Johns* v *Gittings* (Cro. Eliz. 239).

(*c*) *Clarkson* v. *Lawson* (6 Bing. 266).

stated "that on the following morning he *quitted* the town and neighbourhood, leaving divers of the tradesmen to whom he owed money, unpaid," was held bad, because the *quitting* might be innocent and without any intention to defraud.(*a*) "The libel as stated in the declaration," said Parke, B., "imputes to the plaintiff a fraudulent evasion of his creditors, he being unable to pay them. The plea does not meet that; for the plaintiff might be unable to pay without being guilty of fraud, as imputed by the word '*bolting*' used in the libel. That expression charged the plaintiff with going away suddenly from Plymouth, leaving debts unpaid, and under such circumstances that the creditors could not find him, and therefore means more than the mere 'quitting,' which is stated in the plea. That would be an innocent departure, and consistent with proof that the plaintiff went out of the town for a day, but then returned and *paid* his debts."

And if the words declared upon impute an actual felony, a justification which merely sets out circumstances inducing suspicion is not sufficient. Thus, where the declaration stated that the defendant, intending to cause it to be believed that the plaintiff was guilty of feloniously stealing a horse, published a libel concerning him, which was headed "Horse stealer," and alleged that the plaintiff had been taken up, on suspicion of having stolen a horse, by a constable who was informed that "such a character" was at a certain public-house; the libel then going on to state circumstances of suspicion against the plaintiff, and alleging finally that having obtained permission to go out of the constable's sight, he had made his escape, but was retaken and confined in gaol for examination; innuendo that the plaintiff was guilty of stealing a horse: it was held that a plea setting out the several circumstances related in the libel, and

(*a*) *O'Brien* v. *Bryant* (16 M. & W. 168). See, also, *Wadsworth* v. *Bentley* (23 L. J. 3, Q. B.), where the declaration in an action of slander alleged that the defendant spoke of the plaintiff, *in the way of his trade*, the words, "He cheated me;" "He is a thief, and robbed me of 100*l.*;" and contained an averment of special damage, and the defendant pleaded a former judgment recovered for the same grievances. The record of the previous action showed the slanderous words to have been: "That thief is a villain, a scoundrel, and a rascal, and I can prove him a thief at any moment;" and it neither alleged that the words were spoken of the plaintiff in the way of his trade, nor contained an averment of special damage. This was held to be no bar to the action. "I cannot think," said Crompton, J., "that the cause of action in that record, which contains words charging the plaintiff with felony, is the same cause of action as that in the present declaration, which imputes a charge against the plaintiff as a trader."

justifying all the parts of it except the word "horse-stealer," was not a sufficient justification of the libel.(*a*)

But where the alleged libel, contained in a letter addressed to a person who employed the plaintiff as cashier, was, "I conceive there is nothing too base for him to be guilty of;" a plea alleging that the plaintiff signed and delivered to the defendant an I O U, and afterwards, on having sight thereof, falsely and fraudulently asserted that the signature was not his, and averring that the alleged libel was written and published solely in reference to this transaction, was held to be a sufficient justification.(*b*)

In an action for libelling the plaintiff by publishing in a newspaper an advertisement stating that a writ of *capias* had issued against him, that it had hitherto been impracticable to take him, and offering a reward for such information to be given to the sheriff's officer as would enable him to take the plaintiff; innuendo that plaintiff was in indigent circumstances, incapable of paying his just debts, and keeping out of the way to avoid being served with process; it was held a sufficient defence to prove that a writ of *capias* had been issued against the plaintiff, indorsed for bail, and delivered to the sheriff; that the plaintiff had kept out of the way to avoid being taken; that the sheriff's officer had been unable to take him; and that the defendant had published the advertisement at the request of the party suing out the writ, within four calendar months of the date of the writ, to enable the sheriff and his officer to arrest.(*c*)

If substantial imputation be true, every expression need not be justified.

Though the truth of every material part of the alleged libel must be proved in order to constitute a defence to an action, if the truth of the substantial imputation contained in the libel be proved, the justification need not extend also to every epithet or term of general abuse which may be found in the description or statement of the imputation,(*d*) and which contains no ground of charge substantially distinct in its nature or character from that which forms the main charge or gist of the libel.

Thus, in an action for libelling the plaintiffs in their business of sellers of medicine, by publishing that the defendants claimed "the merit of having crushed the self-

(*a*) *Mountney* v. *Watton* (2 B. & Ad. 673). See, also, *Chalmers* v. *Shackell* (6 C. & P. 475).

(*b*) *Tighe* v. *Cooper* (7 E. & B. 639; 26 L. J. 215, Q. B.).

(*c*) *Lay* v. *Lawson* (4 A. & E. 795). See, also, *Carr* v. *Duckett* (29 L. J. 468, Ex.).

(*d*) See *per* Tindal, C.J., *Morrisson* v. *Harmer* (3 Bing. N. C. 767; 4 Scott, 533).

styled hygeist system of wholesale poisoning, since they commenced exposing the homicidal tricks of those impudent and ignorant *scamps* who had the audacity to pretend to cure all diseases with one kind of pill;" and that "several of the *rot-gut rascals* had been convicted of manslaughter, and fined and imprisoned for killing people with enormous doses of their universal vegetable boluses," &c.; the defendants pleaded a justification of the libel on the ground of truth, but did not justify the expressions "scamps" and "rascals;" and they proved at the trial that two persons had died in consequence of taking large quantities of the plaintiff's pills, and that the parties who had administered the pills were tried, convicted, and imprisoned for manslaughter. The defence, after verdict, was held sufficient, though the plea contained no justification of the expressions "scamps" and "rascals," and though it had not been proved that the defendants had completely crushed the "self-styled hygeist system of wholesale poisoning."(*a*)

As to the objection grounded on the non-justification of the words "scamps" and "rascals," the Court said: "It must be admitted that if these terms of invective and reproach contain any ground of charge or imputation against the plaintiffs, substantially distinct in its nature or character from that which forms the main charge or gist of the libel, and the truth of which has been justified by the plea, the consequence contended for on the part of the plaintiffs would justly follow, for the plea upon that supposition would not contain an answer to so much of the declaration as by the commencement of the plea it expressly undertakes to justify. The main charge against the plaintiffs in the libel is, that they were the compounders and sellers of pills of a poisonous and deleterious nature; and the main and principal allegation in the plea of justification is 'that the pills sold by the plaintiffs, when administered and taken in the doses and quantities suggested and recommended by them, were of a highly dangerous, deadly, and poisonous nature, and in the highest degree injurious to the stomachs and bowels of persons using and taking the same.' The question therefore is, whether the terms of abuse which have been above referred to, carry the matter any further than this, the main charge. The words, themselves, in their vulgar use, convey no other meaning than that of general reproach and invective; and we can only discover whether they have any particular meaning in this libel by referring to the context of the libel and to the allegations on the

(*a*) *Morrisson* v. *Harmer* (3 Bing. N. C. 767; 4 Scott, 533).

record. As to the word 'scamps' the plaintiffs themselves have given the meaning to it; for they allege in their declaration that it is intended to be applied to them 'in the way of their aforesaid trade, business, and occupation,' that is, as vendors of the pills, the making and selling of which by the plaintiffs is the main imputation against them. And the word 'rascals' is associated with an epithet or adjunct which appears to confine its general abusive quality to a description and designation of the persons who have been occupied in administering the pills spoken of in the libel, of whom two have been convicted of manslaughter. We cannot, therefore, understand these words, however offensive, as containing any charge different and distinct from that of which the truth has been justified in the first plea; and we are not aware of any authority by which it is determined that the justification of the truth of the substantial imputation contained in a libel is not sufficient, unless it extends also to every epithet or term of general abuse which may be found in the description or statement of such imputation."

In an action against the proprietor of the *Times* for publishing the following libel on the plaintiff, a dissenting minister:—"A serious misunderstanding has recently taken place amongst the Independent dissenters of Great Marlow and their pastor, in consequence of some personal invectives publicly thrown from the pulpit by the latter against a young lady of distinguished merit and spotless reputation. We understand that the matter is to be taken up seriously.—*Bucks Chronicle*," the defendant pleaded, as a justification, that the plaintiff, whilst officiating as minister, published from a part of a chapel assigned to him as minister for the delivery of a sermon, to and in the presence of his congregation, of and concerning Margaret Fair, a teacher of a certain Sunday school, the scandalous words following:—"I have something to say which I have thought of saying for some time, namely, the improper conduct of one of the female teachers. Her name is Miss Fair; her conduct is a bad example and disgrace to the school, and if any of the children dare ask her to go home, she shall be turned out of the school, and never enter it again. Miss Fair does more harm than good;" and thereby gave great offence to divers of the dissenters, to wit, one I. W., &c., and occasioned a serious misunderstanding amongst the said dissenters in the declaration mentioned. A verdict having been returned for the defendant upon this plea, the court, upon motion to enter a verdict for the plaintiff *non obstante veredicto*, held that the plea was a sufficient answer to the

libel charged.(*a*) It was urged on behalf of the plaintiff that the allegation that "the matter was about to be taken up seriously," implied that charges were about to be preferred against him by his congregation, and that the justification contained no answer to that part of the libel; but, said Gifford, C.J., "I do not see that the allegation necessarily conveys any such meaning; it is only alleged as that which naturally followed upon the plaintiff's conduct on the occasion in question; and the charge on the subject of his conduct is substantially met and answered in the justification." It was further objected that the libel alleged a misunderstanding to have arisen between the pastor and his congregation, while the justification alleged the misunderstanding to have existed only amongst the congregation; but the court were of opinion that in that respect the plea substantially supported the statements contained in the libel. "In such a case," said Burrough, J., "it is sufficient if the substance of the libellous statement be justified; it is unnecessary to repeat every word which might have been the subject of the original comment. As much must be justified as meets the sting of the charge, and if anything be contained in a charge which does not add to the sting of it, that need not be justified."(*b*)

Slight inaccuracy

A slight inaccuracy will not necessarily make a publication libellous, which can be proved substantially true. Thus, where the libel complained of was a notice published by a railway company to the effect that the plaintiff had been convicted of riding in a train for which his ticket was not available, and fined a certain sum, with the alternative of three weeks' imprisonment in case of non-payment, whereas the period of imprisonment was a fortnight only, it was held that this inaccuracy did not necessarily make the notice libellous; it was a question for the jury whether the statement contained in it was not substantially true, or whether the inaccurate statement would have a different effect upon the public from that which the literal truth would produce.(*c*)

Where a libel charged the plaintiff with having been a "great defaulter" in his office of guardian of the poor during the preceding year, and evidence tending to show that he had been a defaulter was given under a plea of justification, it was held to be a question for the jury whether the facts

(*a*) *Edwards* v. *Bell* (1 Bing. 403).
(*b*) *Ib.*, 409.
(*c*) *Alexander* v. *North-Eastern Railway Company* (34 L. J. 152, Q. B.; 6 B. & S. 240).

proved amounted to a sufficient justification of the charge of having been a "great" defaulter.(*a*)

In the following cases, where an action of slander has been held to lie, without proof of special damage, against the utterer of the slanderous words, an action of libel would, *à fortiori*, lie, if the words were written or printed and published:—Saying that the plaintiff had done an act for which the defendant could transport him:(*b*) saying, "If you had your deserts, you had been hanged before now:"(*c*) saying that the plaintiff had murdered his first wife by administering improper medicines to her for a certain complaint:(*d*) using the words, "I am thoroughly convinced that you (the plaintiff) are guilty (innuendo of the death of D.), and rather than you should go without a hangman, I will hang you:"(*e*) saying that the plaintiff was "a returned convict:"(*f*) that he had been "in gaol and tried for his life, and would have been hanged had it not been for L., for breaking open the granary of farmer A., and stealing his bacon:"(*g*) that he had been "in gaol and burnt in the hand for coining;"(*h*) though in none of the three last mentioned cases was there any imputation of present or future liability to punishment: imputing bigamy to the plaintiff's wife:(*i*) saying either that the plaintiff or his wife kept a bawdy house:(*j*) saying any of the following things: "You robbed me, for I found the thing you have done it with;"(*k*) "He (the plaintiff) is a thief, and robbed me of my bricks;"(*l*) "He robbed J. W.;"(*m*) "You are a rogue, and broke open a house at Oxford;"(*n*) "You are a rogue, and I will prove you a rogue, for you forged my name:(*o*) charging the plaintiff with having committed embezzlement,(*p*) or receiving goods, knowing them

(*a*) *Warman* v. *Hine* (1 Jur. 820).
(*b*) *Curtis* v. *Curtis* (10 Bing. 477).
(*c*) Cro. Eliz. 62. (*d*) *Ford* v. *Primrose* (5 D. & R. 287).
(*e*) *Peake* v. *Oldham* (Cowp. 275; 2 W. Bl. 960). See also *Button* v. *Howard* (8 Mod. 24).
(*f*) *Fowler* v. *Dowdney* (2 M. & Rob. 119).
(*g*) *Carpenter* v. *Tarrant* (Rep. Temp. Hardwicke, 339).
(*h*) *Gainford* v. *Tuke* (Cro. Jac. 536).
(*i*) *Heming* v. *Power* (10 M. & W. 564). See *Delany* v. *Jones* (4 Esp. 191).
(*j*) Cro. Eliz. 643; 1 Roll. Ab. 44; 1 Buls. 138; *Huckle* v. *Reynolds* (7 C. B. N. S. 114). Cf. *Brayne* v. *Cooper* (5 M. & W. 249).
(*k*) *Rowcliffe* v. *Edmonds* (7 M. & W. 12; 4 Jur. 684).
(*l*) *Slowman* v. *Dutton* (10 Bing. 402). See also *Baker* v. *Pierce* (Ld. Raym, 959; Holt, 654; 6 Mod. 23); Cro. Jac. 687.
(*m*) *Tomlinson* v. *Brittlebank* (4 B. & Ald. 630; 1 N. & M. 455).
(*n*) *Somers* v. *House* (Holt's Rep. 39).
(*o*) *Jones* v. *Herne* (2 Wils. 87).
(*p*) See *Williams* v. *Stott* (3 Tyr. 688; 1 C. & M. 675).

to be stolen :(*a*) calling him a "pickpocket :"(*b*) saying that the plaintiff was perjured,(*c*) or accusing him of subornation of perjury :(*d*) saying of the plaintiff, who was one of four Commissioners appointed by the Court of Chancery to examine witnesses and hear and determine a suit, "Sir G. M. (the plaintiff) is a corrupt man, and hath taken bribes of R. K." (one of the parties to the suit); "R. K. hath set Sir G. M. on horseback, with his bribes to pervert justice and equity,"(*e*) bribery having been an offence at common law punishable by indictment or information: saying at a Parliamentary election of the plaintiff, who was one of the candidates, "These guineas are Mr. B.'s (the plaintiff's) money, and were given me to vote for him : he has bought my vote, and he shall have it."(*f*)

To accuse a person of having committed fornication was also held to be actionable whilst the statute making it a temporal offence was in force;(*g*) and so it seems was saying, "Thou art a witch and a sorcerer," whilst the statutes against witchcraft remained in force.(*h*)

Imputation made indirectly.

The law is the same if the imputation be made, not directly, but by means of words of suspicion as (with reference to a crime of arson), "I cannot imagine who should do it but S."(*i*) or, "I do not doubt but within two days to arrest H. for suspicion of felony ;(*j*) or, "I will call him in question for poisoning my aunt, and I make no doubt to prove it ;"(*k*) or by repeating a story heard from another as "A woman told me that she heard some one say that M., his wife, had poisoned G., her first husband, &c.;"(*l*) and though it should be only in alternative words as that "either the plaintiff or somebody else" committed the offence ;(*m*) or that "A. or B. did it."(*n*)

(*a*) *Alfred* v. *Farlow* (8 Q. B. 854 ; 15 L. J. 260, Q. B). See *Brigg's case* (God. 157).

(*b*) *Stebbing* v. *Warner* (11 Mod. 255, overruling 3 Salk. 326).

(*c*) *Holt* v. *Scholefield* (6 T. R. 691. See also *Ceeley* v. *Hoskins* (Cro. Car. 509) ; *Roberts* v. *Camden* (9 East. 93).

(*d*) *Harris* v. *Dixon* (Cro. Jac. 158).

(*e*) *Moor* v. *Foster* (Cro. Jac. 65).

(*f*) *Bendish* v. *Lindsay* (11 Mod. 194). See *Purdy* v. *Stacey* (Burr. 2699). (*g*) Anon. 2 Sid. 21. (*h*) *Rogers* v. *Gravat* (Cro. Eliz. 571).

(*i*) Mo. 142; 1 Vin. Abr. 435. See also *Smith* v. *Wisdome* (Cro. Eliz. 348).

(*j*) *Hext* v. *Yeomans* (4 Rep. 15; Poph. 210; 3 Bulst. 262).

(*k*) *Web* v. *Poor* (Cro. Eliz. 569). According to the old authorities, if the charge be of killing a person who is not really dead, an action cannot be maintained. See *Snag* v. *Gee* (4 Rep. 16); *Talbot* v. *Case* (Cro. Eliz. 823) ; 1 Vent. 117. (*l*) See Cro. Eliz. 645 ; Mo. 408).

(*m*) *Harrison* v. *Thornborough* (10 Mod. 196).

(*n*) *Wiseman* v. *Wiseman* (Cro. Jac. 107).

Words imputing an attempt to commit a felony, as "He sought to murder me, and I can prove it;"(*a*) or a hiring or solicitation of another to commit a crime have also been held actionable.(*b*).

The charge of a crime in the vulgar language is sufficient to ground an action. It is not necessary that the words should impute the crime in the technical terms known to the law; all that is requisite being that the intention to charge the plaintiff with its commission should plainly appear.(*c*)

Whether defamatory words are uttered or printed, the ordinary sense of them is to be taken to be the meaning of the person who uses them. However, if anything can be shown to have taken place which may give a peculiar character to the expressions used, evidence of it may be given.(*d*)

Where the slanderous words complained of—"Thou art a thievish rogue, for thou hast stolen my faggots"—were spoken by the defendant's wife, who, as a married woman, could not have possessed the property in the faggots, the court held the words to be actionable, understanding them, according to common intendment, to mean a charge of having stolen her husband's faggots.(*e*)

Infectious or contagious disease.

On the same footing as an imputation of an indictable offence stands the imputation of being, *at the time the imputation is made*, afflicted with an infectious or contagious disease which would cause the person who had it to be shunned by society, such as leprosy or the *lues venerea*.(*f*)

Libels affecting office, profession, trade or calling

Words spoken which would not otherwise be actionable, become so when they are, without justification, spoken

(*a*) Cro. Eliz. 308; *Leebnor* v. *Cruchley* (Cro. Car. 140).

(*b*) *Tibbott* v. *Haynes* (Cro. Eliz. 191; 4 Coke, 16; Cro. Eliz. 747); *Lady Cockaine's case* (Cro. Eliz. 49; Cro. Eliz. 710).

(*c*) See *Coleman* v. *Goodwin* (2 B. & Cr. 285, note) and *Francis* v. *Roose* (3 M. & W. 191). See also *Hankinson* v. *Bilby* (16 M. & W. 442), *Woolnoth* v. *Meadows* (5 East. 463). Cf *Sweetapple* v. *Jesse* (5 B. & Ald. 31). See also Hob. 126; Cro. Eliz. 250, 496; 1 Roll. Abr. 74; and 4 Rep. 13.

(*d*) See *per* Pollock, C.B., *Daines* v. *Hartley* (3 Exch. 200; 18 L. J. 81, Ex.); and cf. *Hankinson* v. *Bilby* (*ubi suprà*), *Tempest* v. *Chambers* (1 Stark. 68), *Tomlinson* v. *Brittlebank* (4 B. & Ad. 630), *Harvey* v. *French* (1 C. & M. 17), *Thompson* v. *Bernard* (1 Camp. 48), *Christie* v. *Powell* (Peake's Cas. 4), 4 Rep. 13.

(*e*) *Stamp* v. *White* (Cro. Jac. 600). See also *Charnel's case* (Cro. Eliz. 279). The doctrine as to repugnancy laid down in 7 Bac. Abr. 296, 1 Roll. Abr. 74, cannot now be considered law (see sect. 61 of the C. L. P. A. 1852).

(*f*) 7 Bac. Abr. 266; Holt. 653; Cro. Eliz. 214, 289, 648; Cro. Jac. 144, 430; 1 Vin. Abr. 488. *Carslake* v. *Mapledoram* (2 T. R. 473; Str. 1189; *Bloodworth* v. *Gray* (7 M. & G. 334)

of a person in respect of his profession, office, trade, or calling (provided it be not an unlawful one), and have a tendency to injure him in respect thereof, the law implying in such cases "actionable damage" without proof of any:(*a*) *à fortiori*, if the injurious imputation is conveyed by writing or printing, the defamation being in this case punishable criminally as well as by action.

Any unfounded imputation against a person who is in the enjoyment of an office, either public or private, whether of honour, profit, or trust, which imports a charge of unfitness to administer the duties of that office, is a libel.(*b*)

Office one of honour only.

If the office is merely one of honour, as that of justice of the peace, the oral imputation, according to the old authorities,(*c*) must be of want of integrity, or charge a criminal breach of duty: an allegation of incompetency or want of ability is not of itself sufficient to ground an action of slander.

Where the defendant said of the plaintiff, a justice of the peace, "He is a fool, an ass, a beetle-headed justice," it was held by Foster, C.J., Wyndham and Twysden, JJ. (*dissentiente* Mallet, J.), that the words were not actionable, citing *Briscoe* v. *Hollis*(*d*) as a stronger case than this, and *Hammond* v. *Kingsmill*,(*e*) where for saying of a justice of the peace, "He is a debauched man, and unfit to be a justice,"(*f*) it was adjudged that no action lay; and Twysden, J., said that words which sound in *disability* only are not actionable, except they are spoken of one who gains his living by that thing (profession) wherein the words do disable him.(*g*) It does not follow, however, that an action of libel would not lie in these cases, if the words, instead of being spoken, had been written or printed and published.

The reason for making the above curious distinction has been given by Lord Holt, C.J., thus:(*h*) "It has been adjudged that to call a justice of the peace *blockhead*, *ass*, &c., is not a slander for which action lies, because he was not accused of any corruption in his employment, or any ill design or principle; and it was not his fault that he was a blockhead, for he cannot be otherwise than his Maker made him; but if he had been a wise man, and wicked principles were charged upon him when he had not them, an action

(*a*) See *per* Channell, B., *Foulger* v. *Newcomb* (L. Rep. 2 Ex. 330; 16 L. T. N. S. 596; 36 L. J. Ex. 169). (*b*) See Buller, N. P. 4, 5.

(*c*) *Bill* v. *Neal* (1 Lev. 52); *per* Holt, C.J., *How* v. *Prin* (Holt, 652: 3 Salk. 694). (*d*) Cro. Jac. 58. (*e*) 7 Jac. 1.

(*f*) This action, according to Twisden, J. (*Kerle* v. *Osgood*, 1 Vent. 50), was held not maintainable because spoken of the time past: if the words had been, "he is debauched," he said the action would lie.

(*g*) *Bill* v. *Neal* (*ubi supra*). (*h*) *How* v. *Prin* (*ubi supra*).

would have lain; for though a man cannot be wiser, he may be honester than he is. If a person be in a place of profit, and he is accused of insufficiency, he shall have remedy by action; 'tis otherwise if he be only in a place of honour; though even there, if he is charged with ill principles, and as disaffected to the Government, he shall have an action for such scandal to his reputation." In this case it was held actionable to say of the plaintiff, who was a justice of the peace and deputy-lieutenant of the county of Surrey, and a candidate for Parliament, that he was a Jacobite, and for bringing in the Prince of Wales and Popery to destroy the nation, &c.

The words "You are a rascal, a villain, and a liar," applied to a justice of the peace, were held actionable, "for though *rascal* and *villain* were uncertain, yet, being joined with *liar*, and spoken of a justice of peace, they did import a charge of acting corruptly and partially." And so were the words "He is a foresworn justice, and not fit to be a justice of peace; if I did see him, I would tell him so to his face."(*a*)

In one case(*b*) it was held actionable to say, "When thou wert justice, thou wert a bribing justice;"(*c*) in another, to say, "I have been often with Sir J. J. for justice, but could never get any at his hand, but injustice;"(*d*) in another to say, "Mr. S. covereth and hideth felonies, and is not worthy to be a justice of peace;"(*e*) and in another case(*f*) it was said, "that where a man *had been* in an office of trust, to say that he behaved himself corruptly in it, as it imported great scandal, so it might prevent his coming in to that or the like office again, and therefore was actionable." But the authority of the two latter cases is much weakened by what De Grey, C.J., says in *Onslow* v. *Horne*:(*g*) "I know of no case where ever an action for words was grounded upon eventual damages which may possibly happen to a man in a future situation, notwithstanding what the Chief Justice throws out in 2 Vent. 266. . . . . I think the Chief Justice went too far." There is no doubt, however, that an action of libel would lie, if such an imputation as the above were written or printed and published.

(*a*) *Kerle* v. *Osgood* (1 Vent. 50).

(*b*) See Yelv. 153. The reason assigned for this decision is, "Car coment il referre a chose passe, uncore il defame luy a touts jours en l'opinion d'auters, et fait lui d'estre account unworthy a porter office enapres."

(*c*) *Aston* v. *Blagrave* (Str. 617).

(*d*) *Isham* v. *York* (Cro. Car. 15).

(*e*) *Stuckley* v. *Bulhead* (4 Rep. 16).

(*f*) *Walden* v. *Mitchell* (2 Vent. 266).

(*g*) 3 Wils. 188.

To say of a judge that a particular sentence pronounced by him "was corruptly given" is actionable,(*a*) or that he was "a corrupt judge."(*b*)

Imputations contained in a newspaper of partial and corrupt conduct on a person who occupied the office of mayor and justice of the peace for a borough are libellous, whether the public or private capacity of the person be regarded.(*c*)

It is laid down as a general rule by De Grey, C.J., in *Onslow* v. *Horne*,(*d*) "that words are actionable when spoken of one in an office of profit, which *may probably* occasion the loss of his office, or when spoken of persons touching their respective professions, trades, and business, and do or may probably tend to their damage;" or, as reported in Sir W. Blackstone's Reports (p. 753): "if the words may be of *probable* ill consequence to a person in a trade, a profession, or an office." The rule, as thus expressed, is, according to Bayley, B.,(*e*) objectionable, the words "probably" and "probable" being too indefinite and loose, and—unless considered as equivalent to *having a natural tendency to*, and confined within the limits of showing the want of some necessary qualification, or some misconduct in the office—not warranted by the authorities. "Every authority," he says, "which I have been able to find, either shows the want of some general requisite, as honesty, capacity, fidelity, &c., or connects the imputation with the plaintiff's office, trade, or business."

Professions, &c.

The law is the same in the case of imputations made against a member of any of the professions, having a tendency to injure him in respect thereof, whether the imputation be want of integrity or want of ability.

Thus it has been held actionable to say of a physician, "Thou art a drunken fool and an ass; thou wert never scholar, and art not worthy to speak to a scholar, and that I will prove and justify;"(*f*) or to say of a surgeon and accoucher, "I wonder you had him to attend you. Do you know him? He is not an apothecary; he has not passed any examination; he is a bad character; none of the medical men here will meet him. Several have died that he has attended, and there have been inquests held on them."(*g*) The court were of opinion, though it was not necessary to

(*a*) *Cæsar* v. *Curseny* (Cro. Eliz. 305).
(*b*) See 4 Rep. 16 (*Birchley's case*).
(*c*) See Alderson, B., *Parmiter* v. *Coupland* (6 M. & W. 109).
(*d*) 3 Wils. 186. (*e*) *Lumby* v. *Allday* (1 Cr. & Jer. 305).
(*f*) *Cawdry* v. *Highley* (Cro. Car. 270; 1 Roll. Abr. 54)
(*g*) *Southee* v. *Denny* (1 Exch. 196).

so decide, that the words, "he is a bad character; none of the medical men here will meet him," were of themselves actionable. In the case of a libel they would no doubt be held to be so.

But it was held to be no libel to publish in a medical paper (the *Lancet*) of a physician that he had met homœopathists in consultation, though it was alleged that, in the opinion of the profession, meeting homœopathists in consultation was improper and against etiquette.(*a*)

It was held actionable to say of a barrister, "He is a dunce, and will get little by the law;"(*b*) or, "Thou art no lawyer, thou canst not make a lease; thou hast that degree without desert; they are fools that come to thee for law;"(*c*) or, "Thou art a daffidowndilly," with an averment that the words signify that he is an "ambidexter."(*d*)

So to say of an attorney that he is no lawyer was held to be actionable, such a statement, meaning that he does not understand his business, being a great reflection on him.(*e*)

It has also been held actionable to say of an attorney, "Thou art a false knave, a cozening knave, and hast got all that thou hast by cozenage; and thou has cozened all those that have dealt with thee;"(*f*) or that he is a "common barrator."(*g*)

A publication headed, "An honest lawyer," and stating that the plaintiff (an attorney) had been reprimanded by one of the Masters of the Queen's Bench, "for what is called sharp practice in his profession," was held to be a libel, whether the plaintiff had his name still on the roll of attorneys or not.(*h*)

A libel may be contained in the heading to the report of a case in one of the Superior Courts. Thus it was ruled by Byles, J., at Nisi Prius, that proof that an attorney treated his client badly in a particular case would not justify a heading to the report of that case "How lawyer B. treats his clients." "The libel," said his Lordship, "is in general terms. It is not how he treated them in this particular case, but how he treated them generally; and even if you succeed in proving that the report is correct, so as to justify the inference that in this instance he treated his

(*a*) *Clay* v. *Roberts* (8 L. T. N. S. 397; 9 Jur. N. S. 580; 11 W. R. 649).
(*b*) *Peard* v. *Jones* (Cro. Car. 382).
(*c*) *Banks* v. *Allen* (Roll. Abr. 54).
(*d*) Roll. Abr. 35.
(*e*) *Day* v. *Buller* (3 Wils. 59).
(*f*) *Jenkins* v. *Smith* (Cro. Jac. 586. See also *Birkley's case* (4 Rep. 16).
(*g*) *Taylor* v. *Starkey* (Cro. Car. 192).
(*h*) *Boydell* v. *Jones* (4 M. & W. 446).

client ill, that would not answer the implied charge in the libel that he so treats his clients generally."(*a*)

It has been observed that if one say to a counsel, "Thou didst disclose my counsel," or to a counsel or attorney, "Thou didst deliver my evidence to my adversary," an action lies.(*b*) The publication of a charge of disgraceful conduct in having disclosed, at an election, confidential communications which he had acquired professionally, would be libellous.(*c*)

Imputations which reflect on a clergyman in his professional character are *per se* actionable.(*d*) A letter published in a newspaper stating that the vicar of the parish came to the performance of divine service in a towering passion, and that his conduct was calculated to make infidels of his congregation, was held to be a clear libel.(*e*)

A letter charging the clerk to the justices of a borough with corruption, even though written to the Secretary of State by an inhabitant of the borough, is a libel.(*f*)

To say of a midwife, "She is an ignorant woman, and of small practice, and very unfortunate in her way; there are few that she goes to, but lie desperately ill, or die under her hands," was held actionable.(*g*) Also to say, "many have perished for her want of skill."(*h*)

An imputation of insanity on a governess would be libellous.(*i*)

So in a variety of other cases, as saying of a churchwarden, "Thou art a cheating knave, and hast cheated the parish of 40*l*.;" (*j*) of a town clerk, "He hath taken 40*s*. for a bribe;"(*k*) of a constable, "He is not worthy the office of a constable; for he and his company, the last time he was constable, stole five of my swine and eat them;" (*l*)

(*a*) *Bishop* v. *Latimer* (4 L. T. N. S. 775). Cf. *Clement* v. *Lewis*, in error (7 Moore, 200; 2 Brod & Bing. 297).

(*b*) *Per* Anderson and Bramond, JJ., *Wright* v. *Moorhouse* (Cro. Eliz. 358). *Sed vide Brown* v. *Kennedy* (33 L. J. 342, Ch.).

(*c*) *Moore* v. *Terrell* (4 B. & Ad. 870).

(*d*) *Pemberton* v. *Colls* (10 Q. B. 461; 16 L. J. Q. B. 403). See also *Drake* v. *Drake* (1 Vin. Abr. 463); *Hearne* v. *Stowell* (12 A. & E. 719); *Kelley* v. *Sherlock* (L. Rep. 1 Q. B. 686; 35 L. J. 209, Q. B.).

(*e*) *Walker* v. *Brogden* (19 C. B. N. S. 65).

(*f*) *Blagg* v. *Sturt* (10 Q. B. 899).

(*g*) *Wharton* v. *Brock* (1 Vent. 21).

(*h*) *Flowers' case* (Cro. Car. 211).

(*i*) *Morgan* v. *Lingen* (8 L. T. N. S. 800).

(*j*) *Strode* v. *Holmes* (Sty. 338; 1 Vin. Abr. 463). See also *Woodruff* v. *Wooley* (1 Vin. Abr. 463).

(*k*) Yelv. 142; 1 Vin. Abr. 463. See 1 Roll. Abr. 56.

(*l*) Cro. Eliz. 861; 1 Vin. Abr. 461.

of a deputy of Clarencieux king of arms, that he was "a scrivener, and no herald," &c.;(*a*) of an apothecary, "It is a world of blood he has to answer for in this town, through his ignorance; he did kill a woman and two children at S.; he did kill J. P. at P; he was the death of J. P.; he has killed his patient with physic."(*b*)

Trades, menial offices, &c.

So in the case of any other lawful trade, business, or employment, however humble or menial, and though it be one of which the court cannot take judicial notice,(*c*) words spoken, and, *à fortiori*, words written or printed, and published, of a person in relation to such employment, which have a tendency to injure him in respect thereof, are actionable *per se*.

"An action," it has been said,(*d*) "lies for speaking scandalous words of any man of any trade or profession, be it never so base, if they are spoken with reference to his profession." Thus, it has been held actionable to say of a servant in husbandry and bailiff, "Thou art a cozening knave, and hast cozened thy master of a bushel of barley;"(*e*) or of a tradesman, "Thou art a rogue, and thou hast cheated me of several pounds;"(*f*) of a person carrying on the business of a butcher that she had used false weights in her trade;(*g*) of a counseller, "You are a rogue and a swindling rascal; you delivered me one hundred bushels of oats worse by sixpence a bushel than I bargained for;"(*h*) of an auctioneer and appraiser employed by the defendant to value certain goods, "He is a damned rascal, he has cheated me out of a hundred pounds on the valuation;"(*i*) of an asphalte manufacturer, "The old materials have been relaid by your company in the asphalte work executed in front of the Ordnance Office, and I have seen the work done:" innuendo, that the plaintiff "had been guilty of dishonesty in the conduct of his said trade, by laying down again the old asphalte materials which had before been used at the entrance of the said Ordnance Office instead of new

(*a*) Cro. Eliz. 328, 329; 1 Vin. Abr. 464, &c. The following are similar cases: Cro. Eliz. 358; Dal. 45; Yelv. 153; Cro. Car. 563; Mar. 82, pl. 135; Style, 43; 2 Roll. R. 72.

(*b*) *Tutty* v. *Alcorn* (11 Mod. 221). See also *Edsall* v. *Russell* (4 M. & Gr. 1090).

(*c*) *Foulger* v. *Newcomb* (L. Rep. 2 Ex. 327; 16 L. T. N. S. 596, 36 L. J. 169, Ex.).

(*d*) *Per* Kelynge, Wyndham, and Twysden, JJ., *Terry* v. *Hooper* (Lev. 115).

(*e*) *Seaman* v. *Bigg* (Cro. Car. 480).

(*f*) *Surman* v. *Shelleto* (Burr. 1688).

(*g*) *Griffiths* v. *Lewis* (7 Q. B. 61).

(*h*) *Thomas* v. *Jackson* (3 Bing. 101).

(*i*) *Bryant* v. *Loxton* (4 Moore, 311).

asphalte according to his contract;"(*a*) or of a certificated master mariner, that "during his stay at N. he was frequently drunk, and in that state had to be carried to his boat to reach his vessel, &c."(*b*) So it was held slanderous to say of a gamekeeper, that he had trapped foxes; the declaration stating that it was his duty as such gamekeeper not to kill foxes, and that he was employed on the terms of his not doing so, as the defendant knew.(*c*)

A letter published in the *Times* newspaper stating that a ship of which the plaintiff was owner and master, and which was advertised as about to sail to the East Indies, was not seaworthy, and that some Jews had bought her for the purpose of taking out convicts, was held to be a libel on the plaintiff in his trade and business, and not a mere disparagement of the ship.(*d*) "This is not," said Coltman, J., "a case of mere disparagement of a chattel, but a libel on the plaintiff in the way of his business, and with reference to an intended voyage. It is impossible, therefore, to say that the action is not maintainable independently of malice. To say of a shipowner that he has sold his ship to carry convicts, when she was in a condition in which she must be expected to go to the bottom, is as bad as saying of a wine merchant that his wine is poisoned; or of a tea-dealer that his tea is made green by drying it on copper." And Erskine, J., added, "I think there could not be a more flagrant personal libel than such a statement made with respect to the master of a ship."

In order that an action of slander shall be maintainable for words spoken of a man in his office, profession, trade, or calling, it must clearly appear that the words were spoken of him in relation to that office, profession, trade, or calling.(*e*)

Imputations injurious to the credit of a trader or merchant.

Imputations which would affect injuriously the credit of a trader or merchant are also actionable; and it is not necessary that actual bankruptcy should be imputed.

Thus it has been held actionable to use words of an im-

(*a*) *Babonneau* v. *Farrell* (13 C. B. 360).

(*b*) *Irwin* v. *Brandwood* (2 H. & C. 960; 9 L. T. N. S. 772; 33 L. J. 257, Ex.). See *Cockcroft* v. *Richards* (2 C. B. 569; 15 L. J. 278, C. P.; and *Harwood* v. *Green* (2 C. & P. 141).

(*c*) *Foulger* v. *Newcomb* (*ubi supra*).

(*d*) *Ingram* v. *Lawson* (6 Bing. N. C. 212; 8 Scott, 471).

(*e*) *Sibley* v. *Tomlins* (1 Tyrw. 90). See 1 Vin. Abr. 464; 3 Salk. 328; *Ayre* v. *Craven* (2 A. & El. 7; 4 N. & M. 220); *Dagley* v. *Roberts* (3 Bing. N. C. 835); *Lumley* v. *Hislop* (1 Tyrw. 217; 1 C. & J. 201); *James* v. *Brook* (9 Q. B. 7; 16 L. J. 17, Q. B.); *Hopwood* v. *Thorn* (8 C. B. 293; 19 L. J. C. P. 91); *Morgan* v. *Lingen* (8 L. T. N. S. 809).

keeper imputing insolvency, although at the time they were spoken an innkeeper was not subject to the bankrupt laws.(*a*) "The single question is" said Abbott, C.J.,(*b*) "whether words imputing an inability to pay debts be injurious to a person who seeks his living by buying provisions upon credit and selling them again to his guests at a profit, he not being liable to the bankrupt laws. Now, such an imputation is calculated to prevent him from having that credit which is at least useful, if not necessary, in his business; the words, therefore, are likely to be injurious to him."

So to say of a trader that he is "A sorry, pitiful fellow, and a rogue; he compounded his debts at five shillings in the pound;"(*c*) or "If he does not come and make terms with me, I will make a bankrupt of him, and ruin him;" (*d*) of a brewer, "I will bet 5*l.* to 1*l.* that Mr. J. was in a spunging house for debt within the last fortnight, and I can produce the man who locked him up; the man told me so himself;" &c.;(*e*) of a dyer that "He is a bankrupt knave, and is not worth three half-pence" (*f*); of a tailor, "I heard you were run away;" (*g*) of a husbandman, "He owes more money than he is worth; he is run away and is broke;" (*h*) of a carpenter, "He is broken and run away, and will never return again;(*i*) and even in cases where an expectation or opinion only was expressed, as "I believe all is not well with Daniel Vivian: there are many merchants who have lately failed, and I expect no otherwise of Daniel Vivian." (*j*).

It was held actionable to say of an upholsterer, "You are a

(*a*) *Whittington* v. *Gladwin* (5 B. & C. 180); see also *Southam* v. *Allen* (Sir T. Ray, 231), where the words were, "Deal not with the plaintiff, for he is broke, and there is neither entertainment for man or horse."

(*b*) 5 B. & C. 181.

(*c*) *Stanton* v. *Smith* (Ld. Ray. 1480; Str. 762). See a case relating to a pawnbroker (Holt, 652).

(*d*) *Brown* v. *Smith* (13 C. B. 596; 22 L. J. 151, C. P.).

(*e*) *Jones* v. *Littler* (7 M. & W. 423). See, as to calling a stock-jobber "a lame duck," *Morris* v. *Langdale* (2 Bos. & P. 284); and, as to imputing insolvency to a banker, *Robinson* v. *Marchant* (7 Q. B. 918).

(*f*) *Squire* v *Johns* (Cro. Jac. 585).

(*g*) *Davis* v. *Lewis* (7 T. R. 17).

(*h*) *Dobson* v. *Thornstone* (3 Mod. 112).

(*i*) *Chapman* v. *Lampshire* (3 Mod. 155). In this case it was argued for the defendant that the plaintiff might be broken and yet be as good a carpenter as before. "But," said the Chief Justice, "the credit which the defendant (plaintiff?) has in the world may be the means to support his skill, for he may not have an opportunity to show his workmanship without those materials with which he is entrusted."

(*j*) 3 Salk. 326; Raym 207. See also *Harrison* v. *Thornborough* (10 Mod. 196).

soldier; I saw you in your red coat doing duty; your word is not to be taken"—it having been a common practice for tradesmen to protect themselves against their creditors by a counterfeit listing (*a*).

In one case, where it was said of a merchant with respect to an event which had occurred eight years previously, "He came a broken merchant from Hamburgh," the Court (*b*) held that an action would lie, the charge being of having been "once broken, *Et qui semel malus semper presumitur esse malus eadem genere*, or at least may have an inclination thereto; and it being alleged to be spoken *falso et malitiosè*, and to scandalise him in his profession, it is a great cause of discrediting and impairing him in his trade, whereas their credit is the principal means of their gain."(*c*)

And according to Kelly, C.B.,(*d*) it is libellous to impute untruly to any person pecuniary embarrassment and inability to purchase a certain property without the aid of a loan from a third party; even although it be at the same time stated that the loan was afterwards honourably repaid.

Criticisms on works appealing to public.

Defamatory attacks on persons in the way of their trade, profession, or calling, must be distinguished from hostile criticisms fairly and temperately expressed on such of their works and performances as appeal to the public; for such criticisms, however severely they may condemn or effectually turn into ridicule the works of authors, painters, architects, actors, &c., or even the advertisements or handbills of a tradesman, may be justifiable, though not in all respects accurate; whereas publications which have for their object the private injury of the person attacked can only be justified by their substantial truth. This subject will be more fully dealt with by and by.(*e*)

Publications disparaging commodities of rival tradesmen.

Publications merely disparaging the commodities of a rival tradesman must also be distinguished from libels upon him in the way of his trade.

Where a person published a circular and report comparing his own goods with those of another tradesman, and describing his own as superior, but not making any false misrepresentations as to the quality and character of the latter, it was held, on demurrer to a declaration, that an action of libel could not be maintained by the tradesman whose goods were disparaged, notwithstanding an

(*a*) *Ante* v. *Johnson* (10 Mod. 111).

(*b*) Croke, Jones, and Berkley, JJ., *dissentiente* Richardson, C.J.

(*c*) *Leycroft* v. *Dunker* (Cro. Car. 317).

(*d*) *Cox* v. *Lee* (L. Rep. 4, Ex. 284: 38 L. J. 219, Ex.; 21 L. T. N. S. 178).

(*e*) See the chapter on "Comments on Matters of Public Interest," *post*.

allegation in the declaration of special damage, though they might be superior to the goods of the other.(*a*) "I am far from saying," said Cockburn, C.J., "that if a man falsely and maliciously makes a statement disparaging an article which another manufactures or vends, although in so doing he casts no imputation on his personal or professional character, and thereby causes an injury, and special damage is averred, an action might not be maintained." "My own impression is," said Blackburn, J., "that where there is a written depreciation of an article, unless it is a slander actionable in itself, no allegation of special damage will render it actionable, except in the case of slander of title. But there may, as my lord says, be cases where there is a *scienter* on the part of the defendant who has made statements doing mischief and calculated to do it, in which an action would lie."

So where the defendant issued a notice cautioning the public that the "self-acting tallow syphons or lubricators," sold by the plaintiff were not good for their purpose, and that those who bought them would find that the tallow was wasted instead of being effectually employed as professed; the publication was held not to be a libel on the plaintiff in the way of his trade.(*b*) "A tradesman," said Lord Denman, C.J. "offering goods for sale, exposes himself to observations of this kind; and it is not by assuming them to be 'false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory,' that the plaintiff can found a charge of libel upon them. To decide so would open a very wide door to litigation, and might expose every man who said his goods were better than another's to the risk of an action." Patteson, J., said that if the caution had been against the plaintiff as a tradesman in *the habit* of selling goods which he knew to be bad, it would be a libel upon him personally.

Publications holding up to scorn or ridicule.

The third class of libels on individuals embraces those which, by holding up a man to scorn and ridicule, and still more to any stronger feeling of contempt or execration, impair him in the enjoyment of general society, and injure those imperfect rights of friendly intercourse and mutual benevolence which man has with respect to man.(*c*) Everything, also, which, by holding him up to that scorn and ridicule that might reasonably (that is, according to our natural passions) be considered as provoking him to a breach of the peace, is a libel.(*d*)

(*a*) *Young* v. *Macrae* (3 B. & S. 264; 32 L. J. 6, Q. B).
(*b*) *Evans* v. *Harlow* (5 Q. B. 624).
(*c*) Holt, L. L. 210. (*d*) *Ib.* 213.

A libel of this kind may be briefly defined to be "any publication, without justification or lawful excuse, which is calculated to injure the reputation of another, by exposing him to hatred, contempt, or ridicule."(*a*)

The following language of eminent judges may be cited in support of the preceding definition. "In a libel" says Best, C.J.,(*b*) "any tendency to bring a party into contempt or ridicule is actionable; and, in general, any charge of immoral conduct, although in matters not punishable by law."(*c*)

"If any man" says Wilmot, C.J.,(*d*) "deliberately or maliciously(*e*) publishes anything in writing concerning another which makes him *ridiculous*, or tends to hinder mankind from associating or having intercourse with him, an action well lies against such publisher." "Scandalous matter is not necessary to make a libel, 'tis enough if the defendant induces an ill opinion to be had of the plaintiff or makes him contemptible and ridiculous."(*f*) "In case upon a libel it is sufficient if the matter be reflecting, as to paint a man playing at cudgels with his wife."(*g*)

Thus it was held libellous to publish of a man that he stank of brimstone, and had the itch.(*h*)

It is chiefly with respect to the class of libels with which we are now dealing that the distinction between oral and written or printed defamation becomes important.

To publish, even orally, of anyone that he has committed an indictable offence, or that he has—*i.e.*, at the time the words are spoken of him—some contagious or infectious disorder which may exclude from society,(*i*) or anything referring to his trade, office (be it one of profit or not), or profession, and calculated to injure him therein,(*j*) is action-

(*a*) *Per* Parke, B., *Parmiter* v. *Coupland* (6 M. & W. 108).

(*b*) *Archbishop of Tuam* v. *Robeson* (5 Bing. 21).

(*c*) See, as to imputations of immoral or unfeeling conduct, *Clement* v. *Chivis* (9 B. & C. 172); *Churchill* v. *Hunt* (1 Chit. 480).

(*d*) *Villers* v. *Monsley* (2 Wils. 403).

(*e*) As to the meaning of malice, *ride ante*, pp. 389, 390.

(*f*) *Per* Holt, C.J., *Cropp* v. *Tilney* (3 Salk. 226).

(*g*) *Per* Holt, C.J. (11 Mod. 99).

(*h*) *Villers* v. *Monsley* (*ubi supra*).

(*i*) 7 Bac. Abr. tit. Slander, p. 266; 1 Roll. Abr. 44; *Carslake* v. *Mapledoram* (2 T. R. 473); *Bloodworth* v. *Gray* (7 M. & Gr. 334). See also Cro. Eliz. 214, 289, 648; Cro. Jac. 130.

(*j*) 1 Vin. Abr. 463; Cro. Eliz. 328, 358; 1 Roll. Abr. 56; *Heck* v. *Osgood* (1 Vent. 50); *Parrat* v. *Carpenter* (Cro. Eliz. 502); *Seaman* v. *Bigg* (Cro. Car. 480); *Beard* v. *Jones* (Cro. Car. 382); *Aston* v. *Blagrave* (Str. 617); *Hoar* v. *Pain* (Holt, 652); *Thomas* v. *Jackson* (3 Bing. 101); *Southee* v. *Denny* (1 Ex. 196); *Tutty* v. *Alerin* (11 Mod. 221); *Robinson* v. *Marchant* (7 Q. B. 918); *Morris* v. *Langdale* (2 B. & P. 81); *Brown*

able.(*a*) But where the imputation of an offence against the law is made orally, in order to be actionable, it must, in the absence of special damage resulting from it, be of some offence liable to punishment in a criminal court otherwise than merely by fine, with imprisonment in default of payment.(*b*)

Calling a man a scoundrel, rascal, blackleg, or even rogue or swindler, will not support an action of slander without proof of special damage caused by the utterance.(*c*)

Neither will the oral imputation of unchastity to a woman, married or unmarried, however gross it may be, entitle her to maintain an action, unless she can prove that the slander has caused her special damage.(*d*)

The publication, however, by writing or printing, of any of these things is actionable *per se*, without proof of special damage, on account of the greater mischief said to be produced by this mode of publication, as well as the greater malice which it indicates on the part of the defamer. "A libel," it has been said,(*e*) "is punishable both criminally

v. *Smith* (13 C. B. 596); *Babonneau* v. *Farrell* (15 C. B. 360); *Irwin* v. *Brandwood* (2 H. & C. 960).

(*a*) *Gainsford* v. *Take* (Cro. Jac. 536); *Boston* v. *Tatam* (*Ib.* 623); *Carpenter* v. *Tarrant* (Cas. Temp. Lord Hardwicke, 339); *Cuddington* v. *Wilkins* (Hob. 81); *Moor* v. *Foster* (Cro. Jac. 65); *Bendish* v. *Lindsey* (11 Mod. 194); *Roberts* v. *Camden* (9 East 93); *Fowler* v. *Dowdney* (2 M. &. Rob. 119); *Alfred* v. *Farlow* (8 Q. B. 854); *Williams* v. *Stott* (1 C. & M. 675); *Calman* v. *Cadwin* (3 Doug. 90); *Richardson* v. *Allen* (2 Chit. 657); *Tomlinson* v. *Brittlebank* (4 B. & Ad. 630); *Huckle* v. *Reynolds* (7 C. B. N. S. 114, 337); *D'Anson* v. *Stewart* (1 T. R. 748); *Barnett* v. *Allen* (3 H. & N. 381). As to the imputation of a mere fineable offence, see *Ogden* v. *Turner* (Salk. 696; 6 Mod. 104); *M'Cabe* v. *Foot* (15 L. T. N. S. 115).

(*b*) 4 Rep. 15; 2 Bulst. 150; 1 Vin. Abr. 404, 417; 1 Roll. Abr. 40, &c.; *Holt* v. *Scholefield* (6 T. R. 691).

(*c*) *Barnett* v. *Allen* (3 H. & N. 376; 27 L. J. 412, Ex.); *Richardson* v. *Allen* (2 Chit. 657); *Saville* v. *Jardine* (2 H. Bl. 531, &c.)

(*d*) *Stainton* v. *Jones* (Selw. N. P. 12th edit. 1259); *Wilby* v. *Elston* (8 C. B. 142; 18 L. J. 320, C. P.); *Roberts* v. *Roberts* (33 L. J. 249, Q. B.; 10 L. T. N. S. 602); *Lynch* v. *Knight* (9 H. L. Cas. 577). The state of our law on this subject is really disgraceful. Lord Campbell, a good while ago (*Lynch* v. *Knight*, *ubi sup.*), considered it "unsatisfactory;" Lord Brougham, in the same case (p. 594), stigmatised it as "barbarous;" and Cockburn, C.J., in another case, as "very cruel" (33 L. J. 250, Q. B.); notwithstanding which it still continues as above stated. The only exception is the calling a woman a whore within the city of London, that being by the custom of the city actionable. See *Brand* v. *Roberts* (4 Burr. 2418, and cases there cited); *Robertson* v. *Powell* (2 Selw. N. P. 1259, 5th edit. See also 1 Str. 741; 1 Vin. Abr. 395; Holt's Rep. 40; 12 Mod. 106.

(*e*) *Per* Gould, J., *Villers* v. *Monsley* (2 Wils. 404). See also *Thorley* v. *Lord Kerry* (2 Taunt. 358); and the note in 3 Camp. 214.

and by action, when mere speaking the words would not be punishable in either way."(*a*)

By the Scotch law the oral imputation of unchastity to a woman is actionable, without proof of special damage.(*b*)

For speaking the words *rogue* and rascal of anyone, an action, as already observed, will not lie. "But if those words," says Gould, J.,(*c*) "were written and published of anyone, I doubt not an action would lie."

So, to publish of anyone that he is a *swindler* is a libel, and actionable,(*d*) or that he is "a dishonest man,"(*e*) or a "black-leg" or "black sheep,"(*f*) or that he was black-balled at a club, and "bolted" the next morning, whilst some of the poor tradesmen had to lament the fashionable character of an entertainment which he had given.(*g*) So also is a letter written to a third party calling a person a *villain*.(*h*)

It was held to be a libel to publish of a Protestant archbishop that he had attempted to convert a Roman Catholic priest (against whom a charge of seduction had been made) by offers of money and preferment.(*i*) The libel in this

(*a*) "The common law, in respect to our natural passions, gives no action for mere defamatory words, which it considers as transitory abuse, and not having substance and body enough to constitute an injury by affecting the reputation. It confines, therefore, the action for slander to such of the grosser kind of words as impute positive crimes, or, by charging a man with contagious disorders, tends to expel him from society; and to words which injure him in his profession and calling. It does not consider words amounting to a breach of the peace, and, therefore, gives neither indictment nor information for unwritten slander, except in the case of seditious language or words reflecting on a magistrate in the immediate execution of his office. The reason of the law in this distinction is simple enough. It was necessary to punish the grosser and more palpable injuries, and it was equally convenient to pass over the less. The law, therefore, by classing the greater injuries, established the *criteria* of this distinction, and adhered to it closely in its practice. This reason, however, ceased when the words, by being written, could no longer be considered as the results of transitory passion or venial levity, but therein gained the shape and efficacy of a mischievous malignity. The act of writing is in itself an act of deliberation, and the instrument of a permanent mischief. What before was mere *convitium* and contumely grew into a deliberate charge and accusation. The law, therefore, both with respect to the public peace and the prevention of private injury, allowed an indictment and information, as well as an action on the case, for words written which it denied to words spoken:" (Holt. L. L. 211, 212.)

(*b*) Borthwick's Law of Libel, p. 185.
(*c*) *Villers* v. *Monsley* (2 Wils. 403).
(*d*) *l'Anson* v. *Stuart* (1 T. R. 748).
(*e*) *Per Cur.*, *Austin* v. *Culpepper* (Skin. 124; 2 Show. 314).
(*f*) *O'Brien* v. *Clement* (16 M. & W. 159).
(*g*) *Ib.*
(*h*) *Bell* v. *Stone* (1 Bos. & P. 331).
(*i*) *Archbishop of Tuam* v. *Robeson* (5 Bing. 21).

case was contained in a letter from Dublin, published in the *Morning Herald*; and it was contended, on motion to set aside the verdict which had been given for the plaintiff, that there was no imputation on the plaintiff's character in the conduct ascribed to him; that to make converts, even by purchase, is a praiseworthy effort of religious zeal, sanctioned by Act of Parliament, and warranted by the practice of our own and other Christian establishments; that the imputation, if any, on the plaintiff was only of extraordinary zeal. But Best, C.J., after laying it down that, in general, any charge of immoral conduct in a libel is actionable, although in matters not punishable by law, said: "Would it be immoral in the archbishop if he attempted to bribe a man to renounce his religion, and to endow such a proselyte with a Church of England preferment? Would it be immoral to employ in making hypocrites funds destined to the support of the Protestant Church? If the seduced be guilty it is impossible to say that the seducer is innocent. But it has been urged that nothing immoral is imputed, since the Legislature has held out to Catholic priests the same kind of temptation to become Protestants. Even if that were so, it would not persuade me that such a course was moral. But the Legislature has not done this; it has only said that if a man be converted he shall not be left to starve in the midst of a hostile community." "If," said Burrough, J., "we are to understand the language of this attack as the rest of the world would do, there can be no doubt it is a gross and infamous libel. The plaintiff is charged with having sought to induce an improper person to abandon his religious creed, not by reasoning but by a gross bribe." "As to the merits," said Gaselee, J., "this is equally a libel whether it proposed to impute to the plaintiff indiscretion or dishonesty; the manifest object of it was to bring him into disrepute."

A publication which charged an overseer of a parish with oppressive conduct towards paupers in compelling them to receive payment of their weekly allowance in orders for flour upon a particular tradesman, was held to be a libel;(*a*) and so was a placard stating of an overseer that when out of office he had advocated low rates, and when in office he had advocated high rates, and that the defendant would not trust him with 5*l*. of his property.(*b*)

(*a*) *Woodard* v. *Dowsing* (2 M. & Ry. 74).
(*b*) *Cheese* v. *Scales* (10 M. & W. 488). Cf. *Warman* v. *Hine* (1 Jur. 820).

In another case where an action was held maintainable, the important part of the libel was, "I sincerely pity the man" (meaning the plaintiff) "that can so far forget what is due, not only to himself, but to others, who, under the cloak of religious and spiritual reform, hypocritically and with the grossest impurity deals out his malice, uncharitableness, and falsehoods."(*a*)

It has also been held libellous to publish of any man that he has been guilty of gross misconduct, and insulted females in a barefaced manner.(*b*) The individual libelled in this case was a coachman, but the publication was not held libellous, because published of him in that capacity, the Court considering it only necessary to inquire whether the publication in question held up the plaintiff to public hatred, contempt, or ridicule: the imputation was a very serious and contumelious one, clearly calculated to bring the plaintiff into contempt by some persons, and hatred by others, and, therefore, according to established rule, the publication was libellous.

So it has been held libellous to publish of a person seeking assistance from a charitable society that she prefers unworthy claims, which it is hoped the members will reject for ever, and that she has squandered away money already obtained by her from the benevolent in printing circulars abusive of the society's secretary.(*c*)

A person was found guilty of publishing a libel for having caused the insertion in a newspaper of a paragraph imputing that the "myrmidons" of the prosecutor had poisoned some foxes in a country hunted over by the hounds of Sir W. M. S., and had hung their bodies up by the neck; and that the tenantry of Sir W. M. S., by way of retaliation, had hung up effigies of the prosecutor and his brother, with foxes' tails appended.(*d*)

The publication in a newspaper of a paragraph stating that, although the plaintiff was aware of the death of a lady occasioned by his furious and careless driving a carriage against that in which she had been driving, he nevertheless, on the very evening of the catastrophe, attended a public ball, was held actionable.(*e*)

Even a publication alleging that a person has for years, without cause, systematically done everything to annoy another, and had unnecessarily dragged that other into the

(*a*) *Thorley* v. *Lord Kerry* (4 Taunt. 355).
(*b*) *Clement* v. *Chivis* (9 B. & C. 192).
(*c*) *Hoare* v. *Silverlock* (12 Q. B. 624).
(*d*) *Reg.* v. *Cooper* (8 Q. B. 533; 15 L. J. 206, Q. B.).
(*e*) *Churchill* v. *Hunt* (1 Chit. 480).

Court of Chancery, and put him to great expense, may be libellous.(*a*)

Though a man should tell a ludicrous story concerning himself, the unauthorised publication of it in a newspaper will be libellous.(*b*) "There is a great difference," said Tindall, C.J., "between a man's telling a ludicrous story of himself to a circle of his own acquaintance, and a publication of it to all the world through the medium of a newspaper."(*c*)

It has been held a libel to publish of a person in a newspaper that he had entered a horse to run for certain stakes at a race, and had afterwards fraudulently withdrawn it for the purpose of obtaining an unfair advantage over other persons with whom he had laid wagers on the expected race.(*d*) It was contended in this case that horse racing was illegal, and therefore that the plaintiff had no right to sue; but the Court held that "even if running a race without fraud were altogether prohibited by the law, still the party infringing its provisions would not thereby be deprived of all [illegible]ction to his character in other matters connected with the transaction; but, moreover, the fact of engaging in a horse race is not in itself an illegal act."

It was held libellous to publish the following paragraph, which appeared in a newspaper: "K. D. has had a tolerable run of luck this season. He is still here, and keeps—I assure you friend Sat.—a well-spread sideboard; but, curse the fellow! I always consider myself in a family hotel when my legs are singing duets under his table; for the bill is sure to come in sooner or later, although, as you know, I rarely dabble in the mysteries of ecarté, or any other game. The fellow is as deep as Crockford, and as knowing as the Marquis. I do dislike this leg-al profession;" the Court being of opinion that, apart from any innuendo, it imputed something disgraceful to the plaintiff.(*e*)

To publish of a person who had been an attorney that whilst he practised he had been guilty of "sharp practice," would be a libel.(*f*)

The following paragraph inserted in a newspaper was also held to be libellous, without any innuendo to explain its meaning: "Threatening letters.—The Middlesex grand jury have returned a true bill against a gentleman of some

(*a*) *Fray* v. *Fray* (17 C. B. N. S. 603; 34 L. J. 45, C. P.).
(*b*) *Cook* v. *Ward* (6 Bing. 409). (*c*) *Ib*
(*d*) *Greville* v. *Chapman* (5 Q. B. 731).
(*e*) *Digby* v. *Thompson* (4 B. & Ald. 821).
(*f*) *Boydell* v. *Jones* (4 M. & W. 450), *Per* Parke, B.

property named French."(a) In reply to an argument, urged on behalf of the defendant, that the Court could not intend that the bill of indictment found by the grand jury was a bill of indictment for sending threatening letters, Lord Tenterden, C.J., said:(b) "We are all agreed, and it is quite clear from all the modern authorities, that a court must read these words in the sense in which ordinary persons, or in which we ourselves out of court, reading this paragraph, would understand them; and that it cannot be read otherwise than that the grand jury had found a true bill against the plaintiff for sending threatening letters. A bill of indictment for sending a threatening letter must import an unlawful threatening letter."

A general charge of ingratitude published in a newspaper has been held to be libellous,(c) even where the facts upon which the charge is grounded were also stated, and were insufficient to support the charge;(d) for, according to Bramwell, B., a doubt is raised whether there are not some other facts which, if mentioned, would justify the charge.(e)

Defamation by reference or comparison.

A libel is not the less actionable because the defamatory imputation is made by reference or comparison, direct or indirect, to some character in history or fiction, or to some animal which suggests the injurious idea.

Thus, it was held a libel to publish, in a newspaper, of the plaintiff, who was an applicant for assistance from a charitable society, that her warmest friends, in giving up the advocacy of her claims, stated that they had realised the fable of the "Frozen Snake."(f) To an objection, grounded on the absence of an innuendo in the declaration, explaining the meaning of the allusion to the "Frozen Snake," Coleridge, J., replied,(g) "The jury and court in such a case as this are in an odd predicament, if they alone of all persons are not to understand the allusion complained of. Suppose the libel had said that the plaintiff acted like Judas; must the history of Judas have been given and referred to by innuendo? We ought to attribute to a court and jury an acquaintance with ordinary terms and allusions, whether historical or figurative, or parabolical. If an expression, originally allegorical, has passed into such common use that it ceases to be figurative, and has obtained a signification almost literal, we must understand it as it is used. Half of our language is founded upon allegorical allusion: 'vinegar' is talked of

(a) *Harvey* v. *French* (1 Cr. & M. 11). (b) *Id.* 18.
(c) *Cox* v. *Lee* (L. Rep. 4 Ex. 284; 21 L. T. N. S. 178; 38 L. J. 219, Ex.). (d) *Ib.* (e) *Ib.*
(f) *Hoare* v. *Silverlock* (12, C. B. 624; 17 L. J. 306, Q. B.).
(g) P. 633.

in describing a bad temper; even the word 'sour' is figurative. We must understand such terms according to the sense which has become familiar." "Nothing is easier," said Erle, J., "than to bring persons into contempt by allusion to names well known in history, or by mention of animals to which certain ideas are attached; and I may take judicial notice that the words 'Frozen Snake' have an application very generally known indeed, which application is likely to bring into contempt a person against whom it is directed."

See also the case of *Woodgate* v. *Ridout*,(*a*) where part of the libel consisted in a comparison of the conduct of the plaintiff, an attorney, in reference to a particular case, with that of the firm of Quirk, Gammon, and Snap, in the novel of "Ten Thousand a Year."

Libel on the dead.

Although the person defamed be dead, the libel is nevertheless punishable; for it stirs up others of the same family, blood, or society, to revenge, and to break the peace.(*b*) The chief cause for which the law so severely punishes all libels is, says Hawkins,(*c*) the direct tendency of them to a breach of public peace, by provoking the parties injured, and their friends and families to acts of revenge, which it would be impossible to restrain by the severest laws, were there no redress from public justice for injuries of this kind, which of all others are most sensibly felt.

An information was granted (Hil. 7 Geo. 2) against one Critchley for publishing a libel reflecting on Sir C. G. Nicoll, Lady Dartmouth's father, and on the Government. The information charged that the defendant, envying the good name and character of the deceased, and maliciously devising and intending to vilify and scandalise his memory, and to traduce and misrepresent him as a person of corrupt and wicked principles, and to induce a belief in the subjects of our lord the King that the said Sir C. had obtained the honourable order of knighthood of the Bath by vile and scandalous means, &c., and maliciously to fix a mark of infamy, contempt, and dishonour on the memory, name, and family of the said Sir C., and to excite thus the subjects of our said lord the King to blacken and defame the memory of the said Sir C., and to stir up the hatred and evil will of the subjects of our said lord the King, against the family and posterity of the said Sir C., after the death of the said Sir C., did publish the following libel: "On Saturday evening died of the small-pox, at his house in Grosvenor Square, Sir Charles Gaunter Nicoll, Knight of the Most Honourable Order of

(*a*) 4 F. & F. 202.
(*b*) Co. 5, 124 b.
(*c*) P. C. Book 1, c. 28.

the Bath, and representative in Parliament for the town of Peterborough. He was blessed with an ample fortune, which he enjoyed in a manner that rendered him in early years of life a truly valuable husband and friend. He could not be called a friend to his country, for he changed his principles for a red ribbon, and voted for that pernicious project, the excise."(*a*)

In libel on dead intention must be shown to be malevolent.

In the case, however, of libels on the dead, the intention of the person publishing must be shown to have been malevolent; for, to say that the conduct of a dead person can at no time be canvassed—to hold that, even after ages are passed, the conduct of bad men cannot be contrasted with the good—would, in the words of Lord Kenyon,(*b*) be to exclude the most useful part of history; "and, therefore," said that learned judge, "it must be allowed that such publications may be made fairly and honestly. But let this be done whenever it may, whether soon or late after the death of the party, if it be done with a malevolent purpose, to vilify the memory of the deceased, and with a view to injure his posterity, as in *Rex* v. *Critchley*, then it comes within the rule stated by Hawkins; then it is done with a design to break the peace, and then it becomes illegal."(*c*)

For the reasons thus stated by Lord Kenyon, the Court of King's Bench, in 1791, held bad, after a verdict of guilty, an indictment charging the defendant that he, "wickedly and maliciously contriving and intending to injure, defame, disgrace, and vilify the memory, reputation and character of George Nassau Clavering, Earl Cowper, then deceased, and to cause it to be believed that the said earl in his lifetime was a person of a vicious and depraved mind and disposition, and destitute of filial duty and affection, and of all honourable and virtuous sentiments and inclinations, and that the said earl had led a wicked and profligate course of life, and had addicted himself to the practice and use of the most criminal and unmanly vices and debaucheries, &c., wickedly, maliciously, and unlawfully did print and publish and cause to be printed and published, in a certain newspaper called *The World*, a certain false, scandalous, and malicious libel of and concerning the said Earl Cowper, &c., to the great disgrace and scandal of the memory, reputation, and character of the said Earl Cowper; in contempt, &c.; to the evil example, &c., and against the peace, &c." The court made absolute a rule to arrest the judgment, because the indictment did not allege that the libel had been published with an intent to create any ill blood or to throw any scandal

(*a*) Cited 4 T. R. 129.
(*b*) *The King* v. *Topham* (4 T. R. 129). (*c*) *Ib.*

on the family and posterity of Lord Cowper, or to induce them to break the peace in vindicating the honour of the family.(a)

Liability for libel which one requests another to publish.

A person is answerable for a libel which he either requests or directs another to write or publish for him, even where the publication differs in some respects from what he has suggested, provided the direction be in substance followed out.

Thus, where the evidence was that the defendant told the reporter of a newspaper a story defamatory of the plaintiff, saying that "it would make a good case for the newspaper," and afterwards gave the reporter a more detailed account, for the express purpose of inserting it in the newspaper; whereupon the reporter, from the particulars thus furnished to him, drew up an account, which, after some slight alterations, not affecting the sense, were made in it by the editor, was published in the newspaper, Abbott, C.J., held that what the reporter published in consequence of what passed with the defendant might be considered as published by the defendant.(b)

And where the defendant asked the editor of a newspaper to "show up" the prosecutor and his brother, telling him a ludicrous story concerning them; and the editor told the story to a reporter for the paper, and the story appeared in the paper, with comments added; the defendant, before the publication, having remarked on the delay, and, after the publication, expressed approbation of it, it was held that the jury (who had found the defendant guilty) might, on this evidence, find that the defendant authorised the publication of the particular libel, notwithstanding the comments added, and although it appeared that the editor had heard the story before the defendant told it to him.(c)

"If," said Lord Denman, C.J., "a man requests another generally to write a libel, he must be answerable for any libel written in pursuance of his request: he contributes to a misdemeanor, and is therefore responsible as a principal. He takes his chance of what is to be published. Here the defendant first desires the newspaper editor to 'shew up' the prosecutor, and communicates to him the particulars of the story, which afterwards appear in the newspaper. Having given this general authority, he meets the editor, and says that the article has not appeared. That which did, in fact, form the foundation of the libel, and which the editor com-

(a) *The King* v. *Topham* (4 T. R. 129).
(b) *Adams* v. *Kelly* (1 Ry. & M. 157).
(c) *Reg.* v. *Cooper* (8 Q. B. 533; 15 L. J. 206, Q. B.).

PART IV. CHAPTER VI.

municated to the reporter, was what the defendant communicated to the editor; and, after the publication, it was approved of by the defendant. It is observed that there were additions; but the editor said that what the defendant communicated was substantially what was published. If we held this not to be a publication by the defendant, we must go the length of exonerating a party who gives instructions for a libel, in every case where the libel published departs from the instructions by a single word. It is enough that there is a substantial identity. I have no doubt that a man who employs another generally to write a libel must take his chance of what appears, though something may be added which he did not state." Wightman, J., added: "It would be very dangerous to allow a man to direct a libel to be published on a particular subject, and, after he has approved of what is published, to defend himself on the ground that something has been added to his original communications."(*a*)

In the case just referred to there was, in addition to a previous request, a subsequent approval of the libel as published. But if a request be made, and the publication take place in pursuance of the request, that is sufficient to fix with liability.

Request to reporters to notice a speech.

And in the case of a speech, made at a meeting, which the speaker requests the newspaper reporters present to "take notice of," he is liable not only for a *verbatim* report, but also for a published outline or summary of it.(*b*)

In an action against the chairman, and E., a member, of a board of guardians, for a libel published in a newspaper report of one of the meetings of the board, it appeared that a discussion having taken place at the meeting respecting the case of the plaintiff's daughter, then an inmate of the workhouse, and reporters of the local newspapers being present in the ordinary discharge of their duty, the defendant E. said "he hoped the local press would take notice of this very scandalous case," and requested the chairman to "give an outline of it," which was done accordingly. The chairman, in the course of his statement of the case, said: "I am glad gentlemen of the press are in the room, and I hope they will take notice of it;" to which E. added, "and so do I;" the chairman further expressing a hope that publicity would be given to the matter. The libel was contained in what was proved to be a correct but condensed summary of what took place at the meeting, published in a local newspaper, and contain-

(*a*) *Reg.* v. *Cooper* (8 Q. B. 533; 15 L. J. 206, Q. B.).
(*b*) *Parkes* v. *Prescott* (L. Rep. 4 Ex. 169; 20 L. T. N. S. 537; 38 L. J. 105, Ex.; 17 W. R. 773).

ing matter defamatory of the plaintiff. The learned judge (Martin, B.) who presided at the trial was of opinion that there was not sufficient evidence for the jury of the publication of the libel by the defendants, and directed a verdict to be entered for them. A bill of exceptions was tendered to this ruling; and the majority of the Court of Exchequer Chamber (Keating, Montague Smith, and Hannen, JJ.) held that the ruling was incorrect, Byles and Mellor, JJ., dissenting.

It was contended, on behalf of the defendants in this case, that the words used by them did not amount to a request to the reporters to publish the proceedings, but were merely the expression of a wish or hope that they would do so, nor to an authority to publish the particular reports in the words in which they, in fact, appeared; but the majority of the Court of Error were of opinion that the facts proved afforded evidence, fit, at all events, to be laid before the jury, of a request by the defendants to the reporters to publish an outline, or summary, of the proceedings, and to publish the report in such a way as to show the conduct of the plaintiff to have been disgraceful; the disclosure to the local public of what was called the plaintiff's disgraceful conduct being the avowed object of the request made by the defendants to the reporters.(*a*)

"I agree with the learned counsel for the defendants," said Montague Smith, J., in whose judgment Keating and Hannen, JJ., concurred, "that loose expressions of a mere wish or hope that proceedings should be published, would not be sufficient to fix liability on the defendants in cases like the present. I think the words must be of such a kind, and used in such a manner, as to satisfy the jury that they amounted to, and were in fact, a request to publish. If the words do amount to such a request, and the publication be made in pursuance of it by the persons to whom it was addressed, then it seems to me the persons making such request would be responsible for the libellous matter so published. Whether the libellous matter published is in pursuance of, and in accordance with the request, or a departure from it, and so unauthorised, would be a question to be considered on the circumstances of the particular case. It is, of course, plain that if a man gives a copy of his speech to another to publish, he is answerable as a publisher. It cannot be contended that he would not be equally answerable, if he desired a reporter to take down his speech as he delivered it, and to publish it. Then, can it make any

Condensed report

(*a*) *Parkes* v. *Prescott* (L. Rep. 4 Ex. 169; 20 L. T. N. S. 537 38 L. J. 105, Ex.; 17 W. R. 773).

difference in his liability, that he requests the reporter, instead of publishing the whole speech, to make and publish an outline or summary of it? Surely, in reason and principle, there can be none, where the request is acted on, and a correct outline or summary made and published. It was strongly urged for the defendants that they could not be liable, unless they authorised the libel in the very words in which it was published. If this argument is correct, then it must follow that a man could never be liable when he desired another to make and publish an outline or summary of a speech or writing; because such an outline or summary necessitates condensation and consequent alteration of language. But the argument cannot, as it seems to me, be correct. The man who requests another to make and publish an outline or summary of a speech, writing, or proceedings, must know that the words will be, to some extent, those of him who makes such summary or outline; and he must, therefore, be taken to constitute him an agent for the purpose, and be answerable for the result, subject always to the question whether the authority has been really followed. If this be not so, a man might become a libeller with impunity. Again, if the very words of the libel, and not its substance, are in these cases to be regarded, a man who gives the manuscript of a libel to an agent to print and publish, would not be answerable if, by accident or negligence, there were variations in some of the words, although not in the substance of the libel. . . . . In the result, I come to the conclusion, that on principle it is correct to hold that where a man makes a request to another to publish defamatory matter, of which, for the purpose, he gives him a statement, whether in full or in outline, and the agent publishes that matter, adhering to the sense and substance of it, although the language be, to some extent, his own, the man making the request is liable to an action as the publisher. If the law were otherwise, it would, in many cases, throw a shield over those who are the real authors of libels, and who seek to defame others under, what would then be, the safe shelter of intermediate agents."(*a*)

Byles and Mellor, JJ., dissented from the judgment in this case. Byles, J., very much doubted "whether the expression of a hope that the press would take notice of the case, or give publicity to it, or that the chairman would give an outline of the proceedings, amounts to an authority to publish in a newspaper defamatory and unjustifiable matter

(*a*) *Parkes* v. *Prescott* (L. Rep. 4 Ex. 169; 20 L. T. N. S. 537; 38 L. J. 105, Ex.; 17 W. R. 773).

spoken at a meeting." The learned judge pointed out that the libel must be proved as laid; and that though a variance is now amendable, none was in this case asked for or made, or could be made so as to cure the objection that the evidence did not show what particular facts or what particular defamatory expressions were or were not authorised by the defendant. His Lordship also remarked on the great difference between the authority which will make a man liable criminally for the acts of his agents(*a*) and that which will make him liable civilly; a principal not being civilly liable unless the agent duly pursues his authority, though liable criminally even where the agent has widely deviated from the authority. Mellor, J., said: "I think that in order to make a man responsible for a report printed and published by a third person, it ought to be shown that he had seen or heard or dictated the report itself, or approved of the libellous statements therein. . . . . I think that in order to support the allegation that the defendants caused to be printed and published the libels set out in the declaration, there ought to have been evidence of a communication either verbal or written, of the entire substance of the libel to the reporter, as the libel to be published; or that either before or after the publication thereof, the defendants, sought to be charged, saw and approved of the particular libel; and that, inasmuch as in the present case the expressions used only indicate a wish that gentlemen of the press present would notice the case, or call attention to it, or give publicity thereto, leaving the mode and manner to the absolute discretion of the reporters, I am of opinion that my brother Martin was justified in holding the evidence not to be sufficient to be submitted to the jury in support of the issue joined upon the pleadings."(*b*)

Publication of libel received from another, disclosing author's name.

And it is no defence to an action for libel that the defendant received the libellous statement from another, and upon publication disclosed the author's name.(*c*)

"We do not hesitate to say," observed Best, C.J., delivering the judgment of the Court of Common Pleas in *De Crespigny* v. *Wellesley*, "that even if we were to admit, what we beg not to be considered as admitting, that in oral slander, when a man at the time of his speaking the words names the person who told him what he relates, he may plead to an action brought against him that the person whom he names did tell him what he related,—such a justification cannot be

(*a*) As in *Reg.* v. *Cooper* (8 Q. B. 533; 15 L. J. 206, Q. B.).
(*b*) *Parkes* v. *Prescott* (*ubi supra*). Cf. *Pierce* v. *Ellis* (6 Ir. L. Rep. 55).
(*c*) *De Crespigny* v. *Wellesley* (5 Bing. 392).

pleaded to an action for the republication of the libel. If the person receiving a libel may publish it at all, he may publish it in whatever manner he pleases; he may insert it in all the journals, and thus circulate the calumny through every region of the globe. The effect of this is very different from that of the repetition of oral slander. In the latter case, what has been said is known only to a few persons, and if the statement be untrue, the imputation cast upon any one may be got rid of; the report is not heard of beyond the circle in which all the parties are known, and the veracity of the accuser and the previous character of the accused will be estimated. But if the report is to be spread over the world by means of the press, the malignant falsehood of the vilest of mankind, which would not receive the least credit where the author is known, would make an impression which it would require much time and trouble to erase, and which it might be difficult, if not impossible, ever completely to remove. . . . . Of what use is it to send the name of the author with a libel that is to pass into a country where he is entirely unknown? The name of the author of a statement will not inform those who do not know his character, whether he is a person entitled to credit for veracity or not; whether his statement was made in earnest or by way of joke; whether it contains a charge made by a man of sound mind or the delusion of a lunatic. . . . . If, without any allegation that its contents were true, or that the publisher had any reason to believe them to be true, we were to hold that these pleas were a justification, we should establish a mode by which men might indulge themselves in ruining the characters of any persons they might be disposed to calumniate; there will be no difficulty in getting wretches, who would be better off within the walls of a prison than they are without, to furnish such as will pay for them with any statements they may desire respecting the character of any person whatsoever."(*a*)

Where a newspaper copied a libellous paragraph from another newspaper, and added the word "fudge" at the end of it, Lord Lyndhurst, C.B., on the trial of an action of libel against the publisher, left it to the jury to say with what motive the paragraph was copied, and what was meant by the addition of the word "fudge:" if that word were added only for the purpose of making an argument at a future day, it would not take away the effect of the libel.(*b*)

(*a*) See *M'Gregor* v. *Thwaites* (3 B. & C. 24); *M'Pherson* v. *Daniels* (10 B. & C. 263); *Watkin* v. *Hall* (9 B. & S. 279; L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 396; 37 L. J. 125, Q. B.; 18 L. T. N. S. 561). (*b*) *Hunt* v. *Algar* (6 C. & P. 245).

CHAPTER VII.

PRIVILEGED PUBLICATIONS.

Occasion may justify publication.

INJURIOUS reflections on the character and conduct of a person may be rendered justifiable by the occasion on which or the circumstances under which they are uttered or published; and this, it would appear, in some cases, however malicious the motive which may have prompted the utterance or publication. Occasions which justify such publications are called *privileged*; and the privilege may be either of an *absolute* or a *qualified* character.

Absolute privilege.

It is essential to the due performance of certain duties that the [illegible] legal liability for statements which may possibly affect injuriously the characters of individuals should not check the most outspoken criticisms and reflections on the part of those whose position calls on them to pronounce on the conduct of others; and in such cases the privilege furnished by the occasion would seem to be of an absolute character. How malicious soever the motive which may prompt the untrue and injurious reflection, the privilege afforded by the occasion appears to be an absolute bar to an action.

Thus, it is necessary to the due administration of justice that judges, jurors, suitors, and witnesses should enjoy an absolute immunity for all words spoken or written in the course of any judicial proceeding, and relating thereto. Of this kind also is the privilege accorded to the utterances in Parliament of members of either House.

A judge enjoys this absolute immunity, whether he be judge of a superior court, judge of a county court, or coroner.(*a*)

An action of libel will not lie for defamatory allegations in pleadings,(*b*) defamatory bills or proceedings filed in Chancery or in the ecclesiastical courts,(*c*) or defamatory

(*a*) *Scott* v. *Stansfield* (L. Rep. 3 Ex. 220; 18 L. T. N. S. 572); *Floyd* v. *Barker* (Co. Rep. part 12, p. 24); *Rex* v. *Skinner* (Lofft. 55); *Miller* v. *Hope* (2 Shaw, Sc. App. Cas. 125); *Jekyll* v. *Moore* (2 B & P. N. R. 341); *Reris* v. *Smith* (18 C. B. 126); *Henderson* v. *Broomhead* (4 H. & N. 569); *Fray* v. *Blackburn* (3 B. & S. 576); *Thomas* v. *Churton* (2 B. & S. 475; 31 L. J. 139, Q. B.); *per* Kent, C.J., in the American case of *Yates* v. *Lansing* (5 Joh. 282; 9 Joh. 395). But see *per* Cockburn, C.J. (2 B. & S. 479); and *per* Lord Denman, C.J., *Kendillon* v. *Maltby* (1 Car. & Mar. 409).

(*b*) 1 Roll. 33; Dyer, 285; 2 Burr. 808, 817; *Weston* v. *Dobniet* (Cro. Jac. 432).

(*c*) *Ram* v. *Lamley* (Hutt. 113); *Weston* v. *Dobniet* (Cro. Jac. 432); *Astley* v. *Younge* (2 Burr. 809, 817).

statements in an affidavit;(*a*) and a want of jurisdiction of the court, to which application is *bonâ fide* made, will not take away the privilege.(*b*)

The same privilege is accorded to the judgment of a court-martial.(*c*)

As to communications made by military men in the course of their duty, see the cases of *Dawkins* v. *Paulett*;(*d*) *Dixon* v. *The Earl of Wilton*;(*e*) and *Keighley* v. *Bell*.(*f*)

Scotch Law.

The Scotch law on this subject is in general the same as the English.(*g*) In case of an action of libel against a judge or witness there is a *presumptio juris et de jure* in favour of the defendant, the effect of which cannot be traversed by any contrary evidence. Proof of actual malice will, however, take away the privilege from a litigant party.(*h*)

Qualified privilege.

In other cases the privilege is of a qualified character: the occasion on which the untrue and injurious imputation is made excuses everything but actual malice. "In such cases," said Parke, B.,(*i*) "the occasion prevents the inference of malice, which the law draws from unauthorised communications, and affords a qualified defence, depending upon the absence of actual malice. If *fairly* warranted by any reasonable occasion or inquiry, and honestly made, such communications are protected for the common convenience and welfare of society; and the law has not restricted the right to make them within any narrow limits." The same learned judge elsewhere(*j*) observes, "The proper meaning of a privileged communication is only this: that the occasion on which the communication was made rebuts the inference *primâ facie* arising from a statement prejudicial to the character of the plaintiff, and puts it upon him to prove that there was malice in fact—that the defendant was actuated by motives of personal spite or

(*a*) *Revis* v. *Smith* (18 C. B. 126); *Astley* v. *Younge* Burr. 817); *Henderson* v. *Broomhead* (4 H. & N. 569; 28 L. J. 360, Ex.); *Doyle* v. *O'Doherty* (1 C. & Mar. 418). See *Maloney* v. *Bartley* (3 Camp. 210), and *M'Gregor* v. *Thwaites* (3 B. & C. 24).

(*b*) See *Lake* v. *King* (1 Vin. Abr. 389); Hawk. Pl. Cr. 73, s. 8; *Hare* v. *Meller* (3 Lev. 169).

(*c*) *Jekyll* v. *Moore* (2 B. & P. N. R. 341); *Home* v. *Bentinck* (2 Brod. & Bing. 130). See *Oliver* v. *Bentinck* (3 Taunt. 456).

(*d*) 9 B. & S. 768; L. Rep. 5 Q. B. 94; 21 L. T. N. S. 584; 39 L. J. 53, Q. B. (*e*) 1 F. & F. 419. (*f*) 4 F. & F. 763.

(*g*) See Borthwick's Law of Libel, chap. 5, sect. 1.

(*h*) *Id.* p. 217.

(*i*) *Toogood* v. *Spyring* (1 Cr. M. & R. 193). See also *Somerville* v. *Hawkins* (10 C. B. 583); *Croft* v. *Stevens* (7 H. & N. 570); *Whiteley* v. *Adams* (15 C. B. N. S. 419); *Coules* v. *Potts* (34 L. J. 247, Q. B).

(*j*) *Wright* v. *Woodgate* (2 Cr. M. & R. 577).

ill-will, independent of the occasion on which the communication was made." To the same effect Lord Campbell:(*a*) "The rule is, that if the occasion be such as repels the presumption of malice, the communication is privileged, and the plaintiff must then, if he can, give evidence of malice: if he gives no such evidence, it is the office of the judge to say that there is no question for the jury, and to direct a nonsuit or a verdict for the defendant."

To what cases privilege extends.

This qualified privilege extends to all cases where the publication of the injurious statement is made by a person fairly in the discharge of some public or private duty, whether legal or moral, or in the conduct of his own affairs, in matters where his interest is concerned.(*b*)

Whether actual malice is present or absent is a question of fact for the jury to determine.(*c*) Whether the occasion makes the publication privileged, is a question of law for the judge or court to determine.(*d*)

General rule as to what are privileged communications.

It was laid down by the Court of Queen's Bench, in the case of *Harrison* v. *Bush*,(*e*) that a communication made *bonâ fide* upon any subject matter in which the party communicating has an interest, or in reference to which he has a duty, is privileged if made to a person having a corresponding interest or duty, although it contain criminatory matter, which, without this privilege, would be slanderous and actionable; and this, though the duty be not a legal one, but only a moral or social duty of imperfect obligation. And the court was of opinion, though it was not necessary to decide so expressly in that case, that the same privilege would be accorded to a communication made to a person who had not *in fact* such a corresponding interest or duty as referred to, but who might reasonably be, and is, supposed by the party making the communication to have such interest or duty.(*f*)

Scotch Law.

The cases in which the law of Scotland accords this qualified privilege are those of counsel, litigants, masters giving characters of servants, literary criticisms, and communications to persons having an interest in the matters made known.

(*a*) *Taylor* v. *Hawkins* (16 Q. B. 321).
(*b*) *Per* Parke, B., *Toogood* v. *Spyring* (1 Cr. M. & R. 193).
(*c*) *Taylor* v. *Hawkins* (16 Q. B. 321); *Cooke* v. *Wildes* (5 El. & Bl. 335); *Dickson* v. *Earl of Wilton* (1 F. & F. 426); *Hancock* v. *Case* (2 F. & F. 711).
(*d*) *Ib.* *Whiteley* v. *Adams* (15 C. B. N. S. 392; 33 L. J. 89, C. P).
(*e*) 5 El. & Bl. 344.
(*f*) See also *Fairman* v. *Ives* (5 B. & Ald. 642) *King* v. *Bayley*, cited by Bayley, J. (5 B. & Ald. 647); *Scarll* v. *Dixon* (4 F. & F. 250).

Examples of privileged communications.

Some examples of the general rule, which do not, however, properly fall within the scope of this work, may here be given. The following have been held communications privileged by the occasion of their publication: a letter written by a person to his mother-in-law, giving her advice on the subject of her proposed marriage, and containing imputations upon the person whom she was about to marry;(*a*) a letter written by a tenant who had been asked by his landlord to tell him if he saw or heard anything respecting game, informing the landlord that his gamekeeper sold game;(*b*) information given to a party asking for it, as to the respectability of a tradesman with whom that party is about to deal;(*c*) a letter written confidentially to persons employing a particular solicitor, containing charges as to his professional conduct in the management of certain matters intrusted to him by the writer, and in which the writer was interested;(*d*) a letter written *bonâ fide* and confidentially to the employer of a steward, informing him of certain supposed malpractices on the part of the steward;(*e*) a character given by a master or mistress of a servant,(*f*) or a retractation of a character formerly given;(*g*) a letter written by a subscriber to a charitable institution to the committee, reflecting on the conduct of the secretary;(*h*) a communication made by one director of a company to his co-director, respecting the conduct of one of its officers;(*i*) a communication addressed by a ratepayer to a parish meeting reflecting on the parish constable;(*j*) a letter addressed to a bishop informing him of a report affecting the character of an incumbent in his diocese;(*k*) *bonâ fide* applications to the proper authorities for redress for wrongs suffered;(*l*)

(*a*) *Todd* v. *Hawkins* (2 M. & Rob. 20; 8 C. & P. 88).

(*b*) *Cockayne* v. *Hodgkisson* (5 C. & P. 543).

(*c*) *Storey* v. *Challands* (8 C. & P. 234). See *Bennett* v. *Deacon* (2 C. B. 628); *King* v. *Waits* (8 C. & P. 614).

(*d*) *M'Dougall* v. *Claridge* (1 Camp. 267). See also *Dunman* v. *Bigg* (3 Camp. 260).

(*e*) *Cl[illegible]r* v. *Seaman*, referred to by Lord Ellenborough 1 Camp. 267.

(*f*) Burr. 2425; *Edmondson* v. *Stevenson* (Bull. N. P. 8); *Child* v. *Affleck* (9 B. & C. 403); *Pattison* v. *Jones* (8 B. & C. 578); *Fountain* v. *Boodle* (3 Q. B. 11); *Dixon* v. *Parsons* (1 F. & F. 24).

(*g*) *Gardner* v. *Slade* (13 Q. B. 796; 18 L. J. 334, Q B).

(*h*) *Maitland* v. *Bramwell* (2 F. & F. 623). See *Hartwell* v. *Vesey* (3 L. T. N. S. 275).

(*i*) *Harris* v. *Thompson* (13 C. B. 333). See *Brooks* v. *Blanshard* (1 Cr. & M. 779; 3 Tyrw, 811).

(*j*) *Spencer* v. *Amerton* (1 M. & Rob. 470). See *George* v. *Goddard* (2 F. & F. 689).

(*k*) *Jones* v. *Boston* (2 C. & Kir. 4).

(*l*) *Johnson* v. *Evans* (3 Esp. 32); *Woodward* v. *Lander* (6 C. & P. 548).

letters written by the defendant in answer to a letter from a friend of the plaintiff who had been in correspondence with the defendant on the subject of certain charges against the plaintiff, with the sanction and concurrence of the latter;(*a*) a memorial from an elector and inhabitant of a borough complaining of misconduct on the part of a magistrate of the county in which the borough was situated, although addressed not to the Lord-Chancellor, but to the Home Secretary.(*b*)

Advertisement for information, &c.

If a person advertises in a newspaper *bonâ fide*, in order to find out the truth of something in which he is really interested, the privilege furnished by the occasion would seem to afford a defence to an action for any defamatory imputation contained in the advertisement.

Where an action of libel was brought for an advertisement, published in a newspaper, offering a reward to any person who could give notice to the defendant of the marriage of James Delany previous to a certain date, there being an innuendo that the defendant meant thereby to insinuate that J. D., the plaintiff, had been and was married before the time mentioned in the advertisement, and had another wife then living; and the defence relied upon was that the advertisement had been inserted by the authority of the plaintiff's wife, for the purpose of making a discovery which it was important for her to know, namely, whether the plaintiff had another wife then living, Lord Ellenborough, C.J., told the jury that, though that which is spoken or written may be injurious to the character of the party, yet if done *bonâ fide*, with a view of investigating a fact in which the party making it was interested, it was not libellous; and, therefore, if the investigation had been set on foot and the advertisement published by the plaintiff's wife, either from anxiety to know whether she was legally the wife of the plaintiff or whether he had another wife living when he married her, it was justifiable, though done through the medium of imputing bigamy to the plaintiff.(*c*) The soundness of this law, however, was doubted by Lord Denman, C.J., in a subsequent case.(*d*) "I have great doubt," said that learned judge, "whether the interest which the wife had in the inquiry could justify the offering a reward in a newspaper."

Publication to vindicate character of writer.

A publication which has for its *bonâ fide* object the vindi-

(*a*) *Hopwood* v. *Thorn* (8 C. B. 293; 19 L. J. 94, C. P.).
(*b*) *Harrison* v. *Bush* (5 E. & B. 344; 25 L. J. 28, Q. B.).
(*c*) *Delany* v. *Jones* (4 Esp. 191).
(*d*) *Lay* v. *Lawson* (4 A. & E. 795).

cation of the character of the writer against charges brought against him is privileged.

Thus, where the plaintiff, a policy-holder in an insurance company, published a pamphlet accusing the directors of fraud, Cockburn, C.J., held privileged, if the jury should be of opinion that it was published without malice,(*a*) a pamphlet published in reply by the directors, declaring the charges contained in the plaintiff's pamphlet to be false and calumnious, and also asserting that in a suit he had instituted he had sworn, in support of those charges, in opposition to his own handwriting. On the question of privilege his Lordship thus directed the jury: "The law is that a publication is privileged which is called for either by the duty or the fair and honest interest of the party who has made it. And I am of opinion that the answer here was privileged, and that the publication was privileged. If you are of opinion that it was *bonâ fide* for the purpose of the defence of the company, and in order to prevent these charges from operating to their prejudice, and with a view to vindicate the character of the directors, and not with a view to injure or lower the character of the plaintiff—if you are of that opinion and think that the publication did not go beyond the occasion, then you ought to find for the defendants on the general issue."(*b*)

Publications not privileged.

The publication in a newspaper, by a voter at an election, of statements reflecting on the character of one of the candidates, is not privileged.(*c*) "However large the privilege of electors may be," said Lord Denman, C.J.,(*d*) "it is extravagant to suppose that it can justify the publication to all the world of facts injurious to a person who happens to stand in the situation of a candidate."

Neither is a letter written to the secretary of state by an inhabitant of a borough, imputing to a person holding the offices of town-clerk and clerk to the justices of the borough, corruption in the latter office:(*e*) nor a letter written to Lloyd's by an officer in the navy, imputing to a captain of a transport ship misconduct and incapacity in the management of it;(*f*) nor a letter written by an opposing creditor to a judge of the Bankruptcy Court, previous to the hearing of an insolvent's case;(*g*) nor a letter written to a newspaper by members of a town council, charging

(*a*) *Kenig* v. *Ritchie* (3 F. & F. 413).
(*b*) *Ib.* See also *Rex* v. *Veley* (4 F. & F. 1117).
(*c*) *Duncombe* v. *Daniell* (8 C. & P. 222). (*d*) *Id.* 229.
(*e*) *Blagg* v. *Sturt* (10 Q. B. 899; 16 L. J. [illegible] Q. B.)
(*f*) *Harwood* v. *Green* (3 C. & [illegible] 141).
(*g*) *Gould* v. *Hulme* (3 C. & P. 625).

certain contractors for the erection of a borough gaol with misconduct in the performance of their contract;(*a*) nor an advertisement in a newspaper, addressed to the creditors of B. and Co., who had been declared bankrupts, and containing imputations on B. of fraudulent conduct, published by the solicitor who had acted under the commission of bankruptcy.(*b*)

Exaggerated language.

In cases where the occasion would render privileged a communication otherwise defamatory, the privilege may be lost by the use of language so exaggerated as to be clearly in excess of the occasion.(*c*)

Newspaper reports.

The character of the privilege accorded to fair and *bonâ fide* newspaper reports of judicial, parliamentary, and other proceedings, will be treated in a subsequent chapter.(*d*)

Comments upon matters of public interest

The nature of the protection afforded to the writers of fair comments on matters of public interest, will be considered in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VIII.

COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

Newspaper criticisms on public men, and matters of public interest.

The vast benefits which accrue to the community at large from the close and searching supervision exercised by the newspaper press over all matters of public or general interest, and its criticisms on the conduct of men occupying prominent positions, might seem to justify, in its case, some relaxation of the strict rules which it has been found necessary to apply in other cases, for the purpose of preserving the reputation of individuals from defamatory attacks. It might be thought that the duty which the public expects from a writer for the press, of watching and making generally known the acts of all public servants, and censuring them when deserving of censure, of commenting freely on all matters which touch the public welfare, of fearlessly exposing whatever is corrupt, oppressive, or otherwise deserving of reprobation, and of acting, in general, as a

(*a*) *Simpson* v. *Downs* (16 L. T. N. S. 391). But see *Harle* v. *Catherall* (14 L. T. N. S. 801).

(*b*) *Brown* v. *Croome* (2 Stark. N. P. 297).

(*c*) *Wright* v. *Woodgate* (2 Cro. M. & R. 573); *Cooke* v. *Wilde* (5 E. & B. 335); *per* Erle, J., *Fryer* v. *Kinnersley* (15 C. B. N. S. 422; 33 L. J. 96, C. P.); *Toogood* v. *Spyring* (1 Cro. M. & R. 194).

(*d*) See the chapter on Newspaper Reports, *post*.

kind of censor of the morals of the time, would have given him immunity in all cases where he writes honestly and *bonâ fide* in the discharge of his public duty; and that actual malice alone should render an action against him sustainable. The newspaper writer, however, stands in this respect in no different position from any other member of the community, save so far as a jury may be inclined to deal more leniently with defamatory matter contained in his publications. The law with regard to him is the same as in the case of other men; he is in no way privileged, in the strict sense of the word privileged.(*a*)

A much greater latitude, however, is allowed to criticisms on persons occupying a public capacity than to criticisms on private individuals; and publications which would be clearly libellous if levelled against the latter may be innocent, and even commendable, when directed against the former. "That criticism," says Alderson, B.,(*b*) "may reasonably be applied to a public man in a public capacity which might not be applied to a private individual. The same thing might be no libel on one which might be a very grievous and injurious libel on another."

Limits of public criticism.

Every person has a right to discuss all matters of public interest, and to comment publicly and even hostilely upon, or to ridicule the acts of, public men; but there is a limit beyond which neither the newspaper writer nor anybody else may go; and that limit appears, from the cases decided on the subject, to be this:—The writer must not make the occasion one for the gratification of personal malice and vindictiveness: in commenting on public matters he must not make imputations of base, sordid, or corrupt motives, or dishonest conduct: though he is not called upon to justify to the very letter everything that he writes, his erroneous inferences must not be reckless: he must not, in short, go beyond what a jury shall consider the limits of fair and honest, though it may be hostile or severe, or even, in some respects, inaccurate criticism. If he does, even though he may *bonâ fide* believe in the truth of his imputations, the publication is a libel.

"There is a difference," says Parke, B.,(*c*) "between publications relating to public and private individuals. Every subject has a right to comment on those acts of public men which concern him as a subject of the realm, if

(*a*) The word "privileged" is, however, in a looser sense, frequently applied to such publications, especially in the reports of cases decided at Nisi Prius.

(*b*) 6 M. & W. 108. (*c*) *Parmiter* v. *Coupland* (6 M. & W. 108).

he do not make his commentary a cloak for malice and slander; but any imputation of wicked or corrupt motives is unquestionably libellous."

"The right," says Cockburn, C.J.,(*a*) "of public discussion of matters of public interest is important, and it requires for its beneficial exercise that it should be exercised fully and freely, without being subject to too harsh or strict a limitation. And, so long as it is exercised fairly and honestly, it is protected or excused, even although it may incidentally involve the publication of defamatory matter. But at the same time the comments must be fair, that is, conceived in a fair spirit—in the spirit of fair discussion—and not in a spirit of reckless or inconsiderate imputation. That which is recklessly defamatory can hardly be deemed fair."

Whether honest belief justifies defamatory publication.

An honest belief in the justice of the comments made is not sufficient of itself to justify a defamatory publication; for such belief might originate in the blindness of party zeal, or in personal or political aversion. A person taking upon himself publicly to criticise and to condemn the conduct or motives of another, must bring to the task, not only an honest sense of justice, but also a reasonable degree of judgment and moderation, so that the result may be what a jury shall deem, under the circumstances of the case, a fair and legitimate criticism on the conduct and motives of the party who is the object of censure.(*b*)

In a case where a newspaper article imputed to the editor and part proprietor of another newspaper that in putting forth to the public the sacred cause of the dissemination of religious truth among the heathen he was acting as an impostor, and that his purpose was to put money into his own pocket by obtaining contributions to his newspaper; and also that he had not only published in his newspaper the name of a fictitious person as the authority for his statements, but also, with a view to induce people to contribute, published a fictitious subscription list, the article was held to be libellous, although the jury found that the writer believed the imputations contained in it to be well founded.(*c*)

"It is said, on behalf of the defendant," said Cockburn, C.J., "that as the plaintiff addressed himself to the public in a matter, not only of public, but of universal interest, his

(*a*) *Hedley* v. *Barlow* (4 F. & F. 230).

(*b*) *Per* Cockburn, C.J., *Wason* v. *Walter* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 96; 19 L. T. N. S. 409; 38 L. J. 34, Q. B.).

(*c*) *Campbell* v. *Spottiswoode* (3 B. & S. 769; 8 L. T. N. S. 201; 32 L. J. 185, Q. B.).

conduct in that matter was open to public criticism; and I entirely concur in that proposition. If the proposed scheme were defective, or utterly disproportionate to the result arrived at, it might be assailed with hostile criticism. But then a line must be drawn between criticism upon public conduct and the imputation of motives by which that conduct may be supposed to be actuated; one man has no right to impute to another, whose conduct may be fairly open to ridicule or disapprobation, base, sordid, and wicked motives, unless there is so much ground for the imputation that a jury shall find, not only that he had an honest belief in the truth of his statements, but that his belief was not without foundation. . . . . It is said that it is for the interests of society that the public conduct of men should be criticised without any other limit than that the writer should have an honest belief that what he writes is true. But it seems to me that the public have an equal interest in the maintenance of the public character of public men; and public affairs could not be conducted by men of honour with a view to the welfare of the country, if we were to sanction attacks upon them, destructive of their honour and character, and made without any foundation. I think the fair position in which the law may be settled is this: That where the public conduct of a public man is open to animadversion, and the writer who is commenting upon it makes imputations on his motives, which arise fairly and legitimately out of his conduct, so that a jury shall say that the criticism was not only honest but also well founded, an action is not maintainable. But it is not because a public writer fancies that the conduct of a public man is open to the suspicion of dishonesty, he is therefore justified in assailing his character as dishonest." "I should be unwilling," said Mellor, J., "to limit the right of a writer in a newspaper, or any other individual, to canvass any scheme, even though it be a scheme of public benevolence. But, giving full latitude to fair comment, so soon as a writer imputes that the person proposing the scheme is doing it from a base and sordid motive, and is putting forth a list of fictitious subscribers, in order to delude others to subscribe, it cannot be said to be within the limits of fair criticism."

The rule is much more loosely laid down in the directions given to juries at Nisi Prius by more than one judge, who have made the test of legal liability the honesty and *bona fides* of the writer, even in cases where his criticisms and inferences are erroneous. Thus Erle, C.J.: "The rule in these cases is that the comments are justified, provided the

defendant *honestly* believes that they were fair and just; with that limitation the law allows the publication."(*a*) In another case(*b*) Martin, B., told the jury that there was no limit except malice to comments upon a man who claimed a public office. And in a case (*c*) where the alleged libel consisted of a newspaper article commenting in the severest manner upon certain advertisements of a medical practitioner, and representing him as an impostor and scoundrel, Cockburn, C.J., thus directed the jury on the second ground of defence relied on by the defendant, viz., that the publication was justifiable as a fair comment on a matter of public interest. "Under that head of defence he (the defendant) says that it was a matter of public interest and public concern; that the plaintiff by his advertisements invited people to submit to his system of treatment; and that if he (the defendant) really believed it to be a delusion, then he had a right to maintain that it was so; and that even if, in drawing infereuces of imposture and bad intention, he fell into error, yet, if he wrote honestly and with the intention of exercising his vocation as a public writer fairly and with reasonable moderation and judgment, he is entitled to the verdict. And I entirely agree in that view. Here is a man challenging public criticism by bringing forward what professes to be a new system of treatment, and inviting the public to adopt it as the only means of curing the most destructive disease known among us. In doing this he challenges public criticism; and if a public writer, using a reasonable degree of temper and moderation, as behoves any one who makes imputations upon others—if a public writer, thus discussing the subject in the exercise of his vocation, falls into error as to the facts or the inferences, and goes beyond the limits of strict truth, he is, nevertheless, privileged. The occasion is a privileged(*d*) one, and if the privilege is exercised honestly, faithfully, and with reasonable regard to what truth and justice require, then, though he may exceed the limits of what he can legally prove to be the truth, he is protected from liability. It is not, therefore, necessary that the justification should appear to you to be made out, if you think that the defendant or the writer was in the reasonable and honest exercise of his

(*a*) *Turnbull* v. *Bird* (2 F. & F. 524). See the language of the same learned judge in *Peris* v. *Levy* (2 F. & F. 74, 75).

(*b*) *Harle* v. *Catherall* (14 L. T. N. S. 801).

(*c*) *Hunter* v. *Sharp* (4 F. & F. 1005).

(*d*) See on this use of the word privileged the observations of Crompton and Blackburn, JJ., in *Campbell* v. *Spottiswoode*, *post*, pp. 438, 439.

vocation as a public writer, even although he was not fully warranted in drawing the inferences he did as to the conduct of the plaintiff, and although it may be that he was not entirely justified by the absolute truth." The authority of these *dicta*, so far as they place the test of freedom from liability in the mere *bona fides* and honest belief of the writer, must, however, be considered as outweighed by the deliberate decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, in *Campbell* v. *Spottiswoode*,(*a*) that the belief, however honest, of the writer, will not justify defamatory imputations which are erroneous in point of fact.

Privilege.

"The word 'privilege,'" said Blackburn, J., in the case last referred to,(*b*) "is often used loosely and in a popular sense when applied to matters which are not, properly speaking, privileged. But, for the present purpose, the meaning of the word is that a person stands in such a relation to the facts of the case that he is justified in saying or writing what would be slanderous or libellous in any one else. For instance, a master giving a character of a servant stands in a privileged relation; and the cases of a memorial to the Lord Chancellor or the Home Secretary on the conduct of a justice of the peace,(*c*) and of a statement to a public functionary reflecting upon some public officer,(*d*) rank themselves under that class. In *Maitland* v. *Bramwell* (*e*) the *bona fides* of the defendant was left to the jury, because she was privileged by her position to say what she believed to be true. So in *Eastwood* v. *Holmes* (*f*) when properly understood, Willes, J., must have considered that there was a privilege of this kind when he nonsuited the plaintiff in an action against the publisher of a report of the proceedings of *The British Archæological Association*, in which it was stated that some supposed antiquities offered for sale by the plaintiff were of recent fabrication. In these cases no action lies unless there is proof of express malice. If it could be shown that the editor or publisher of a newspaper stands in a privileged position, it would be necessary to prove actual malice. But no authority has been cited for that proposition; and I take it to be certain that he has only the general right which belongs to the public to comment upon public matters: for example, the acts of a minister of state; or, according to modern authorities somewhat extending the doctrine, where

(*a*) 3 B. & S. 769; 8 L. T. N. S. 201; 32 L. J. 185, Q. B.
(*b*) 3 B. & S. 780.
(*c*) *Harrison* v. *Bush* (5 E. & B. 344).
(*d*) *Beatson* v. *Skene* (5 H. & N. 838).
(*e*) 2 F. & F. 623.
(*f*) 1 F. & F. 347

a person has done or published anything which may fairly be said to invite comment, as in the case of a handbill or advertisement.(*a*) In such cases every one has a right to make fair and proper comment; and so long as it is within that limit it is no libel." "It is necessary," said Crompton, J., in the same case, "to confine privilege, as the law has always confined it, to cases of real necessity or duty, as that of a master giving a servant a character, or of a person who has been robbed charging another with robbing him."

The case of *Campbell* v. *Spottiswoode* must be regarded as an express and distinct authority for the proposition that there is no *privilege*, in the strict sense of that term, in the case of comments by public writers on matters of public interest, and on persons occupying public positions, though the expression "privileged publication" has been frequently applied by eminent judges to such writings. For *privilege*, where it exists, excuses, in the absence of actual malice, every statement, however false in itself, or injurious to the person respecting whom it is made. Thus, a letter written by a master giving the character of a servant, is privileged, though it may contain a specific charge of fraud against the servant which is utterly false. To enable the servant to maintain an action of libel in respect of it, he must prove the existence of actual malice on the part of the master;(*b*) whereas the case of *Campbell* v. *Spottiswoode* has distinctly decided that neither the absence of actual malice nor the *bonâ fide* belief of the public writer in the truth of the imputations which he makes, will justify him in making such imputations as there complained of, if they are not true in point of fact. In this strict sense, then, of the term *privileged*, the public writer, when dealing with matters and characters of public interest, is not privileged. He is, however, treated with more indulgence than a private individual who publishes defamatory matter of another, in that slight errors will in his case be excused, where he writes honestly in the interest of the public and not with a malicious design of doing a personal injury.

Result of the cases.

Perhaps the result of the various *dicta* on this subject, taken along with the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in *Campbell* v. *Spottiswoode*, might be expressed in the language of Pollock, C.B., in *Gathercole* v. *Miall*,(*c*)—that all *bonâ fide* and honest remarks upon persons occupying

(*a*) *Paris* v. *Levy* (9 C. B. N. S. 342; 30 L. J. 11, C. P.).

(*b*) *Weatherston* v. *Hawkins* (1 T. R. 110); *Edmondson* v. *Stephenson* (Bull. N. P. 8; and see *Rex* v. *Cator* (4 Esp. 117); *Dunman* v. *Bigg* (1 Camp. 269).

(*c*) 15 M. & W. 332.

public positions may be freely made "without being questioned *too nicely* for either truth or justice." (*z*)

Or perhaps the rule might be laid down thus: that *bonâ fide* comments *not in every respect* justifiable, and honest inferences *not altogether* correct as to conductor motives, may be excused, provided the matter be one of public interest, that the circumstances of the case render comments and inferences of such a character not unnatural, and that there is no considerable margin of unsubstantiated defamatory imputation; (*b*) whilst, on the other hand, as expressly decided in *Campbell* v. *Spottiswoode*, (*c*) unfounded imputations of base and sordid motives are unjustifiable, however honestly their truth may be believed in by the writer who publishes them.

Matters of public interest.

Where a petition was presented to the House of Lords charging a high judicial officer with having been guilty of dishonourable conduct many years before, and praying for an inquiry, and that he should be removed from his high office if the charge were proved true, and a debate took place on the subject, when the charge was utterly refuted, it was held by the Court of Queen's Bench that this was a matter of great public concern, on which a newspaper writer had a full right to comment, and that his comments, though reflecting strongly on the person who presented the petition, were not actionable in absence of proof of malice. (*d*)

College or hospital.

The working of any public institution, such as a college or a hospital, is a matter of public interest, which may freely be discussed by and through the medium of the press. (*e*)

An inspector having been sent by the Charity Commissioners to institute an inquiry into the working of a medical college at Birmingham, made a report to the commissioners, of the results of his inquiry, which was an open and public one, in which was set forth a letter addressed to the bishop of the diocese, and complaining of "the arbitrary, tyrannical, and overbearing conduct" of the plaintiff, a professor in the college, as well as of "his complete ineffi-

(*a*) His lordship calls comment upon matters of a public nature "*licentious* comment, as opposed to a comment that must be based in truth."

(*b*) In *Morrison* v. *Belcher* (3 F. & F. 619), Cockburn, C.J., told the jury that "it was not because a public writer might not be able to prove to the letter all he had stated that therefore he was liable; but the jury must be of opinion that his observations and inferences were fair and legitimate under the circumstances, or that they were *not so unfair as to be reckless, and thus in law, malicious.*"

(*c*) Compare the language of Cockburn, C.J., at the end of the judgment in *Wason* v. *Walter* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 73; 19 L. T. N. S. 409).

(*d*) *Wason* v. *Walter* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 73; 19 L. T. N. S. 409).

(*e*) *Cox* v. *Feeney* (4 F. & F. 13).

ciency in every office" which he held in the college. The college still continuing in an unsatisfactory state, the defendant, about three years after the report was made published the whole of it in a newspaper, of which he was the proprietor, and the plaintiff brought an action for the libel contained in the letter. The publication of the report was introduced by an article in the newspaper, stating that appeals on behalf of the college had been frequently made in its columns, and that the institution was known to be in an unsatisfactory state. "We therefore," it proceeded, "feel it our duty to assist the council in the arduous labours they have undertaken, by laying before the public the materials necessary to the foundation of a sound judgment on the condition and prospects of the college. As we cannot do this well more completely or impartially than by publishing the report, we have obtained an official copy of it, and publish it in portions," &c. It was contended, on behalf of the plaintiff, that the publication of the report nearly three years after it was made could not be for public information; that the matter had become stale, and that the publication of the report revived it wantonly; but Cockburn, C.J., left it to the jury to say whether (1) the matter was one which it interested the public to know, and (2) whether the defendant published it with the honest desire to afford the public information, and not with a sinister motive to injure the plaintiff; and directed them, if they answered both these questions in the affirmative, to find a verdict for the defendant.

As to the former question, his Lordship said, "There can be no doubt whatever that this institution, with reference to which these questions have arisen, is one of public concern. Although it may have been founded, in the first place, by private contributions, it has also been founded for public purposes; so far as the hospital is concerned, with a view to the assistance of the poor inhabitants of Birmingham who may stand in need of medical or surgical aid; so far as the college is concerned, for the instruction of the students in the important branches of knowledge there taught. It appeals to the public, and holds out expectations with reference to the students whom their parents or guardians send there. It is, therefore, a public concern to the inhabitants of Birmingham and its district. That being so, the public have an interest in its government, its management, its discipline, and, what is essential, the management of its financial concerns. What is said with reference to its discipline, to its means of imparting instruction, to its means of fulfilling the objects for which it exists,

have all of them great interest in the eyes of the people of the great town in which it exists. Has it been well conducted or ill conducted? Has it been prudently and well managed, or has it been suffered to fall into a state of decay and comparative uselessness in consequence of defective management? You have before you abundant materials for forming your judgment upon this question. You find from the report of the commissioner sent down to inquire and report—the accuracy and fidelity of which Mr. Cox (the plaintiff) himself has been constrained to admit—that the finances of the college have become embarrassed, and its authorities, to whom its management is committed, careless. . . . . I take it that at that time the report made by the commissioner, and which seems to have embodied the result, at all events, of the whole inquiry and proceedings which had been carried on,—I take it that if that report had been published at the time, no man could say that it was beyond the province of a public journalist whose business—aye, and whose duty—it is to bring before the public information which may be useful to them. It would be his duty to publish the report from beginning to end for the information of the general public and inhabitants of Birmingham, who are so deeply interested in this hospital and college, which are two of the principal institutions of the town." His Lordship then, referring to the argument founded on the lapse of time, said to the jury: "The system of bad management which appears to have been the origin of the whole, seems to be perpetuated; and in addition, when we find that the warden and the professor and tutor in the theological department have filed a bill and taken the whole body into Chancery, does it seem to you that the people of Birmingham ought to have before them the whole history of the system whereby the present condition of the hospital has been brought about? This is a matter for you. If you can see a sufficient reason why a public journalist should, in the honest discharge of his duty, feel it incumbent on him to bring before the public this information, it will be for you to find for the defendant. . . . . If you can see no public duty, no matter of public interest or moment which can have properly influenced the defendant in publishing this, you ought to say so by your verdict. Or if you can see your way to the conclusion that he has been acting under the influence of some sinister motive, with a desire of doing personal injury to the plaintiff, your verdict ought to be for the plaintiff. But if you see nothing more than what a journalist in the discharge of his

duty might have done, even with a view to what took place five years ago, then look only at the actuating motive. If the defendant had singled out the letter and published it alone, I should have thought there was good ground for the complaint. If he had given garbled passages, then also I should have thought so; but he professed the intention of bringing the whole report before the public for the purpose of enabling them to see what had been the radical and inherent defects in the constitution and management of this institution, and he did so."(*a*)

Parochial charity

It has been held by the Court of Exchequer that the conduct and management, by the clergyman of a parish, of a clothing charity in the parish, from the benefits of which Dissenters are by his sanction excluded, is not a matter of public interest, so as to justify, under the plea of not guilty, the publication in a newspaper, of defamatory matter respecting the clergyman in relation to the charity.(*b*)

"I think," said Pollock, C.B., "that a parochial charity, with the vicar at the head of it, among other persons in the parish, not for parochial purposes, but for some exclusive purpose, with reference either to religious opinion or to anything else, is a private matter, and is not open to what may be called *licentious* comment,. as opposed to a comment that must be based in truth. It really seems to me that licentious comments cannot be applied to a case of this sort, without extending such comments to almost every transaction in society." And Alderson, B., said: "It is no part of his peculiar ministerial duty to have a clothing club, though it is a very proper thing for him or any other charitable man to do. I am at a loss to see how his case differs from that of any other individual who chooses to institute a private charity within particular limits. If so, then the criticism and observations that are to be made upon him are the criticism and observations which are to be made upon any other private individual, and are to be judged by the same rules and subject to the same limits." Rolfe, B., added: "It seems to me preposterous to say that the act of a clergyman in sanctioning some individuals in his parish, in giving relief to some, and excluding a large class of others who are not to partake of it, can be considered in the light of a public act. The act does not become a public act, because half a dozen or a dozen join in it. It is essentially private; they may manage it as they please."

(*a*) *Cox* v. *Feeney* (4 F. & F. 13).
(*b*) *Gathercole* v. *Miall* (15 M & W. 319).

Unpublished sermons.

There was a difference of opinion amongst the learned judges who decided the last case, on the point (which it was not necessary to decide) whether sermons preached in a church, but not published, are the lawful subject of public comment; Alderson and Rolfe, BB., leaning to the opinion that they are; Pollock, C.B., and Parke, B. inclining the other way.

Judicial sentences and decisions.

If a sentence is pronounced upon any person by a competent authority, a public writer may comment upon it, and assume it to be correct, at least if the matter be one of public interest and public observation.

"The person affected," said Cockburn, C.J., in a case of this sort,(*a*) "might have the sentence revoked, or he might have the verdict set aside, but the decision pronounced by competent authority must be taken to be the fact until the contrary appeared; and a public writer, who commented upon what was public property, ought not to be held responsible in an action, and bound to take upon himself the burthen of proof as to the whole of the matters upon which the decision rested, involving, as it probably would, an inquiry of great magnitude and great expense:" the question was not whether the sentence was properly pronounced, but whether the writer had gone beyond the limits of fair comment.

"The administration of justice," said the same learned judge in another case,(*b*) "is matter of universal interest to the whole public. The direction of the judge, the verdict of the jury, the decree of a Court of Equity, may be all made subjects of free comment. It is the interest of all of us that it should be so. But, in commenting on such matters, a public writer as much as a private writer is bound to attend to the truth, and to put forward the truth honestly and in good faith, and to the best of his knowledge and ability. It is not to be expected that in discharging this duty of a public journalist, he will always be infallible. His judgment may be biassed one way or the other, without the slightest reflection upon his good faith; and, therefore, if his comments are fair, no one has a right to complain. But it is for the jury to say whether a given comment upon proceedings of a court of justice is a fair comment upon them, or the result of them, or not. . . . . On the one hand, let it not be supposed that the law imposes any undue restraint upon the freest and fullest comments upon all that passes in public courts of justice; for, that the administration of justice should be made a

(*a*) *Seymour* v. *Butterworth* (3 F. & F. 385).
(*b*) *Woodgate* v. *Ridout* (4 F. & F. 216).

subject for the exercise of public discussion is a matter of the most essential importance. But, on the other hand, it behoves those who pass judgment, and call upon the public to pass judgment, on those who are suitors to or witnesses in courts of justice, not to give reckless vent to harsh and uncharitable views of the conduct of others; but to remember that they are bound to exercise a fair and honest and an impartial judgment upon those whom they hold up to public obloquy."(*a*)

On this ground, the hearing of a case upon a charge of felony or a fair report of it in a newspaper is a proper subject for comment in the press; and a public writer would not be liable to an action for discussing the conduct of the magistrates in dismissing the charge without fully hearing the evidence, and even in commenting upon the evidence given, in support of the view that the charge ought not to have been dismissed. If, however, the writer goes further, and not only argues upon the effect of the evidence given, but speaks of "evidence which might have been adduced," and makes statements of matters of fact not in evidence, and tending to show that the accused was guilty of the felony, the publication is a libel.(*b*)

Evidence of witnesses.

Comments may be made in the press on the evidence given by a particular witness in any inquiry on a matter of public interest, even, it seems, to the extent of imputing that the evidence is unfounded, incautious, or careless; but an unfounded imputation that the evidence is "maliciously" or "recklessly" false would be libellous.(*c*)

Management of church.

A correspondence between a churchwarden and the incumbent of a parish on the subject of an alleged desecration of the church, by allowing books to be sold in it during service and turning the vestry room into a cooking apartment, is a matter of public interest, and may be commented upon in the press, provided the language made use of be not stronger than a jury will consider justified by the occasion.(*d*) "The maintenance of decency and propriety in conducting public worship, and of the sanctity of the sacred edifice and all connected with it," said Cockburn, C.J.,(*e*) "is surely a matter of the greatest public concern. The very use of the term 'public worship' shows this."

Advertised new medical cure.

So, it has been held, is the publication in a newspaper, by a medical practitioner, of an advertisement of a new mode of

(*a*) *Woodgate* v. *Ridout* (4 F. & F. 223).
(*b*) *Hibbins* v. *Lee* (4 F. & F. 243).
(*c*) *Hedley* v. *Barlow* (4 F. & F. 224).
(*d*) *Kelly* v. *Tinling* (L. Rep. 1 Q. B. 699; 13 L. T. N. S. 255; 35 L. J. 231, Q. B.).
(*e*) *Ib.*

treating and curing consumption.(*a*) The alleged libel in this case was contained in a leading article, and represented the advertiser as a quack and impostor, and also—by reason of his describing himself as an M.D., on account of a diploma obtained in America—as like scoundrels who pass bad coin. The libel having been justified on the ground of its being true in substance and effect, the jury were told by Cockburn, C.J., "that even if the plea of justification were not made out, the defendant would still be entitled to their verdict if he had written honestly and with the intention of exercising his vocation as a public writer fairly, and with reasonable moderation and judgment."(*b*)

Other matters of public interest.

A newspaper paragraph giving an account of some proceedings at the British Archæological Association, and describing certain leaden figures reported to have been found in the Thames, and sold by the plaintiff as antiquities, the sale of which it stigmatised as an attempt at extortion and fraud, was held by Willes, J., to be, in the absence of malice, protected by the privilege of fair discussion on a matter of public interest. His lordship held the action to be not maintainable on another ground also, viz., that the alleged libel reflected only on a class of persons dealing in such objects, and there was nothing to show that the article was inserted with any special reference to the plaintiff.(*c*)

It is, according to Cockburn, C.J.,(*d*) a perfectly fair subject for discussion by the press (in dealing with a particular appointment to a recordership of a barrister who was also a member of Parliament)—whether it is desirable that members of the Bar, being also in the House of Commons, should receive appointments to subordinate offices, as the reward of parliamentary adhesion, from one or other of the political parties of the State; although an unfounded imputation of corruption in the particular case would be libellous. "Not only," says his Lordship, "was this a fair matter for discussion, and within the province of a public writer, but a public writer was fairly entitled, if in his opinion such a course of proceeding was detrimental to the independence of the bar, to the independence of Parliament, and to the independence of the representatives of the people, to animadvert with severity upon the conduct of those who gave and of those who received such patronage. But if he went beyond that, and asserted that a member of Parliament had

(*a*) *Hunter* v. *Sharpe* (4 F. & F. 983).
(*b*) 4 F. & F. 1005.
(*c*) *Eastwood* v. *Holmes* (1 F. & F. 347). See, as to the second ground of this ruling, *Le Fanu* v. *Malcolmson* (1 H. L. Cas. 637).
(*d*) *Seymour* v. *Butterworth* (3 F. & F. 376, 377).

bargained to sell his vote upon a corrupt contract, or that a member would not have voted or spoken as he did but for a corrupt understanding that he should receive a reward, it became a most serious charge, and one which no man, writing, whether in public or private, should venture to make against another." "At the same time," added his Lordship, "those who filled a public position must not be too thin-skinned in reference to comments made upon them. It would often happen that observations would be made upon public men which they knew from the bottom of their hearts were undeserved and unjust; yet they must bear with them and submit to be misunderstood for a time, because all knew that the criticism of the press was the best security for the proper discharge of public duties."

Where the plaintiff, a clergyman, in the course of a public controversy with another clergyman, published a document purporting to be a collection of *Opinions of the Press* on a pamphlet written by the plaintiff, and, amongst others, an incorrect extract from an article published in the defendant's newspaper, and the defendant published another article in his paper stating that the concoctor of the paragraph, purporting to be extracted from it, had been guilty of adding to the article offensive and insulting expressions which it never did and never should have suffered to appear, and of suppressing other passages so as to alter the sense, changing one passage "with a malice which evidently overcame his sense of truth and honesty," on the trial of an action of libel the jury were told by Erle, C.J., that if they were of opinion that the defendant wrote what he did for the purpose of maintaining the truth, sincerely having that object in view without any corrupt motive, and that the language he used, even although it might be exaggerated, was prompted by the desire to maintain the truth, and that the exaggerated language was provoked by similar language on the other side, which might well have accounted for the use of strong expressions, they might find a verdict for the defendant.(*a*)

The committee of a Reform Union published in a newspaper a report stating—"The first exposures of the union having failed to produce any improvement in the mode of conducting elections in Berwick, and the persons there who traffic in votes being utterly impervious to public opinion, we have submitted the evidence to the best legal advice we could obtain, and in accordance with that advice have issued writs against the following persons," mentioning the plaintiff amongst others, and adding amongst the comments, "In a

(*a*) *Hibbs* v. *Wilkinson* (1 F. & F. 608).

few days writs will be issued against another list of offenders." An action of libel having been brought, Hill, J., after stating to the jury that, as a general rule, "it is lawful to discuss in the columns of a public journal matters of public interest, provided it be done *bonâ fide*, without actual malice or the unnecessary making of personal imputations on any individual;" added, that the defendants had no right, in doing so, to make a personal imputation on an individual. "I suggest to you," continued the learned judge, "that any self-constituted body which sets itself up for the reform of the public, whether in religious, in commercial, or in political points of view, must be extremely cautious, in all their publications and writings concerning private individuals, not to reflect on private character. A man stands at fearful odds when he has to contend with a public body. If they publish that which reflects on the private character of individuals, they should be very careful of the contents of what they put forth."(*a*)

Where the writer of a letter published in a newspaper, replying to a question asking who was Zadkiel, gave the name of the plaintiff, who was the proprietor and editor of "Zadkiel's Almanac," and stated that Zadkiel's mischievous propensities were "not solely involved in that foolish publication, 'Zadkiel's Almanac,'" but that he had "gulled" many of the nobility by means of a magic ball of crystal, by which he pretended to tell what was going on in the other world, and that he took money for "these profane acts, and made a good thing of it;" for which letter an action of libel was brought, Cockburn, C.J., directed the jury, that the privilege accorded to public writers would extend to a denunciation of the almanac and the use of the ball as an imposture, but not to an unfounded statement that the plaintiff had made money by a conscious and fraudulent imposture by the use of the magic ball. "If the system," said his Lordship, "was mischievous, and calculated to delude the unwary and the credulous, it was, no doubt, fit subject for indignant denunciation. But it was another thing to say that because a man put forward such a publication or such a system, a public writer could go back into his past history and state facts which were not true and were calculated to do him injury. His system might be described as an imposture, but facts must not be invented or misstated as to his past life, with a view to destroy the credit of it." His lordship further told the jury that, in order to find a verdict for the defendant, they must be

(*a*) *Wilson* v. *Reed and Ors* (2 F. & F. 151, 152).

satisfied "not only that he honestly believed that the plaintiff had taken money for a fraudulent exhibition, but that he had such fair grounds for his imputation that his inference was not so unfair as to be reckless."(*a*)

An action having been brought for an alleged libel contained in the following paragraph, published in a newspaper: "Riot at Preston.—From the *Liverpool Courier*.—It appears that Hunt pointed out Counsellor Seager to the mob, and said, 'There is one of the black sheep.' The mob fell upon him and murdered him. In the affray Hunt had his nose cut off. The coroner's inquest have brought in a verdict of wilful murder against Hunt, who is committed to gaol.—Fudge"—the plaintiff contended that the word "fudge" was merely introduced with reference to the future, in order that the defendants might afterwards, if the paragraph were complained of, be able to refer to it, as showing that they intended to descredit the statement. Lord Lyndhurst, C.B., told the jury that the question was, with what motive the publication was made. It was not disputed that if the paragraph, which was copied from another paper, stood without the word "fudge" it would be a libel. If they were of opinion that the object of the paragraph was to vindicate the plaintiff's character from an unfounded charge, the action could not be maintained; but if the word "fudge" were only added for the purpose of making an argument at a future day, then it would not take away the effect of the libel.(*b*)

Criticisms on theatrical and musical performances

The performances at theatres, and other such places of public entertainment, may be freely criticised by the press, under the same limitations as before stated with regard to other matters of public interest.

In an action of libel, brought by the proprietor of a place of public entertainment, where he sung songs supposed to be written and composed by himself, against the editor and printer of a newspaper, for a paragraph insinuating that the songs were not in fact written by the plaintiff, that on the first night of the performance there had been a very thin audience, and that composed of persons admitted by orders, and that they alone had applauded the music of the songs, which was of a very inferior kind; Lord Kenyon stated the law on this subject to be "that the editor of a public newspaper may fairly and candidly comment on any place or species of public entertainment, but it must be done fairly and without malice or view to injure or prejudice the

(*a*) *Morrison* v. *Belcher* (3 F. & F. 614).
(*b*) *Hunt* v. *Algar* (6 C. & P. 247, 248).

proprietor in the eyes of the public; that if so done, however severe the censure, the justice of it screens the editor from legal animadversion; but if it can be proved that the comment is unjust, is malevolent, or exceeding the bounds of fair opinion, that such is a libel, and therefore actionable."(*a*)

Criticism on floral exhibition

Where a newspaper published of an exhibitor of flowers at a horticultural show, that "the name of G. is to be rendered famous in all sorts of dirty work; the tricks by which he and a few like him used to secure prizes, seem to have been broken in upon by some judges more honest than usual. If G. be the same man who wrote an impudent letter to the Metropolitan Society, he is too worthless to notice; if he be not the same man, it is a pity two such beggarly souls could not be crammed into the same carcase," the court at once held that such observations did not fall within the limits of fair criticism on G.'s floral exhibition.(*b*)

Reviews

The published productions of authors are, of course, also matters of public interest, which the press may freely discuss and criticise. The only limit which the law places to the exercise of this right is, that it be not made the occasion for the indulgence of private spite or malice, or a defamatory attack on the personal character of the author whose work is criticised. *Bonâ fide* strictures, however unsparing their character—ridicule, however poignant—may be employed, provided the limits abovementioned be not exceeded; and, as it is difficult, if not impossible, always to separate the author from his work, criticisms and ridicule which affect him personally, but only in his character of author, and are not directed against his private life, are not libellous.

"Liberty of criticism," says Lord Ellenborough,(*c*) "must be allowed, or we should have neither purity of taste nor of morals. Fair discussion is essentially necessary to the truth of history and the advancement of science. That publication, therefore, I shall never consider as a libel which has for its object, not to injure the reputation of any individual, but to correct misrepresentations of fact, to refute sophistical reasoning, to expose a vicious taste in literature, or to censure what is hostile to morality."

"Every man," says the same learned judge, in another case,(*d*) "who publishes a book commits himself to the judgment of the public, and anyone may comment upon his

(*a*) *Dibdin* v. *Swan* (1 Esp. 28).
(*b*) *Green v. Chapman* (4 Bing. N. C. 92).
(*c*) *Tabart v. Tipper* (1 Camp. N. P. 351).
(*d*) *Carr* v. *Hood* (1 Camp. N. P. 358).

performance. If the commentator does not step aside from the work, or introduce fiction for the purpose of condemnation, he exercises a fair and legitimate right. . . . . The critic does a great service to the public who writes down any vapid or useless publication, such as ought never to have appeared. He checks the dissemination of bad taste, and prevents people from wasting both their time and money upon trash. I speak of fair and candid criticism; and this everyone has a right to publish, although the author may suffer a loss from it. Such a loss the law does not consider an injury; because it is a loss which the party ought to sustain. It is, in short, the loss of fame and profits to which he was never entitled." "Ridicule is often the fittest weapon that can be employed for such a purpose. If the reputation or pecuniary interests of the person ridiculed suffer, it is *damnum absque injuriâ*. Where is the liberty of the press if an action can be maintained on such principles? . . . . We really must not cramp observations upon authors and their works. They should be liable to criticism, to exposure, and even to ridicule if their compositions be ridiculous; otherwise the first who writes a book on any subject will maintain a monopoly of sentiment and opinion respecting it. This would tend to the perpetuity of error. Reflection on personal character is another thing. Show me an attack on the moral character of the plaintiff, or any attack upon his character unconnected with his authorship, and I shall be as ready as any judge who ever sat here to protect him; but I cannot hear of malice on account of turning his works into ridicule."(*a*) His Lordship added, that if, in the case before him, the party writing the criticism followed the plaintiff into domestic life, for the purposes of slander, that would have been libellous.

In language of like import, Lord Tenterden, C. J., directed a jury, on the trial of an action for an alleged libel published in the *Lancet*, relating to the plaintiff as the editor of another medical journal:(*b*) "Whatever is fair and can be reasonably said of the authors of works, or of themselves as connected with their works, is not actionable, unless it appear that, under the pretext of criticising the works, the defendant takes an opportunity of attacking the character of the author; and then it will be a libel. That there is in this publication a great deal of ridicule must be admitted by everyone; and I think that there appears also to be some rancour; still, if you think that what is said here was fairly called for by what the plaintiff had done as the editor of

(*a*) 1 Camp. N. P. 357. (*b*) *Macleod* v. *Wakley* (3 C. & P. 313).

another publication, the defendant is entitled to a verdict; but if you think the remarks were not fairly called for, you will find for the plaintiff."

Where the alleged libel was contained in a critique (published in the *Athenæum*) on a novel, describing the work as characterised by vulgarity, profanity, and indelicacy, bad French, bad German, and bad English, and abuse of persons living and dead, Cockburn, C.J., directed the jury thus as to the critique: "That it was severe there could not be a doubt; but the question was whether, severe as it was, it was not warranted by the nature of the work. It was of the last importance to literature, and, through literature, to good taste and good feeling, to morality and to religion, that works published for general perusal should be such as were calculated to improve, and not to demoralise, the public mind; and, therefore, it was of vast importance that criticism, so long as it was fair and reasonable and just, should be allowed the utmost latitude, and that the most unsparing censure of works which were fairly subject to it should not be held libellous. A man who publishes a book challenges criticism; he rejoices in it if it tends to his praise, and if it is likely to increase the circulation of his work; and, therefore, he must submit to it if it is adverse, so long as it is not prompted by malice, or characterised by such reckless disregard of fairness as indicates malice towards the author. You must say whether in this case you think the critique was the fair and genuine result of the judgment of the critic upon the work, or whether it was prompted by reckless disregard of the author's feelings, for the sake of displaying the writer's powers of denunciation. It was all very well for the plaintiff's counsel to contend that literature should be free and unfettered. Be it so. But then, if you give on the one hand the utmost latitude to literary composition, there ought to be at least the same latitude to literary criticism. Those who, in their capacity as literary critics, are, so to speak, prosecutors on behalf of the public, should be allowed to bring to the bar of public opinion those who are guilty of delinquencies against good taste, against morality, or against religion. The critic who sits in judgment upon the works of others is, no doubt, bound to be impartial; but, on the other hand, he cannot pretend to be infallible; and, even although you should be of opinion that the work did not wholly deserve the description given of it, still that is not the question. The plaintiff's counsel, in his reply, adroitly endeavoured to show that there were parts of the critique which were not sustained. But the question is whether, as

a whole, it was fair, or prompted by motives of another character; and you must say whether, on the whole, you think this was a fair or a malicious piece of criticism."(*a*)

The defendants in the case last referred to, having consented to the withdrawal of a juror, afterwards published an article commenting on the proceedings in the action, and suggesting as a reason for assenting to the withdrawal of a juror the inability of the plaintiff to pay costs if the verdict had been against him. Another action of libel having been brought for the publication of this article, Cockburn, C.J., said to the jury, "It was urged by the plaintiff's counsel, truly enough, that, in criticising a man's work, it is not proper to allude to his private circumstances. But in this instance the object was to explain how the defendants came to consent to waive a verdict, and to show that they had substantially attained the same result; because, if they had got a verdict, in all probability they would not have obtained their costs. If you think that the allusion was brought in only to make an attack upon the circumstances or character of the plaintiff, it would be malicious and actionable; but if it was adverted to merely in order to explain and vindicate the course taken by the defendants, then you would probably think that it was not unfairly introduced."(*b*)

The plaintiff (Sir John Carr) in the case before Lord Ellenborough, had written, amongst other books, one called "The Stranger in Ireland;" and the alleged libel consisted of a book entitled "My Pocket Book, or Hints for a Ryghte merrie and conceited Tour, in quarto, to be called, The Stranger in Ireland in 1805, by a knight errant," and contained a frontispiece entitled "The Knight leaving Ireland with regret." The declaration alleged that this frontispiece contained a false, scandalous, malicious, defamatory, and ridiculous representation of the said Sir John in the form of a man of ludicrous and ridiculous appearance, holding a pocket handkerchief to his face and appearing to be weeping, and also containing therein, a certain false, malicious and ridiculous representation of a man of ludicrous and ridiculous appearance, following the said representation of the said Sir John, and representing a man loaded with and bending under the weight of three large books, &c., and a pocket-handkerchief in one of his hands, the corners thereof appearing to be held or tied together, as if containing something therein, with the printed word "wardrobe" depending therefrom, thereby falsely, scandalously, and maliciously

(*a*) *Strauss* v. *Francis* (4 F. & F. 1113).
(*b*) *Ib.* 1116. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

meaning and intending to represent, for the purpose of rendering the said Sir John ridiculous, and exposing him to laughter, ridicule, and contempt, that one copy of the said first-mentioned book, and two copies of the said book of the said Sir John, secondly mentioned, were so heavy as to cause a man to bend under the weight thereof; and that his, the said Sir John's wardrobe was very small, and capable of being contained in a pocket handkerchief, &c. The declaration laid as special damage that Sir John had lost the sale of the copyright of a book of his, giving an account of a tour through part of Scotland, owing to the publication of the alleged libel. Lord Ellenborough said, in reference to the special damage laid: "If the reputation or pecuniary interests of the person ridiculed suffer, it is *damnum absque injuriâ*. Where is the liberty of the press if an action can be maintained on such principles? Perhaps the plaintiff's 'Tour through Scotland' is now unsaleable; but is he to be indemnified by receiving a compensation in damages from the person who may have opened the eyes of the public to the bad taste and inanity of his compositions? Who would have bought the works of Sir Robert Filmer after he had been refuted by Mr. Locke? But shall it be said that he might have sustained an action for defamation against that great philosopher, who was labouring to enlighten and ameliorate mankind? We really must not cramp observations upon authors and their works." And his Lordship concluded, after laying down the general principles above cited, by directing the jury that if the writer of the publication complained of had not travelled out of the work he criticised, for the purpose of slander, the action would not lie; but if they could discover in it anything personally slanderous against the plaintiff, unconnected with the works he had given to the public, in that case he had a good cause of action. The jury returned a verdict for the defendants.(*a*)

False imputation of authorship.

Falsely to impute to a person the publication of any immoral or absurd literary production, would be libellous.(*b*)

Criticisms on advertisements, circulars, &c.

A tradesman's handbill, circular, or advertisement stands, in respect of the right of commenting upon it, on the same footing as a book, and may be made the subject of fair and reasonable criticism in the public press or otherwise.

(*a*) This case is constantly referred to in later cases as a leading authority on the subject. The only subsequent reference not entirely approving of it is by Best, C.J. (in *Thompson* v. *Shackell*, 1 M. & Mal. 188), who says, "I have myself acted on the doctrine of my Lord Ellenborough, in the case referred to, though I do not go quite so far as he did in that case, because I think no personal ridicule of the author is justifiable."

(*b*) *Tabart* v. *Tipper* (1 Camp. N. P. 350).

"I can see no distinction," said Byles, J.,(*a*) "between a handbill or a circular or advertisement which is published to all the world, and a book: both are literary productions, and are addressed to the public, and both are subject to the same comment and criticism. The shape in which they are published makes no difference: many advertisements indeed are issued in the form of books. Two-thirds of the daily newspapers are usually taken up with advertisements of various sorts. It is plain, therefore, that the form in which the publication appears can make no difference."

A marine store-dealer having published and extensively circulated a handbill setting forth the prices which he was prepared to give for a variety of articles, an alderman, sitting as a magistrate at Guildhall, called the attention of a newspaper reporter to it, and stigmatised the system as most pernicious in its effects, as offering great inducements to servants to rob their masters and mistresses. The observations of the alderman, together with the handbill itself, were published in the newspaper, with a heading "Encouraging Servants to Rob their Masters." A leading article was also published, commenting upon the handbill and ending as follows: "Will Mr. P. (the plaintiff) allow us to put this simple question to him—are not these unheard-of high prices, these clamorous demands for rags, bones, kitchen stuff, plated metal and old copper—are not these clap-trap announcements, that flare on the door-jambs of five hundred dolly-shopkeepers such as he, a premium offered to dishonesty? a direct incentive to servants to rob their masters and mistresses? The high prices which the Clapham rag-merchant vaunts his ability to give, the ready money he is so charmingly anxious to pay—these read very much like invitations to servants, when their legitimate and allowed perquisites run short, to make perquisites for themselves. How many visits to Mr. P.'s *omnium gatherum* does it take for one to Wandsworth Police Court? Mr. P. may be a very upright man, and his business may be conducted in a perfectly legitimate manner; but it is the duty of all employers to warn their servants against the specious placards that throw out baits to the weak and ignorant, and tempt the most trustworthy to pilfering and malversation. The servant may begin with a surreptitious piece of fat or a few rags; she may end by rifling her mistress's wardrobe, and running away with her best moire antique dresses. The footpage may take an old buckle to the ragman to begin with; and

(*a*) *Paris* v. *Levy* (9 C. B. N. S. 362; 3 L. T. N. S. 324; 30 L. J. 11, C. P.). See also *Hunter* v. *Sharpe* (*ante*, p. 446).

PART IV. CHAPTER VIII.

end by breaking open the plate chest. The climax of Mr. P.'s unprecedentedly high prices may be penal servitude."

On the trial of an action of libel for the foregoing publication, Erle, C.J. told the jury that if the plaintiff put forward and drew public attention to a handbill which, in the opinion of the editor of the newspaper, was most dangerous to honesty, and held out a temptation to servants to depart from their duty, the editor might be able strictly to excuse, before a jury, the remarks which he made, if in their judgment those remarks were well founded and called for by the occasion: but, had the defendant said one word against the plaintiff with reference to his private life or his mode of managing his business, he (the learned judge) would have felt bound to say that there was no pretence of justification.(*a*) The jury having returned a verdict for the defendant, a rule *nisi* was obtained for a new trial on the ground of misdirection, but the rule was afterwards discharged.(*b*) "The real question was," said Byles, J., "did the remarks exceed the fair licence of criticism, and degenerate into reflections upon the private character of the plaintiff." "I think," said Keating, J., "my lord was perfectly right in telling the jury that there was no distinction as to fair comment and criticism between a handbill and a book or any other publication; as also in telling them that if they thought that the language of the alleged libels was that of fair criticism, and free from personal imputation, the defendant was entitled to their verdict."

Books privately circulated.

It has been doubted (by Pollock, C.B.) whether the rules which have been laid down, in the decided cases, as to criticisms on published works (which invite criticism) would apply to works not published but only circulated among friends.(*c*)

Pictures.

The law is the same as to comments on works of other kinds which appeal to the public.

Thus, it has been held that a picture publicly exhibited may be criticised in the press; and, however strong the terms of censure, no action for libel will lie, provided the work be fairly and honestly criticised and the criticism be not made the vehicle of personal malignity towards the painter.(*d*) "If this be really an honest criticism and no

(*a*) Cf. the language of Lord Abinger, C.B., in *Fraser* v. *Berkeley* (7 C. & P. 625): "If a critic, in criticising a book, goes out of his way, and attacks the private character of the author, this cannot be justified, and the author may recover damages."

(*b*) *Paris* v. *Levy* (*ubi supra*).

(*c*) *Gathercole* v. *Miall* (15 M. & W. 334).

(*d*) *Thompson* v. *Shackell* (4 M. & Mal. 187).

more," said Best, C.J., to the jury, "the defendant is entitled to your verdict. If he has exceeded the limits of fair and honest criticism, then you will find for the plaintiff."

Architecture.

And where an architect and professor of architecture in the Royal Academy brought an action for an alleged libel upon him, in the way of his profession, contained in a publication which professed to give an account of the principles of a new order of architecture, called the Bœotian order of architecture, stating it to have been invented by the plaintiff, whom it termed the Bœotian professor, and setting forth several absurd principles as the rules of the new order, which it illustrated by examples of buildings, all of which were the works of the plaintiff, Lord Tenterden, C.J., thus directed the jury: "This publication professes in substance to be a criticism on the architectural works of the plaintiff. On such works, as well as on literary productions, any man has a right to express his opinion; and, however mistaken in point of taste that opinion may be, or however unfavourable to the merits of the author or artist, the person entertaining it is not precluded by law from its fair, reasonable, and temperate expression. It may be fairly and reasonably expressed, although through the medium of ridicule. In the present case the censure is certainly strong; nevertheless, if you think the criticism fair, reasonable, and temperate, although it may not be correct, the defendant will be entitled to your verdict; if you think it unfair and intemperate, and written with the intention and for the purpose of injuring the plaintiff in his profession, by imputing to him that he acts on absurd principles of art, you will find for the plaintiff."(*a*)

CHAPTER IX.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS.

I. Reports of Judicial Proceedings.

Reports of trials and judicial investigations

It may now be considered as established beyond possibility of doubt that an impartial, correct, and *bonâ fide*, even though not a *verbatim*, report, and though published from day to day, of any proceedings of a court of justice, which are not merely *ex parte*, is privileged, unless the publication be prohibited by the court itself, or the nature of the trial unfits it for publication; and the privilege is not confined to reports of the proceedings of the superior courts.

(*a*) *Soane* v. *Knight* (1 M. & Mal. 75).

"It has been adjudged," says Lord Campbell, C.J.,(*a*) "that, if the due administration of justice is supposed so to require, the court has authority to make an order against publishing any part of the trial till the whole is concluded. Nevertheless, where no such order has been made, the practice has long existed of daily publishing, without any disapprobation from the court, each day's proceedings till the trial is concluded. And in several instances this practice—which, in reality, only extends the area of the court—has been found highly beneficial in the discovery of material evidence. . . . . The law upon such a subject must bend to the approved usages of society, though still resting upon the same principle, that what is hurtful and indicates malice should be punished, and that what is beneficial and *bonâ fide* should be protected."

Grounds for immunity.

The reason for allowing this liberty of publication is stated by the same learned judge in another case,(*b*) to be—that the balance of public benefit from the publicity is great: it is of great consequence that the public should know what takes place in court, and the proceedings are under the control of the judges; the inconvenience, therefore, arising from the chance of the injury to private character, is infinitesimally small as compared to the convenience of publicity. To the same effect Lawrence, J., in *Rex* v. *Wright*:(*c*) "The general advantage to the country in having these proceedings made public, more than counterbalances the inconveniences to private persons whose conduct may be the subject of such proceedings."

Reports of judicial proceedings do, in fact, only extend that publicity which is so important a feature of the administration of the law in England, and thus enables to be witnesses of it, not merely the few whom the court can hold, but the thousands who can read the reports.(*d*) "The courts," says Lord Campbell,(*e*) "are open to all; but they are of limited extent, and only a small number of persons can be present in them; but, by means of the press, the whole nation is informed of what takes place, and is put in a position to form an opinion upon the conduct of the jury, the judge, and the witnesses."

According to Cockburn, C.J., the immunity enjoyed by publications of the proceedings of courts of justice rests upon a two-fold ground. "In the English law of libel,"

(*a*) *Lewis* v. *Levy* (El. Bl. & El. 560; 27 L. J. 282, Q. B.).
(*b*) *Davison* v. *Duncan* (7 El. & Bl. 231). (*c*) 8 T. R. 298.
(*d*) *Per* Wilde, B., delivering the judgment of the Court of Exchequer in *Popham* v. *Pickburn* (7 H. & N. 891; 5 L. T. N. S. 846; 31 L. J. 133, Ex.). (*e*) *Andrews* v. *Chapman* (3 Car. & Kir. 289).

says his Lordship,(a) "malice is said to be the gist of an action for defamation. And though it is true that by malice, as necessary to give a cause of action in respect of a defamatory statement, legal, and not actual, malice is meant—while by legal malice, as explained by Bayley, J., in *Bromage* v. *Prosser*,(b) is meant no more than the wrongful intention which the law always presumes as accompanying a wrongful act, without any proof of malice in fact—yet the presumption of law may be rebutted by the circumstances under which the defamatory matter has been uttered or published; and if this should be the case, though the character of the party concerned may have suffered, no right of action will arise. 'The rule,' says Lord Campbell, in the case of *Taylor* v. *Hawkins*,(c) 'is that if the occasion be such as repels the presumption of malice, the communication is privileged, and the plaintiff must then, if he can, give evidence of malice.' It is thus that, in the case of reports of proceedings of courts of justice, though individuals may occasionally suffer from them, yet, as they are published without any reference to the individuals concerned, but solely to afford information to the public, and for the benefit of society, the presumption of malice is rebutted, and such publications are held to be privileged. The other, and the broader, principle on which this exception to the general law of libel is founded is, that the advantage to the community, from publicity being given to the proceedings of courts of justice, is so great, that the occasional inconvenience to individuals arising from it must yield to the general good."

Publication prohibited or improper.

With reference to the last of the qualifications stated at the beginning of this chapter, of the general right to publish the proceedings of courts of justice, Bayley, J., says, in *Rex* v. *Creevey*:(d) "It has been argued that the proceedings of courts of justice are open to publication. Against that, as an unqualified proposition, I enter my protest. Suppose an indictment for blasphemy, or a trial where indecent evidence was necessarily introduced, would everyone be at liberty to poison the minds of the public by circulating that which, for the purposes of justice, the court is bound to hear? I should think not; and it is not true, therefore, that in all instances the proceedings of a court of justice may be published."

And it was expressly decided in *Rex* v. *Carlile* (e) that it is

(a) *Wason* v. *Walter* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 87).
(b) 4 B. & C. 255.
(c) 16 Q. B. 321; 20 L. J. 314, Q. B.
(d) 1 M. & S. 281.
(e) 3 B. & Ald. 167.

not lawful to publish even a correct report of the proceedings in a court of justice, if it contain matter of a scandalous, blasphemous, or indecent nature. "We are bound," said Bayley, J.,(*a*) "for the purpose of justice, to hear evidence in the course of judicial proceedings, the publication of which, at any distant period of time, or at any time afterwards, may have the effect of an utter subversion of the morals and religion of the people. It very often happens that, for the purposes of justice, our ears may be shocked with extremely offensive and indelicate evidence. But though we are bound, in a court of justice, to hear it, other persons are not at liberty afterwards to circulate it at the risk of those effects, which, in the minds of the young and unwary, such evidence may be calculated to produce." To the same effect Maule, J., in a later case:(*b*) "Matters may appear in a court of justice that may have so immoral a tendency, or be so injurious to the character of an individual, that their publication could not be tolerated."

In *Rex* v. *Carlile*(*c*) the defendant had published, with the heading "The Mock Trial of Mr. Carlile," a full and correct report of the trial of an indictment for publishing "Paine's Age of Reason," in the course of which Mr. Carlile had read over to the jury the whole of that book. The court were unanimous in holding that the republication of the book could not be justified on the ground that it was part of a true report of what took place at the trial.

Subject to the qualifications that the publication be not of matters blasphemous, seditious, or indecent, and that it be not forbidden by the court, it is justifiable to publish a fair and accurate report of the trial or other proceeding, not being merely *ex parte*, in any court of justice; and no action of libel can be maintained for a statement, occurring in such report, of the charges made against any of the parties.

Publication of proceedings not *ex parte*.

In the first reported case on this subject,(*d*) which was an action against the publisher of the *Times* for an alleged libel contained in a report of an application made to the King's Bench for an information against two justices for conspiracy, the defendant pleaded only the general issue, and at the trial proved that the report was a true and faithful account of what had passed in the King's Bench upon the motion. The court were of opinion that the action could not be maintained; but, some doubts being entertained whether the matter of justification should not have been specially pleaded, the case stood over, and no judgment was ever given.

(*a*) 3 B. & Ald. 169.
(*b*) *Hoare* v. *Silverlock* (9 C. B. 23).
(*c*) 3 B. & Ald. 167.
(*d*) *Curry* v. *Walter* (1 Bos. & P. 525).

The *dicta* of many learned judges in subsequent cases are clear on the subject. "As a general rule," says Maule, J.,(*a*) "it may be assumed that the publication of a fair account of what passes in a court of justice, not *ex parte*, is justifiable, unless there be something to take it out of that rule." "It is a good defence to an action of libel," says Lord Campbell, C.J.,(*b*) "that it consists of a fair and impartial (though not *verbatim*) report of a trial in a court of justice."

The same protection has been extended to a fair report, published in a newspaper, of the proceedings held in gaol before a registrar in bankruptcy, under sects. 101 and 102 of the Bankruptcy Act, 1861, upon the examination of a debtor in custody.(*c*) "The only question," said Pollock, C.J., "is whether the registrar's court was, under the circumstances, a public court. I think that it was. We ought, in my opinion, to make as wide as possible the right of the public to know what takes place in any court of justice, and to protect a fair, *bonâ fide* statement of proceedings there."

The proceedings before examiners appointed under 9 Geo. 4, c. 22, s. 7, to examine into the sufficiency of the sureties on the trial of an election petition, were also held to be proceedings before a legal court, of which a fair and accurate report might be published.(*d*)

It was held by the House of Lords,(*e*) on appeal from the Scotch Court of Session, that the publication, in a book called "The Scottish Mercantile Society's Record" (known amongst the trading community as the "Black List"), of a copy of the register of protests for non-acceptance and non-payment of bills of exchange and promissory notes, established by the Scotch Acts of 1681 and 1696, and the 12 Geo. 3, c. 72, and 23 Geo. 3, c. 18, was not libellous, the contents of the register being public property, and the publication of them authorised; and the result of the various Acts of Parliament being to give the registration the effect of a decree or judgment of the Court of Session. "It is equivalent," said the Lord Chancellor, "to what in this country we call a judgment upon a warrant of attorney. In neither case does the court interfere, but in both, as in cases of judgment by default and decreet in absence, the party having a right to the authority of the court to confirm his claim, obtains the judgment as of course. Whether that

(*a*) *Hoare* v. *Silverlock* (9 C. B. 23).
(*b*) *Lewis* v. *Levy* (El. Bl. & El. 553).
(*c*) *Ryalls* v. *Leader* (L. Rep. 1 Ex. 296; 14 L. T. N. S. 563; 35 L. J. 185, Ex.).
(*d*) *Cooper* v. *Lawson* (8 A. & El. 746).
(*e*) *Fleming* v. *Newton* (1 H. L. Cas. 363).

judgment is obtained by authority of Parliament, or by the consent of parties, or by the practice of the court, appears to me to be immaterial. It is for all purposes a judgment of the court until altered or reversed, and entitled to all the attributes of any judgment after the longest and most contested litigations. . . . . Is it, then, unlawful to state or publish the decreet or judgment of courts of justice? If their proceedings are public, so must be the result of such proceedings—namely, the judgment. For, although the steps preliminary to the judgment are not transacted in open court (the whole being incontestible in that stage), yet the whole is supposed to be the result of regular proceedings in court."(*a*)

If, however, the publisher of such a "Black List" inserts in it, as a still existing liability, a judgment which has been satisfied by payment, he is, according to a decision of the Irish Court of Queen's Bench,(*b*) liable to an action of libel, and, if special damage has been caused by the publication, also to an action for a false representation.

"He would have been justified," said Lefroy, C.J., "if he had published the judgment as it stood in reality, as a judgment annulled and satisfied; but if, instead of that—if instead of availing himself of a legal right, which none of us mean to question, the right of publishing a judgment, a true copy of a judgment, so long as the party does not add a sting to it—if he adds the sting that it is an unsatisfied judgment, this becomes an exercise of a legal right with an addition which makes that injurious to the plaintiff, in a way that it would not have been, if he represented the truth of the transaction. . . . . The case in Scotland was very different from the present one. The party there acted under an Act of Parliament, and what he did, he did *bonâ fide* and according to the truth of the transaction. The very contrary has been the case here."

Reports of *ex parte* proceedings and preliminary investigations before magistrates.

With regard to reports of *ex parte* proceedings and preliminary investigations the law does not seem to be quite free from doubt.

Where the *ex parte* proceeding or preliminary investigation, though it lasts during several days, is also the end of the matter, as terminating in the discharge of the person accused, it may be taken as settled that a correct and impartial report of it may be published.

Thus, in a case where, a charge of perjury having been preferred against the plaintiff, the investigation before a

(*a*) 1 H. L. Cas. 377, 378.
(*b*) *McNally* v. *Oldham* (8 L. T. N. S. 604).

magistrate was adjourned from time to time, and the defendant published in his newspaper a report of each day's proceedings in next day's impression—one on the 26th of June, stating that the plaintiff was charged with perjury, and an adjournment, but reserving the report; another on the 4th of July, also stating an adjournment, in language intimating that there would be a report of the proceedings of the day to which the proceedings were adjourned; and the third on the 18th of July stating that "the magistrate dismissed the summons, there not being sufficient evidence to secure a conviction," the two former reports being headed "Wilful and Corrupt Perjury;" it was held by the Court of Queen's Bench, after verdict finding that the reports were fair and correct, that an action of libel could not be maintained by the plaintiff for their publication.(*a*)

In reply to an argument, urged on behalf of the plaintiff, that the privilege of reporting legal proceedings must be confined to the superior courts of law and equity, the court said, "On such a question the dignity of the court cannot be regarded; and we must look only to the nature of the alleged judicial proceeding which is reported. For this purpose no distinction can be made between a court of *pie poudre* and the House of Lords sitting as a court of justice."

"Proceedings before magistrates under stat. 11 & 12 Vict. c. 43," said Lord Campbell, C.J., in delivering the judgment of the court, "with respect to summary convictions and orders in which, after both parties are heard, a final judgment is given, subject to appeal, are, we think, strictly of a judicial nature: the place in which such proceedings are held is an open court; the defendant as well as the prosecutor, has a right to the assistance of an attorney and counsel, and to call what witnesses he pleases; and both parties having been heard, the trial and the judgment may lawfully be made the subject of a printed report, if that report be impartial and correct."

The court had no hesitation, in this case, in holding the defence sufficient as to the reports of the first and third day's proceedings; the great doubt was as to the report of the second day's proceedings, which set out evidence injurious to the plaintiff, whilst the charge against him was still pending. "If the whole inquiry," said Lord Campbell, "had taken place before a magistrate during one hearing, would an impartial and correct report of the proceeding published in a newspaper next morning have

(*a*) *Lewis* v. *Levy* (El. Bl. & El. 537; 27 L. J. 287, Q. B.).

been actionable? We think not. . . . . And for the same reasons an impartial and correct report of the proceedings at the three different hearings would have been privileged, if published simultaneously on the 18th of July. We have, therefore, only to consider the effect, under the circumstances of the case, of there having being three publications instead of one. Considering that the three taken together are found by the jury to have been a true and faithful and *bonâ fide* report of the proceedings against the plaintiff on this charge of wilful and corrupt perjury, we think that the second cannot be selected and taken separately to be a libel. Had there been no other notice of the charge in the defendant's journal, it might well have been deemed malicious and actionable. But the number of 26th of June, after stating the adjournment, says 'as the publication of what transpired might frustrate the ends of justice, we reserve our report until the next hearing.' From the number of the 4th of July it might reasonably be inferred that a report would subsequently be given of what should be done at the adjourned meeting: and the number of 18th of July concludes the history by stating that the magistrate dismissed the summons. We do not see how, on principle, this is to be distinguished from the daily report in a newspaper of a criminal trial, which lasts several days, before the Court of Queen's Bench or the Central Criminal Court, or at the assizes. . . . . The decision of Lord Chief Justice Eyre, and his brethren in *Curry* v. *Walter*(*a*) rested on sound legal principles, and is now almost universally approved of. On the same principles, we think, we ought to hold in this case that no action can be maintained for any part of the impartial and correct and *bonâ fide* report of the proceedings against the plaintiff before the magistrate, which ended in the charge being dismissed; although, the proceeding being adjourned from day to day, the report appeared in portions in different numbers of the defendant's journal."

Examination ending in committal or holding to bail.

Where, however, the result of the preliminary proceedings before the magistrate is that the person charged with an

(*a*) *Ubi supra.* Lord Campbell pointed out in a previous part of his judgment that the proceeding reported in *Curry* v. *Walter* (*vide ante*, p. 460), was an *ex parte* one, "whereas," said his Lordship, "in the case which we have to consider, the present plaintiff was fully heard before the magistrate, and had an opportunity to call what witnesses he chose on his behalf. Nor was the proceeding more final there than here; for the application to the King's Bench for a criminal information might have been renewed on an affidavit of notice given to the magistrates; and an indictment for the conspiracy might have been found by a grand jury."

indictable offence has been committed for trial, or held to bail, the publication of a report of the proceedings is, according to several authorities, a libel. In the more recent cases, however, on the subject, the publication of such reports is regarded with greater favour; and the older cases, when the particular circumstances of each came to be examined, are not quite so strong the other way as they are sometimes thought to be.

In the first case, indeed, on the subject, that of *Rex* v. *Lee*,(*a*) tried before Heath, J., in 1804, being an information against the printers of the *Sussex Journal* for publishing the depositions, taken before a justice, against a person accused of murder, the statement of the depositions, according to the meagre report of the case,(*b*) containing "several expressions and representations prejudicial to the character of" the accused, the learned judge refused to admit evidence of the correctness of the report, being "of opinion that the mere publication of *ex parte* evidence, before a trial, was of itself highly criminal."

In *Rex* v. *Fisher*,(*c*) which was an indictment for a libel, tried before Lord Ellenborough in 1811, the captain of a vessel was charged before a magistrate with a felonious assault on a lady on board his own ship, and was held to bail to take his trial for the offence. The report, published in the defendant's newspaper, was not a mere statement of the nature of the charge and the evidence given on the examination before the magistrate, but a highly coloured narrative of the transaction, interspersed with comments of the writer tending to inflame violently the public against the accused. It told of the assistance rendered by a passenger who, having his attention attracted by the cries of the lady, "instantly rushed to the spot in time to prevent the perpetration of the vile and dishonourable intentions of the captain, from whose loathsome embrace he extricated his almost senseless victim;" stated that immediate application was made for a warrant, "in consequence of which the criminal is likely to meet the legal punishment of his villainy;" described the accused as not seeming "the least affected at his disgraceful situation, or feeling in the slightest degree the very contemptuous manner in which he was regarded by all who were aware of his unmanly conduct;" and continued—"He employed a shorthand writer, a barrister, and a phalanx of friends, if possible to

(*a*) 5 Esp. 123.

(*b*) As to the general character of Espinasse's Reports, see 13 Q. B. 840, 844, and 5 El. & Bl. 453.

(*c*) 2 Camp. 563.

intimidate his accuser by the publicity of her exposure. Notwithstanding these attempts, however, to screen himself behind her delicacy, she gave her testimony in the clearest and most collected manner, which conscious innocence and innate virtue could only have enabled her to accomplish."

Such an inflammatory account of the preliminary investigation before the magistrate could not, of course, be regarded as an impartial and dispassionate report of what had taken place, and we can feel no surprise at its being held a libel. "Does this publication," said Lord Ellenborough,(*a*) "leave the mind in a state of equipoise as to his guilt or innocence? No one with the feelings of a man can read it without being roused to indignation against the person whose misconduct is depicted in such glowing colours. Even if a fair and dispassionate account of the examination were allowed, is this account fair and dispassionate? It comes to conclusions which would only be fair after verdict. It assumes everything that the woman said to be true, and represents the accused as conscious of his guilt. It talks of 'the *contemptuous manner in which he was regarded* by all who were aware of his unmanly conduct,' and triumphantly asserts that 'he is likely to meet the legal punishment of his villainy.' Allowing the utmost latitude to fair and candid statement, is this to be tolerated? Jurors and judges are still but men; they cannot always control feelings excited by such inflammatory language. If they are exposed to be thus warped and misled, injustice must sometimes be done."

Lord Ellenborough, indeed, lays down the rule broadly, that all publications of preliminary proceedings before magistrates are illegal. "The publication," he said, "of proceedings in courts of justice, where both sides are heard and matters are finally determined, is salutary, and therefore it is permitted. The publication of these preliminary examinations has a tendency to pervert the public mind, and to disturb the course of justice; and it is therefore illegal. . . . . Trials at law, fairly reported, although they may occasionally prove injurious to individuals, have been held to be privileged. Let them continue so privileged. But these preliminary examinations have no such privilege. Their only tendency is to prejudge those whom the law still presumes to be innocent, and to poison the sources of justice. But," added his Lordship, "what defence can be made for a publication like this, which, besides containing an *ex parte* statement of evidence before a magistrate, against a man who has had no opportunity to defend

(*a*) 2 Camp. 571.

himself, actually denominates him a *criminal* and describes him as a monster?" This case can hardly be regarded as a decisive authority against the lawfulness of publishing a bare and impartial report of preliminary examinations before magistrates.

The next case on the subject of *ex parte* examinations(*a*) was also one in which comments on the conduct of the parties were added to the report. A riot having taken place at Brighton, the high constable called for the assistance of the military, who charged the mob, and one person was killed. An inquest was held before the coroner, which lasted some days and ended in a verdict of wilful murder against the high constable, one of his assistants, and the soldier who caused the death of the deceased. The defendant, before the jury had finished their labours, published in his newspaper a statement of the evidence, accompanied with remarks tending to cast blame on the high constable and the other peace officers for imprudently and unnecessarily calling out the military for the purpose of suppressing the tumult which had arisen. The court made absolute a rule for a criminal information.

In *Duncan* v. *Thwaites*(*b*) the plaintiff had been charged before a magistrate with indecently assaulting a female child, and the report contained a statement that the evidence of the child herself and her cousin "displayed such a complication of disgusting indecencies that we cannot detail it." The Court of King's Bench held (on demurrer to a plea) that the report could not be justified on the ground of being a correct report of the proceedings which took place in the course of a preliminary inquiry before a magistrate; and there is no doubt that the judgment of the court, which was delivered by Abbott, C.J., proceeds on the general ground that *any* publication of such proceedings is unlawful. The Chief Justice said of the case of *Curry* v. *Walter*(*c*) that, though of great authority in itself and deriving additional weight from the manner in which it is mentioned by Lawrence, J., in *The King* v. *Wright*,(*d*) "it has not, however, received the sanction of subsequent judges; and it differs in some important facts from the present case. It was an account of a proceeding in this court, a court instituted for final determination as well as preliminary inquiry, and whose doors are, as they ought to be, open to so many of the public as can be conveniently accommodated within its walls. The proceeding now in question was before justices

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Fleet* (1 B. & Ald. 379).
(*b*) 3 B. & C. 556.
(*c*) 1 Bos. & P. 525.
(*d*) 8 T. R. 293.

of the peace, and was of a kind which they may lawfully conduct in *private* whenever they may think fit to do so. That proceeding terminated by a refusal of the application, and not by putting the subject into a train for further inquiry and trial. The proceeding in question terminated, in the first instance, by holding the accused to bail for his future appearance before the justices, and finally by holding him to bail to take his trial before a jury. Such a trial, therefore, might be expected at the time of each of the publications. This court has, on more than one occasion within a few years, been called on to express its opinion judicially on the publication of preliminary and *ex parte* proceedings, and has on every occasion delivered its judgment against the legality of such proceedings, as was done by Mr. Justice Heath in the year 1804, in the case of *The King* v. *Lee*.(*a*) Other judges have delivered opinions to the same effect, and it is well known that many other persons have lamented the inconvenience and the mischievous tendency of such publications. They were, within the memory of many persons now living, rare and unfrequent; they have gradually increased in number, and are now unhappily become very frequent and numerous; but they are not on that account the less unlawful, nor is it less the duty of those to whom the administration of justice is entrusted to express their judgment against them;" and his Lordship added, that the court wished it not to be inferred from the preceding remarks that they thought the publication of *ex parte* proceedings even in that court was a matter allowable by law.

Later cases.

Lord Campbell(*b*) points out that, in all the cases relied on in support of the proposition that the publication of any preliminary proceeding before a magistrate is unlawful, there were vituperative comments accompanying the statement of the evidence, or some aggravation attending the publication of the report, or some peril which was likely to be caused to the person complaining of it, and that the same objection could not exist in the case of a report of a preliminary inquiry before a magistrate, which turned out to be unfounded and was dismissed.

"We are not prepared," said his Lordship, in delivering the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench in the case of *Lewis* v. *Levy*, "to lay down for law that the publication of preliminary inquiries before magistrates is universally lawful; but we are not prepared to lay down for law that the publication of such inquiries is universally unlawful;" and

(*a*) 5 Esp. 123.
(*b*) *Lewis* v. *Levy* (El. Bl. & El. 557; 27 L. J. 287, Q. B.

of the case of *Curry* v. *Walter* he says that it "has been often criticised, but never overturned, and often acted upon."

The legality of publishing an accurate and impartial report of the preliminary proceeding, where it has ended in the dismissal of the charge, must, as before stated, be taken to be now settled by the decision in *Lewis* v. *Levy*;(*a*) and some eminent judges have recently refused to join in unqualified disapprobation of accurate and impartial reports of proceedings which do not so end, but in which the accused is held to bail or committed for trial.

"We give no opinion," said Lord Campbell, in the case last referred to, "in favour of the general legality of publishing reports of preliminary examinations before a magistrate, where the party accused has been committed or held to bail for an indictable offence; but we cannot join in the sweeping condemnation of police reports which has been pronounced *obiter*, before the benefit arising from those reports had been fully experienced. We believe that they often lead to the detection and punishment of crime, and that they sometimes assist in the vindication of character. Against the severe denunciations of police reports by several eminent judges may be placed the following opinion of Lord Denman, C.J., solemnly delivered by him before a select committee of the House of Lords, in the year 1843, on the law of libel: 'I have no doubt that' police reports 'are extremely useful for the detection of guilt, by making facts notorious, and for bringing those facts more correctly to the knowledge of all parties interested in unravelling the truth. The public, I think, are perfectly aware that those proceedings are *ex parte*, and they become more and more aware of it in proportion to their growing intelligence; they know that such proceedings are only in course of trial, and they do not form their opinion till the trial is had. Perfect publicity of judicial proceedings is of the highest importance in other points of view, but in its effects on character I think it desirable. The statement made in open court will probably find its way to the ears of all in whose good opinion the party assailed feels an interest, probably in an exaggerated form, and the imputation may often rest on the wrong person: both these evils are prevented by correct reports.'"

And Cockburn, C.J., in a still more recent case,(*b*) referring to the modern growth of the right to publish reports of judicial proceedings, said: "Till a comparatively

(*a*) El. Bl. & El. 537; 27 L. J. 287, Q. B.
(*b*) *Wason* v. *Walter* (8 B. & S. 730; L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 94; 19 L. T. N. S. 418; 38 L. J. 34, Q. B.

recent time the sanction of the judges was thought necessary even for the publication of the decisions of courts upon points of law. Even in quite recent days judges, in holding publication of the proceedings of courts of justice lawful, have thought it necessary to distinguish what are called *ex parte* proceedings as a probable exception from the operation of the rule. Yet *ex parte* proceedings before magistrates, and even before this court—as for instance, on applications for criminal informations—are published every day, but such a thing as an action or indictment founded on a report of such an *ex parte* proceeding is unheard of; and if any such action or indictment should be brought, it would probably be held that the true criterion of the privilege is, not whether the report was or was not *ex parte*, but whether it was a fair and honest report of what had taken place, published simply with a view to the information of the public, and innocent of all intention to do injury to the reputation of the party affected."(*a*)

Result of cases.

Having regard to these remarks of judges so distinguished, it appears exceedingly doubtful whether a correct, impartial, and dispassionate report of proceedings before a magistrate, which end in the accused being held to bail or committed for trial, would now be held a libel. We know, as a matter of fact, that such reports are daily published with impunity.

Proceedings before magistrate in matter over which he has no jurisdiction.

If a matter over which he has no jurisdiction is brought before a magistrate, the publication of a report of the proceedings, containing defamatory matter, cannot be justified on the ground of its being a correct and fair report of the proceedings of a legal court.

"As to magistrates," said Lord Campbell in *Lewis* v. *Levy*,(*b*) "if, while occupying the bench from which magisterial business is usually administered, they, under pretence of giving advice, publicly hear slanderous complaints over which they have no jurisdiction, although their names may be in the commission of the peace, reports of what passes before them are as little privileged as if they were illiterate mechanics assembled in an alehouse. Hence the well decided case of *McGregor* v. *Thwaites*."

In *McGregor* v. *Thwaites*,(*c*) a Mr. Prince and a Captain

(*a*) See the case of *Pinero* v. *Goodlake* (15 L. T. N. S. 676).

(*b*) El. Bl. & El. 554; 27 L. J. 287, Q. B. Cf. *Hibbins* v. *Lee* (4 F. & F. 243), where Cockburn, C.J., laid it down that a public writer was privileged in discussing the conduct of magistrates in dismissing a charge of felony without fully hearing the evidence, and even in commenting upon the evidence given, in support of the view that the charge ought not to have been dismissed.

(*c*) 3 B. & C. 556.

Antrim waited upon the lord mayor elect (who sat for the lord mayor) to request his advice as to three orphan children who had been brought home to England by Captain Antrim from Poyais on the Mosquito Shore in America, to which place a large number of persons had emigrated from Great Britain. A report of what occurred before the magistrate was published in a newspaper, of which the following was the important part: "Mr. Prince stated that about 200 of the victims of delusion had returned from the Mosquito Shore to Honduras in a state of utter destitution, and of disease which terminated the sufferings of a great part of them soon after. They must have all died but for the charity of the people and the authorities of Honduras. The poor creatures had been led by Mr. McGregor to expect a land where they would live in the greatest plenty, where everything was flourishing, and but little labour would be required: it was mentioned to them as a mark of the improvement of the place, that a fine theatre had been established and other establishments formed, indicative, not merely of civilization and comfort, but of luxury. Captain Antrim mentioned a charge which the poor creatures had preferred to him against McGregor. Most of those who sailed from Leith were poor people, who had by their frugality saved small sums of money of from 15*l.* to 30*l.*; McGregor learned the property which the settlers had with them, and, telling them that Scotch money would not pass at the settlement, persuaded them to give it all up to him, and take his drafts for the amounts upon his bankers at Poyais. The savings were all given up to him, and it is perhaps unnecessary to add, that the settlers, on their arrival at the houseless wilds of Poyais, found that no such thing as a banking house was in existence. Captain Antrim regretted that he had not arrived sooner, as another ship had sailed with settlers for the same place just before his arrival, who, he feared, would also fall a sacrifice. He had thought it his duty to make the statement publicly, that the poor might be put on their guard." To an action of libel for the publication of this report, the publisher pleaded that Mr. Prince and Captain Antrim did go before the magistrate and make the statements charged as libellous, and that the alleged libel contained a correct and fair account of the proceedings before the magistrate, and that the facts charged in it were true. The jury having found that the report was a true, fair, and correct report of the proceedings before the lord mayor elect, but that the facts charged in it were not true, the court held that the publication could not be justified on the ground of its being a correct and fair report of what

took place before the lord mayor elect, as the matter was not brought before him in his judicial character or in the discharge of his magisterial functions.

"I think," said Littledale, J., "that the lord mayor elect had no legal authority to inquire into the matter brought before him by Captain Antrim; that he was not then exercising his office of magistrate, and that this case is to be considered in the same light as if the communication had been made to him in his private room. It is unnecessary, therefore, to decide in this case, whether the defendant would have been justified in publishing this matter in a newspaper, if it had contained a correct report of a proceeding which had taken place before a magistrate acting in a judicial capacity."

The court also held, in this case, that the defendant was not justified by reason of his having mentioned in the libel the names of the parties who stated the matter of it to the magistrate; because, as to part of the slanderous matter, no action would lie against the party who stated it to the magistrate: it had become actionable only by reason of its being published in print, and, therefore, by stating the names of the persons who uttered it, no right of action was given against them.

Report of irrelevant matter.

A newspaper reporter of the proceedings at a trial cannot be expected to discriminate nicely between what is strictly relevant and what is irrelevant to the issue; and a fair and full report would be held protected, though it contained some defamatory matter not relevant to the issue; at any rate where it is not wholly and palpably irrelevant.

"I do not concur," said Bramwell, B., in *Ryalls* v. *Leader*,(*a*) "in the suggestion made to us, viz., that what is irrelevant and libellous on a third person is not protected. There are cases where an individual must suffer for the public good, and it is difficult to draw the line between relevancy and irrelevancy." "Wherever," said Channell, B., in the same case, "the report is of something not wholly irrelevant, then, at any rate, the fact that it contains reflections on a third person does not prevent the reporter from being protected."

Report must not contain injurious comments.

The report of judicial proceedings, whatever the tribunal before which they take place, must, in order to be protected, be free from comments injurious to the character of any of the persons named in it, and must be accurate as well as fair. "The moment comments are made," said Lord Campbell,(*b*) "the immunity is gone."

(*a*) L. Rep. 1 Ex. 300; 14 L. T. N. S. 563; 35 L. J. 185, Ex.
(*b*) *Lewis* v. *Levy* (El. Bl. & El. 544). Cf. *Behrens* v. *Allen* (3 F. & F. 135).

"If any comments are made," said the same learned judge in another case,(*a*) "they should not be made as part of the report. The report should be confined to what takes place in court, and the two things, report and comment, should be kept separate."

Report should not be merely of effect of evidence.

The report of preliminary proceedings before justices ought to state nakedly, and without any high colouring, the facts as they appear in evidence; it should not describe their effect merely, as pointing to or establishing the guilt of the accused, or confirming or negativing the account of the matter given by him.

Thus, a report of the proceedings upon the hearing of a summons before a magistrate, charging a person with having committed perjury, which stated simply that the evidence before the magistrate "entirely negatived" the story of the accused, was held not to be protected; and a plea, justifying it on the ground that it was a fair and correct report of the proceedings which had taken place, was held bad, even after verdict for the defendant.(*b*) "The reporter," said Lord Campbell, "takes upon himself to aver that the evidence adduced against the plaintiff entirely negatived his story. Such conclusions are wholly unjustifiable. And, where the report of law proceedings has mixed up with it commentaries reflecting upon any of the parties whose names appear in it, it entirely loses the privilege which it might otherwise claim."

This observation of Lord Campbell's must, of course, be limited, in its application, to remarks of a defamatory character which cannot be justified as fair and *bonâ fide* comments on a matter of public interest; such fair and *bonâ fide* comments being, as we have before seen,(*c*) protected.

It must also be borne in mind that not all comments require a justification. Some comments are little more than another mode of stating what has gone before. "It would be extravagant," said Lord Denman, C.J., in *Cooper* v. *Lawson*,(*d*) "to say that in cases of libel, every comment upon facts requires a justification. But a comment may introduce independent facts, a justification of which is necessary. A comment may be the mere shadow of the previous imputation; but if it infers a new fact, the defendant must abide by that inference of fact, and the fairness of the comment must be decided upon by the jury."

A highly-coloured account of the trial of a prosecution against an attorney and judge of a court of conscience for

(*a*) *Andrews* v. *Chapman* (3 Car. & Kir. 288.)
(*b*) *Lewis* v. *Levy* (El. Bl. & El. 544).
(*c*) See the preceding chapter. (*d*) 8 A. & El. 753.

an assault—headed "judicial delinquency," calling him "our hero," describing, amongst other similar things, how, on the instant of being pronounced guilty, he bustled out of court, "reduced to a condition in which ordinary manners or brutality might be expected to excite some little compassion;" how he was pursued by hisses, and "the feelings of disgust and indignation triumphed over the decorum of the court;" and adding that "though it clearly appeared from the testimony of every person that was in the room" when the assault was committed, *except* him, that no violence had been used against him, yet he had sworn to a violent assault committed upon him by the prosecutor—was attempted to be justified by a plea, referring generally to "such parts of the supposed libel as purport to contain an account or statement of the trial," and stating that such parts contained a just and faithful account of the trial; but the court gave judgment for the plaintiff.(*a*) Lord Ellenborough, C.J., said that the case of *Curry* v. *Walter*(*b*) only shows that a fair, plain, unvarnished account of proceedings in a court of justice is not a libel; but not that a highly-coloured picture, mixed up with insinuations of perjury, is not a libel.(*c*)

Report must not insinuate a charge of perjury.

The report must not even insinuate that any of the witnesses had committed perjury.

Thus, where an account of the proceedings under a commission of lunacy, in which the plaintiff had been examined as a witness (to prove the insanity of Mr. W.), did not set out his evidence, but stated shortly that "it was *attempted to be proved* by the testimony of Mr. R., the plaintiff, that Mr. W. had conversed in a peculiar manner with him on a certain day;" that "on this evidence it was *meant to be inferred* that Mr. W. was insane at that time and on that day; but Mr. R.'s testimony being *unsupported* by that of any other person, it failed to have any effect on the jury;" that "the *object of fixing* on *the 22nd of September* was to set aside a will supposed to be made on that day;" and concluded thus: "Mr. Jervis made a splendid speech of two hours' duration in favour of Mr. W.'s sanity, and commented with cutting severity on the testimony of Mr. R.," it was held that the whole publication, taken together, was libellous, and that a plea justifying the concluding sentence only was bad on demurrer.(*d*) "Reading the whole of the libel together," said Tindal, C.J., "it is impossible not to perceive that the

(*a*) *Stiles* v. *Nokes* (7 East, 453) (*b*) 1 Bos. & P. 525.
(*c*) 7 East, 504. (*d*) *Roberts* v. *Brown* (4 Moo. & S. 407; 10 Biug. 519).

intention of the writer was not simply to convey an idea that the speech made on the occasion alluded to was cutting and severe, but that the severity was deserved. . . . . The statements that 'it was attempted to be proved,' &c., that 'it was meant to be inferred,' that the plaintiff's testimony was 'unsupported,' and that the 'object' of fixing on the day named was to set aside a will—all clearly show that the writer of the paragraph intended to convey the imputation that the plaintiff's testimony was untrue, and got up for the occasion, and discredited by the jury. Then the conclusion, that Mr. Jervis 'made a splendid speech, and commented with *cutting severity* on the testimony of the plaintiff,' was calculated, in conjunction with what had gone before, to impress the reader with a notion that the severity was deserved, and the force of it felt by the plaintiff, from a consciousness of its justice." Parke, J., added: "I think it impossible to read the publication in question without coming to the conclusion that it is libellous, inasmuch as it imputes perjury to the plaintiff; and a defendant has no right to select for justification a part of a libel which, standing alone, would possibly not be actionable."(*a*)

A newspaper report of an examination into the sufficiency of the sureties on an election petition, before the examiners appointed under 9 Geo. 4, c. 22, s. 7, set forth affidavits stating circumstances to show that the plaintiff, who had sworn to his own sufficiency as one of the sureties, was embarrassed in his affairs, unable to pay his debts, and an insufficient surety; and, after asking why, being unconnected with the borough, he should take so much trouble about the matter, proceeded—"There can be but one answer to these very natural and reasonable queries: *he is hired* for the occasion." The publisher of the newspaper; against whom an action of libel was brought, having pleaded that the publication was a correct report of proceedings in a legal court, together with a fair and *bonâ fide* commentary thereon, it was held that the statement as to the plaintiff's being hired for the occasion, not being mere inference from the previous statement, but introducing a substantive fact, required a distinct justification; and, therefore, that, on the trial of an issue on a replication *de injuriâ* to the above plea, it was properly left to the jury to say, not only whether the evidence made out the facts first alleged, but also whether the imputation that the plaintiff had been hired was a fair comment.(*b*) "I do not say,"

(*a*) See also *Stiles* v. *Nokes* (7 East, 453).
(*b*) *Cooper* v. *Lawson* (8 A. & El. 746).

said Patteson, J., "that in all cases where an alleged libel consists partly of comment, it should be left to the jury to say whether the comment is fair, because if, as the Attorney-General has put it, the words were 'he has murdered his father, and therefore is a disgrace to human nature,' it would be ridiculous to ask whether the observation was or was not a fair comment. But where the comment raises an imputation of motives which may or may not be a just inference from the preceding statement, it is a distinct libel. That is so here; and therefore the question put to the jury related to a material part of the issue." "The plea," said Lord Denman, C.J., "is perfectly good, justifying the libel; partly as the report of proceedings before a court, partly as stating that which is in itself true, and partly as giving a fair and *bonâ fide* commentary on the proceedings stated. Now, a comment may be the mere shadow of the previous imputation; but if it infers a new fact, the defendant must abide by that inference of fact, and the fairness of the comment must be decided upon by a jury. The defendant here cannot say that if the plaintiff became bail under the circumstances stated, it followed as a necessary inference that he was hired."

Report must be accurate.

The report, in order to be protected, must be not only *bonâ fide*, but also accurate, that is, substantially accurate. It need not be a *verbatim* report, or set out fully all that occurred at the trial; but, if it summarises or abridges, it must do so fairly, and not give a one-sided complexion to the narrative.

Condensed report.

On this subject Lord Campbell, C.J.,(*a*) thus explained the law to a jury: "The privilege—a valuable privilege for the public—of publishing reports of proceedings in courts of justice would be useless if it were necessary to set out every word of the evidence and of the speeches, and of what was said by the judge. However, that is not necessary; if what is stated is substantially a fair account of what took place, there is an entire immunity for those who publish it."

Another learned judge (Byles, J.) directed a jury that newspapers had a full right to publish either a *verbatim* or an abridged or condensed report of what passed in courts of justice; and, however it might affect the character of an individual, he had no ground for an action of libel unless it was an unfair report. In reporting the proceedings of courts of justice omissions and abridgments were essential, but they must not be such as to change the com-

(*a*) *Andrews* v. *Chapman* (3 C. & Kir. 289).

plexion of the transaction; if they did, there would not be a fair and just report.(*a*)

Where the report of a trial professed to give a short summary of the facts of the case, and stated that the counsel for the defendant was both extremely severe and amusing at the expense of the plaintiff's attorney; and then, without setting out the evidence, professed to give an outline of the speech of defendant's counsel, the part set out containing some very severe reflections on the conduct of the plaintiff's attorney in advising the form of action with a view to his own profit, a plea justifying the report as being *in substance* a true report of the trial was held bad on demurrer.(*b*)

Report setting out facts as stated by counsel for one party.

A report is not justifiable which merely sets out the circumstances of the case "as stated by the counsel for" one of the parties, and does not give the evidence.

Such a report, said Tindal, C.J., does "not even profess to be an account taken from evidence given at the trial, nor even to be an account taken from counsel's statement, but afterwards corrected by the evidence given in the cause Everybody knows that the statement of a counsel is *ex parte*, and that he is often instructed to make allegations which it is afterwards impossible to support in proof. Would it be either safe or proper that after a cause has been tried, a statement which the evidence has not at all supported should be published in a newspaper; and then, merely because that statement had been made by a counsel, it should be held to be privileged? Ought such a publication to be considered a fair report of what had passed in court, although the evidence afterwards given might not only not support, but might even to some extent contradict it? Ought such a publication to be privileged? I conceive not; and I think that such will not be held to be the law of the land."(*c*)

Still less can a report be justified which not only does not give the evidence, but adds to the speech of counsel, which it sets out, that all that he stated was proved.

Thus, where a report of the trial of the plaintiff (an attorney) and two other persons for a conspiracy to defraud the under-sheriff of Hants, set out the speech of the counsel for the prosecution, and then continued: "The first witness was R. P., who proved all that had been stated by the counsel for the prosecution; Mr. J. G., the

(*a*) *Turner* v. *Sullivan* (6 L. T. N. S. 130)
(*b*) *Flint* v. *Pike* (4 B. & C. 473).
(*c*) *Saunders* v. *Mills* (6 Bing. 218).

attesting witness to the bill of sale from the sheriff to Messrs. W., was next called, but not being able to prove a deputation from the under-sheriff for that year, the jury, under the directions of the learned judge, were obliged to give a verdict of acquittal, to the great regret of a crowded court, on whom the statement and the evidence, so far as it went, made a strong impression of their guilt;" a plea justifying the report on the ground that in fact such a speech had been made, and that the witness called proved all that had been so stated, but not setting out the evidence or justifying the truth of the charges made in the counsel's speech, was held bad on demurrer.(*a*) "The objection," said Abbott, C.J.,(*b*) "taken to the plea seems to me to be unanswerable. It is asserted in the libel that a certain witness proved the allegations contained in a speech made by counsel in stating a case to the jury. Now that justification cannot be supported. The defendant ought to have detailed and transcribed in the publication the evidence of the witness. If he had done so, his readers might then have judged for themselves. If a party is to be allowed to publish what passes in a court of justice, he must publish the whole case, and not merely state the conclusion which he himself draws from the evidence." "It is no justification," said Bayley, J., "that a defendant has truly stated, in his publication, the speech made by counsel in stating a case to the jury; he must go further and show the truth of the facts there stated. It is the duty of a counsel to state facts, although they may be injurious to the character of individuals, and he is privileged so to do, if he speaks conscientiously according to his instructions; (*c*) but if it were to follow that others might repeat what he says, it might be most injurious to the character of individuals; for, as to them, the reason for the privilege, which is the advancement of public justice, does not apply."

Slight errors in reports.

Slight errors must sometimes occur in reports of trials; and if any one of the parties in a case complains of the tendency of a report to injure him, the jury will be asked to determine whether, under all the circumstances of the case, the publication amounts to a libel.

Where the writer of a treatise on the "Law of Attorneys" referred in his book to the case of the plaintiff, as that of an attorney who had been struck off the rolls, whereas he had only been suspended for two years, as appeared

(*a*) *Lewis* v. *Walter* (4 B. & Ald. 605). (*b*) *Id.* 612.
(*c*) See *Hodgson* v. *Scarlett* (1 B. & Ald. 232).

from the very report of the case cited by the writer, Cockburn, C.J., after pointing out to the jury the important distinction between the two punishments, and that the misstatement was an unintentional mistake, left it to them to say whether it was a statement reasonably fair of that which was contained in the report, and whether it was a mistake which arose from want of reasonable diligence and care.(*a*)

The plaintiff and M. having been convicted of a conspiracy to extort money from a third person, an action of libel was brought against the publisher of a report of the trial, for publishing that the counsel who moved for judgment had stated the plaintiff to have been the writer of one letter, which was not in fact written by him, but by his co-conspirator. The plaintiff's evidence on the trial proving the great probability of the counsel alluded to having in fact made the statement reported, it was held that it was properly left to the jury to say whether the publication was a libel, and, the jury having found a verdict of not guilty, that this was not contrary to the evidence.(*b*)

Report of action for libel setting out the libel.

An action of libel was brought against the proprietors of a newspaper for publishing what purported to be a report of the trial of another action of libel, brought by the same plaintiff against the proprietors of another newspaper, who justified the libel on the ground of its truth. The report stated the libel on which the original action was brought, the defendant's proofs on the justification, and the judge's summing up, and ended by stating that the plaintiff had a verdict for 30*l*. No proof was given that such a trial had taken place, or whether, if it had, the report in question was a fair and impartial report of it. Lord Abinger, C.B., told the jury that if, in their opinion, the report was so worded as to indicate a malicious motive against the plaintiff, or to be injurious to his character by misstatement, or by conveying an insinuation of his being actually guilty of the matter originally imputed, notwithstanding he was stated to have obtained damages for the imputation, or if the report of such a trial having taken place was pure fiction invented by the defendants, their verdict should be for the plaintiff; but if they thought otherwise, or, that the report, though containing some allegations prejudicial to the plaintiff, yet when taken altogether, with the alleged verdict in his favour, was not on the whole injurious to him, the verdict should be for the defendants. The jury having found for the

(*a*) *Blake* v. *Stevens* (11 L. T. N. S. 544; 4 F. & F. 239).
(*b*) *Stockdale* v. *Tarte* (4 A. & El. 1016).

defendants, the court refused a rule for a new trial on the ground of misdirection.(*a*)

"In *Dicas* v. *Lawson*," said Alderson, B., "the plaintiff complained of the report of a trial containing strong observations on his character, but also stating that he had obtained a verdict for 50*l*. damages. The report was said to be libellous, because it set out the charge made against the plaintiff in the first publication. At the trial I told the jury to look at the whole publication and to consider whether, taking the whole of it together, it was such as would be likely to depreciate the plaintiff's character; and the jury decided that it was not, because they found that the damages awarded to the plaintiff took away the impression which would otherwise arise from the statement. On an application for a new trial, the court approved my direction. I perfectly agree that the law will infer malice from the act of uttering or publishing slanderous matter actionable in itself and not justified by sufficient cause; but the question here for a jury is, whether slanderous matter has or has not been published. That question has been decided by them, under a direction to take the whole together and consider whether the result is calculated to injure the plaintiff's character. If the whole be not slanderous matter, and prejudicial to the plaintiff, it is not actionable; for, though in one part of the publication something disreputable be imputed to him, it is removed by the conclusion which the jury, sworn to judge of its tendency, have arrived at; the 'bane and antidote' are together, and for the jury to consider. Nor can we suppose, without proof, that the occurrence of such a trial was mere invention, or that newspapers publish reports of merely imaginary trials."(*b*)

In an old case (1732) one Lofield, having recovered 1100*l*. damages in an action against a person named Bankcroft for maliciously charging him with felony, published in the news "that Bankcroft had conspired to charge him with this felony, that in vindication of his character he had brought an action against Bankcroft for so doing, and had recovered 1100*l*. damages against him." The Court of King's Bench made absolute a rule for a criminal information against Lofield for this publication, because it falsely represented the fact; for Lofield did not bring his action for a conspiracy, but for Bankcroft's maliciously charging him with felony, and a conspiracy requires an infamous judgment.(*c*)

(*a*) *Chalmers* v. *Payne* (5 Tyrw. 766).
(*b*) *Id.* 769.
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Lofield* (2 Barn. Rep. 128).

Heading to report.

Care must be taken not to put a general heading of a libellous character to what may be in other respects a fair report of a judicial proceeding. A particular case, in which an attorney has treated his client badly will not, according to Byles, J.,(*a*) justify the prefixing to the report of that case a general heading in the words "How Lawyer B. treats his clients."

So, where a newspaper published a report of proceedings in the Insolvent Debtors' Court headed "Shameful Conduct of an Attorney," a plea stating that the alleged libel contained a correct account of what took place in court was, even after verdict for the defendant, held bad, on motion *non obstante veredicto*, on the ground that by the prefatory words the defendant had taken upon himself to make the allegation of shameful conduct against the plaintiff.(*b*)

II. Reports of Parliamentary Proceedings.

Reports of parliamentary debates privileged.

Reports of proceedings in Parliament(*c*) may now be

(*a*) *Bishop* v. *Latimer* (4 L. T. N. S. 775).

(*b*) *Lewis* v. *Clement* (3 B. & Ald. 702.) See *Lewis* v. *Levy* (El. Bl. & El. 537; 27 L. J. 287, Q. B.).

(*c*) For our reports of such fragments of the parliamentary debates of earlier times as have come down to us, we are indebted to the private labours of such compilers as Sir Symonds D'Ewes, in his journal of Queen Elizabeth's Parliament; Sir Benjamin Rudyard (time of Charles I.); Burton, who made reports of the Commonwealth Parliaments; Anchitell Grey, who recorded the proceedings of Charles II.'s Parliaments; and Somers, who took pencil notes of the debates of the Convention. The first who ventured on the practice of publishing regular reports for general readers, appear to have been the publishers of "The Political State of Great Britain." Various resolutions had from time to time been passed by both Houses against publishing reports of their debates. There is a standing order of the House of Lords of the 27th of February, 1698, declaring "that it is a breach of the privilege of this House, for any person whatsoever to print, or publish in print, anything relating to the proceedings of the House, without the leave of the House;" and that House, in 1801, fined one Allan Macleod 100*l*., and committed him to Newgate for six months for publishing in *The Albion and Evening Advertiser* certain paragraphs ordered to be expunged from the journals of the House, and also a report of the debate thereupon (43 Lords' J. 105); and, in the same year, the printer and the publisher of the *Morning Herald* were committed to the custody of the Black Rod, for publishing in that paper what purported to be an account of a debate, which the House resolved to be a scandalous misrepresentation of what had passed (43 Lords' J. 60). The House of Commons ordered, in 1641, "That no member shall either give a copy or publish in print anything that he shall speak here, without leave of the House" (2 Com. J. 209); and in 1642 resolved "That what person soever shall print or sell any act or passages of this House, under the name of a diurnal or otherwise, without the particular licence of this House, shall be reputed a high contemner and breaker of the privilege of Parliament, and so punished accordingly:" (2 Com. J. 220.) In 1694 the House resolved

PART IV. CHAPTER IX.

regarded as standing on the same footing with reports of proceedings in courts of justice.

For a long time the law on the subject remained in a

"That no news-letter writers do in their letters, or other papers that they disperse, presume to intermeddle with the debates or any other proceedings of this House (11 Com. J. 193): and repeated the same resolution in 1695 (*Id.* 439), 1697 (12 Com. J. 48), 1703 (14 Com. J. 270) and 1722 (20 Com. J. 99). In the last-mentioned year the Commons also resolved, "That no printer or publisher, of any printed newspapers, do presume to insert in any such papers any debates or any other proceedings of this House or any committee thereof:" (*Ib.*) In 1728 the House resolved, "That it is an indignity to, and a breach of the privilege of, this House, for any person to presume to give, in written or printed newspapers, any account or minutes of the debates or other proceedings of this House, or of any committee thereof;" and "that upon discovery of the authors, printers, or publishers of any such written or printed newspaper, this House will proceed against the offenders with the utmost severity:" (21 Com. J. 238. See further orders, 23 Com. J. 148; 23 Com. J. 754; 29 Com. J. 207.) In a debate which took place on the subject in 1738, Mr. Pulteney said he thought no appeals should be made to the public with regard to what was said in the House, "and to print or publish the speeches of gentlemen in this House, even though they were not misrepresented, looks very like making them accountable without doors for what they say within. Besides, sir," added the honourable member, "we know very well that no man can be so guarded in his expressions as to wish to see everything he says in this House in print:" (Parl. Hist. vol. 10, p. 283.) Sir Robert Walpole, in the same debate, complained (p. 285) that in some of the reports he had been made to speak the very reverse of what he meant; and that in others, all the wit, the learning, and the argument had been thrown into one side, and into the other nothing but what was low, mean, and ridiculous; and yet, when it came to the question, the division has gone against the side which upon the face of the debate, had reason and justice to support it, so that, had he been a stranger to the proceedings and the nature of the arguments themselves, he must have thought this to be one of the most contemptible assemblies on the face of the earth. The debate ended in a resolution, "That it is a high indignity to, and a notorious breach of the privilege of this House, for any news-writer, in letters or other papers (as minutes, or under any other denomination), or for any printer or publisher of any printed newspaper of any denomination, to presume to insert in the said letters or papers, or to give therein, any account of the debates or other proceedings of this House, or any committee thereof, as well during the recess as the sitting of Parliament; and that this House will proceed with the utmost severity against such offenders." It must be remembered that there was considerable ground for complaining of the manner in which the debates were at this time misrepresented in the reports which appeared; language and sentiments being frequently attributed to members which they never used or entertained. We are told in Hawkins's "Life of Johnson," that the parliamentary reports written by him (for the *Gentleman's Magazine*) were the only part of his writings which gave him any compunction; being frequently written from very slender materials, and often from none at all—the mere coinage of his own imagination. Of Pitt's famous speech in reply to Horace Walpole, we learn from "Boswell's Life of Johnson" that the Doctor avowed his

doubtful state, but the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in the recent case of *Wason* v. *Walter*(*a*) may be considered to have placed beyond doubt(*b*) the right to publish, without liability to civil action or criminal proceeding, a full and fair report of parliamentary debates, even though they contain matter defamatory of an individual.(*c*)

Wason v. *Walter*.

In that case an action was brought against the publisher of the *Times* newspaper, for an alleged libel contained in a report of a debate, which took place in the House of Lords, on the presentation of a petition by the plaintiff, charging a high judicial officer with having been guilty of dishonourable conduct many years previously. Cockburn, C.J., directed the jury that if they were satisfied that the matter charged as a libel was a faithful and correct report of the proceedings in the House of Lords, and of the speeches delivered on the occasion, it was in point of law a privileged publication, and one which was not the subject of a civil action. The jury having found a verdict for the defendant, a rule *nisi* was obtained for a new trial on the ground of misdirection, which was afterwards discharged. The decision

having written it in a garret in Exeter-street; adding "I saved appearances tolerably well; but I took care that the Whig dogs should not have the best of it." In order to evade the resolutions of the Houses of Parliament against the publication of their debates, recourse was had to the expedient of publishing them as the debates in the senate of Magna Lilliputia, or as the debates in the Roman Senate, with Roman names adapted to the several speeches. In 1771, Colonel George Onslow made a complaint to the House of Commons of a number of newspapers, as misrepresenting the speeches and reflecting on several of the members of the House, in contempt of the order, and in breach of the privilege of the House, and moved that the printers should be brought to justice. Warm and long-continued debates ensued; orders were issued for the arrest of the printers; the city was in a ferment; mobs assembled around the House; and ultimately the offending printers were wrested by force from the hands of the parliamentary messengers. Since this time no attempt has been made to check the publication of debates of either House.

(*a*) L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 73; 19 L. T. N. S. 409; 38 L. J. 34, Q. B.

(*b*) A bill of exceptions was tendered to the ruling of the learned judge (Cockburn, C.J.), who presided at the trial at Nisi Prius; but the matter has not since been carried any further.

(*c*) Lord Campbell tried in 1843 (see Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, 3rd series, vol. 70, p. 1254), and again in 1858 (see Hansard, vol. 149, p. 947), but on both occasions unsuccessfully, to give, by Act of Parliament, an immunity to faithful reports of any proceedings in either House of Parliament, at which strangers were permitted to be present. One of the main grounds insisted on for resisting Lord Campbell's bill was that there was no necessity for legislation, inasmuch as no action had ever been brought in respect of the publication of a parliamentary debate: (see *per* Cockburn, C.J., *Wason* v. *Walter*, *ubi supra*, and the remarks of Lord Brougham in the 70th vol. of Hansard, p. 1225).

of the court was delivered by Cockburn, C.J., in an elaborate judgment.

"The main question for our decision," said his Lordship, "is, whether a faithful report in a public newspaper of a debate in either House of Parliament, containing matter disparaging to the character of an individual as having been spoken in the course of the debate, is actionable at the suit of the party whose character has thus been called in question. We are of opinion that it is not. Important as the question is, it comes now for the first time before a court of law for decision. Numerous as are the instances in which the conduct and character of individuals have been called in question in Parliament, during the many years that parliamentary debates have been reported in the public journals, this is the first instance in which an action of libel, founded on a report of a parliamentary debate, has come before a court of law. There is, therefore, a total absence of direct authority to guide us. There are, indeed, *dicta* of learned judges having reference to the point in question, but they are conflicting and inconclusive, and, having been unnecessary to the decision of the cases in which they were pronounced, may be said to be extra-judicial. . . . . Both the principles on which the exemption from legal consequences is extended to the publication of the proceedings of courts of justice, appear to us to be applicable to the case before us. The presumption of malice is negatived in the one case as in the other by the fact that the publication has in view the instruction and advantage of the public, and has no reference to the party concerned. There is also in the one case as in the other a preponderance of general good over partial and occasional evil. We entirely concur with Lawrence, J., in *Rex* v. *Wright*,(*a*) that the same reasons which apply to the reports of the proceedings in courts of justice apply also to proceedings in Parliament. It seems to us impossible to doubt that it is of paramount public and national importance that the proceedings of the Houses of Parliament shall be communicated to the public, who have the deepest interest in knowing what passes within their walls; seeing that on what is there said and done, the welfare of the community depends. Where would be our confidence in the Government of the country, or in the Legislature by which our laws are framed, and to whose charge the great interests of the country are committed? where would be our attachment to the constitution under which we live, if the proceedings of the great council of the realm were shrouded in secrecy, and concealed

(*a*) 8 T. R. 298.

from the knowledge of the nation? How could the communications between the representatives of the people and their constituents, which are so essential to the working of the representative system, be usefully carried on, if the constituencies were kept in ignorance of what their representatives are doing? What would become of the right of petitioning on all measures pending in Parliament, the undoubted right of the subject, if the people are to be kept in ignorance of what is passing in either House? Can any man bring himself to doubt that the publicity given in modern times to what passes in Parliament, is essential to the maintenance of the relations between the Government, the Legislature, and the country at large? It may, no doubt, be said that, while it may be necessary as a matter of national interest that the proceedings of Parliament should in general be made public, yet that debates in which the character of individuals is brought into question ought to be suppressed. But to this, in addition to the difficulty in which parties publishing Parliamentary reports would be placed if this distinction were to be enforced, and every debate had to be critically scanned to see whether it contained defamatory matter, it may be further answered that there is, perhaps, no subject in which the public have a deeper interest than in all that relates to the conduct of public servants of the state—no subject of Parliamentary discussion which more requires to be made known than an inquiry relating to it. . . . . Lastly, what greater anomaly or more flagrant injustice could present itself than that, while from a sense of the importance of giving publicity to their proceedings, the Houses of Parliament not only sanction the reporting of their debates, but also take measures for *giving facility to those who report them;* while every member of the educated portion of the community, from the highest to the lowest, looks with eager interest to the debates of either House, and considers it a part of the duty of the public journals to furnish an account of what passes there, we were to hold that a party publishing a Parliamentary debate is to be held liable to legal proceedings, because the conduct of a particular individual may happen to be called in question?"(*a*)

Standing orders.

To an argument urged against the legality of publishing parliamentary proceedings as being in contravention of the standing orders of both Houses of Parliament, his Lordship replied: "The fact, no doubt, is that each House of

(*a*) L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 82, 89, 90; 19 L. T. N. S. 415, 416; 38 L. J. 38, 41, 42, Q. B.

Parliament does, by its standing orders, prohibit the publication of its debates. But, practically, each House not only permits, but also sanctions and encourages the publication of its proceedings, and actually gives every facility to those who report them. Individual members correct their speeches for publication in Hansard, or the public journals; and, in every debate, reports of former speeches contained therein are constantly referred to. Collectively, as well as individually, the members of both Houses would deplore, as a national misfortune, the withholding their debates from the country at large. Practically speaking, therefore, it is idle to say that the publication of Parliamentary proceedings is prohibited by Parliament. The standing orders which prohibit it are obviously maintained only to give to each House the control over the publication of its proceedings, and the power of preventing or correcting any abuse of the facility afforded. Independently of the orders of the Houses, there is nothing unlawful in publishing reports of parliamentary proceedings. Practically, such publication is sanctioned by Parliament; it is essential to the working of our parliamentary system, and to the welfare of the nation. Any argument founded on its alleged illegality appears to us, therefore, entirely to fail. Should either House of Parliament ever be so ill advised as to prevent its proceedings from being made known to the country—which certainly never will be the case—any publication of its debates made in contravention of its orders would be a matter between the House and the publisher. For the present purpose, we must treat such publication as in every respect lawful, and hold that, while honestly and faithfully carried on, those who publish them will be free from legal responsibility, though the character of individuals may incidentally be injuriously affected."(*a*)

Report must not be partial or garbled.

The report, in order to be protected, must be a full and fair one of the entire debate, setting out whatever is said in favour of, as well as what is said against, the individual whose conduct may be the subject of discussion. A report of only that part of a debate which reflects on an individual, or one which unfairly and injuriously represents its bearing upon him, would not be justifiable. "The analogy between the case of reports of proceedings of courts of justice and those of proceedings in Parliament being complete, all the limitations placed on the one, to prevent injustice to individuals, will necessarily attach to the other. A garbled or partial report, or of detached parts of proceedings, published with intent to injure individuals, will equally be disentitled

(*a*) L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 95; 19 L. T. N. S. 418; 38 L. J. 45, Q. B.

to protection. . . . . Whatever would deprive a report of the proceedings in a court of justice of immunity will equally apply to a report of proceedings in Parliament."(a)

Though a member of either House may, with impunity, make, in the House, a speech defamatory of an individual, the publication of that speech alone, whether by himself or by another person, is libellous; unless, perhaps, where it is published *bonâ fide* for the information of his constituents. Publication by a member of a single speech.

In *Rex* v. *Lord Abingdon*,(b) tried before Lord Kenyon, in 1774, the defendant had, in the House of Lords, read from a written paper a speech highly defamatory of an attorney, and afterwards had it published in several newspapers; for which a criminal information was filed against him. On the trial he argued that, as his privilege of Parliament gave him immunity for the delivering of the speech in the House, he was also dispunishable for its publication; but Lord Kenyon held that, although the defendant was not amenable to the jurisdiction of the court for a speech delivered in Parliament, yet he was liable for its publication, if it contained defamatory matter, remarking, "that a member of Parliament had certainly a right to publish his speech, but that speech should not be made the vehicle of slander against any individual; if it was, it was a libel."

Rex v. *Creevy*(c) was a stronger case. There the defendant, a member of the House of Commons, had made, in the course of a debate, a speech containing several charges against a man named Kirkpatrick. An incorrect report of the debate having appeared in the Liverpool and other papers, the defendant sent a correct report of his speech to the editor of a Liverpool paper, with a request that he would publish it, which was done. On the trial of a criminal information, the learned judge told the jury, on the authority of *Rex* v. *Lord Abingdon*, that a member of Parliament was answerable for publishing what he has delivered in his speech in Parliament, if it contains defamatory matter. The jury having found the defendant guilty, a motion was made in the King's Bench for a new trial, on the ground of misdirection, but the court unanimously refused to grant a rule. Lord Ellenborough, C.J., said: "A member of the House of Commons has spoken what he thought material, and what he was at liberty to speak in his character as a member of that House. So far he was privileged: but he has not stopped there; but, unauthorised by the House, has chosen to publish an account of that

(a) *Per* Cockburn, C.J., *Wason* v. *Walter* (*ubi supra*).
(b) 1 Esp. 226.
(c) 1 M. & S. 273.

speech in what he has pleased to call a more corrected form; and in that publication has thrown out reflections injurious to the character of an individual. The only question is, whether the occasion of that publication rebuts the inference of malice arising from the matter of it. Has he a right to reiterate these reflections to the public; and to address them as an *oratio ad populum*, in order to explain his conduct to his constituents? There is no case in practice, nor, I believe, any proposition laid down by the best text writers upon the subject, that leads to such a conclusion." To the same effect, Le Blanc, J.: "Every member had privilege of speech in Parliament; but when he published his speech to the world, it then became the subject of common law jurisdiction; and the circumstances of its being accurate or intended to correct a misrepresentation, would not the less make him amenable to the common law in respect of the publication."

Authority of *Rex* v. *Creevy*.

The authority of *Rex* v. *Creevy*, so far as it is understood to decide that the publication of his speech by a member of Parliament can, under no circumstances, be justified, if it contains matter defamatory of an individual, is much weakened by the opinions expressed with reference to it by eminent judges in two recent cases.

In *Davison* v. *Duncan*,(*a*) Lord Campbell, C.J., said: "As *Rex* v. *Creevy* has been mentioned, I will add that, though I perfectly concur in the doctrine of *Rex* v. *Lord Abingdon*, that a malicious publication of his speech by a member of either House of the Legislature is not privileged, I should think that a publication of a report of his speech by a member of the House of Commons, *bonâ fide* addressed to his constituents, would be privileged;" and Crompton, J., added that, "The privilege in such a case would arise because the publication was as a communication between a member and his constituents, and not because it was a report of what took place in Parliament."

In the more recent case of *Wason* v. *Walter*,(*b*) Cockburn, C.J., in delivering the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, said: "Our judgment will in no way interfere with the decisions that the publication of a single speech for the purpose, or with the effect of, injuring an individual, will be unlawful, as was held in the cases of *Rex* v. *Lord Abingdon* and *Rex* v. *Creevy*. At the same time it may be as well to observe that we are disposed to agree with what was said in *Davison* v. *Duncan*, as to such a speech being privileged, if *bonâ fide* published by a member for the information of his constituents."

(*a*) 7 El. & Bl. 233; 26 L. J. 107, Q. B. (*b*) *Ubi supra*.

III. REPORTS OF PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Reports of public meetings not privileged.

Fair and correct reports of the proceedings at public meetings do not enjoy the same privilege as similar reports of judicial or parliamentary proceedings.

"A fair account of what takes place in a court of justice," says Lord Campbell,(*a*) "is privileged. The reason is that the balance of public benefit from the publicity is great. It is of great consequence that the public should know what takes place in court; and the proceedings are under the control of the judges. The inconvenience, therefore, arising from the chance of the injury to private character is infinitesimally small as compared to the convenience of publicity. But it has never yet been contended that such a privilege extends to a report of what takes place at all public meetings. Even if confined to a report of what was relevant to the object of the meeting, it would extend the privilege to an alarming extent. . . . . At such meetings things may well be said very relevant to the subject in hand, yet very calumnious. In what an unhappy situation the calumniated person would be, if the calumny might be published, and yet he could not bring an action and challenge the publishers to prove its truth! The Legislature may think fit to extend the privilege of publication beyond the limits to which it now goes. If it does, it can impose such restrictions on the extension as it thinks fit. We in a court of law can only say how the law now stands; and, according to that, it is clear the action lies, and the plea is bad."

The action in this case was for a libel published in a country newspaper, and purporting to be an account of the proceedings of a meeting of the West Hartlepool Improvement Commissioners, at which a licence from the Bishop of Durham to the chaplain of the West Hartlepool cemetery was said by some of the commissioners to have been procured by the plaintiff, the late bishop's secretary, from the present bishop, by misrepresentations. The defendant pleaded that the various matters, stated in the libel to have taken place, did take place at a public meeting of the commissioners, acting under the powers of the West Hartlepool Improvement Act, 1854, and that the alleged libel was a just, true, faithful, correct, and accurate report of what took place at the meeting, and was published without malice. The plea was held bad.(*b*)

Meeting to petition Parliament.

A libellous publication cannot be justified on the ground

(*a*) *Davison* v. *Duncan* (7 El. & Bl. 231; 26 L. J. 106, Q. B.).
(*b*) *Ib.*

Meetings of Boards of Guardians.

that the matter contained in it was promulgated at a public meeting called to petition Parliament.(a)

In an Irish case,(b) in which the privilege accorded to reports of proceedings of courts of justice was claimed for reports of the meetings of boards of guardians, Pigot, C.B., said: "A difference, great and obvious, exists between their proceedings and those of courts of law, in reference to some, at least, of the grounds on which the publication of fair reports of the latter are generally held to be privileged. Courts of justice are open to all the public who can conveniently be accommodated within them. The public have a right to be admitted to witness their proceedings. No such right exists of being admitted to witness the proceedings of boards of guardians; they have the power of deliberating (I believe rarely exercised, and, I believe, the rarer the better) with closed doors. Again, every court of justice has some presiding authority, with ample power to maintain order, and to control within due bounds the discussions which take place before it. The guardians have no presiding authority save that of the chairman, with very limited powers. It is obvious that, in such a body, discussions and accusations may take place altogether *ex parte*, and may be made the medium of the most injurious charges against individuals in their absence, without inquiry without even adequate means of instituting inquiry, or of enforcing the production of proofs, and without any presiding authority having sufficient power to control or direct the proceedings."

Report made to vestry by officer of health.

Even where the Legislature renders imperative the publication, at a specified time, of a report made by a medical officer of health to a vestry board, and directs that copies shall be given to any person on paying for them, a publisher of a newspaper will not be justified in publishing it, even without comment, as part of a report of the proceedings of the parish vestry, at any rate before it has been published by the vestry, as directed by the Act of Parliament.(c)

A newspaper proprietor was held liable for publishing, under the circumstances last referred to, the following libel of the plaintiff, a chemist and druggist: "I communicated some time since with the Registrar-General upon the giving of false medical certificates by Mr. P., of Exmouth-street.

(a) *Hearne* v. *Stowell* (12 A. & E. 719).

(b) *Pierce* v. *Ellis* (6 Ir. L. Rep N. S. 65, 66). In this case the defendant handed to the newspaper reporter a correct report of his own speech, and the court was of opinion that it appeared on the defence itself, that the report of the proceedings was not a fair one.

(c) *Popham* v. *Pickburn* (7 H. & N. 891; 5 L. T. N. S. 846; 31 L. J. 133, Ex.).

The Registrar has requested the district registrar to warn this person. I beg, however, to advise the vestry to communicate with the Secretary of State, so that a prosecution for forgery may be instituted. It is most important to the welfare of this district that this proceeding be put a decisive stop to."

"In this case," said Wilde, B., delivering the judgment of the Court of Exchequer, "the plaintiff is entitled to judgment. The defendant has published that of the plaintiff which is undoubtedly a libel, and which is untrue. He seeks to protect himself, on the ground that the publication is a correct report of a document read at a meeting of the Clerkenwell vestry, which document must have been published and sold at a small price by the vestry in a short time. But we are of opinion this furnishes no defence. Undoubtedly, *the report of a trial in a court of justice, in* which this document had been read, would not make the publisher thereof liable to an action for libel, and reasonably; for such reports only extend that publicity which is so important a feature of the administration of the law in England, and thus enable to be witnesses of it, not merely the few whom the court can hold, but the thousands who can read the reports. But no case has decided that the reports of what takes place at the meeting of such a body as this vestry are so privileged: indeed, the case cited in the argument (*a*) is an authority that they are not. Then, is the publication justified by the statute? It is true that the documents would have been accessible to the public in a short time, though not published by the defendant; but this cannot justify his anticipating the publication, and giving it a wider circulation, and, possibly, without an answer which the vestry might have received in some subsequent *report or otherwise, and which would then have been circulated* with the libel. This defence, therefore, fails. It was further contended that this libel might be justified as a matter of public discussion on a subject of public interest. The answer is—this is not a discussion or comment. It is the statement of a fact. To charge a man incorrectly with a disgraceful act is very different from commenting on a fact relating to him truly stated. There the writer may, by his opinion, libel himself rather than the subject of his remarks."

His Lordship added: "It is to be further observed that this decision does not determine or affect the question whether, after the statutory publication, it might or not be competent to others to republish these reports with or without reasonable comment."

(*a*) *Davison* v. *Duncan* (*ante*, p. 489) is probably the case referred to.

PART IV. CHAPTER IX.

On the trial of an action for a libel contained in a newspaper report of what occurred before one of the Commissioners of Inquiry respecting Corporations, Pattison, J., ruled that evidence of the *accuracy* of the report could not be given as a matter of justification, though it might be given in mitigation of damages.(*a*)

CHAPTER X.

PUBLICATION OF PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

Case of Stockdale v. Hansard

WITH regard to papers published by order of either House of Parliament, the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, in the case of *Stockdale* v. *Hansard*,(*b*) led to an important alteration of the law by Act of Parliament.

The Court of Queen's Bench decided, in that celebrated case, that it was no defence to an action for publishing a libel, that the defamatory matter was part of a document which was, by order of the House of Commons, laid before the House, and thereupon became part of the proceedings of the House, and which was afterwards, by order of the House, printed and published by the defendant, and that the House of Commons had resolved, declared, and adjudged "that the power of publishing such of its reports, votes, and proceedings, as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests, is an essential incident to the constitutional functions of Parliament, more especially to the Commons House of Parliament, as the representative portion of it."

The libel complained of in this case by the plaintiff (a bookseller and publisher of books) was contained in a book entitled "Reports of the Inspectors of the Prisons of Great Britain," and in a printed paper containing a copy of the reply of two of the Inspectors of Prisons for the Home District to a report of the Court of Aldermen, to whom it had been referred, to consider the first report of the inspectors, so far as related to the gaol of Newgate; and the libel consisted in statements made by the inspectors, with reference to a physiological and anatomical book published by the plaintiff, to the effect that it was of a most disgusting nature; that the plates were indecent and obscene in the extreme, and not calculated only to attract the attention of

(*a*) *Charlton* v. *Watton* (6 C. & P. 385). (*b*) 9 A. & E. 1.

persons connected with surgical science; that the inspectors had applied to several medical booksellers, who all gave it the same character, and described it as one of Stockdale's (the plaintiff's) obscene books.

The defendants, Messrs. Hansard, printers to the House of Commons, in a long plea, which was demurred to, pleaded that the report of the Inspectors of Prisons was laid before the House of Commons pursuant to Act of Parliament, and that the House had ordered the report to be printed; that a copy of the report made by the Committee of the Court of Alderman, had also, by the order of the House of Commons, been laid before it and printed; that the reply of the inspectors to this report had also been ordered by the House to be laid before it and printed; (*a*) that the defendants had published the report of the inspectors and their reply by the authority of the House of Commons, and as directed and ordered by the orders and resolutions of the House, and not otherwise; and, further, that the House had resolved, declared, and adjudged, that the power of publishing such of its reports, votes, and proceedings, as it shall deem necessary or conducive to the public interests, is an essential incident to the constitutional functions of Parliament, more especially to the Commons House of Parliament as the representative portion of it.

After long and elaborate arguments, lasting several days, the court held that the plea set out no defence to the action. The judgments, which are proportionately long and elaborate, and deal fully with the important constitutional questions involved in the case, will well repay a careful perusal.(*b*)

With regard to the first ground of defence relied on in argument, viz., that the grievance complained of was an act done by order of the House of Commons, a court superior to any court of law, and none of whose proceedings were to be questioned in any way, Lord Denman, C.J., said:(*c*) "It is a claim for an arbitrary power to authorize the commission of any act whatever, on behalf of a body which, in the same argument, is admitted not to be the supreme power in the state. The supremacy of Parliament, the foundation

(*a*) The reports were printed, not only for the use of members of the House, but also for public sale, the proceeds to be applied to the general expenses of printing by the House.

(*b*) Cockburn, C.J., says of the masterly judgments of Lord Denman and his colleagues in this case, that they "will secure to the judges who pronounced them admiration and reverence so long as the laws of England and a regard for the rights and liberties of the subject shall endure:" (Judgment in *Wason* v. *Walter*, L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 86; 19 L. T. N. S. 416; 38 L. J. 40, Q. B.).

(*c*) 9 A. & El. 107.

on which the claim is made to rest, appears to me completely to overturn it, because the House of Commons is not the Parliament, but only a co-ordinate and component part of the Parliament. That sovereign power can make and unmake the laws; but the concurrence of the three legislative estates is necessary; the resolution of any one of them cannot alter the law or place any one beyond its control. The proposition, therefore, is wholly untenable, and abhorrent to the first principles of the constitution of England." As to the next ground of defence, viz., that the defendant committed the grievance by order of the House of Commons in a case of privilege, and that each House of Parliament is the sole judge of its own privileges, Lord Denman, after referring generally to the subject of privilege, observed, "For speeches made in Parliament by a member, to the prejudice of any other person, or hazardous to the public peace, that member enjoys complete immunity. For any paper signed by the Speaker by order of the House, though to the last degree calumnious, or even if it brought personal suffering upon individuals, the Speaker cannot be arraigned in a court of justice. But if the calumnious or inflammatory speeches should be reported and published, the law will attach responsibility on the publisher. So, if the Speaker, by authority of the House, order an illegal act, though that authority shall exempt *him* from question, his order shall no more justify the person who executed it than King Charles's warrant for levying ship-money could justify his revenue officer."

The learned judge added in a subsequent portion of his judgment:(*a*) "It can hardly be necessary to guard myself against being supposed to discuss the expediency of keeping the law in its present state, or introducing any and what alterations. It is, no doubt, susceptible of improvement; but the improvement must be a legislative act. If we held that any improvement, however desirable, could be affected under the name of privilege, we should be confounding truth, and departing from our duty; and if, on such considerations, either House should claim as matter of privilege what was neither necessary for the discharge of their proper functions, nor ever had been treated as a privilege before, this would be an enactment, not a declaration; or, if the latter name were more appropriate, it would be the declaration of a general law, to be disregarded by the courts, though never, I hope, treated with contempt."

The subsequent history of this celebrated case, which

(*a*) 9 A. & El. 153.

decided that an order of the House of Commons cannot render lawful that which is contrary to law, and that still less can a resolution of the House supersede the jurisdiction of a court of law by clothing an unwarranted exercise of power with the garb of privilege,(*a*) is as follows:

Proceedings consequent on decision in *Stockdale* v. *Hansard*.

The plaintiff having recovered judgment against the defendants, a writ of inquiry was executed; damages were assessed, and a *fi. fa.* issued; and, on the sheriff returning that he had the money in court, he was called upon to show cause why the money should not be paid to the plaintiff. It was stated on the sheriff's behalf, that the House of Commons had passed the following resolutions: "That it appears to this House that execution in the cause of *Stockdale* v. *Hansard* has been levied to the amount of 640*l*. by the sale of the property of Messrs. Hansard, in contempt of the privileges of this House, and that such money now remains in the hands of the Sheriff of Middlesex. That the said sheriff be ordered to refund the said amount forthwith to Messrs. Hansard." The House also resolved that the sheriff had been guilty of a contempt and breach of the privileges of the House, and that he should be committed to the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms, which was done. Notwithstanding this, the Court of Queen's Bench made absolute the rule, commanding the sheriff to pay over the money to the plaintiff. Afterwards, a rule *nisi* was obtained for an attachment against the sheriff for not paying over the money, and the rule was made absolute, Lord Denman, C.J., observing that the court, having put the law in motion for the plaintiff, was bound to enforce it for him, and there was unfortunately no other mode of doing so than the proceeding adopted.

The two persons who filled the office of sheriff of Middlesex, having been taken into custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms pursuant to the resolution of the House of Commons, sued out a writ of *habeas corpus*, to which the Serjeant-at-Arms made return—that he had taken them into custody and detained them by virtue of a warrant from the Speaker of the House of Commons, reciting that the House had resolved that they had been guilty of a contempt and breach of the privileges of the House, and that they should be committed to the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms, and ordering him to take them into custody. The Court of Queen's Bench held the return sufficient, and the sheriffs were remanded to custody; but Lord Denman was careful to state that he adhered in all respects to the view of the law laid down in

(*a*) Per Cockburn, C.J., *Wason* v. *Walter* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 87; 38 L. J. 40, Q. B.; 19 L. T. N. S. 416).

PART IV. CHAPTER X.

Stockdale v. *Hansard*, as to defamatory publications issued by order of the House of Commons.

Statute 3 & 4 Vict. c. 9.

This dispute between the House of Commons and the Court of Queen's Bench led to the passing of the Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 9, entitled "An Act to give summary protection to persons employed in the publication of Parliamentary papers." This Act recites that "it is essential to the due and effectual exercise and discharge of the functions and duties of Parliament, and to the promotion of wise legislation, that no obstructions or impediments should exist to the publication of such of the reports, papers, votes, or proceedings of either House of Parliament, as such House of Parliament may deem fit or necessary to be published:" and that "obstructions or impediments to such publication have arisen, and hereafter may arise, by means of civil or criminal proceedings being taken against persons employed by, or acting under the authority of, the Houses of Parliament, or one of them, in the publication of such reports, papers, votes, or proceedings; by reason and for remedy whereof it is expedient that more speedy protection should be afforded to all persons acting under the authority aforesaid, and that all such civil or criminal proceedings should be summarily put an end to and determined in manner" provided by the Act.

Provision for staying proceedings.

Sect. 1 provides for the stay of all proceedings commenced against persons for publication of papers printed by order of either House of Parliament, upon delivery to the court or a judge of a certificate and affidavit, to the effect that such publication is by order of the House.

It enacts that "it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons who now is or are, or hereafter shall be, a defendant or defendants in any civil or criminal proceeding, commenced or prosecuted in any manner soever, for or on account or in respect of the publication of any such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, by such person or persons, or by his, her, or their servant or servants, by or under the authority of either House of Parliament, to bring before the court in which such proceeding shall have been, or shall be, so commenced or prosecuted, or before any judge of the same (if one of the superior courts in Westminster) first giving twenty-four hours' notice of his intention so to do to the prosecutor or plaintiff in such proceeding, a certificate under the hand of the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, or the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, or of the Speaker of the House of Lords, for the time being, or of the Clerk of the Parliaments, or of the Speaker of the House of Commons,

or of the Clerk of the same House, stating that the report, paper, votes, or proceedings, as the case may be, in respect whereof such civil or criminal proceeding shall have been commenced or prosecuted, was published by such person or persons, or by his, her, or their servant or servants, by order or under the authority of the House of Lords, or of the House of Commons, as the case may be, together with an affidavit verifying such certificate; and such court or judge shall thereupon immediately stay such civil or criminal proceeding, and the same, and every writ or process issued therein, shall be, and shall be deemed and taken to be, finally put an end to, determined, and superseded by virtue of this Act."

Publication of copies of reports, &c.

As to the publication of copies of reports or other papers, sect. 2 enacts "that in case of any civil or criminal proceeding hereafter to be commenced or prosecuted for, or on account or in respect of, the publication of any copy of such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, it shall be lawful for the defendant or defendants, at any stage of the proceedings, to lay before the court or judge such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, and such copy, with an affidavit verifying such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, and the correctness of such copy; and the court or judge shall immediately stay such civil or criminal proceeding, and the same, and every writ or process issued therein, shall be, and shall be deemed and taken to be, finally put an end to, determined, and superseded by virtue of this Act."

Publication of extracts or abstracts.

As to the publication of abstracts of any such papers, or extracts from them, sect. 3 provides, "that it shall be lawful, in any civil or criminal proceeding, to be commenced or prosecuted for printing any extract from or abstract of such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, to give in evidence under the general issue, such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, and to show that such extract or abstract was published *bonâ fide*, and without malice; and, if such shall be the opinion of the jury, a verdict of not guilty shall be entered for the defendant or defendants."

Sect. 4 adds, "that nothing contained in the Act is to be deemed, or taken, or held, or construed, directly or indirectly, by implication or otherwise, to affect the privileges of Parliament in any manner whatsoever."

Object of notice.

The object of giving twenty-four hours' notice, to the plaintiff or prosecutor,(*a*) of the intention to bring the certificate before the court, is not quite clear. It is doubtful whether it gives the plaintiff or prosecutor a right

(*a*) Sect. 1.

to show cause, and may have been prescribed only to enable him to avoid incurring more costs.(*a*)

The only reported case on this Act is that of *Stockdale* v. *Hansard*,(*b*) where proceedings were stayed upon a certificate of the Speaker of the House of Commons, verified by affidavit, that the publication mentioned in the declaration (a description of which it gave) and in respect of which the action was brought, was published by order and under the authority of the House of Commons. The declaration was verified by affidavit, and appeared to be for the publication of an alleged libel, the description of which corresponded with that in the Speaker's certificate.

Older cases.

In 1686,(*c*) an information having been filed against Sir William Williams, for publishing a libel called "Dangerfield's Narrative," the defendant pleaded that he was at the time of publication(*d*) Speaker of the House of Commons, and as such had a right to publish the votes and acts of the House, and that the "Narrative" in question was printed and published as parcel of the proceedings; but the court called the plea an idle, insignificant one, and gave judgment for the King, inflicting a fine of 10,000*l.* on the defendant; the Lord Chief Justice (Wright) asking the defendants' counsel whether an order of the House of Commons could justify a scandalous, infamous, and flagitious libel.(*e*)

This case of Sir William Williams happened, as observed by Lord Kenyon, C.J.,(*f*) in the worst of times, and the publication was a paper of a private individual published by another individual, under pretence of sanction of the House of Commons. Gross, J., said of the same case(*g*) that it was declared by a great authority to be a disgrace to the country.

In 1799 a criminal information was refused against a bookseller for printing a report of the Committee of Secrecy of the House of Commons, though it reflected on the character of an individual,(*h*) Lord Kenyon, C.J., observing that as the publication was a true copy of the report, there was not the least pretence for the motion. His Lordship said further: "This is an application for leave to file a criminal information against the defendant for publishing a

(*a*) *Per* Lord Denman, C.J., *Stockdale* v. *Hansard* (11 A. & E. 299).
(*b*) 11 A. & E. 297. (*c*) 2 Jac. 2.
(*d*) He was not Speaker at the time the case was adjudged.
(*e*) 10 St. Tr. App. p. 34, n.; Dig. L. L. 75; Show. Rep. 471.
(*f*) *Rex.* v. *Wright* (8 T. R. 296). (*g*) *Id.* 297.
(*h*) *Rex* v. *Wright* (8 T. R. 293).

libel; so that the application supposes that this publication is a libel. But the inquiry made by the House of Commons was an inquisition taken by one branch of the Legislature to enable them to proceed further, and adopt some regulations for the better government of the country: this report was first made by a committee of the House of Commons, then approved by the House at large, and then communicated to the other House, and it is now *sub judice;* and yet it is said that this is a libel on the prosecutor. It is impossible for us to admit that the proceedings of either of the Houses of Parliament is a libel." "Though the defendant," said Lawrence, J.,(*b*) "was not authorised by the House of Commons to publish the report in question, yet, as he only published a true copy of it, I am of opinion that the rule ought to be discharged."

CHAPTER XI.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS FOR LIBEL.

HAVING considered what constitutes a libel, we have now to inquire how the law against libels is put into motion; what evidence is necessary to prove the charge of publishing a libel; by what means the accused may defend himself; and what penalties are incurred by the guilty.

Twofold liability of publisher.

The liabilities of a publisher of a libel are twofold: he is liable to a criminal prosecution and to a civil action.

The present chapter will be devoted to the criminal branch of the subject.

Criminal prosecution.

Every publication of a libel, be it on the Christian religion, on morality, on the Crown, on the Government, on the administration of justice, or on a private person, is a criminal offence; and it may be broadly laid down that wherever an action would lie, there an indictment would lie also. But the converse of this proposition is not strictly accurate; for no individual has a right of action against another for publishing a blasphemous, obscene, or seditious libel, unless it contain something reflecting on himself. Again, a libel on a dead man may,(*b*) under certain circumstances, be indictable, as tending to excite to a breach of the peace, but in no case would an action lie for such a libel, for *Actio personalis moritur cum personâ.*

(*a*) 8 T. R. 293.

(*b*) *Vide ante*, pp. 419, 420.

PART IV. CHAPTER XI.

Various methods of criminal prosecution.

The criminal law may be set in motion by the Attorney-General filing an *ex officio* information; by an application to the Court of Queen's Bench to order the master of the Crown Office to file an information; by summoning the libeller before a magistrate; or by going direct to the grand jury at the assizes or Central Criminal Court.

The offence is not triable at sessions.

We purpose to deal, in the first place, with criminal informations.

I. CRIMINAL INFORMATIONS.

Ex officio information by Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General has, at common law, the right to file a criminal information for any misdemeanor.(*a*)

This right has several times been attacked in Parliament without success. The House of Commons agreed in 1688, on the recommendation of a committee, that a clause should be inserted in the Bill of Rights abolishing informations in the Court of King's Bench; but it would seem that the House of Lords objected to it.(*b*) On the 27th of November, 1770, a motion made by Mr. Phipps, in effect to take away the power of the Attorney-General to file criminal informations, was rejected by 164 against 72 votes.(*c*) And again in 1812, Lord Holland, in the House of Lords, moved the second reading of a Bill having the same object in view.(*d*) The debates on these occasions are well worthy of attention, showing the strong arguments used by men like Burke, Dunning, Lords Erskine, Holland, and Stanhope, against this extraordinary prerogative in cases of libel.

The Attorney-General exercises this right on his own responsibility, as the Court will never grant an information upon his application, in cases prosecuted by the Crown.(*e*)

He may, if he thinks proper, summon the parties before him to show cause why the information should not be exhibited, before he signs it.(*f*)

In what cases *ex officio* information granted.

The only libels against which the Attorney-General uses his power are those which we have elsewhere termed *public*, such as blasphemous, seditious, or obscene publications, or libels reflecting on persons exercising public functions.

The last instance of such a prosecution, which, after a careful search, we have been able to find, occurred so far back as 1830, when the Attorney-General, Sir James Scarlett, filed three informations against the proprietors and printer of the

(*a*) See *Prynn's case* (5 Mod. Rep. 459); Show. 106.
(*b*) 13 St. Tr. 1370. (*c*) 16 Parl. Hist. 1175.
(*d*) 23 Parl. Debates, 1070.
(*e*) *Rex* v. *Phillips and others* (3 Burr. 1565 and 4 Burr. 2090).
(*f*) *Ib.*

Morning Journal for libels on the King, the House of Commons, the Lord Chancellor, and the Duke of Wellington. These prosecutions were received with universal dislike by all parties in the country.(*a*)

The Solicitor-General, during the vacancy of the office of Attorney-General, may file an *ex officio* information, and the record need not aver the vacancy.(*b*)

Nolle prosequi.

The Attorney-General, if he find the information defective, may enter a *nolle prosequi*, and prefer a new charge; therefore the court refuses to quash an information, on his motion.(*c*)

Bringing on of trial of *ex officio* information by defendant.

Before the stat. 60 Geo. 3 & 1 Geo. 4, c. 4, the Attorney-General might keep the information hanging over the head of the unfortunate defendant as long as he pleased, but by the ninth section of that statute it is enacted: "That in case any prosecution for a misdemeanour, instituted by the Attorney or Solicitor General, shall not be brought to trial within twelve calendar months next after the plea of not guilty shall have been pleaded therein, it shall be lawful for the court in which such prosecution shall be depending, upon application to be made on the behalf of any defendant in such prosecution, of which application twenty days previous notice shall have been given to the Attorney or Solicitor General, to make an order, if the said court shall see just cause so to do, authorising such defendant to bring on the trial in such prosecution; and it shall thereupon be lawful for such defendant to bring on such trial accordingly, unless a *nolle prosequi* shall have been entered in such prosecution."

Delivery of copy of information to defendant.

By the same statute (sect. 8) the court are, if required, to order a copy of the information to be delivered, after appearance, to the defendant or his attorney or clerk, in court, free of expense, provided no copy has previously been given.

Trial of *ex officio* information.

The trial is generally at the Nisi Prius sittings of the Queen's Bench, and is conducted in the same way as an indictment for a misdemeanour at the assizes; but the Attorney-General may demand a trial at Bar if he prefers it.(*d*)

Attorney-General's right to reply.

The Attorney-General is entitled to reply although the defendant call no witnesses. This privilege was strongly opposed by Horne on his trial for libel,(*e*) but without effect.

(*a*) 72 Annual Reg. 4.
(*b*) *Rex* v. *Wilkes* (4 Burr. 2577, and in error 4 Brown's P. C. 360).
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Stratton* (Doug. 240).
(*d*) 1 Str. 644.
(*e*) See 20 How. St. Tr. 660; Cowp. 672.

Whether a counsel who appears for the Attorney-General has the right of reply, is not quite clear. Kelly, C.B., at the late trial of Margaret Waters at the Old Bailey for murder, decided that the learned serjeant who represented the Attorney-General was entitled to reply, even if no evidence were called for the prisoner.(*a*) Lord Tenterden held, in the case of *Rex* v. *Marsden*,(*b*) that wherever the King's Counsel appears officially he is entitled to the reply. Pollock, C.B.,(*c*) and Mellor, J.,(*d*) have also extended the right to counsel representing the Attorney-General. On the other hand, Martin, B.,(*e*) and Byles, J.,(*f*) hold that the right is confined to the Attorney-General in person; and Martin, B., said he thought a prosecution by the Crown ought to be conducted like any other prosecution.

Sentence in case of *ex officio* information.

The only other point in which the proceedings under an *ex officio* information differ from those under an information filed by order of the court, is, that the Attorney-General may elect whether the sentence shall be passed by the judge who tries the case or postponed to the ensuing term;(*g*) whereas the sentences on other informations must be passed by the Court of Queen's Bench.

Informations filed by order of Queen's Bench.

We now proceed to notice informations filed by order of the Court of Queen's Bench.(*h*)

Formerly these informations were filed by the Clerk of the Crown, who did so upon any application, as a matter of course.(*i*)

In consequence of the injustice and oppression caused by

(*a*) The counsel for the prisoner after this intimation called witnesses.
(*b*) M. & M. 439. (*c*) *Reg.* v. *Gardner* (1 C. & K. 628).
(*d*) *Reg.* v. *Toakley* (10 Cox Crim. Cas. 406).
(*e*) *Reg.* v. *Christie* (1 F. & F. 75). (*f*) *Reg.* v. *Taylor* (1 F. & F. 535).
(*g*) 11 Geo. 4 & 1 Will. 4, c. 70, s. 9.
(*h*) For cases in which informations have been granted see, in addition to those referred to in the following notes: *Rex* v. *Watson* (2 T. R. 199, cited *ante*, pp. 363, 364); *Rex* v. *White and another* (1 Camp. 359, cited *ante*, p. 362); *Rex.* v. *Jolliffe* (4 T. R. 285, for publishing in the assize town, shortly before his trial, handbills reflecting on the character of the prosecutor and vindicating his own); *Rex* v. *Wakefield* (1 Salk. 405; 1 Vent. 67; for publishing that a certain jury was suspected of bribery in giving their verdict); *Reg.* v. *Grey* (10 Cox. Crim. Cas. 184, for publications tending to prejudice the fair trial of certain prisoners); *Rex* v. *Osborne* (Kel. 30; 2 Barn. K. B., 138, 166, cited *ante*, p. 382); *Reg.* v. *Gathercole* (2 Lew. C. C. 254, a publication imputing immoral practices to the inmates of a nunnery); *Rex* v. *Staples* (And. 228; Dig. L. L. 80, a publication reflecting on a magistrate); *Rex* v. *Thicknesse* (Dig. L. L. 86, for publishing a ludicrous account of an alleged marriage of a married peer with an actress); *Rex* v. *Nutt* (Dig. L. L. 78; 2 Barn. K.B., 114, libels on a company).
(*i*) *Rex* v. *Robinson* (1 W. Bl. 542).

the number of frivolous and vexatious informations which were thus issued, at the instance of malicious persons who, even if defeated at the trial, escaped costs under the shelter of the King's name, the statute 4 & 5 Will. & M. c. 18, was passed; the preamble to which recited that divers malicious and contentious persons had, more of late than in times past, procured to be exhibited and prosecuted informations against persons in all the counties of England; that after the persons so informed against appeared and pleaded to issue, the informers very seldom proceeded any further; and that thereby the persons so informed against were put to great charges for their defence, and that, although verdicts were given for them, or a *nolle prosequi* entered against them, they had no means for obtaining costs against such informers.

4 & 5 Will. & M. c. 18.

The first section enacts that the Clerk of the Crown shall not, without express order, to be given by the court in open court, file any information.

To obtain this order, counsel must be instructed to move upon proper affidavits, which must not be entitled or they cannot be read,(*a*) for a rule *nisi*, calling upon the libeller to show cause why the information should not issue.

Motion must be made by counsel.

The court will not permit the motion to be made by the prosecutor in person, as it is a general rule applicable to all proceedings in the name of the Sovereign, that no private person can be heard as an advocate in a court of justice.(*b*)

Where the affidavit on which the rule had been obtained was not properly sworn, the court refused to enlarge the rule in order that the affidavit might be resworn.(*c*) "The court," said Lord Denman, C.J., "have been looking for some time for a precedent for such an application, and can find no precedent in cases of criminal information. There are some cases with reference to bail. The party ought to have come properly prepared in the first instance. No injustice will be done, as the party can still prefer an indictment."

Affidavit improperly sworn.

The court requires to be satisfied upon various points before it even calls upon the defendant to shew cause why the information should not go.

The first requisite is, that the prosecutor should swear directly and pointedly to his innocence of the charge contained in the libel, unless the subject matter is general

Prosecutor must swear to his innocence.

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Robinson*, cited 6 T. R. 642.
(*b*) *Rex* v. *Lancashire* (*Justices*) (1 Chitty, 602); *Rex* v. *Brice* (2 B. & Ald. 606).
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Cockshaw* (2 N. & Man. 378).

imputation, or the party libelled is abroad at a great distance.

This was laid down in the case of *Rex* v. *Haswell and Bate*, on the prosecution of the Duke of Richmond (*a*) as an invariable rule, upon which the court acts without distinction of person. The libel in that case had appeared in the *Morning Post*, imputing to the Duke a variety of treasonable practices and designs, among other things that he had, in his speeches in the House of Lords, opposed the increase of the military strength of the kingdom, in order to facilitate a descent in this country by the French; and also charging him with having conveyed intelligence to the ministers of France. The rule was granted against Haswell, the printer of the paper, on the joint affidavit of the Duke and another person. The Duke swore that he believed himself to be the person meant in the libel, and that it contained false, scandalous, and malicious aspersions and insinuations against him. On a subsequent day a rule was moved for against Bate, as the publisher, when Lord Mansfield, C.J. said there was an objection to both rules, inasmuch as the prosecutor had not specifically denied the particular charges; but he thought the nature of the libel might be an exception to the general rule; that as to what was supposed to have been said by his Grace in Parliament, it was certainly unnecessary to answer that, because what passed there could be questioned nowhere else, and the rest of the libel, being general imputations, did not seem within the rule. Willes, J., said he did not well see how the court could make any distinction between the Duke and the lowest individual; if the rule were general, it ought to be adhered to in that case, and no instance had been stated where it had been dispensed with. The other judges agreed, and ultimately the rule was granted as to that part of the libel referring to the Duke's conduct in the House of Lords. Subsequently the Duke filed an affidavit expressly denying all the specific charges in the libel.(*b*)

Where libel reflects on several persons.

Where, however, the libel reflects on several persons, the court will grant the information, although the person moving for it may not be blameless;(*c*) and the court will grant it for a libel on a public body of men without requiring an exculpatory affidavit.(*d*)

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Haswell and Bate* (1 Doug. 387.)

(*b*) See also *Rex* v. *Wright* (2 Chitty, 162); *Rex* v. *Draper* (3 Smith, 390); *Rex* v. *Bickerton* (1 Str. 498).

(*c*) *Reg.* v. *Gregory* (8 A. & E. 907).

(*d*) *Rex* v. *Williams* (5 B. & Ald. 595) where the libel was on the clergy of a particular diocese.

There must be no unnecessary delay in coming to the court. In *Rex* v. *Jollie*(*a*) Littledale, J., said: "The rule is, that the application must be made within two terms after the publication, sufficiently early to enable the defendant to show cause within that term."

Delay in making application.

If there is further delay, it must be reasonably accounted for; as, for instance, that the libel had not come to the knowledge of the prosecutor until some time after it was published.(*b*)

Other proceedings must not have been instituted.

The party who applies for the information must come to the court in the first instance, as the court will not assist him if he has instituted other proceedings.(*c*) He must place himself entirely in the hands of the court for the vindication of his character; and if it appears that he has put himself in communication with the publisher for the purpose of retorting, or with a view of gaining redress, the court will not interfere.(*d*)

Trivial cases.

The court will not grant an information in trivial cases.(*e*)

Where defendant is very poor.

Lord Mansfield laid it down that a proceeding by information was not proper against a very poor person.(*f*) We can find no later decision as to this, but in all probability it would be followed, if the attention of the court were called to the circumstances of the defendant and to the authority just cited; as it is an undoubted hardship to compel him to incur the additional expense consequent upon that mode of prosecution, when the prosecutor may adopt the less cumbrous one of presenting a bill at the assizes.

Primâ facie evidence of publication by defendant, not sufficient.

The affidavit must prove the publication by the defendant; and the court will not be satisfied with merely *primâ facie* evidence, where conclusive evidence is easily obtainable;(*g*) nor will the court in any case accept less evidence than would warrant a grand jury in finding a bill.(*h*)

Proof of publication of newspapers.

Formerly, conclusive evidence of the publication of newspapers was readily obtainable from the Stamp Office, as the 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, provided, under heavy penalties, that no person should print or publish any newspaper before there had been delivered to the Commissioners of Stamps, or

(*a*) 1 N. & M. 484; 4 B. & Ad. 867.

(*b*) See *Rex* v. *Robinson* (1 W. Bl. 542); *Prideaux* v. *Arthur* (Lofft. 393); *Rex* v. *Murray* (1 Jur. 37); *Reg.* v. *Hext* (4 Jur. 339); *Ex parte Hopper* (23 L. T. 164); *Rex* v. *Bishop* (5 B. & Ald. 612).

(*c*) *Rex* v. *Marshall* (4 E. & B. 475); *Reg.* v. *Gwilt* (11 A. & E. 587).

(*d*) *Reg.* v. *Lawson* (1 Q. B. 486).

(*e*) *Ex parte Beauclerk* (7 Jur. 373); *Reg.* v. *Proprietors of Nottingham Journal* (9 Dowl. 1044); *Rex* v. *Mead* (4 Jur. 1014).

(*f*) Anon. Lofft. 156.

(*g*) *Reg.* v. *Baldwin* (8 A. & E. 168).

(*h*) *Rex* v. *Willett* (6 T. R. 294); *Ex parte Williams* (5 Jur. 1133).

to the properly authorised officer at the head office for stamps in Westminster, Edinburgh, or Dublin, or to the officer appointed by the said commissioners in and for the district within which the newspaper should be intended to be published, a declaration in writing setting forth the title of the paper, a description of the building wherein it was to be printed, and of the building wherein it was to be published; the name, addition, and abode of every person who was intended to conduct the actual printing, and of every person who was intended to be the publisher, and of the proprietor, or, if there were more than two, then of two whose respective proportional shares should not be less than those of any other proprietor; such declaration to be made and signed by every person named therein as printer or publisher, and by such persons named therein as proprietors as should be resident in the United Kingdom. A fresh declaration was required in case of any change of the proprietors, printers, or publishers. By the 8th section such declarations were to be filed and certified; copies of them were to be admitted as conclusive evidence in all civil and criminal proceedings of the matters required to be set forth in them; and, after the production of such declaration in evidence, and of a newspaper intituled in the same manner as the newspaper mentioned in such declaration, if the names of the printer and publisher and the place of printing the same purported to be the same as those mentioned in such declaration, it was not to be necessary to prove that the paper was purchased of the defendant, or at a house or building occupied by him or his servants.

These enactments are now repealed, and therefore it may be sometimes difficult to prove the publication.

By purchase of a copy in defendant's shop.

In the recent case (not reported) of *Reg.* v. *Long*, where defendant was accused of publishing a libel on the Earl and Countess of Sefton, there was an affidavit by a person who had purchased a copy of the newspaper in defendant's shop. And it would appear from the statute just cited that that is the proper proof at common law, as it enacted that where the declaration and a newspaper corresponding therewith were given in evidence, such proof might be dispensed with.

By affidavit of accomplice.

Or, the publication may be proved, as in the case of *Rex* v. *Haswell and Bate*,(a) by the affidavit of an accomplice.

In that case, Haswell was the printer of the paper containing the libel. A rule for a criminal information having been obtained against him, he made an affidavit that the libel was brought into his shop, in manuscript,

(a) 1 Doug. 387. See also *Rex* v. *Steward* (2 B. & Ad. 12).

without any name to it, and that he sent it to Bate, who was the editor, and that Bate sent it back to him next day among other papers for publication. It was objected that Haswell was an accomplice, and that therefore his affidavit was not admissible, and a joint affidavit of the defendant Bate and several other persons was produced, tending to contradict him; but the court made the rule absolute, and the counsel for the prosecution insisted upon a rule absolute against Haswell also, notwithstanding Lord Mansfield's question whether they meant to proceed against their own wit...

When we come to the evidence to be produced at the trial we shall deal more fully with the question—what is sufficient evidence of publication? but it should be noted here, that if a rule has been granted on insufficient evidence of publication, the court will discharge it, although the affidavits filed by the defendant in opposition to the rule admit the publication.

Where rule has been granted on insufficient evidence of publication.

This was decided in the case of *Reg.* v. *Baldwin*,(*a*) where Lord Denman, C.J., said: "We have decided before, that affidavits on showing cause cannot assist the party moving, where the affidavits made in support of the motion are defective; because the court, if it had known the fact, would not have granted the rule."

It is necessary to guard against inserting improper or irrelevant matter in the affidavits, as there is danger of the court refusing, on that ground, to interfere.

Improper or irrelevant matter in affidavits.

In the case of *Rex* v. *Burn*,(*b*) Lord Denman, C.J., said: "The prosecutor has stated a sufficient case for a criminal information; but he has, in the early part of his affidavit, introduced words irrelevant and reflecting on the character of the party against whom he applies; and afterwards, in explanation of something which he states to have passed, he goes into a narrative of matters impertinent to the cause, and calculated only to prejudice the minds of the court. Parties who come before the court with affidavits, are to confine themselves to the simplest statement of that which induces them to make the application, and not to enter upon discussions like this, unless the nature of the subject makes them absolutely necessary." The court discharged the rule solely upon this ground.

When the rule is obtained, care must be taken that it is properly drawn up. No documents can be referred to upon

Drawing up rule.

(*a*) 8 A. & E. 168.
(*b*) 7 A. & E. 193, and see *Reg.* v. *Doherty* (1 Arn. & Hodg. New Term Reports, 16.

the argument which are not referred to in the rule.(*a*) It must be drawn up "upon reading" the publication, which must be annexed to the affidavits and marked as an exhibit.

Service of rule.

The rule must be obtained from the Crown Office, and a copy of it served on the defendant personally, or by leaving it with some member of his family at his residence. The original must be shewn to the person who is served with the copy.(*b*)

Showing cause against rule.

In shewing cause against the rule, the defendant may urge the truth of the libel; for, as before stated, although the truth is, by itself, no answer to an *indictment*, the court will not grant its aid, by information, to a tainted person.

In the case of *Rex* v. *Eve*,(*c*) a rule *nisi* had been granted against the publishers of the *Satirist* and the *Censor of the Times*, for the following libel: "Simon, but more commonly known in the play world as King Digby, from his skill in palming that card at écarté, and who long enjoyed an unenviable notoriety among the legs at the club at Brighton, is living in obscurity in Devonshire. He has been, however, recently in town, and was seen at Epsom during the races, *sharply* upon the look-out, it was presumed, for *flats*." Digby made an affidavit that he was never guilty of palming the king at "écarté," nor of unfair play at cards or any other game, and that he had not been at Epsom races for about seven years. The only affidavit in opposition was by one Thomas Shepard, who swore that he was intimately acquainted with Digby, and that on one occasion, when Digby dined with him at defendant's residence in Shaftesbury-terrace, Pimlico, Digby played at écarté with him, won of him from 80*l.* to 85*l.*, was detected by him in palming the king, confessed the fact, and returned the money. Upon this affidavit the court discharged the rule. But afterwards a new rule was granted, and made absolute, on affidavits deposing that Shepard had, on oath, in the Consistory Court in London, contradicted his affidavit, and that Digby had preferred an indictment for perjury against him, and that the bill was found, on Digby's oath denying the truth of the statements in Shepard's affidavits, and on the testimony of several other witnesses; that a warrant had been obtained for Shepard's arrest, but that he could not be found, and was believed to have left the country.

New rule.

The circumstance of the last cited case were peculiar. In general, where a rule for a criminal information has been discharged on the merits, the court will not grant a new

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Baldwin* (8 A. & E. 168); *Reg.* v. *Woolmer* (12 A. & E. 422).
(*b*) Cole on Criminal Informations, 59. (*c*) 5 A. & E. 780.

rule on a second application in the same case, even upon additional affidavits. "A party moving for a criminal information," says Lord Denman, C. J.,(*a*) "has some great advantages, and he may reasonably be required to collect all the necessary materials for his application when he first makes it." To grant a new rule in such a case, would be, according to Parke, J.,(*b*) "a precedent for re-enquiry in almost every instance where a criminal information was moved for without success. It would rarely happen that the party would not be able to mend his case on a second motion. The prosecutor has another remedy."

The defendant may also submit that the affidavits on which the rule was granted fail in substance or form to satisfy the requirements of the court, or that they are answered by affidavits made on his behalf.

Costs.

If the rule be discharged on a preliminary objection, the defendant will not generally obtain his costs;(*c*) but if it be discharged on the merits, the court generally grants costs.

Recognisance on rule being made absolute.

On the rule being made absolute, the prosecutor must enter into the necessary recognisance, required by 4 & 5 Will. & M. c. 18, s. 2, which enacts "that the clerk of the Crown shall not issue out process upon the information until he shall have taken, or had delivered to him, a recognisance from the person or persons procuring such information, to be exhibited with the place of his, her, or their abode, title, or profession, to be entered to the person or persons against whom such information or informations is or are to be exhibited, in the penalty of twenty pounds, that he, she, or they, will effectually prosecute such information or informations, and abide by and observe such orders as the said court shall direct, which recognisance the said clerk of the Crown, and every justice of the peace of any county, city, franchise, or town corporate (where the cause of any such information shall arise), are hereby empowered to take."

The security required by the statute is only in the penalty of 20*l*. The court will not require it for a larger amount.(*d*)

Form of information.

In substance, the information is the same as an indictment. Whatsoever certainty is requisite in an indictment, the same, at least, is necessary in an information; and consequently, as all material parts of the crime must be precisely found in the one, so must they be precisely alleged in the other, and not by way of argument or recital.(*e*)

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Smithson* (4 B. & Ad. 862). (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Reg.* v. *Proprietors of Nottingham Journal* (9 Dowl. 1043).
(*d*) *Rex* v. *Brooke and others* (2 T. R. 190).
(*e*) Hawkins P. C. Bk. 2, c. 26, tit. "Information," s. 4.

PART IV. CHAPTER XI.

A form of a criminal information will be found in the Appendix; and, as to the substance, the reader is referred to section III. (*post*), where the requisites of an indictment are set out.

Subpœna and appearance.

After filing the information and taking the security mentioned above, the Crown Office issues a subpœna, which is made out by the prosecutor's attorney and a copy served on the defendant, who has four days (exclusive of Sunday) from the day of the return to appear.

Under 48 Geo. 3, c. 58, s. 1, a judge's warrant may be issued to bring the defendant before him, or some other judge of the Queen's Bench, in order to his being bound, with two sufficient sureties, in such sum as shall be expressed in the warrant, with condition to appear in the said court at the time mentioned in the warrant, and to answer to all and singular indictments or informations for any such offence.

Non-appearance of defendant.

It is more usual, however, to subpœna the defendant; and if he does not cause an appearance to be entered within the time allowed, the attorney for the prosecutor may, upon filing an affidavit of service of the subpœna, issue an attachment; and if the defendant cannot be found, he may be outlawed.

Rule to plead.

After appearance, the prosecutor may give a rule to plead within ten days after service, as well in term as in vacation;(*a*) and in case no plea is entered within the time allowed, judgment for want of such plea may be signed at the opening of the office on the following morning, unless an order of the court or of a judge, extending the time, shall have been obtained.(*b*)

Sending down record for trial.

When the plea has been entered, the record is made up and sent down, by a writ of *nisi prius*, into the county where the libel was published.

Trial.

The trial is conducted as an ordinary civil action, subject to the rules of evidence applicable to a criminal prosecution.

What evidence is admissible and sufficient to bring home the charge to the defendant; what pleas he may put on the record; and the evidence necessary to support them, are set out in section III. (*post*).

II. JURISDICTION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Ordinary mode of inquiring into crimes.

In the last section we dealt with the extraordinary means which may be invoked to protect society, public morality, and private character from blasphemous, seditious, immoral, or defamatory publications. Those means are in addition to, and not a substitution for, the machinery by which all crimes are inquired into.

(*a*) See No. 17 of Rules of Court under 6 Vict. c. 20. (*b*) Rule 19.

Summons or warrant.

Upon complaint that any person has published a libel, a justice of the peace may either summon the accused to appear before him or some other magistrate; or he may, if he think fit, issue his warrant for his apprehension. The more usual course is, in the first instance, to grant a summons, and if the defendant do not obey it, then to issue a warrant.

In the case of *Butt* v. *Conant*(*a*) it was argued that a magistrate had no authority to issue a warrant for the arrest and commitment of a person charged with having published a libel, but the court were unanimous in deciding that he had. And, independently of that judgment, the matter is now set at rest by 11 & 12 Vict. c. 42, s. 1, which empowers any justice of the peace, upon a complaint being made before him that any person has committed, or is suspected of having committed, "any indictable offence *whatsoever*," *within the limits of the jurisdiction of such* justice, to issue a warrant for his apprehension; or he may, in the first instance, issue a summons.

Defence before magistrate.

Upon the inquiry before the magistrate, if the prosecution establish a *primâ facie* case, the defendant may call witnesses to prove that he did not publish the libel; that it is true; or any other matter which would be admissible as evidence at the trial.

Before the passing of 30 & 31 Vict. c. 35, it might have been doubtful whether the justices had power to hear evidence in justification of the libel, as the 6th section of 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, which allows the defendant to plead a justification, refers only to the trial, and not to the inquiry before the magistrate. On the other hand, there are, as will hereafter be seen, two charges upon which a person accused of publishing a defamatory libel, may be committed, viz., the *common law offence*, and the offence *created* by 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, s. 4—"maliciously publishing any defamatory libel, knowing the same to be false;" and, if he proved to the magistrate that the libel were true, he could not well be committed on this latter charge.

However that may be, by 30 & 31 Vict. c. 35, s. 3, it is provided that, in all cases where any person shall appear, or be brought, before any justices of the peace, charged with *any indictable offence*, such justice shall, before committing him for trial or admitting him to bail, ask the accused whether he desires to call witnesses; and the evidence of any witnesses he wishes to call is to be taken down in the same manner as the evidence for the prosecution, to be signed by the justices, and transmitted with the depositions; and

(*a*) 1 B. & B. 548.

such witnesses as shall, in the opinion of the justices, give evidence in any way material to the case, or tending to prove the innocence of the accused, shall be bound by recognisance to appear and give evidence at the trial.

Advantages of going into evidence for defence.

There are several advantages gained by going into evidence before the magistrate, supposing there to be a legitimate defence. The witnesses are bound over to appear at the trial; and, their evidence having been taken down in the same way as the evidence for the prosecution, there is no danger of their being tampered with in the meantime. In case of their death before, or serious illness at the time of, the trial, their depositions may be put in evidence, and, if they appear at the trial, the judge has power to allow their expenses, which could not be done unless they had been bound over.

Bail.

If the justices decide to send the case to trial, the defendant is entitled, as a matter of right, to be bailed; as at common law every misdemeanour is bailable, and libel is not one of those which have been excepted by statute.(*a*)

The bail demanded must be reasonable; and the only question the justices have to determine is, the sufficiency of the sureties: they cannot enter into any investigation of the character or opinions of the sureties.(*b*)

Requiring sureties for good behaviour.

Besides the power of demanding bail from the accused, to answer an indictment for libel, justices have claimed the right to determine themselves whether the defendant has been guilty of publishing a libel; and, instead of sending him to trial, to require sureties of good behaviour, and in default to commit him to prison.

Lord Camden, in the case of *Rex* v. *Wilkes*,(*c*) strenuously denied that a libeller could be bound to find surety of the peace, saying there was only one authority for the proposition—"the case of the seven bishops, where three judges said that surety of the peace was required in the case of libel; Judge Powell, the only honest man of the four judges, dissented; and I am bold to be of his opinion, and to say that the case is not law. Upon the whole, it is absurd to require surety of the peace in the case of a libeller." In *Butt* v. *Conant*,(*d*) the authority of this statement was denied, Park, J., being very wroth with Lord Camden for his "denunciation of dishonesty against men who, from no other part of their lives, nor from anything appearing in the particular case, deserved such a stigma:" but the only point decided in *Butt* v. *Conant* was, that a justice of the peace has power to issue his warrant for the arrest of a

(*a*) 11 & 12 Vict. c. 42, s. 23.
(*b*) *Reg.* v. *Badger* (4 Q. B. 472).
(*c*) 2 Wils. 151.
(*d*) 1 B. & B. 548.

person charged with having published a libel, and, in default of bail, to commit him for trial.

There is, however, one, and only one, direct modern authority in support of the doctrine that justices of the peace may demand sureties of good behaviour from persons whom they may adjudge guilty of defamatory libels. *Haylock* v. *Sparke*,(*a*) the case which evoked this decision, was an action of trespass brought against the late Chancellor of the Diocese of Ely, who was justice of the peace for the Isle of Ely. Upon the plaintiff being brought before him, charged with having written on the pavement "Donkey Watt, the Railway Jackass," referring to a Mr. Watt, the master of the railway station at Ely, the justice ordered him to find two sureties, and to enter into his recognisance to keep the peace for three months, and, upon his refusing to do so, committed him to gaol. The warrant was signed on the 30th of April, 1852, and on the 6th of May, the plaintiff was brought up on *habeas corpus* before Coleridge, J., and discharged. The warrant was afterwards brought up by *certiorari* and quashed, and this action was then commenced; the defendant pleading not guilty (by statute). On the trial before Pollock, C.B., among other points which were taken for the defendant, it was argued that he had acted within his jurisdiction, and, the declaration not being in case, and not averring malice, that the action failed under stat. 11 & 12 Vict. c. 44, s. 13. The learned Chief Baron held that there was no jurisdiction, but directed a verdict for the defendant, on the ground that the notice of action required by the statute ought to have been given after the warrant was quashed. The Court of Queen's Bench held that the notice was properly given, but that a justice of the peace *has* jurisdiction to require sureties for good behaviour in some cases of libel against private individuals; and that, if that were true, the defendant had jurisdiction in the matter out of which the action arose; and, though the proceedings were informal, and there was, in the opinion of the court, a great want of discretion in requiring sureties upon such an occasion, the action would not lie.

We are not aware that since this case there has been another instance of an alleged libeller being required to find sureties for good behaviour; and it by no means follows, because the court has decided that justices of the peace have a bare jurisdiction, and that, to support an action against them for its indiscreet exercise, malice must be alleged and proved, that the judges would not find reasons

(*a*) 1 E. & B. 471.

to reverse their judgment. Be that as it may, the power has only to be brought into use to be abolished, either by the Legislature or by the force of public opinion, as it would never be tolerated that in a matter so essentially concerning the liberty of the subject, magistrates should usurp the functions of the jury, and establish a new censorship of the press.

Obscene publications.

The powers given to stipendiary magistrates and to any two justices of the peace by the Act, "for more effectually preventing the sale of obscene books, pictures, prints, and other articles," have been sufficiently pointed out, *ante*, p. 314—318.

III. INDICTMENTS.

Indictment need not be preferred before arrest of libeller.

In the last section it was observed that the power of justices of the peace to commit for trial on a charge of publishing a libel had been disputed in the case of *Butt* v. *Conant*.(*a*) It was there contended by Vaughan, Sergt., in a very instructive argument, that the law required an indictment to be found before the justices of the peace could cause the accused to be apprehended. It has been pointed out that this contention did not prevail with the court, and that a modern statute had removed all doubt upon the point.

Preferring indictment before grand jury direct.

Originally, when it was desired to indict a libeller, the prosecutor went directly before the grand jury and preferred a bill, without the intervention of the magistrates; and that course of procedure may be, and still is, frequently adopted, as the offence of libel is not included in the Vexatious Indictment Act.(*b*)

In the present section we propose to deal with the points which it is necessary to keep in mind in drawing an indictment or criminal information for libel.

Jurisdiction of Quarter Sessions.

An indictment for composing, printing, or publishing blasphemous, seditious, or defamatory libels cannot be tried at sessions;(*c*) but obscene libels are within their jurisdiction.

Venue.

The bill must be preferred in the county where the publication, which is relied on, was made; but it often happens that the defendant has, by one act, published the libel in two counties. Thus, in *Rex* v. *Burdett*,(*d*) the Court (Bayley, J., *dubitante*) held that posting a sealed letter was a publication in the county where the post-office was situate, and that

(*a*) 1 B. & B. 548. See *ante*, p. 511. (*b*) 22 & 23 Vict. c. 17.
(*c*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 38. See *Re Armstrong* (Cox Crim. Cas. 342).
(*d*) 4 B. & Ald. 95.

where a defendant writes a letter in one county with the intent to publish it in another, and does afterwards publish it there, he may be indicted in either county.

The most convenient course is to lay the indictment in the county where the libel was made manifest, or "published" in the popular sense of that word.(*a*)

Indictment must charge "publication."

The indictment must charge that the defendant "did publish;" as merely writing a libel is not a misdemeanor.(*b*)

How libel may be set out.

The libel itself must be accurately set out, either by transcribing it verbatim or by setting out the particular words complained of; and if there are several libellous passages in different parts of the writing, they should be set out in the following manner: "In a certain part of which said libel there was and is contained," &c., "and in a certain other part of the said libel there was and is contained," &c.(*c*)

Libel in foreign language.

If the words complained of are in a foreign language, they must be set out in the original, with a correct translation.(*d*) A mistranslation may vitiate the indictment.(*e*)

Indictment must charge publication "of and concerning" person libelled.

The indictment should charge the libel to have been written and published "of and concerning" the person libelled.

In the case of *Rex* v. *Marsden*(*f*) the omission of those words was held fatal, upon the ground that, without them, it did not conclusively appear that no other person than the prosecutor could have been intended, although it was averred that the defendant intended to vilify the prosecutor, he having been Mayor of Colchester, and to cause it to be believed that he, "as such mayor," had practised corruption, and been guilty of abuse in respect to granting a licence to one J. L. to retail beer; and although innuendos pointed the different parts of the libel to the prosecutor, and to the granting of the licence.

Innuendoes.

The indictment must contain averments of any facts which are necessary to connect it with the prosecutor or the subject of the libel.

An innuendo means nothing more than the words "*id est*," "*videlicet*," or "meaning," or "aforesaid," as explanatory of a subject-matter sufficiently expressed before; as—"such a one," meaning the defendants, or "such a subject," meaning the subject in question.

(*a*) As to the venue in the case of indictments preferred at the Central Criminal Court, see 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 36, s. 3; and *Reg.* v. *Gregory* (7 Q. B. 274; 14 L. J. 82, M. C.).

(*b*) *Reg.* v. *Burdett* (4 B. & Ald. 95). (*c*) 1 Camp. 353.

(*d*) *Zenobio* v. *Axtell* (6 T. R. 162). *Rex* v. *Goldstein* (3 B. & B. 201).

(*e*) 1 Wms. Saunders, 242; Sty. 263. (*f*) 4 M. & S. 164.

Inasmuch as an innuendo is only used as a word of explanation, it cannot extend the sense of the expressions in the libel beyond their own meaning, unless something is put on the record for it to explain.

Thus, in an action upon the case against a man for saying of another, "He has burnt my barn," the plaintiff cannot there, by way of innuendo, say, "meaning his barn full of corn," because that is not an explanation of what was said before, but an addition to it. But if, in the introduction, it had been averred that the defendant had a barn full of corn, and that, in a discourse about that barn, the defendant had spoken the words charged in the libel of the plaintiff, an innuendo of its being the barn full of corn would have been good, says De Grey, C.J., delivering the unanimous opinion of all the judges to the House of Lords in the case of *Rex* v. *Horne*.(*a*)

Where innuendo is unnecessary.

Where the writing itself imports a libel no innuendo is necessary.

Thus, where it was contended that the words "Frozen Snake" could not be deemed libellous unless shown to be so by an innuendo, Coleridge, J., said: "As to the necessity of an innuendo, the jury and court, in such a case as this, are in an odd predicament if they alone, of all persons, are not to understand the allusion complained of. Suppose the libel had said the plaintiff acted like a Judas, must the history of Judas have been given, and referred to by innuendo? We ought to attribute to a court and jury an acquaintance with ordinary terms and allusions, whether historical, or figurative, or parabolical."(*b*)

Innuendo bad or repugnant to words of libel.

If an innuendo is bad, and on the face of it repugnant to the words of the libel, it may be rejected as surplusage, and, if the words are libellous in themselves, the indictment remains good;(*c*) but if the words are capable of two senses, and the innuendo ascribes one meaning to them, and is good on the face of it, then it cannot be rejected, but must be proved.(*d*)

Removal of indictment by *certiorari*.

The indictment is frequently removed by *certiorari* into

(*a*) Cowp. 682. See also the case of *Rex* v. *Burdett* (4 B. & Ald. 316). Abbott, C.J., says, with reference to the above-cited language of De Grey, C.J.: "The judgment of which the above is part has universally been considered the best and most perfect exposition of the law upon this subject."

(*b*) *Hoare* v. *Silverlock* (12 Q. B. 633); see *Harvey* v. *French* (2 Tyr. 585; 1 C. & M. 11).

(*c*) *Harvey* v. *French* (1 C. & M. 11; 2 Tyr. 585). *Barrett* v. *Long* (3 H. L. Cas. 413).

(*d*) *Williams* v. *Stott* (3 Tyr. 688; 1 C. M. 675).

the Queen's Bench, so as to secure the advantage of a special jury, and the opportunity of moving the court, in case of a verdict being found against the defendant.

The Court of Queen's Bench may order any indictment removed into that court by *certiorari*, to be tried at the Central Criminal Court.(*a*)

Proofs of publication.

The first allegation in the indictment which it is necessary for the prosecutor to prove is, that the defendant published the matter which is charged against him.

Who is a publisher.

This leads us to consider what constitutes a publication, and we cannot find a better definition than that given by Bayley, J., in the case of *Rex* v. *Carlile*.(*b*) He there says: "It is right that it should be known, not only that the party who originally prints, but that every party who utters, who sells, who gives, or who lends, a copy of an offensive publication will be liable to be prosecuted as a publisher."

Proof of publication when proceeding is against publisher.

Publication may be proved by evidence that the libel was bought in defendant's shop; and this is, perhaps, the readiest proof when the prosecution is directed against the person who, in the common acceptation of the word, is the publisher.

In the case of *Rex* v. *Almon* (*c*), Lord Mansfield, in answer to one of the jury, said: "I have always understood, and take it to be clearly settled, that evidence of a public sale, or public exposal to sale, in the shop, by the servant or anybody in the house or shop, is sufficient evidence to convict the master of the house or shop, though there was no privity or concurrence in him, unless he proves the contrary, or that there was some trick or collusion." A new trial was moved for on the ground that a master is not answerable, in a criminal case, for the conduct of his servant where his privity is not proved; but the court upheld Lord Mansfield's ruling, and refused to grant a rule.

The Legislature, as was pointed out when we were dealing with the evidence of publication necessary to support an application for a criminal information, have sanctioned this mode of proof by reciting it, in one of the repealed sections of 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, as unnecessary when a copy of declarations filed at the stamp office, and a newspaper agreeing therewith, are put in.

When proceeding is against author.

If, however, the author, and not the publisher, is the defendant, it will be sufficient proof of publication against him to show that the manuscript is in his handwriting,

(*a*) 19 Vict. c. 16, s. 1.
(*b*) *Rex* v. *Carlile* (3 B. & Ald. 169), and see *Lamb's case* (9 Coke, 59).
(*c*) 20 How. St. Tr. 838.

and that it is printed and published, although there be no evidence that he directed the one or the other.(*a*)

Lord Holt held that where a libel is produced, written by a man's own hand, and the author of it is not known, he is taken in the mainer,(*b*) and that throws the proof upon him; and, if he cannot produce the composer, the verdict will be against him.(*c*)

Proof of handwriting.

Where the guilt of the defendant is to be established by proof of his handwriting, persons should be called who have seen him write, or who are acquainted with the character of his handwriting by receiving or seeing letters or papers which have purported to be written by him, the authenticity of which has not been disputed.

Thus, a clerk in a merchant's office may be called to identify the writing, by his knowledge of letters of the defendant received at his master's counting house.(*d*)

By comparison.

Formerly the law did not allow the comparison by the jury or by witnesses of the libel with other writings of the defendant, but now by 28 & 29 Vict. c. 18, s. 8, "comparison of a disputed writing with any writing proved to the satisfaction of the judge to be genuine, shall be permitted to be made by witnesses; and such writings, and the evidence of witnesses respecting the same, may be submitted to the court and jury, as evidence of the genuineness or otherwise of the writing in dispute."

Experts may make this comparison as well as witnesses who have personal knowledge of defendant's handwriting. In the recent case of *Reg.* v. *Waters*,(*e*) the evidence on which the court made the rule absolute for a criminal information was the affidavit of an expert, who had compared the handwriting of an authentic paper with that of the letter in question.

Requesting or procuring another to write libel.

It is not necessary to prove that the defendant put pen to paper; or with his own hands sold, gave, or lent the libel, or a copy thereof, to any person. If he requested or procured any other person to write or publish the libel he is equally guilty.

Thus in the case of *Reg* v. *Cooper*,(*f*) the evidence against the defendant was that of the editor of the paper in which the libel was published. He stated that the defendant had

(*a*) *Reg.* v. *Lovett* (9 C. & P. 463).

(*b*) Mainer, mainour, manour, or meinc , from the French *manier*, *i.e. manu tractare*, in a legal sense denotes the thing taken away, found in the hand of the thief who took it.

(*c*) *Rex* v. *Beare* (1 Raym. 417; 12 Mod. 221; 2 Salk. 417).

(*d*) *Rex* v. *Slaney* (5 C. & P. 213). (*e*) MS.

(*f*) *Reg.* v. *Cooper* (8 Q. B. 533; 15 L. J. 206, Q. B.)

expressed a wish to him that he would shew up the prosecutor and his brother, and had told witness the story which formed the foundation of the libel; that the witness had told it to a reporter for the paper, and that the libel was substantially what was so communicated; that afterwards the defendant had remarked that the article had not appeared; that after its appearance defendant said he had seen it, and that he liked it very much; that the witness had heard the tale before the defendant told it him. Wightman, J., left it to the jury upon this evidence to say whether the defendant had caused the libel to be published, remarking that his approbation of it, after publication, was evidence to shew that it was such an article as he wished to be published.

The jury convicted the defendant, and the court refused a rule for a new trial, Denman, C.J., saying: "If a man request another generally to write a libel he must be answerable for anything written in pursuance of his request. He contributes to a misdemeanor, and is therefore responsible as a principal. He takes the chance of what is to be published. . . . . That which did in fact form the foundation of the libel, and which the editor communicated to the reporter, was what the defendant communicated to the editor; and after the publication it was approved of by the defendant. . . . . If we held this not to be a publication by the defendant we must go the length of exonerating a party who gives instructions for a libel in every case where the libel published departs from the instructions by a single word. . . . . Here I have not the slightest doubt. There is first, an employment: secondly, an identity of subject matter; thirdly, a complaint of delay in the publication; fourthly, an approval; fifthly, evidence that the libel is substantially that which was communicated." Coleridge and Wightman, JJ., concurred, principally on the ground that the defendant had approved of the article.

The case of *Parkes* v. *Prescott and another*, already referred to,(*a*) is still more conclusive upon this point. There an action of libel was brought against two guardians of the poor for defamatory statements which were made at a meeting of guardians, and were afterwards published in two newspapers.

The only witnesses examined were the reporters who had been present at the meeting in the ordinary course of their

(*a*) *Ante*, pp. 422-425, L. Rep. 4 Ex. 169; 38 L. J. 105, Ex.; 20 L. T. N. S. 537.

duty. They proved the substantial accuracy of the reports, and that during the discussion the defendant Ellis said: "He hoped the local press would take notice of this very scandalous case," and requested the defendant Prescott to give an outline of it. This Prescott, who was in the chair, did, saying, "I am glad gentlemen of the press are in the room, and I hope they will take notice of it;" upon which the defendant Ellis added, "And so do I." Prescott also said he hoped publicity would be given to the matter. Martin, B., directed a verdict for the defendants on the ground that there was no evidence of publication. To this ruling a bill of exceptions was tendered, and the court of Exchequer Chamber held it to be a misdirection, and awarded a *venire de novo*. The court were not unanimous, the majority of the court (Keating, Montague Smith, and Hannen, JJ.) holding that the case ought to have been left to the jury, on the ground that where a man requests another to publish defamatory matter of which, for the purpose, he gives him a statement, whether in full or in outline, and the agent publishes the sense and substance of it, although to some extent in his own language, the man making the request is liable to an action as the publisher.

Distinction between criminal and civil responsibility for act of agent.

Byles and Mellor, JJ., dissented, and to the learned judgment of Byles, J., we will call attention, as showing the distinction between the civil and criminal responsibility of a principal for the tortious acts of his agent.

Stated shortly, the grounds on which the learned judge supported the ruling of Martin, B., were: That there was no evidence of a direction to publish the precise words; that he doubted whether the expression of a hope that the press would take notice of the case, &c., amounted to an authority to publish in a newspaper defamatory and unjustifiable matter spoken at a meeting; that it is not sufficient at common law that expressions equivalent to those in the declaration were written and published by the defendant, but the libel must be proved as laid, and a variance is fatal; and, though a variance is now amendable, no amendment could cure the objection, as the evidence does not show what particular defamatory expressions were or were not authorised by the defendants. The learned judge threw out an opinion that an action on the case against the defendants, for inciting the reporters to defame the plaintiff, would have been the proper remedy, without charging them with the words published by the reporters. He distinguished the case of *Reg.* v. *Cooper*(*a*) on the double ground that the

(*a*) *Ante*, p. 518.

defendant had expressed his approval of the article after it was published, and that *Reg.* v. *Cooper* was a criminal case. The learned Judge, upon this last point, said: "That case was, moreover, a criminal case. It was an indictment for libel; and there is a great distinction between the authority which will make a man liable criminally and the authority which will make him liable civilly. A principal is not *civilly* liable for the acts of his agent unless the agent's authority be by the agent duly pursued; but the principal may be *criminally* liable, though the agent have deviated very widely from his authority, or, as Lord Bacon puts it; 'Lawful authority is to receive a strict interpretation, unlawful authority a wide and extended interpretation, *Mandata licita recipiunt strictam interpretationem, sed illicita latam et extensam.*' . . . . It is true that a libel is a criminal act; but in this case the plaintiff does not proceed for the criminal act, but for the civil injury. Reading the case of *Reg.* v. *Cooper* with the light of this distinction between civil and criminal proceedings, which distinction is clear law and sound sense, it may well be that when a defendant tells the editor of a newspaper, as he did in that case, to 'show another up,' and the editor of the newspaper does so in gross terms, unauthorised and not intended by the defendant, the latter may, nevertheless, be criminally liable, though he might not be *civilly liable.*"

Questions to witness.

A witness may be asked if he knows who wrote the libel, but, if he answer in the affirmative, he is not bound to name the person, because it may be himself.(*a*)

Proof of place of publication.

A publication must be proved at the venue laid in the indictment. We have seen that where a man writes a libel in one county, and is a party to its publication in another, he may be indicted in either.(*b*)

Putting in the libel.

After proving the publication, the next step is to put the libel in and have it read.

If the original is proved to be in the possession of the defendant, and notice has been given to him to produce it, and he fail to do so, a copy may be read.(*c*)

When a libel is printed, it would seem that all the impressions are original; and if the defendant is connected with the libel after it was printed, a copy may be put in, or rather duplicate, which he has not seen.(*d*)

Variance between libel and indictment.

The libel read must agree in all respects, save mere

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Slaney* (5 C. & P. 215).
(*b*) *Ante*, pp. 514, 515, and see *Rex* v. *Johnson* (7 East, 65).
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Watson* (2 T. R. 201).
(*d*) *Rex.* v. *Watson* (2 Camp. 129).

clerical errors—such as the misspelling of a word—with the indictment. If there is the slightest disagreement in the sense it will be fatal.(*a*)

It is no variance that only part of the libel is set out; but if any part qualifies the rest it may be given in evidence.(*b*)

Where the defendant was charged in several counts of the indictment with having "composed, printed, and published" a libel which, as set out in the indictment, differed from the printed libel, but agreed with the MS. which the defendant had delivered to the printer, it was held that he might be found guilty of the composing and publishing, and acquitted of the printing.(*c*)

Power to amend variance.

The court has power to amend any variance which may appear between the written evidence and the recital thereof on the record, in matters not material to the merits of the case, and where the defendant cannot thereby be prejudiced in his defence on the merits.(*d*)

Proof of introductory averments.

After the libel has been read by the officer of the court, the prosecutor proceeds to prove the introductory averments which are necessary to connect the libel with him.

For instance, if the libel reflects upon a man in any office or profession which may belong to many, it is necessary to aver that he acted in that capacity, and to prove it accordingly; and, though it suffices to allege that he held the particular office, yet, if the indictment state he was duly appointed, the appointment must be proved as laid.(*e*)

So, where an information stated "that before the publishing of the libel the King had issued a proclamation, that after the said proclamation and before the publishing of the libel therein after-mentioned, divers addresses had on occasion of such proclamation been presented to his said Majesty, and that the defendant, well knowing the premises, but maliciously and seditiously intending to bring the said proclamation into contempt, &c., and to stir up sedition," published the libel in question, it was held necessary to prove the King's proclamation; but, *per* Buller, J., "the prosecutor need not have given any evidence at all of these addresses; the averment respecting these addresses seems unnecessary; for the information, after stating the proclamation and the addresses, charges the

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Beach* (1 Leach, 135); and *Rex* v. *Hart* (1 Leach, 145).
(*b*) *Rex* v. *Beare* (2 Salk. 417; Ray. 414; 12 Mod. 221).
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Williams* (2 Camp. 646).
(*d*) See 9 Geo. 4, c. 15; 11 & 12 Vict. c. 46, s. 4; 12 & 13 Vict. c. 45, s. 10; 14 & 15 Vict. c. 100, ss. 1, 24, 25.
(*e*) *Rex* v. *Martin* (2 Camp. 101). See *Rex* v. *Budd* (5 Esp. 230).

defendant with a seditious intent to bring the said proclamation into contempt, without noticing the addresses again. The distinction between material and immaterial averments is perfectly well settled; if the averment be material, that is, if it be connected with the charge, it must be proved; but if it be totally immaterial, and if the libel be not connected with the averment, it need not be proved."(*a*)

When introductory averments are necessary.

In short, it may be laid down that introductory averments are only essential when they make applicable to the prosecutor, and shew to be libellous, statements which, on their face, do not naturally or inevitably refer to him or appear defamatory.

Where the statements are clearly libellous all explanatory averments may be rejected as surplusage.

Intent.

It should be noted here that in a prosecution for a libel on a dead person, it is essential, as already pointed out,(*b*) to aver and prove that it was published with intent to bring contempt on the family of the deceased, and to stir up the hatred of the King's subjects against them, and to excite the relations of the deceased to a breach of the peace.(*c*)

This intent will generally be sufficiently proved by the libel.

Where the libellous words assume the existence of the extrinsic facts, they operate as an admission, and no further proof is needed.(*d*)

Proof of application of libel to prosecutor.

To prove the application of the libel to the prosecutor, witnesses should be called who are acquainted with him and with the circumstances which gave occasion to the libel, and who have read the libel; and they should be asked to whom they referred it.

In *Du Bost* v. *Beresford*, Lord Ellenborough held that the declarations made by spectators, while they looked at a picture, were evidence to show whom the figures were meant to represent.(*e*)

Malice.

Malice will be presumed from the act of publication; for, in the language of Lord Campbell, "malice, in the legal acceptation of the word, is not confined to personal spite against individuals, but consists in the conscious violation of the law to the prejudice of another. . . . . And it is a well-established maxim that everyone must be taken to intend the necessary consequence of his deliberate acts."(*f*)

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Holt* (5 T. R. 446). (*b*) *Ante*, p. 420.
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Topham* (4 T. R. 126).
(*d*) See *Jones* v. *Stevens* (11 Price, 235); *Berryman* v. *Wise* (4 T. R. 366); *Irisarri* v. *Clement* (3 Bing. 441). (*e*) 2 Camp. 512.
(*f*) *Ferguson* v. *Earl of Kinnoull* (9 Cl. & F. 321). See *Rex* v. *Harvey* (2 B. & C. 257); *Rex* v. *Burdett* (4 B. & Ald. 95).

Sometimes, however, it becomes material to prove express malice, and, for this purpose, other publications by the defendant may be given in evidence.(*a*)

Falsehood need not be shown.

No evidence is required to show that the libel is false; for at common law "the truth or falsehood of a written or printed paper is not material to be left to the jury, upon the trial of an *indictment or information* for a libel. The epithet false is not applied to the proposition contained in the paper, but to the aggregate criminal result, *libel*. We say *falsus libellus* as we say *falsus proditor* in high treason."(*b*)

6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, s. 4.

The Legislature have, however, created a new offence by 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, s. 4, which enacts: "That if any person shall maliciously publish any defamatory libel *knowing it to be false*, every such person on being convicted thereof shall be liable to be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction for any term not exceeding two years, and to pay such fine as the court shall award."

And, although the prosecutor need not burden himself with the proof of the falsehood, to secure a conviction without alleging the *scienter*; yet it will be seen hereafter that the defendant may, under certain circumstances, give evidence of the truth of the matters charged.

Publishing or threatening to publish or abstain from publishing with intent to extort money.

By sect. 3 of the Act last referred to, it is enacted that "if any person shall publish or threaten to publish any libel upon any other person, or shall directly or indirectly threaten to print or publish, or shall directly or indirectly propose to abstain from printing or publishing, or shall directly or indirectly offer to prevent the printing or publishing, of any matter or thing touching any other person with intent to extort any money, or security for money or any valuable thing from such or any other person, or with intent to induce any person to confer or procure for any person any appointment or office of profit or trust, every such offender, on being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, in the common gaol or house of correction, for any term not exceeding three years."

We come now to consider what answer the defendant can make to the indictment or information.

Defence.

At common law he was restricted to the plea of not guilty.

Publication by mistake.

Under this plea the defendant may prove that he published the libel by mistake.

The cases which are sometimes quoted in support of this

(*a*) *Stuart* v. *Lovell* (2 Starkie N. P. 95).

(*b*) See opinion of the Judges delivered to the House of Lords (22 How. St. Tr. 297); and *Rex* v. *Burke* (7 T. R. 4).

proposition do not, however, bear it out, and we are left to the dicta of judges; but there can be no doubt that, in the present day, proof that the only connection of the defendant with the libel was in innocently publishing it, would entitle him to the verdict.

In *Rex* v. *Topham*,(a) Lord Kenyon says: "There may indeed be cases, and so it was admitted in *Rex* v. *Nutt*, of a publication in point of law, where no criminal intention can be imputed to the party; as where a party delivers a letter without knowing its contents, or delivers one paper instead of another."

Rex v. *Nutt*(b) was the case of a criminal information against a woman for publishing a treasonable libel; and the evidence was, that the defendant kept a pamphlet shop, and that the libel was sold by her servant in her absence, and that the defendant did not know the contents of it, "nor of its coming in or going out." Raymond, C.J., held that the defendant was guilty of publishing it, and that it would be very dangerous if the law were otherwise. And, in answer to a question from defendant's counsel as to whether a post-boy who carried a libel, sealed up, into the country, could be punished for it, the Chief Justice answered, "That there the question would be, whether the carrying by a post-boy should be deemed in law a publication; and in all those cases the mischief is equal, though the party's intention do not concur." The jury, however, in this case, could not agree to give a general verdict, and desired to give a special one, and eventually the Attorney-General consented to the withdrawal of a juror.

There is also a dictum of Lord Kenyon's, in *Rex* v. *Lord Abingdon*, that an inadvertent publication would not be a libel.(c)

In a civil case, Patteson, J., ruled, that a porter who, in the course of his business, delivered parcels containing libellous handbills, was not liable to an action, if he were shown to be ignorant of their contents.(d)

Evidence to rebut presumption of publication.

It was always competent to the defendant to rebut the *primâ facie* presumption of publication, which is raised by the fact that the libel, importing on its title-page to be printed for him, was bought in his shop;(e) and now, by the 7th section of Lord Campbell's Act (6 & 7 Vict. c. 96): "Whensoever, upon the trial of any indictment or

(a) 4 T. R. 127.
(b) Fitzgib. 47; Barnard. 308. See also *Rex* v. *Paine* (5 Mod. 163).
(c) 1 Esp. 228. (d) *Day* v. *Bream* (2 Moo. & Rob. 55).
(e) *Rex* v. *Almon* (5 Burr. 2689).

information for the publication of a libel, under the plea of not guilty, evidence shall be given which shall establish a presumptive case of publication against the defendant, by the act of any other person by his authority, it shall be competent for such defendant to prove that such publication was made without his authority, consent, or knowledge, and that the said publication did not arise from any want of due care or caution on his part."

There seems to have been some oversight in framing this section, as it contains no statement of what the effect of the evidence, which it allows to be given, shall be; nor does it appear to allow any evidence which was not formerly admissible at common law.

We can find no decided cases in which the defendant has successfully rebutted the presumption arising from the publication by his servants or agents.

In *Rex* v. *Walter*,(*a*) evidence was given that, though the defendant was proprietor of the paper in which the libel appeared, he lived entirely in the country, and that his son conducted the paper without interference on his part. Lord Kenyon told the jury that he was liable.

In the case of *Rex* v. *Gutch and others*,(*b*) the libel was published in a London newspaper, and a witness for the defendant proved that, at the time of the publication, Gutch was living in Worcester, in an ill state of health, and was not interfering in the conduct of the paper at all. The counsel for Gutch (the late Sir F. Pollock), in a powerful argument, in which he reviewed all the cases, contended that his client could not be found guilty; but Lord Tenterden directed the jury that as the defendant derived profit from, and found means to carry on, the concern, and selected the person to conduct the publication, he was guilty of publishing what appeared in the paper, although it could not be shown that he was individually concerned in the particular publication, and that it would be exceedingly dangerous to hold otherwise; and the jury found him guilty. On the following day another *ex officio* information was tried (*c*) against the same defendants, when Lord Tenterden said he did not mean that some possible case might not occur, in which the proprietor of a newspaper would not be criminally answerable for what appeared in it.

In a note to Hawkins' "Pleas of the Crown,"(*d*) the possible case is suggested of the printer being confined in prison, to which his servants have no access, and their

(*a*) 3 Esp. 21. (*b*) 1 M. & M. 433. (*c*) 1 M. & M. 438.
(*d*) 1 Hawkins, Bk. 1, ch. 28 (tit. "Libels"), sect. 10, note 3.

publishing a libel without his privity; in which case, it is there said, the libel shall not be imputed to him.

The defendant may likewise give evidence to show that the libel was privileged. As to this, we need only refer the reader to what has been said, in preceding chapters of this work, upon privileged publications.

Other grounds of defence.

The defendant may also prove that the libel is not capable of the innuendo laid in the indictment, and that it does not refer to the prosecutor or to the transactions averred; and he may negative the material facts averred.

Other passages from book, &c. may be read.

For the purpose of showing the intention of the defendant, and explaining the meaning of the libel, he is entitled to have other passages from the book or newspaper, which contains the libel, read; and it is doubtful whether he may not explain his meaning by other works of his.(*a*)

So much as to the defence allowed by the common law.

Plea justifying libel.

Now, under Lord Campbell's Act, the defendant may, at his peril in case he fail, plead a justification of the libel, in addition to the plea of not guilty.

The 6th section of that Act(*b*) enacts, "that on the trial of any indictment or information for a defamatory libel, the defendant having pleaded such plea as hereinafter mentioned, the truth of the matters charged may be inquired into, but shall not amount to a defence, unless it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published; and that to entitle the defendant to give evidence of the truth of such matters charged as a defence to such indictment or information, it shall be necessary for the defendant, in pleading to the said indictment or information, to allege the truth of the said matters charged, in the manner now required in pleading a justification to an action for defamation, and, further, to allege that it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published, and the particular fact or facts by reason whereof it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published, to which plea the prosecutor shall be at liberty to reply generally, denying the whole thereof; and that if after such plea the defendant shall be convicted on such indictment or information, it shall be competent to the court, in pronouncing sentence, to consider whether the guilt of the defendant is aggravated or mitigated by the said plea, and by the evidence given to prove or to disprove the same: Provided always, that the truth of the matters charged in the alleged libel complained of by such indictment or information, shall in no case be inquired into without such plea of justification:

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Lambert and Perry* (2 Camp. 398). (*b*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96.

Provided, also, that in addition to such plea it shall be competent to the defendant to plead a plea of not guilty: Provided, also, that nothing in this Act contained shall take away or prejudice any defence under the plea of not guilty, which it is now competent for the defendant to make, under such plea, to any action or indictment or information for defamatory words or libel."

Applies only to personal libels.

It is obvious, from the very nature of the case, that this section only applies to libels of a personally defamatory character; for the words require not only that the matter should be true, but that it should be for the public benefit that it should be published; and it would be absurd for any court of justice gravely to inquire whether the publication of blasphemous, obscene, or seditious matter were conducive to the public good.(*a*)

All material allegations must be proved.

The plea must set out the particular facts which are relied upon as proving the truth of the libel, and also the facts which render the publication for the public benefit; and the defendant must prove all the material allegations of the plea to the satisfaction of the jury, or the prosecutor will be entitled to the verdict. So that, if the libel contain several imputations, and the plea alleges the truth of all, if the evidence fail as to any of them, the verdict must be entered generally against the defendant, although the jury should find some of the imputations true.(*b*)

"It has uniformly been held that, even in a civil action for libel, the plea of justification is one and entire. It raises only one issue; and, unless the whole plea is proved, that issue must be found for the plaintiff. Some difference of opinion has prevailed as to how far a partial proof of the justification ought to operate in reduction of damages; but all authorities agree that there can be no partial finding for the defendant on the ground that the justification is partially established. In a criminal prosecution for a libel, had liberty been given by the Legislature to plead the truth as a defence, without any special direction as to the proceedings in case the whole plea is not proved, the jury could have had no right to find that a part of the justification is proved; for there are no damages to be assessed, and the sentence to be pronounced rests exclusively with the court. But all doubt upon the subject is removed by the express enactment that, wherever there is a conviction after a plea of justification, 'the court, in pronouncing sentence,' shall 'consider whether the guilt of the defendant is aggravated or mitigated by the said

(*a*) See *Reg.* v. *Duffy* (2 Cox Crim. Cas. 45).
(*b*) *Reg.* v. *Newman* (1 E. & B. 558).

plea and by the evidence given to prove or disprove the same.' . . . . It is quite clear that the opinion expressed by the jury on any particular parts of the plea (the whole not being proved) could not be entered on the record."(a)

In the next chapter will be seen more fully the "manner now required in pleading a justification to an action."

Proof not allowed of libel having been previously published without proceedings taken.

It is not competent to the defendant to prove that the imputations contained in the libel have been previously published by other persons, and that the prosecutor, knowing of them, has not taken proceedings against the publish .

Lord Campbell, C.J., refused to admit evidence of this nature on the trial of Dr. Newman for libelling Dr. Achilli;(b) and Coleridge, J., on motion for a rule for a new trial on the ground that the evidence was wrongly rejected, said, "It is said that you are to infer the truth of the statement made by one set of witnesses against the statement made by another set, because the same circumstances with respect to the same party have been stated before, and that this, having been brought to the knowledge of the party, he submitted. The fallacy is in the word 'submission.' It comes to this only, that he did not prosecute. There may have been many reasons for that—the anonymous nature of the article, the inability to fix on any particular person, the ignorance whether the charge proceeded from a man of character, the poverty of the party himself, and many other circumstances that might be suggested, preventing a man from instituting proceedings in a court of justice on the first occasion on which the charge was made."(c)

Fox's Libel Act.

The causes which led to the passing of Fox's Libel Act are matter of history. Erskine, by his intrepid and persistent defence of the Dean of St. Asaph, contributed perhaps more than any man, save Lord Camden, to gain this security for the Press, which, according to Lord Campbell, in effect defines a libel to be "a publication which, in the opinion of twelve honest, ad pendent, and intelligent men, is mischievous, and ought to be punished."(d)

Jury may give a general verdict on whole matter in issue.

The first section declares and enacts "That on every such trial" (*i.e.*, trial of an indictment or information for the making or publishing any libel), "the jury sworn to try the issue may give a general verdict of guilty or not guilty upon the whole matter put in issue upon such indictment or information, and shall not be required or directed by the court or judge, before whom such indictment or information shall be tried, to find the defendant or the defendants guilty,

(a) *Per* Lord Campbell, C.J., 1 El. & Bl. 577. (b) 1 E. & B. 269.
(c) *Id.* 272. (d) 5 Lives of the Chancellors, 350.

merely on the proof of the publication by such defendant or defendants of the paper charged to be a libel, and of the sense ascribed to the same in such indictment or information."

Court or judge may give opinion on matter in issue.

Sect. 2 provides, "That on every such trial the court or judge before whom such indictment or information shall be tried, shall, according to their or his discretion, give their or his opinion and directions to the jury on the matter in issue between the king and the defendant or defendants in like manner as in other criminal cases."

This enactment does not oblige the judge to give his opinion as to whether the publication is a libel, but leaves it to his discretion in each particular case.(*a*)

Special verdict.

By the 3rd section the jury are empowered to find a special verdict, as in other criminal cases.

Commitment.

Where defendant is convicted on a criminal information, unless the prosecutor consents to his being bailed, it is a matter of course that he should be committed pending the consideration of the judgment.(*b*)

Acquittal is final.

Should the jury acquit the defendant, the matter is determined for ever; for the court will never grant a new trial, after an acquittal upon an indictment or information for a felony or misdemeanor, even where there has been a misdirection,(*c*) except where the case is of the nature of a civil action, such as an indictment for the non-repair of a highway.

Lord Campbell, in discharging a rule for a new trial, on an indictment for obstructing the navigation of a stream or sheet of water, said:(*d*) "The ground of my decision is that this is a criminal proceeding, and that the defendant ought not to be put twice in peril for the same cause. That rests upon a maxim of English law which will, I hope, always be held sacred. I, for my own part, reprobate the recent speculations as to the propriety of granting a new trial after acquittals for felony or murder. If there be an improper conviction, it should be set aside; but I hope the same practice will never prevail in the case of an acquittal. When an indictment is instituted purely to raise a question of civil right, I agree with the doctrine which I have found established. . . . . But where a real offence is charged, it would be creating a dangerous precedent to grant a new trial after an acquittal." We have quoted this judgment

(*a*) *Baylis* v. *Lawrence* (11 A. & E. 920).
(*b*) *Rex* v. *Waddington* (1 East. 159).
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Cohen* and *Jacob* (1 Starkie, 516).
(*d*) *Reg.* v. *Russell* (3 E. & B. 942, 950).

because some text books lay it down as the better opinion that the court may grant a new trial after an acquittal in all cases of misdemeanor. There are certainly no modern cases to support this view: and so far back as the 12th Car. 2, its correctness was denied.(*a*)

When Fox's Bill was before the House of Lords, Lord Thurlow wanted to introduce a clause to authorise the court to grant a new trial, if it should be dissatisfied with the verdict given for the defendant; but Lord Camden, who had charge of the bill in the Upper House, emphatically refused to consent.(*b*)

Motion in arrest of judgment or for new trial.

While, however, the Act gave to the Press the security of a real trial by jury, it did not take away the protection of the judges, granted on motions in arrest of judgment, and for a new trial.

The 4th section provides, that in case the jury finds the defendant or defendants guilty, he or they may move in arrest of judgment, on such ground and in such manner as by law might have been done before the passing of the Act.

Grounds of motion.

This motion must be grounded on some objection appearing on the face of the record.

Mere formal defects cannot be taken advantage of in such a motion; for, by the 25th section of 14 & 15 Vict. c. 100, every objection to any indictment for any formal defect apparent on the face thereof, shall be taken by demurrer or motion to quash the indictment, before the jury shall be sworn, and not afterwards; and every court before which such objection shall be taken for any formal defect may, if it be thought necessary, cause the indictment to be forthwith amended in such particular by some officer of the court or other person, and thereupon the trial shall proceed as if no such defect had appeared.

Arrest of judgment.

Where, from want of proper introductory averments and innuendos, the matter on the record does not appear to be libellous, the court will arrest judgment; and it may be that in some cases, where prosecutions are instituted for alleged libels, no innuendos, or averments could put a libellous gloss on the matter.

The Dean of St. Asaph succeeded upon a motion in arrest of judgment, upon the ground that the indictment did not contain a sufficient charge of libel of and concerning the King and his Government. Mr. Justice Willes intimated an opinion that if the indictment had been properly drawn

(*a*) See *Rex* v. *Read* (1 Lev. 9; see also 2 Burr. 665; *Rex* v. *Mann*, 4 M. & S. 337; *Rex* v. *Wandsworth*, 1 B. & Ald. 63).

(*b*) 29 Parl. Hist. 1537.

it might have been supported; but Lord Mansfield and Buller, J., gave no opinion upon the point.(a) So, in *Rex* v. *Topham*,(b) after verdict of guilty on an indictment for a libel on a dead man, judgment was arrested for want of an allegation that the libel was published with a design to bring contempt on the family of the deceased, and to stir up the hatred of the King's subjects against them, and to excite his relations to a breach of the peace.

Where an indictment or information contains several counts, if any one of them is good the judgment will stand.(c)

When motion in arrest of judgment must be made

The defendant must move before sentence, and if the indictment or information be not in the Queen's Bench, the motion must be made after verdict, at the Assizes; and the judge may, under 11 & 12 Vict. c. 78, reserve the point for the consideration of the Court of Crown Cases Reserved.

Arrest of judgment by court itself.

Although the defendant do not move, the court will of itself arrest the judgment, if it appear that the defendant has not been found guilty of any offence at law.(d)

Effect of arrest of judgment.

The arrest of judgment sets aside all the proceedings, but is no bar to a fresh indictment.(e)

Motion for new trial.

When the information or indictment originated in the Court of Queen's Bench, or has been removed there by *certiorari*, the defendant may move for a new trial within the first four days of the next term.(f) If the motion cannot be made within those days, an intimation must be given, on one of them, that counsel is prepared to make the motion.(g)

The defendants must be present in court when the motion is made, even though the counsel for the prosecution consent to their absence.(h)

Grounds on which new trial granted.

A new trial may be granted for misdirection, or the wrongful reception or rejection of evidence, or on the ground that the verdict was contrary to evidence, or on the ground of surprise,(i) or the misbehaviour of the jury.(k)

Where evidence, inadmissible for the purpose for which it

(a) 21 St. Tr. 1043. (b) 4 T. R. 126, cited *ante*, p. 420.
(c) *Rex* v. *Benfield and others* (2 Burr. 980, 985).
(d) *Rex*. v. *Waddington* (1 East, 146).
(e) 4 Rep. 45. *Reg.* v. *Larkin* (23 L. J. 126, M. C.; Dears, C. C. 365).
(f) *Rex* v. *Holt* (5 T. R. 436).
(g) *Reg.* v. *Newman* (1 Ell. & Bl. 270).
(h) *Rex* v. *Askew* (3 M. & S. 9); *Rex* v. *Fielder* (2 D. & R. 46).
(i) *Reg.* v. *Whitehouse and another* (Dears. C. C. 1). See *Reg.* v. *Richardson* (8 Dow. 511).
(k) *Reg.* v. *Fowler* (4 B. & Ald. 273); see Hawkins P. C., Bk. 2, ch. 47, s. 12.

is tendered, but admissible for another purpose not alluded to at the trial, has been rejected, the court will not grant a new trial on the ground of an improper rejection of evidence.(*a*)

Venire de novo.

Where the verdict is imperfect, so that judgment cannot be given upon it, the court will award a *venire de novo*.

Thus, in the case of *Rex* v. *Woodfall*, where the jury returned a verdict of "guilty of the printing and publishing *only*," the court awarded a *venire de novo*, because it was impossible to say what the jury meant by the word "only."(*b*)

Judgment

Should the defendant fail to have the verdict set aside by any of the above means, he will be brought up for judgment.

Where the case is not in the Court of Queen's Bench, the sentence will be passed as in other cases of misdemeanor tried at the assizes; and, of course, the defendant may urge any topic in mitigation which would be available in the Queen's Bench, and support it by witnesses or affidavits. We shall, therefore, pass on to the practice of the Court of Queen's Bench.

The rule of procedure laid down by Lord Kenyon, in *Rex* v. *Bunts*,(*c*) appears to be still in force, viz., that "When any defendant shall be brought up for sentence on any indictment or information *after verdict*, the affidavits produced on the part of the defendant, if any such be produced, shall be first read, and then any affidavits produced on the part of the prosecution shall be read; after which the counsel for the defendant shall be heard; and, lastly, the counsel for the prosecution. And when any defendant shall be brought up for sentence after judgment *by default*, the prosecutor's affidavits shall be first read, then the defendant's affidavits; after which the counsel for the prosecution shall be heard; and, lastly, the counsel for the defendants. If no affidavits should be produced, the counsel for the defendants shall be first heard, and then the counsel for the prosecution."(*d*)

"It is not the practice in general to give the defendant an opportunity of answering at a future time the affidavits produced by the prosecutor. . . . . When a defendant is brought up for judgment, the only object which the court have in view is to discover the real truth of the transaction; and it is much more probable that that object will be

(*a*) *Rex* v. *Grant* (3 Nev. & Man. 106).
(*b*) *Rex* v. *Woodfall* (5 Burr. 2661). (*c*) 2 T. R. 683.
(*d*) The affidavits to be used on either side should be entitled "In the Queen's Bench, *The Queen* against *S.S.*"

attained by the practice which has hitherto prevailed, which requires that each party should come prepared to disclose all the circumstances of his case, than by a contrary practice, which would prove a source of infinite perjury. In the case of *Rex* v. *Archer*,(*a*) where the prosecutor produced affidavits, in aggravation, to show a continuance of the defendant's malice, by expressions used subsequent to the time of the indictment, the court thought it reasonable to allow the defendant an opportunity of answering those affidavits, because it could not be supposed that he could come prepared to answer that which was not contained in the indictment."(*b*)

Affidavits in mitigation of punishment.

The defendant was allowed, even so far back as 1774, to urge in mitigation that he was absent when the paper was published, and that on reading a copy he was much hurt with the contents, and immediately forbade the sale, and refused to let anybody see it. In consideration of these circumstances the defendant escaped with the (for those times) very light sentence of 100*l*. fine and one month's imprisonment.(*c*)

Hone was allowed, on his trial at the Guildhall, to give evidence, in order to avoid the expense of an affidavit, that he had stopped the sale of the libellous work.(*d*)

Sir Francis Burdett was allowed, in mitigation of punishment, to put in an affidavit that he read statements in the newspapers which induced him to publish the libel; but affidavits that those statements were founded on truth were refused.(*e*)

And the court will receive affidavits stating that, at the time of publication, the defendant believed the charges to be true, and setting forth reasonable grounds for such belief.(*f*)

In the late case of *Reg.* v. *Shimmin* (not reported), affidavits from numerous inhabitants of Liverpool to the effect that the defendant's paper had always been well conducted, and had been the means of bringing about sanitary and other reforms in the town, were received. A memorial, not sworn, to the same effect was mentioned, but not allowed to be read.

Where defendant pleaded a justification under Lord Campbell's Act, an affidavit deposing that before and at the time of publication, and at the time of pleading, he

(*a*) 2 T. R. 203, *in notis*.
(*b*) *Per Curiam*, *Rex* v. *Wilson* (4 T. R. 487).
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Williams* (Loft, 759).
(*d*) See 3 Burns' Justice, 350 (13th edition).
(*e*) 4 B. & Ald. 321. See also *Rex* v. *Halpin* (9 B. & C. 66), and *Rex* v. *Bradley* (2 Man. & Ry. 152). (*f*) *Rex* v. *Halpin*, *ubi supra*.

believed the truth of the charges contained in the libel and plea, and that before the pleading he had received from Viterbo, in Italy, an affidavit made by a person named in the plea of justification, to the effect that she had been seduced by the prosecutor under the circumstances mentioned in the libel, was admitted to show why the plea was pleaded. "This part of the affidavit," said Lord Campbell, C.J., "is clearly admissible under the statute, to show why this part of the plea was placed on the record; the fact of the plea being one to be considered by the court in apportioning the punishment."(*a*) But an affidavit which was rejected at the trial, for want of authentication by the place of custody or otherwise, was held inadmissible in confirmation of defendant's own affidavit that such a document was communicated to him before plea pleaded.(*b*)

Affidavits in aggravation of punishment.

In aggravation, the prosecutor may produce affidavits showing that defendant, after the trial, has published other libels, or otherwise misconducted himself; but the defendant will be allowed time to answer such affidavits.(*c*)

In the case of *Rex* v. *Archer* (*d*) the court received affidavits of expressions made use of by defendant, confirming and aggravating his guilt, which had been uttered in the hearing of two persons, and by them afterwards related to the persons making the affidavits, the prosecutor swearing to an application to those persons to come forward with their testimony, which they had refused; and it was strongly insinuated that they were under the influence of the defendant. The court considered that they were under the influence of the defendant, but allowed them and the defendant an opportunity of answering such affidavits.

Affidavits of this kind will not be received unless they show that the persons to whom the libel was repeated, and who refuse to join in the affidavits, are under the control or influence of the defendant.(*e*)

Where the defendant, editor of a newspaper, pleaded guilty to an indictment for libel, on condition of being discharged on entering into his own recognisance to appear and receive judgment when called upon, and of not being called upon at all if he discontinued the publication of libels on the prosecutor, the court refused to pass judgment unless the prosecutor produced an affidavit stating that the defendant had, since the trial, published libels respecting him.(*f*)

(*a*) *Reg.* v. *Newman* (1 E. & B. 581, 582. *Vide ante*, p. 527). (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) *Rex* v. *Withers* (3 T. R. 432); *Rex.* v. *Archer* (2 T. R. 203, *in notis*).
(*d*) *Ubi supra.* (*e*) *Rex* v. *Pinkerton* (2 East, 357).
(*f*) *Reg* v. *Richardson* (8 Dow. 511).

PART IV. CHAPTER XI.

Punishment.

The court has, at common law, absolute discretion as to the amount of punishment which it will inflict upon the defendant.(*a*). This may consist of fine, imprisonment, and even, it would appear, corporal punishment,(*b*) together with sureties for good behaviour for such period as the court may deem fit.(*c*)

Security for good behaviour.

The right of the court to adjudge a misdemeanant to give security for his good behaviour, after the expiration of his imprisonment, was discussed before the House of Lords, on a writ of error, in 1810; and the question was put to the judges—Whether, by law, the Court of King's Bench can adjudge a person convicted of misdemeanor to give security for his good behaviour for a reasonable time, to be computed from and after the expiration of his imprisonment, himself in a sum named in such judgment, with two sufficient sureties each in a sum therein also mentioned? The unanimous opinion of the judges was in the affirmative.(*d*)

The question answered by the judges, it will be observed, was as to the power of adjudging security to be given for a reasonable time; but, nine years later, the court sentenced Carlile, for two blasphemous libels, to pay a fine of 1500*l*., to be imprisoned for three years, and to find sureties for good behaviour *for the term of his life*.(*e*)

Term of imprisonment.

Lord Campbell's Act(*f*) limits the time of imprisonment for the publication of a defamatory libel to one year, except where the defendant published it, knowing it to be false, in which case double the length of imprisonment may be given.

Seizure of copies of blasphemous or seditious libels.

In case of verdict, or judgment by default, against any person for composing, printing, or publishing any blasphemous or seditious libel, the court may make an order for the seizure, carrying away, and detaining in safe custody, all copies of the libel which shall be in the possession of the defendant, or in the possession of any other person named in the order for his use; evidence upon oath having been previously given, to the satisfaction of the court or judge,

(*a*) As to amendment of the sentence and the record as to it, see *Gregory* v. *The Queen* (15 Q. B. 970), and *O'Connell* v. *The Queen* (11 Cl. & Fin. 155). (*b*) See Bac. Abr. tit. "Libel."

(*c*) It is true that corporal punishment has not been made part of the sentence in modern times; but there is no statute abolishing it as a common law punishment, save as regards women, although it is popularly thought to be abrogated.

(*d*) *Rex* v. *Hart and White* (30 How. St. Tr. 1344; 47 H. of L. Journals, p. 271.

(*e*) 3 B. & Ald. 167; *sed vide Prickett* v. *Gratrex* (8 Q. B. 1029, 1080).

(*f*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, ss. 4 and 5.

that a copy or copies of the libel are in the possession of such other person for the use of the defendant.(*a*)

In case the judgment is reversed or arrested, the copies so seized are forthwith to be restored to the person from whom they have been taken, free of all charges and fees.(*b*)

If final judgment be entered upon the verdict against the defendant, then all copies seized are to be disposed of as the court in which judgment is given shall order and direct.(*c*)

Costs.

If the court imposes a fine upon the defendant, the prosecutor will be allowed his costs out of it to the extent of one-third of the fine.(*d*)

On acquittal defendant entitled to costs.

As a rule, the Crown neither gives nor receives costs in criminal cases; but, in addition to the practice of allowing a private prosecutor his costs out of the fine, the 8th section of Lord Campbell's Act provides "that in case of any indictment or information *by a private prosecutor*(*e*) for the publication of any defamatory libel, if judgment shall be given for the defendant, he shall be entitled to recover *from the prosecutor* the costs sustained by the said defendant by reason of such indictment or information."

If issue on special plea be found for prosecutor, he is entitled to costs of such plea.

The same section provides "that on a special plea of justification to such indictment or information, if the issue be found for the prosecutor, he shall be entitled to recover from the defendant the costs sustained by the prosecutor by reason of such plea, such costs, so to be recovered by the defendant or prosecutor respectively, to be taxed by the proper officer of the court before which the said indictment or information is tried."

Under 4 & 5 Will. & M. c. 18, s. 2, a defendant to a criminal information, who obtained a verdict, was entitled to costs, unless the judge at the trial, in open court, certified upon the record that there was reasonable cause for exhibiting the information; but by the later statute of 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, a successful defendant is entitled to his costs, in spite of the judge's certificate.(*f*)

Newspaper proprietor fined cannot recover against editor.

It appears that the proprietor of a newspaper, who has been convicted and fined for the publication of a libel in the paper, inserted without his knowledge and consent by the editor, cannot recover against the editor the damages sustained by such conviction.(*g*)

(*a*) 60 Geo. 3 & 1 Geo. 4, c. 8, s. 1. See *Rex* v. *Calor* (2 East, 361).
(*b*) *Id.*, s. 2. (*c*) *Ib.*
(*d*) Cole on Crim. Inform. 109; 1 Ch. Crim. L. 871.
(*e*) See *Reg.* v. *Duffy* (2 Cox C. C. 49).
(*f*) *Reg.* v. *Latimer* (15 Q. B. 1077).
(*g*) *Colburn* v. *Patmore* (1 Cr. M. & R. 73).

CHAPTER XII.

CIVIL REMEDY OF THE LIBELLED.

Who may sue.

EVERY person of whom a libel is published has a right of action, although his only injury be that which the law presumes from the publication of the defamatory matter.(*a*)

Libel on married woman.

When the libel is of a married woman, the husband and wife must sue together; and if any special damage has accrued to the husband, he may, in the same action, add claims in his own right for such damage.(*b*) Should separate actions be brought in such a case, they may be consolidated if the court or a judge shall think fit.(*c*)

Partners.

Where a libel is published of persons in their trade, all the partners of the firm may join in the action;(*d*) but in such action they cannot recover damage for their private feelings, but only for the injury to their trade.(*e*)

In general, however, a joint action cannot be maintained, although many persons may be defamed by one and the same libel, as the wrong done to any one of them is not the wrong done to the others;(*f*) for, what one man may suffer from such a cause may altogether be different from the injury which will accrue to another.

Joint-stock companies and corporations.

The chairman of a joint-stock company, not incorporated, but having powers under an Act of Parliament to use the name of their chairman in actions for recovery of debts or enforcing claims or demands then due, or which thereafter might become due or arise to the company, and indictments for offences, was held entitled to sue for a libel on the company.(*g*)

"That a corporation at common law can sue in respect of a libel," says Pollock, C.B., "there is no doubt. It would be monstrous if a corporation could maintain no action for slander of title through which they lost a great deal of money. It could not sue in respect of an imputation of murder, or incest, or adultery, because it could not commit those crimes. Nor could it sue in respect of a charge of

(*a*) *Thorley* v. *Lord Kerry* (4 Taunt. 355); *Craft* v. *Boite* (1 Wms Saunders, 246, b).

(*b*) Common Law Procedure Act of 1852 (15 & 16 Vict. c. 76), s. 40.

(*c*) *Ib.*

(*d*) *Forster and others* v. *Lawson* (11 Moo. 861; 3 Bing. 452); *Maitland* v. *Goldney* (2 East, 425).

(*e*) *Haythorn and another* v. *Lawson* (3 C. & P. 196).

(*f*) *Barratt* v. *Collins* (10 Moo. 451).

(*g*) *Williams* v. *Beaumont* (10 Bing. 260).

corruption; for a corporation cannot be guilty of corruption, although the individuals composing it may. But it would be very odd if a corporation had no means of protecting itself against wrong, and if its property is injured by slander, it has no means of redress except by action. Therefore it appears to me clear that a corporation at common law may maintain an action for a libel by which its property is injured. Then has a corporation created under the 19 & 20 Vict. c. 47, the same power? . . . . In order to carry on business, it is necessary that the reputation of such a corporation should be protected, and therefore, in case of libel or slander, it must have a remedy by action."(*a*) This reasoning clearly applies to all joint-stock companies, under whatever statutes they may be constituted.

Alien.

An alien friend, though domiciled abroad, may maintain an action for a libel on him published in England.(*b*)

Effect of joinder of too many plaintiffs.

Sect. 19 of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1860, provides that "the joinder of too many plaintiffs shall not be fatal, but every action may be brought in the name of all the persons in whom the legal right may be supposed to exist; and judgment may be given in favour of the plaintiffs by whom the action is brought, or of one or more of them, or, in case of any question of misjoinder being raised, then in favour of such one or more of them as shall be adjudged by the court to be entitled to recover."

But, by the same section, "the defendant, though unsuccessful, shall be entitled to his costs occasioned by joining any person or persons in whose favour judgment is not given, unless otherwise ordered by the court or a judge."

The non-joinder or misjoinder of plaintiffs may be amended either before or at the trial on such terms as the court or judge shall think proper.(*c*)

Upon notice or plea in abatement of non-joinder of plaintiffs, the plaintiff may amend the writ and other proceedings before plea, and proceed in the action on payment of the costs occasioned by such amendment, and the defendant may then plead *de novo*.(*d*)

Time within which action must be brought.

The action must be brought within six years next after the publication relied upon;(*e*) but such publication need not be the first or substantial publication of the newspaper or book.

Thus, where a libel appeared in a newspaper, published

(*a*) *Metropolitan Saloon Omnibus Company* v. *Hawkins* (4 H. & N. 90; 28 L. J. 201, Ex.). (*b*) *Pisani* v. *Lawson* (6 Bing. N. C. 90).
(*c*) Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, sects. 34, 35.
(*d*) Sect. 36. (*e*) 21 Jac. 1, c. 16, s. 3.

in 1830, and at the trial, in 1849, two copies of the paper were produced, one of which copies came from the British Museum, and the other had been purchased before the commencement of the action, in 1848, at the newspaper office of the defendant, by a witness who had been sent by the plaintiff to make the purchase, and who had handed the paper so purchased to the plaintiff, the court held this latter publication, although to the plaintiff's agent, sufficient to disprove the plea of the Statute of Limitation.(*a*)

Venue.

The action is transitory, and therefore the venue may be laid in any county the plaintiff elects for the trial, subject to the defendant's obtaining an order to change it.(*b*)

Change of venue.

This the defendant cannot often do, as the general affidavit, upon which an order to change the venue in transitory actions is made, does not usually apply to actions of libel; at any rate, not when the libel is in a book or newspaper, as the publication, which is the cause of action, is made in divers counties.(*c*)

In one case the court made the rule absolute to change the venue, in an action for a libel contained in a Newcastle paper, from London to Newcastle, upon an affidavit of the defendant that several pleas of justification were to be pleaded, and that all the witnesses resided at Newcastle; that the paper was published there; that the expense would be greatly increased if the action were tried in London; and that the cause of action, if any, arose in Newcastle, and not elsewhere.(*d*)

Where the venue had been changed, upon the common affidavit, from Cumberland to Lancashire, the court made absolute a rule to move it back again, upon an affidavit that the newspaper was published as much in one county as the other.(*e*)

Persons liable as defendants.

Whoever makes a publication of the libel, is liable to be sued, and cannot escape by alleging that other publishers are or have been sued for the same libel.(*f*)

Joint publication.

Where there has been a joint publication by several, the plaintiff may exercise a choice as to suing them all in one action or in several, as there is no contribution between wrongdoers;(*g*) but the court might order them to be con-

(*a*) *Duke of Brunswick* v. *Harmer* (14 Q. B. 186).
(*b*) *Smith* v. *O'Brien* (26 L. J. 30, Ex.). See *Begg* v. *Forbes* (13 C. B. 614).
(*c*) *Clissold* v. *Clissold* (1 T. R. 647); *Pinkney* v. *Collins* (1 T. R. 571; 1 Wils. 173).
(*d*) *Robson* v. *Blackwell* (2 Dow. 645).
(*e*) *Hobart* v. *Wilkins* (1 Dow. 460).
(*f*) *Harrison* v. *Pearce* (1 F. & F. 567); *Frescoe* v. *May* (2 F. & F. 123).
(*g*) See *Frescoe* v. *May*, (*ubi supra*).

solidated, unless reasons could be given why they should not.(a)

Infant.

An infant may be made defendant to an action for libel, as his nonage is no defence to those actions of tort which are not founded on contract.(b)

Corporations and joint-stock companies.

Corporations aggregate and joint-stock companies may be sued for libels published by their servants or agents.(c) Great injustice would be suffered by individuals if their remedy for libels published by authority of the company or corporation were limited to the agents employed. It is no answer to say that a corporation has no soul, and therefore cannot be guilty of malice; because, in the first place, as we have already seen, express malice need not be alleged; and, secondly, even if it need, there would be great difficulty in saying that, under certain circumstances, express malice may not be imputed to, and proved against, a corporation.(d)

Husband and wife.

Husband and wife must be joined as defendants in actions for libels by the wife, whether she published them before (e) or during her coverture, and although the husband and wife may be permanently living apart.(f)

But, after a divorce *a vinculo matrimonii*, or a decree of judicial separation, the wife must be sued alone, though the libel were published before the divorce.(g)

The judgment of Erle, C.J., in the case which establishes this proposition, explains the reasons for the present rules as to joinder of husband and wife, as defendants, in suits arising solely out of the wife's conduct. The learned Judge says:(h) "During coverture the wife has no such existence as to enable her to be a suitor, in her own right, in any court; neither can she be sued alone. For any wrong committed by her she is liable, and her husband cannot be sued without her; neither can she be sued without joining her husband. Seeing that all her personal property is vested in the husband, it would be idle to sue the wife alone: the action would be fruitless. Where the husband is joined for conformity, if he dies, the action goes on against the wife; but if the wife dies, the action abates.

(a) See *Jones* v. *Pritchard* (6 D. & L. 529; 18 L. J. 104, Q. B.).
(b) *Defries* v. *Davies* (3 Dow. K. B. 629); Dicey on Parties, 474.
(c) *Whitefield* v. *South-Eastern Railway Company* (E. B. & E. 115; 27 L. J. 229, Q. B.); *Alexander* v. *North-Eastern Railway Company* (34 L. J. 152, Q. B.; 11 Jur. N. S. 619).
(d) See E. B. & E. 121.
(e) Bac. Abr. "Baron & Feme" (L); Com. Dig. "Baron & Feme" (Y).
(f) *Head* v. *Briscoe et ux.* (5 C. & P. 485, and 2 L. J. N. S. 101, C. P.).
(g) *Capel* v. *Powell* (17 C. B. N. S. 743; 34 L. J. 168, C. P.; 11 L. T. N. S. 421).
(h) 17 C. B. N. S. 748.

PART IV. CHAPTER XII.

It is clear to demonstration, therefore, that there is no cause of action against the husband. He is not liable for the wrong; but he is joined only by reason of the universal rule, that the wife during coverture cannot be either a sole plaintiff or a sole defendant. The reason does not apply where there has been a divorce *a vinculo matrimonii*. The woman is no longer under coverture. She is remitted to her former name and station, and is perfectly capable of suing and being sued as if she had never been married: consequently, the necessity of joining the husband no longer exists. One can well recognise the expediency of making a legislative provision" (20 & 21 Vict. c. 85, ss. 25, 26) "for the case of a decree of judicial separation; for there, notwithstanding the sentence, the relation of husband and wife is not entirely dissolved. But there was no need of legislation in the case of a sentence which dissolves the marriage."

The Married Women's Property Act does not relieve the husband from any liability which he at present bears for his wife's wrong doing, either before or after marriage; although it contains a clause, enacting that husbands, married after the Act came into force, shall not be liable for their wives' debts contracted before marriage.(*a*)

Introductory averments.

The first Common Law Procedure Act (1852) has rendered the declarations in actions of libel much less technical than indictments and criminal informations are, even at the present day.

The reader will remember what was said(*b*) as to the necessity of introductory averments in indictments, and the failures of prosecutions for the want of averments to support the innuendos, as, for instance, the innuendo that the libel meant to charge the prosecutor with setting fire to the defendant's barn full of corn, which was bad for want of an averment that the prosecutor had a barn and full of corn.

The 61st section of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852 (15 & 16 Vict. c. 76) enacts, that "in actions of libel and slander the plaintiff shall be at liberty to aver that the words or matter complained of were used in a defamatory sense, specifying such defamatory sense, without any prefatory averment to show how such words or matter were used in that sense; and such averment shall be put in issue by the denial of the alleged libel or slander; and where the words or matter set forth, with or without the alleged meaning, show a cause of action, the declaration shall be sufficient."

(*a*) 33 & 34 Vict. c. 93, s. 12. (*b*) *Ante*, pp. 516, 522, 523.

Form of declaration.

In the schedule B. No. 33, is given the following form of declaration in libel: "That the defendant falsely and maliciously printed and published of the plaintiff in a newspaper called '————,' the words following, that is to say, 'he is a regular approver under bankruptcies;' the defendant meaning thereby that the plaintiff had proved and was in the habit of proving fictitious debts against the estates of bankrupts, with the knowledge that such debts were fictitious."

Allegation of malice not necessary.

The declaration would, it seems, be good without the allegation of malice.

This was decided in two very early cases. The report of the first case(*a*) does not contain the grounds of the judgment, but in the second(*b*) "it was adjudged no error because the words themselves were slanderous and malicious."

Allegation of falsehood.

The publication should be alleged to be false; although there are authorities which tend to show that even that is not necessary.

In an anonymous case in Styles (p. 392), Rolle, C.J., is reported to have said "that in an indictment a thing must be expressed to be done *falso et malitiose*, because that is the usual form; but in a declaration these words are not necessary." By some writers it is supposed that all he meant was, that, after verdict, the omission of those words would be helped in a declaration.(*c*) In an action for slander of title, it was objected that the declaration did not allege the publication to be false, but Lord Ellenborough held that the allegation that the paragraph or advertisement was "malicious, injurious, and unlawful," was sufficient.(*d*)

Although the omission of the words "falsely and maliciously" may not be fatal to the declaration, yet they are in the form given in the schedule to the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852; and it has always been usual, and is proper, to insert them.

Publication.

The declaration must show a publication, but no technical words are necessary: it is sufficient if such matter be stated as amounts to a publication, without the formal word "published."

In the case of *Baldwin* v. *Elphinston*(*e*) it was held that an allegation of "printing and causing to be printed" was a

(*a*) *Arkingal* v. *Denny* (Moore, 459).
(*b*) *Mercer* v. *Sparks* (Ow. 51, S. C. Noy. 35).
(*c*) See Wms. Saunders, 242, *a* (n. 2); 2 Saunders' Pl. & Ev. by Lush, 914.
(*d*) *Rowe* v. *Roach* (1 M. & S. 309).
(*e*) 2 W. Bl. 1037.

sufficient allegation of publication, on the ground that, though printing a libel may be an innocent act, yet, unless qualified by circumstances, it shall *primâ facie* be understood to be a publishing, as it must be delivered to the compositor and the other subordinate workmen. Lord Denman, however, in *Watts* v. *Fraser*,(*a*) upon a question of rejection of evidence, refused to act upon that case, saying that it "did not follow, as of course, from a work being printed, that the party sending it forth employed a compositor or other workman."

"Of and concerning" the plaintiff.

The declaration must state that the libel was published "of and concerning the plaintiff;" and this *colloquium* is necessary, although it be stated that the defendant published the libel with intent to impute the offence charged in it to the plaintiff.(*b*)

The Common Law Procedure Act seems to have made no difference in this respect. The statement in the marginal note to *Hemmings* v. *Gasson*,(*c*) that the declaration need state no *colloquium*, refers to the *colloquium* of the inducement and not of the plaintiff.

Setting out libel

The libel itself must be set out in the declaration: it is not sufficient to state the purport of it;(*d*) or that it is "in substance as follows."(*e*)

The ordinary mode is to state that the defendant published of and concerning the plaintiff the libellous matters, to the tenor and effect following; or that he "published of the plaintiff the words following."

The reason of this rule is, that the defendant is entitled to call for the judgment of the court on demurrer to the words of the libel, as to whether they amount to a libel.(*f*)

Whole libel need not be set forth.

The whole of the libel need not be set forth, but any passage which is complete in itself may be selected.(*g*)

Thus it was held sufficient to set out part of the index of the *Quarterly Review*, which professed to relate to a work

(*a*) 7 A. & E. 232. In this case it was held that the printer as well as the editor of a magazine was liable for a lithographic print, of a libellous character, contained in the magazine, though it was not printed by the printer; it being referred to in a part of the letter-press which was also libellous: (S. C. 7 C. & P. 869.)

(*b*) 1 Wms. Saunders, 242, *b* (n. 3), and *Clement* v. *Fisher* (7 B. & C. 459).

(*c*) E. B. & E. 346.

(*d*) *Wood* v. *Brown* (6 Taunt. 169); *Gutsole* v. *Mathers* (1 M. & W. 502).

(*e*) *Wright* v. *Clements* (3 B. & Ald. 503).

(*f*) See, in addition to the cases referred to in the two preceding notes, *Cook* v. *Cox* (3 M. & S. 110); *Solomon* v. *Lawson* (8 Q. B. 823); *Wood* v. *Adam* (6 Bing. 481).

(*g*) *Rex* v. *Brereton* (8 Mod. 328); *Rutherford* v. *Evans* (6 Bing. 458, 459).

published by the plaintiff; although it was objected that, as the index was only a reference to the body of the work, it was necessary that the count should contain a reference to the whole, as otherwise that would appear to be unqualified which was in fact subject to a material qualification. Abbott, C.J., ruled that there was no ground for the objection, saying: "If one part of a book cannot be understood without reference to another, then you must set out both; but if it is intelligible without, then you need not. Suppose the matter referred to in the index had not been found in the volume. The index may contain a separate libel."(*a*)

But if two separate and divided parts of the publication are set out, they must not appear to be an entire and coutinuous part of the writing from which they are taken, but should be introduced after this manner: "in a certain part of which said libel there was and is contained, &c., and in a certain other part of which said libel there was and is contained, &c."(*b*)

Part material to sense must not be omitted.

It must, however, be borne in mind that the libel cannot be garbled, by omitting that which is material to the sense of the part inserted. If the setting out the whole would enable the defendant to move in arrest of judgment, the omission of any part would be a fatal variance.(*c*)

Where the plaintiff, in an action against a newspaper proprietor, averred that the defendant printed and published a libel on him—"as and purporting to be a letter written from A. to R. O'C., viz., 'I have sold all my property to B.; yet it may still go on in my name; and the rents are to be transmitted to H. Bell, Esq., 40, Charterhouse-square. *Mr. Bell has been for some time past confined in England on a charge of high treason;*'"—and it appeared at the trial that the paragraph in the newspaper which contained the libel stated that in a debate in the Irish House of Commons, several years before, the Attorney-General had read a letter from A. to R. O'C. in which were the words, "I have sold all my property to B., yet it may still go on in my name, and the rents are to be transmitted to Hugh Bell, Esq., 40, Charterhouse-square;" and then followed the libellous words italicised above, without any parenthesis or brackets to distinguish them from the letter, in the middle of which they were printed—it was held by the court that the libellous words were part of the speech of the Irish Attorney-General, and were not stated in the newspaper to

(*a*) *Buckingham* v. *Murray* (2 C. & P. 47).
(*b*) *Tabart* v. *Tipper* (1 Camp. 353).
(*c*) *Rutherford* v. *Evans* (6 Bing. 459; 4 C. & P. 74).

be part of the letter, and that the publisher had not made a substantive statement of his own respecting the libellous fact stated of the plaintiff, but only asserted that the Irish Attorney-General had made such a declaration; and that the true description of the libel should have been, that the defendant purported to publish a speech of the Attorney-General of Ireland, in which was contained the libellous matter. Bailey, J., said: "The question is not whether the declaration might not have been so framed as to entitle the plaintiff to recover upon the facts proved at the trial, but whether he has made out in proof that which is stated in this declaration. It is a very different thing to assert a thing as in the party's own knowledge, and to say that another, whom he names, has told him so. The persons who hear the one must conclude that the party pledges his own knowledge of the fact, which in the other case they do not. Now, here the plaintiff takes upon himself, in the first four counts, to prove that the libel purported to be contained in a letter from A. to R. O'C.; but the libel proved does not state that there was any such letter containing such a charge, or that the writer pledged his own knowledge of there being such a letter, but only that the Attorney-General in Ireland had asserted the fact of the plaintiff having been confined, &c. . . . . There is no assertion by the defendant that the letter so read was a genuine letter, or that he pledged his knowledge of there being such a letter containing the libellous charge. Still less is the general allegation made out, that the defendant had asserted that the plaintiff had been for some time past confined in England on a charge of high treason; for, looking at the paper, it only appears that the defendant had stated that the Attorney-General for Ireland had said so. Now, though it may be libellous to state that another person said such and such things of the plaintiff—and in some cases it may be an aggravation of the libel to state it in that way—yet still it is a different libel, and the charge is open to a different defence."(*a*)

To the same effect is the case of *Cartwright* v. *Wright*.(*b*) There the declaration omitted two references, which were contained in the libellous paragraph, to Cobbett's writings, and it was held a fatal variance; as that which appeared in the declaration to be the defendant's observation was, in fact, Mr. Cobbett's assertion respecting the plaintiff.(*c*)

When the declaration sets out a publication which is only

(*a*) *Bell* v. *Byrne* (13 East. 554, 563). (*b*) 5 B. & Ald. 615.
(*c*) See also *Tabart* v. *Tipper* (1 Camp. N. P. 353).

libellous by reference to the language of another publication, that other publication must be set out *verbatim*, and not merely in substance.(*a*)

Several libels in one publication.

Where several libellous paragraphs are contained in one publication, they may all be declared upon in one count; but paragraphs in different numbers of a newspaper must form the subject of separate counts.(*b*)

Libel in foreign language.

If the libel be written in a foreign language, it must be set forth in the original; for the court will arrest judgment if only a translation be given.(*c*)

At one time it was considered that a translation need not be given, and that it was better not to attempt one, as a mistranslation might jeopardize the action.(*d*) This view is supported by an anonymous case in Hobart (p. 126), where the court gave judgment for the plaintiff in an action for slander in Welsh, although the declaration did not aver what the word meant; but the court took information by Welshmen as to the meaning thereof. The learned reporter quotes two earlier cases where like judgment was given. However, Lord Kenyon, in the case of *Zenobio* v. *Axtell*,(*e*) said the plaintiff should have set out the original words, and then have translated them. And the case of *Rex* v. *Goldstein*(*f*) seems decisive upon the point. That was an indictment for the forgery of a Prussian treasury note, and there being no translation of the note in the indictment, the court, upon that ground, arrested the judgment.

Innuendoes.

Although the Common Law Procedure Act of 1852 has done away with the necessity for prefatory statements and inducements, innuendoes are still necessary where the words do not *primâ facie* and necessarily convey an imputation on the plaintiff.

The effect of the change brought about by the Act of 1852 is explained by Mr. Justice Blackburn in the case of *Cox* v. *Cooper*.(*g*) His Lordship there says: "The 61st section of the Common Law Procedure Act was intended to alter the form of pleading in an action of libel, but it was never intended to alter the law of libel. The law is that, wherever there are written words which tend to bring a man into contempt, they disclose a cause of action. By the old rules of pleading, the words used, if unexplained, ought to be taken in their ordinary sense; and if, in their ordinary

(*a*) *Solomon* v. *Lawson* (8 Q. B. 823; see pp. 838, 839).
(*b*) *Hughes* v. *Rees* (4 M. & W. 204).
(*c*) *Zenobio* v. *Axtell* (6 T. R. 162).
(*d*) Wms. Saunders, 242, n. (1); *Ross* v. *Lawrence* (Styles, 263).
(*e*) *Ubi supra*. (*f*) 3 B. & P. 201; S. C., 7 Moore, 1.
(*g*) 12 W. R. 76; 9 L. T. N. S. 329.

sense, they did not disclose a cause of action, the pleader was obliged to explain them, and set out the circumstances under which they were written, and make averments that they were written of and concerning certain facts and in a particular sense—and this needed great care and particularity. I remember that there was an instance, a great many years ago, where there were numerous actions in which the libel consisted solely of these words, 'A. B. is a person fit to be a member of a certain society.' These words were not in themselves actionable; but it was averred in the declaration and proved at the trial, that the person who sent round the circular containing these words was the secretary of a society for the protection of tradesmen against swindlers, and that when he wrote round to warn his correspondents against any person, he said, 'He is a fit person to be a member of our society.' The declaration set out all these facts, and was so expressed as to be held perfectly good. But by the new form of proceeding, under the 61st section, it would have been sufficient to say, 'He is fit to be a member of our society,' meaning thereby 'He is a swindler,' and all the circumstances would have been admitted in proof at the trial, which formerly would have had to be set out with great particularity. But it would not have been sufficient to set these words out and say that they were used for the purpose of conveying some bad impression. There must be a distinct averment that the words, if they are not actionable in themselves, bear a specific meaning which is in itself actionable."

Innuendoes still required, but without introductory averments.

The conclusion to be drawn from this judgment, supported by the words of the Act itself, and subsequent authorities which will be noticed hereafter, is that innuendos are still necessary where they would have been required under the old law, but that in no case do they require the support of an inducement or prefatory averment.

This latter proposition is of more consequence than, perhaps, at first sight is apparent; and we would, therefore, not only refer the reader to what has been already said in this and the preceding chapter on the subject of prefatory averments, but also direct his attention to cases, to be presently cited, which illustrate the change which the Common Law Procedure Act of 1852 has introduced in pleading.

Cases in which innuendoes are required.

The cases in which innuendoes are required may be divided into two classes, viz., (1) where the language, though purporting on the face of it to be written of the plaintiff, is ambiguous, and capable of an innocent construction; or where apparently it can only bear an innocent

meaning, but, taken in connection with extrinsic circumstances may be proved to be defamatory: (2) where the publication is plainly defamatory, but requires the aid of explanatory matter to make it appear that it was written or published of and concerning the plaintiff.

To explain ambiguity in language.

We shall notice first the cases in which innuendoes are required to explain a patent or latent ambiguity in the language.

"The court," says Parke, B., "will inform itself of the meaning of English words, though unusual and peculiar to a particular country; a strong instance of which is the case in which the term 'Healer of Thieves' was expounded to mean a furtherer of felons, without any averment as to the local use of those terms; (1 Roll. Abr. 86, L. Pl. 1.) And such is the rule as to Welsh words: (Hob. 126.) But the case of *Angle* v. *Alexander*,(*a*) in the analogous case of slander, decides that a distinct averment that particular English words had acquired some sense different from their natural one, was necessary, and that an innuendo without such averment was insufficient; and on the authority of that case, which was decided in the Exchequer Chamber . . . . we think that the averment of the meaning of the term 'black-sheep' is properly introduced by way of inducement."(*b*)

In the cases just cited from Rolle's Abr. and Hobart, there was neither introductory averment, nor innuendo as to the meaning of the Welsh or provincial terms used. But in the case from which Parke, B.'s judgment is quoted there was an introductory averment that "the defendant used the word 'black-sheep' for the purpose of expressing and meaning, and the said word used by him was by divers, to wit, all the persons to whom the libel thereinafter mentioned was published, understood as expressing and meaning a person notorious by reason of bad character, and of stained and sullied reputation; and the defendant then also used the word 'blacklegs' for the purpose of expressing and meaning, and the said last mentioned word so used by him was by divers persons, to wit, all the persons to whom the libel thereinafter mentioned was published, understood as expressing and meaning a person guilty of cheating and defrauding others."(*c*)

The innuendo after the words "black-sheep" was—'meaning thereby that the plaintiff was a 'black-sheep' in the sense and meaning in which that word was so used by

(*a*) 7 Bing. 123; 1 C. & J. 143.
(*b*) *Per* Parke, B., *McGregor* v. *Gregory* (11 M. & W. 295). See so *Hoare* v. *Silverlock*, *ante*, p. 418.
(*c*) 11 M. & W. 237.

the defendant as aforesaid." That after "blacklegs" was —"meaning thereby that the plaintiff was a black-leg in the sense and meaning in which that word was so used by the defendant as aforesaid."(a)

In contrast with these pleadings is the case of *Barnett* v. *Allen*,(b) which was litigated after the passing of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852. It was an action for slander; but, as prefatory averments were required in slander equally with libel, it shows the change effected by that Act. The slanderous imputation was that the plaintiff was a "black-leg;" and the declaration simply stated that the defendant, contriving to injure the plaintiff, falsely and maliciously spoke of the plaintiff the words following, "I am surprised Mr. Reynolds should allow a black-leg (meaning the plaintiff) in this room" (meaning that the plaintiff obtained his living by dishonest gambling, and was a professed gamester, and a fraudulent gamester, &c.). The court was equally divided as to whether the word "black-leg" was capable of meaning a *fraudulent* gamester.

In the case of *Anglo* v. *Alexander*,(c) the last count of the declaration charged the defendant with speaking and publishing these words: "You (meaning the said plaintiff) are a regular prover under bankruptcy (meaning that the said plaintiff was accustomed to prove fictitious debts under commissions of bankruptcy)." The court held that the natural meaning of the words did not bear out this innuendo, and that, as there was no prefatory averment that the defendant had been accustomed to employ the words in that sense, the innuendo could not enlarge the sense of the words. These words still require an innuendo; and it is given in the schedule (B.) to the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, as follows: "The defendant, meaning thereby that the plaintiff had proved, and was in the habit of proving, fictitious debts against the estates of bankrupts, with the knowledge that such debts were fictitious."

To say of a person that he has wilfully set his own premises on fire, is not defamatory without an innuendo; as he may have done the act with an innocent purpose. Therefore, if the imputation intended be that he had done it to defraud an insurance company, or for some other improper purpose, such meaning must be pointed out by an innuendo.(d)

Where the libel complained of was that the plaintiff was

(a) 11 M. & W. 288. (b) 8 H. & N. 376; 27 L. J. 412, Ex.
(c) 7 Bing. 122; 1 C. & J. 143.
(d) *Sweetapple* v. *Jesse* (5 B. & Ad. 27). See *Capel* v. *Jones* (4 C. B. 259); and *Rawlings* v. *Norbury* (1 F. & F. 341).

a "Man Friday" to another, the count was held bad, for want of an averment that, by the term "Friday," subserviency and degradation were intended.(*a*) Lord Denman, distinguishing this case from *Hoare* v. *Silverlock*(*b*), where the term "Frozen Snake" was held not to require an innuendo, says: "The 'Friday' alluded to was a very respectable person. Black men have not been declared to be criminal by any Act of Parliament."(*c*)

Goldstein v. *Foss*(*d*) is a good example of the change introduced in the mode of pleading. The libel there complained of was a letter from the secretary of a trade protection society, to the following effect: "I am directed to inform you that the persons undernamed, or using the firms of Goldstein (meaning the plaintiff), Castles and Co., 51, Mark-lane, and Benjamin Porter Baker, Hackney-road, are reported to this society as improper to be proposed to be ballotted for as members thereof." The court held that the letter, without an innuendo, was not libellous, Abbott, C.J., saying: "There may be so many reasons why a person may be deemed unfit to become a member of the society, without casting any injurious reflection upon him, that I think we cannot possibly say with any degree of certainty that such was the intention with which this alleged libel was published." This, no doubt, would be held by the court at the present day. But the hardship of the judgment consisted in this, that the declaration contained an innuendo,(*e*) and also introductory averments, which the court held would have constituted a good cause of action, but for the fact that the innuendo was not properly connected with the introductory averment. Now, as we have seen, introductory averments are not necessary.

Where libel is ironical

Where the libel is ironical there must, of course, be an innuendo alleging that the defendant meant the opposite of what he wrote; and it might be as well to charge the publication in this form—"that defendant published a certain ironical, false, &c., libel;"(*f*) but this cannot be considered necessary since the Common Law Procedure Act of 1852.

(*a*) *Forbes* v. *King* (1 Dowl. 672).

(*b*) *Vide ante*, p. 418; and see *Homer* v. *Taunton* (5 H. & N. 661; 29 L. J. 318, Ex.).

(*c*) 12 Q. B. 632; 17 L. J. 306, Q. B. See also *Cox* v. *Cooper* (9 L. T. N. S. 329; 12 W. R. 75).

(*d*) 6 B. & C. 154.

(*e*) The innuendo was "thereby then and there meaning that the said plaintiff was a swindler and sharper, and an improper person to be a member of the said society."

(*f*) *Boydell* v. *Jones* (4 M. & W. 446); *Rex* v. *Dr. Brown* (11 Mod. 86; Holt. Rep. 425).

Innuendo to connect libel with plaintiff.

The foregoing cases will sufficiently show the use of the innuendo to explain the nature of ambiguous imputations.

We have next to inquire when innuendoes should be inserted to apply the libel to the plaintiff.

The leading case upon this point is *Le Fanu* v. *Malcolmson*,(a) which came before the House of Lords on a writ of error from the Irish Court of Exchequer Chamber. The libel complained of was an article, in the *Warder* newspaper, upon "The Factory Question in Ireland," containing a letter from a correspondent, who complained of the tyranny which was carried on "in some of the Irish factories." Many alleged acts of cruelty and tyranny were mentioned, but there was no direct allusion to the plaintiffs. The declaration contained introductory averments that the plaintiffs were the owners of an extensive factory at Portlaw, in the county of Waterford; and that the defendants did publish of and concerning the said plaintiffs, and of and concerning the said factory, and of and concerning the manufacturing of cottons, linens, and other fabrics, carried on in the said factory, and of and concerning the said trade and calling of the said plaintiffs, the libel containing the false, &c., matter of and concerning the said plaintiffs, their factory, and the manufactory carried on therein, and of and concerning their conduct towards, and their treatment of, the persons employed by them in their said factory. Innuendoes applied the words "some factories," and the other ambiguous terms in which the plaintiff's factory was spoken of, to the factory of the plaintiffs, and the House of Lords held that the innuendoes did not extend the sense of the libel, but merely pointed out the particular individuals to whom, in fact, the libel applied, and that the declaration was good.

Lord Campbell, in the course of his judgment said:(b) "Mr. Ellis relies on *Solomon* v. *Lawson*;(c) but the proposi-

(a) 1 H. L. Cas. 637. (b) *Ib.* 668.

(c) 8 Q. B. 823. The declaration in this case contained two counts. The first count, after reciting that the plaintiff was employed in supplying fresh water to ships at St. Helena, and had for that purpose fitted up a schooner with wooden tanks, and that the ship M. being at St. Helena, the plaintiff conveyed fresh water to her in the wooden tanks of his schooner, complained that the defendant published (in a letter to the *Times* newspaper, set out in the count) of and concerning the plaintiff in his said employment, and concerning the water so supplied to the M., a statement that persons on board the M. had become ill soon after leaving St. Helena, where they had taken in fresh water, which illness was caused by the water; that the water was run into a copper tank, whence the casks were filled alongside; that the poison was imbibed from the tank, and that it behoved the authorities to order its removal

tion there laid down, and which I adopt, is this, that where there is a publication, or a sentence spoken verbally, which clearly conveys an imputation of crime on some person, that in that case it may, by innuendo, be applied to the plaintiffs: if that proposition is well supported in law, the objection made here fails, because in this there clearly is a gross imputation on some individuals, and the question is whether it may not be applied to the plaintiffs. What is there to show that that proposition is not well founded according to authority? There is *Solomon* v. *Lawson*; but there it was an historical fact that was narrated: all that was there stated might be true without imputing blame to any person. There was no charge brought against either a class or an individual, and by mere innuendo you cannot give a new sense to words which they do not naturally bear. It comes round to the old rule that you cannot by innuendo extend the natural meaning of the words which are spoken or written, but by the innuendo you may point out the particular individual to whom these words apply; those words in themselves clearly imputing a crime upon the part of some individual."

The same observation applies to this case as well as to the others we have cited, viz., that the introductory averments would now be unnecessary, and that it would be sufficient to add, after the words "some factories," "meaning the factories of the plaintiffs;" and after the words "the cruelties of the slave trade or the Bastile are not equal to those practised in some of the Irish factories," "meaning the factories of the plaintiffs, and meaning thereby that the plaintiffs had treated the persons in their employment in said factory with cruelty."

To a like effect is the subsequent case of *Turner* v. *Merryweather*.(a) There the libel was as follows: "Extraordinary case in the Ecclesiastical Court by a barrister-at-law. . . . . Yet in defiance of all the watching there is strong reason

and replace it with an iron one; thereby meaning that the plaintiff had been guilty of supplying bad and unwholesome water to the M. The Court arrested judgment on this count, because there was nothing in the letter which warranted the innuendo applying the imputation of misconduct to the plaintiff (see p. 838). The second count recited that defendant published a statement "in substance as follows" (setting out the publication charged in the first count), and charged that defendant afterwards published (in a further letter to the *Times*) of and concerning the plaintiff, &c., and of and concerning the first publication, a statement that the copper tank was fitted up in a schooner belonging to the plaintiff. The Court arrested judgment on this count also, on the ground that where a publication is not libellous, unless by reference to the language of a previous publication, such previous publication must be set out in the declaration *verbatim*, and not merely in substance.

(a) 7 C. B. 251; 18 L. J. 155, C. P.; and in error 19 L. J. 10, C. P.

for believing that a considerable sum of money was transferred from Mr. Turner's name in the books of the Bank of England, by power of attorney obtained from him by undue influence, after he became wholly incompetent to perform any act requiring reason or understanding." The declaration contained the proper introductory averments, and the following innuendo: "meaning thereby that the said plaintiff and the said J. H. Turner, had transferred or caused to be transferred the said money from the said W. Turner's name in the said books of the said Bank, by means of a power of attorney obtained by them from the said W. Turner, by undue influence exercised by them over the said W. Turner, at a time when the said W. Turner had become and was mentally incompetent to give a power of attorney and to perform any act requiring reason and understanding." This innuendo was held by the Court of Common Pleas and by the Exchequer Chamber to be well laid. Coltman, J.,(*a*) said: "The old decisions which support the argument that an innuendo cannot be allowed to make persons certain who were uncertain before, are not now sustainable."

Innuendo may put any construction on words of libel

The Court of Queen's Bench decided, in the case of *Hemmings* v. *Gasson*,(*b*) "that sect. 61 of the Common Law Procedure Act, and the two forms in schedule B to that Act, enable the pleader to put any construction he pleases upon the words complained of, by innuendo; and that it is for the jury to say whether the words were spoken with such meaning."

If jury negative meaning put by innuendo.

But the question arises: suppose the declaration puts a meaning on the words of the libel which the jury negative, can the plaintiff fall back upon their natural meaning, and say they are libellous without any innuendo?

In answering this question, it may be well to state what the rule was under the old system of pleading. This is luminously stated by Parke, B., in delivering the unanimous opinion of the Judges to the House of Lords, in the case of *Barrett* v. *Long*.(*c*) He says, that if the innuendo "is more extensive than the words will bear, and therefore unwarranted by them, we are of opinion that it may be rejected as repugnant and void; and the words are libellous, and therefore actionable without its aid. That an innuendo which is bad, and on the face of it repugnant to the words, may be rejected, was decided in the cases of *Corbet* v. *Hill*(*d*) and *Smith* v. *Cooker*;(*e*) and if the words are sufficient

(*a*) 18 L. J. 158, C. B.
(*b*) E. B. & E. 346.
(*c*) 3 H. L. Cas. 395. See p. 413.
(*d*) Cro. Eliz. 609.
(*e*) Cro. Car. 512.

without the innuendo, the action is maintainable.(*a*) The same rule prevails where the innuendo unnecessarily introduces new matter, as in *Harvey* v. *French*.(*b*) The case would be different if the words are capable of two senses, and the innuendo ascribes one meaning to them, and is good on the face of it. *Williams* v. *Stott*(*c*) is an authority that in such a case it could not be rejected."

Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, s. 61.

The law is altered, in this respect, by sect. 61 of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, which enacts that "where the words or matter set forth, with or without the alleged meaning, show a cause of action, the declaration shall be sufficient." The change is thus described by Blackburn, J.: "Sometimes it was not easy to frame a declaration to meet this [*i.e.* the former] state of the law, which was a trap for nonsuits; and therefore the Legislature enacted the provision in sect. 61. The effect of the first clause is, that an innuendo cannot be rejected, as formerly, because not supported by the prefatory averment. And the last clause enacts, that instead of a declaration with many counts, with as many innuendos, a count for libel or slander, with an innuendo that the words were used in a particular sense, may be read as two counts, one with the innuendo and the other without it; and proof of either is sufficient."(*d*)

Several counts should be inserted where the precise words of the libel and the meaning to be attached to them are doubtful; because, although the plaintiff may obtain a verdict upon the libel, read without the innuendoes, he cannot at the trial adopt a fresh innuendo. "The plaintiff must always sustain the cause of action of which he has complained, and not abandon it by an allegation that certain words would have been actionable, if the declaration had been framed in a different manner."(*e*)

Claim of damages.

Damages need not be particularly stated unless the plaintiff claims special damage. The latitude allowed to juries, as to the amount of general damages which may be given, is so wide that in practice special damages are seldom if ever claimed in actions of libel; but, if it is desired to claim them, they must be particularised in the declaration; for it is an established rule, that no evidence shall be

(*a*) See also *Roberts* v. *Camden* (9 East, 93), cited by Parke, B., in *Wakley* v. *Healy* (7 C. B. 604, 605).

(*b*) 1 Cr. & M. 11.

(*c*) 1 C. & M. 675, 687.

(*d*) *Watkin* v. *Hall* (9 B. & S. 286; S. C., L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 396; 18 L. T. N. S. 561; 37 L. J. 125, Q. B.; 16 W. R. 857).

(*e*) *Per* Willes, J., *Bremridge* v. *Latimer* (12 W. R. 879; S. C., 10 L. J. N. S. 816).

PART IV. CHAPTER XII.

received of any loss or injury, unless it be specially stated in the declaration.(a)

Defence.

We have, in the next place, to consider the defences which it is open to the defendant to make.

His defence may be (1) a plea containing a denial of the charge in the declaration, or (2) a justification of the libel; (3) an apology, coupled with the payment of a sum of money into court; (4) a plea that the plaintiff has, either before or after the commencement of the action, agreed to accept certain acts of the defendant in full satisfaction and discharge of his right of action, and the damages and costs sustained by him in respect thereof, with an averment that the defendant has duly performed such agreement; or (5) the defendant may demur to the declaration on the ground that no libel appears on its face. Such is a rough summary of the modes of defence which can be adopted in the English courts at the present day. We shall now proceed to examine them in detail.

Plea of not guilty.

The plea of not guilty, which is technically called the general issue, denies the publication of the libel, the publication of it maliciously and in the defamatory sense imputed, and that the matter charged is libellous.(b) It throws upon the plaintiff the onus of proving all the material allegations in the declaration.

Under this plea the defendant may contend that the publication was privileged, because the fact of its being privileged rebuts the *primâ facie* presumption of malice.(c)

In the case of *The Earl of Lucan* v. *Smith*,(d) (an action for a libel contained in a newspaper article reflecting on the conduct of the plaintiff during the Crimean War), the court refused to allow a special plea, setting out alleged facts to show that the article complained of was a fair comment on the conduct of the plaintiff as a public character, together with the plea of not guilty; although the defendant was allowed to plead, in addition to not guilty, in general terms that the alleged libel was a fair comment. But it does not appear why such a plea was allowed, as the whole current of authorities shows that it was in effect the general issue.(e) In *Wason* v. *Walter*,(f) the defence that the

(a) 1 Wm. Saunders, 243, *d* (5).

(b) *O'Brien* v. *Clement* (15 M. & W. 435; 3 D. & L. 676; 15 L. J. 285, Ex.); Rules of Pleading of Trin. Term, 1853, Rule 16.

(c) *Hoare* v. *Silverlock* (9 C. B. 20, 26). See also *Lillie* v. *Price* (5 A. & E. 645).

(d) 1 H. & N. 483; 26 L. J. 94, Ex.

(e) See *Carr* v. *Duckett* (5 H. & N. 783).

(f) 8 B. & S. 671; L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 73; 19 L. T. N. S. 409; 38 L. J. 34, Q. B.; 17 W. R. 169).

matter charged to be a libel, in the first count of the declaration, was a faithful report of a debate in the House of Lords, and that the matter complained of in the second count was a fair comment on such debate as a matter of public interest, was allowed under the plea of not guilty, which was the only plea on the record.(*a*)

There is an old case in Starkie's Reports (*b*) which is still sometimes cited as an authority for the proposition that an accord and satisfaction, or a release may be given in evidence under the plea of not guilty; but the fact has been overlooked that that case was decided under the old system of pleading, before the pleading rules of Hilary term, 4 Will. 4, when, according to Serjeant Stephens, the defendant was permitted, under the general issue, to give in evidence any matter of evidence whatever (subject to some few exceptions) which tended to deny his liability to the action.(*c*) But now, under the Pleading Rules of Trinity Term, 1853, all matters in confession and avoidance must be pleaded specially.(*d*)

Publication of parliamentary reports, &c.

This seems the proper place to notice the defence which the Legislature has provided for persons who are sued for the publication of the proceedings, reports, papers, and votes of either House of Parliament, or extracts or abstracts therefrom.

3 & 4 Vict. c. 9

By 3 & 4 Vict. c. 9, s. 1,(*e*) it is provided that proceedings criminal or civil, against persons for the publication of papers, &c., under the authority of either House of Parliament shall be stayed upon the production in court (after twenty-four hours' notice) of the certificate of the Lord Chancellor, Speaker, Clerk of the Parliament, Speaker of the House of Commons, or the clerk thereof, stating that the paper complained of was published by order or authority of the House of Lords or House of Commons, together with an affidavit verifying such certificate.

The second section of the same statute enacts that proceedings for publishing a copy of any parliamentary paper, &c., shall be stayed at any stage thereof, upon the defendants laying before the court or judge such report and such copy, with an affidavit verifying such report and the correctness of such copy.

The third section enacts that in any civil or criminal

(*a*) See also 1 Wms. Saunders, 130 (1); *Lillie* v. *Price* (5 Ad. & Els. 645); *Hunter* v. *Sharpe* (4 F. & F. 983).
(*b*) *Lane* v. *Applegate* (1 Starkie's N. P. 97).
(*c*) Stephens on Pl. 155 (edition of 1866).
(*d*) See rules 16 & 17.
(*e*) *Vide ante*, pp. 496, 497.

proceedings for printing any extract from, or abstract of, such report, &c., it shall be lawful, under the general issue, to give in evidence that such extract or abstract was published *bonâ fide*, and without malice, and if such shall be the opinion of the jury, a verdict of not guilty shall be entered for the defendant.

Plea of justification on ground of truth.

If the defendant desires to justify the libel on the ground that it is true, he must put a special plea on the record to that effect.(*a*)

Caution should be exercised in setting up such a defence, as, unless it is made out to the satisfaction of the jury, they will probably consider the futile attempt as an aggravation of the original wrong; and there are *dicta* to show that they would be justified in so regarding it.(*b*)

Justification where charge is general.

Where the libel, as laid in the declaration, consists of general charges of criminal or improper conduct, the plea should justify by specifying the particular acts which support the imputations, so that the plaintiff may be aware of the defence which is to be set up.

Before the Common Law Procedure Act of 1852 a plea containing general charges of fraud or felony was bad on special demurrer; and now the court would either strike it out or order particulars of the charges intended to be justified, to be delivered to the plaintiff.

In the case of *I'Anson* v. *Stuart*(*c*) the declaration was for printing of the plaintiff that he was a swindler; and the defendant pleaded that the plaintiff had been illegally, fraudulently, and dishonestly concerned and connected with, and was one of, a gang of swindlers and common informers, and had also been guilty of deceiving and defrauding divers persons with whom he had dealings and transactions. Upon special demurrer, the Court of King's Bench, reversing the judgment of the Common Pleas, held that the plea was bad, for not stating the particular instances of fraud upon which the defendant relied in support of it.

Buller, J.,(*d*) said: "If this plea were to be suffered, it would be to allow any person to libel another more on the records of the court than he could do in a public newspaper. If the plaintiff has been guilty of any acts of swindling, the defendant must be taken to know them. He could not prove the justification, as he has pleaded it, by general evidence; but he has no justification, unless he can prove the special

(*a*) Rules Trin. T. 1853; see rule 17.
(*b*) See *Wilson* v. *Robinson* (7 Q. B. 68; 14 L. J. Q. B. 196); *Simpson* v. *Robinson* (12 Q. B. 514).
(*c*) 1 T. R. 748.
(*d*) 1 T. R. 753.

instances; and, knowing them, he ought to put them on the record, that the plaintiff might be prepared to answer them. It has been said that this case is different from the case of *Newman* v. *Bailey*,(a) because that was a specific charge. But that is not so; for there the plaintiff was charged with pocketing *all the fines*, &c., which was as general as possible; and there the court said it was necessary to specify the particular acts."

So in *Holmes* v. *Catesby*,(b) where the libel charged an attorney with gross negligence, falsehood, and prevarication, and excessive bills of costs in the business he had conducted for the defendant, a plea simply repeating the charges in the libel, without specifying particular acts of misconduct, was held bad on demurrer.

To a declaration for words imputing to the plaintiff, a pawnbroker, that he had committed the unfair and dishonourable practice of "duffing," *i.e.*, of replenishing or doing up goods, being in his hands in a damaged or worn-out condition, and pledging them with other pawnbrokers, the defendant pleaded that the plaintiff did replenish and do up divers goods, being in his hands in a damaged or worn-out condition, and pledged them with other pawnbrokers. This plea was specially demurred to, upon the ground that it did not state what goods or what kind of goods were so "duffed," nor with what pawnbroker they were pledged. And the court held the plea bad.(c)

Parke, B., said: "It is a perfectly well-established rule in cases of slander that where the charge is general in its nature, the defendant, in a plea of justification must state some specific instances of the misconduct imputed to the plaintiff. That is settled by the cases of *I'Anson* v. *Stuart*, *Newman* v. *Bailey*, and *Holmes* v. *Catesby*. In some of those cases, perhaps, the statement in the plea was not so specific as it is here, but still this is not specific enough: the plea should have stated the description of the goods, or at least the names of the pawnbrokers with whom they were pledged; as it is, the statement is so general that the plaintiff cannot know with what he is intended to be charged. The defendant is bound to give him information of some specific acts with which he intends to charge him. This plea does not do that, and is therefore bad."

And Alderson, B., in the same case, referring to the argument used by the counsel for the defendants, that it

(a) 2 Chitty R. 665; cited *arguendo* by Wood. See 1 T. R. 750.
(b) 1 Taunt. 543.
(c) *Hickinbotham* v. *Leach* (10 M. & W. 361).

must be peculiarly within the plaintiff's own knowledge what the goods were which he had replenished, and with what pawnbrokers he pledged them, said: "What the plaintiff has actually done in the course of his business is within his knowledge, but not what the defendant mistakenly or wickedly means to charge him with having done: that is peculiarly within the defendants' knowledge, and it is because it is so that he is to plead it.(*a*)

General plea of justification.

More laxity has been allowed in these pleas since the abolition of special demurrers; and even a general plea, that the matters in the declaration complained of are true in substance and fact, has been allowed, on condition that the defendant should furnish particulars of the charges intended to be justified.

The Court of Common Pleas allowed such a plea in the case of *Behrens* v. *Allen*,(*b*) where the libel consisted of charges against the plaintiff's honesty in having, at divers dates (which were specified), bought goods below cost price from a bankrupt firm. Willes, J., in the course of the argument, said: "*I'Anson* v. *Stuart* adverts to the distinction between the case where the plea states in justification an indictable matter, and where it states what is not of that character. In the latter case I have always, at chambers, allowed the plea, the defendant furnishing particulars." And Erle, C.J., said: "It is much the same question, to my mind, whether the plea or the particulars set out all the facts."

In giving judgment in the same case, Willes, J., said: "*I'Anson* v. *Stuart* makes it clear that before the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, a general plea of justification in these circumstances was not allowed, with the exception, possibly, of a case of a specific charge in the declaration, and a plea alleging the charge to be true. In such a case as this, where the charges are mostly specific, the real question may be raised by allowing a general plea of the part specified —a general plea to that part, and a special plea to the other part. Nevertheless, I do not mean to say that on any future case I shall not reserve to myself to allow a plea of justification in libel, on such terms as will oblige the parties to try the real question between them, in the clearest possible form."

In an earlier case(*c*) the court had refused to allow the defendant to plead one general justification to a declaration

(*a*) See also *O'Brien* v. *Clement* (16 L. J. Ex. 76; 16 M. & W. 159); *Jones* v. *Stevens* (11 Price, 235).

(*b*) 8 Jurist, N. S. 118.

(*c*) *Honess and another* v. *Stubbs* (7 C. B. N. S. 555; 29 L. J. 220, C. P.; 6 Jur. N. S. 682).

containing three counts for three separate libels, charging the plaintiff with swindling, although the defendant offered to deliver full particulars of the intended defence. The grounds of the refusal were stated by Williams, J., as follows: "The difficulty is this. If you set out in your pleas the facts upon which you rely, the court has an opportunity of judging whether they do amount to a justification or not; whereas, by the course proposed, you prevent the matter from getting on the record at all."

An example of vagueness in pleading a justification carried to its furthest limits is furnished by the case of *Jones* v. *Bewicke*.(*a*) There the first count of the declaration stated that the defendant spoke and published of the plaintiff as an attorney and solicitor the words "he is a bankrupt swindler." The second count charged the following libel: "Old Perjury Jones, of Goring-place, Llanelly, South Wales." "Mr. Bewicke has only to repeat that the attorney Jones did perjure himself. An action for libel will only prove the truth of the above facts, and clearly demonstrate to the public the gross perjury of the above parties." To this the defendant pleaded, first, "not guilty," and secondly, "that the defamatory matter in the declaration mentioned and complained of was and is true in substance and fact." Cleasby, B., dismissed a summons calling upon the plaintiff to shew cause why he should not give particulars of the facts and matters relied on to justify the libels, and why, in default, the plea should not be struck out. But, on appeal to the Court of Common Pleas, the rule was made absolute in the terms of the summons; Keating, J., doubting "whether such a plea should be allowed at all," and Montague Smith, J., saying, "The plea is clearly an embarrassing one, and ought not to be allowed without particulars."

Where charge in libel is specific.

Where the charge in the libel is specific, the plea need only allege that it is true.

This was the case even under the old system of pleading; as, where the words were "he stole two sheep of J. S.," a plea "that the plaintiff stole the said sheep" was held sufficient.(*b*) But a plea that the libel "is true in substance and effect," means that it is true in every material particular; so that where the libel charged the plaintiff with various acts of cruelty to a horse, and, amongst others, with knocking out an eye, and the defendant pleaded that the matters contained in the supposed libel were true in substance and effect, it was held that the justification was

(*a*) L. Rep. 5 C. P. 32.
(*b*) Brooke's Abr. Action sur le case, Pl. 3 (27 H. 822).

not sustained by a verdict that the libel was true in all respects, except that the eye was not knocked out.(*a*)

Where the publication complained of does not make a direct charge against the plaintiff, but reports defamatory statements made by others, a plea that the several matters and things contained in the alleged libel are true, is bad; as such a plea might mean either that the report in the newspaper was a true report of what had been said by others, or that the facts mentioned were true.(*b*)

A libel imputing specific misdeeds to the plaintiff cannot be justified by a plea alleging that he was guilty of other misdeeds of the same nature. So that where, to an action for saying, "She is a thief to you and to me, and hath stolen twenty pounds from me, and forty pounds from you," the defendant pleaded that the plaintiff was a thief, and stole two hens from her on such a day feloniously, the plea was held bad.(*c*)

Plea of justification to part of declaration.

The defendant may limit his plea of justification to part of the declaration;(*d*) but he must take care that it justifies the whole of what it purports to answer, or else it will be demurrable.(*e*)

Where the libel stated that the plaintiff's ship was unseaworthy, and had been bought by Jews to take out convicts, a plea to the whole declaration, that the allegation of unseaworthiness was true, was held bad for not justifying the allegation that she had been sold to Jews to take out convicts.(*f*)

And where the declaration was for a libel which imputed to the plaintiff that he had been guilty of murder in killing his opponent in a duel, and stated in reference to his trial upon the charge, "It was understood that the counsel for the prosecution were in possession of a damning piece of evidence, viz., that the prisoner (meaning the plaintiff) had spent the whole of the night immediately preceding the duel in practising pistol firing," a plea alleging merely that the plaintiff killed his antagonist, and was tried for murder, was held bad.(*g*)

Jervis, C.J., said,(*h*) "The whole Court is of opinion

(*a*) *Weaver* v. *Lloyd* (2 B. & C. 678).
(*b*) *Duncan* v. *Thwaites* (3 B. & C. 556).
(*c*) *Hilsden* v. *Mercer* (Cro. Jac. 677). See also *Johns* v. *Gittings* (Cro. Eliz. 239).
(*d*) *Clarke* v. *Taylor* (3 Scott, 95; 2 Bing. N. C. 654).
(*e*) 1 Wms. Saunders, 28, *a* (note 3), and 244, *b* (note *q*).
(*f*) *Ingram* v. *Lawson* (5 Bing. N. C. 66).
(*g*) *Helsham* v. *Blackwood and another* (11 C. B. 111).
(*h*) *Id.* p. 128.

that the plea, which professes to justify the entire libel, but fails to justify what we hold to be a material part of it, is a bad plea. The libel, in substance, charges that the plaintiff was guilty of murder under circumstances of grave and malignant aggravation; and the justification states simply that the plaintiff committed murder by killing his antagonist in a duel. It does not lie in the mouth of the defendant to say that it matters not whether the murder was committed under one state of circumstances or another, because the very terms in which the libel is conceived—speaking of the plaintiff's conduct anterior to the meeting, and calling it 'a damning piece of evidence'—show that the defendants intended to impute to the plaintiff something which, in their estimation, was very much more culpable than murder under the circumstances which usually attend a hostile meeting of the kind alluded to. I think we should be doing a serious injury to public morals if we permitted ourselves to be influenced by the argument of Mr. Peacock, that it makes no difference, as to the quality of the libel, whether the alleged duel was fought fairly, as it is called, or unfairly. It certainly could not be said, upon a trial for killing in a duel, in a criminal court, that the question of murder or no murder was to depend upon whether or not the affair had been conducted with a due regard to the laws of honour. But to say that the court is not at liberty to take the circumstances into consideration, when called upon to determine the question of libel or no libel, is quite a different matter. When the question is murder or no murder, in ascertaining the innocence or the guilt of the party charged, the Court cannot enter into an investigation of extenuating circumstances; but in a case like this, the circumstances must necessarily form a very large portion of the inquiry. If it were otherwise, the most opprobrious and defamatory language might be uttered of a man who had had the misfortune which is said to have befallen this gentleman, and the law would give him no redress." And Maule, J., in the same case, tersely laid down the rule of law in a passage cited *ante*, pp. 392, 393.(*a*)

Sufficient to justify substance of libel.

On the other hand, if the plea justifies the gist and substance of the libel, it is sufficient, although it may not cover every epithet or term of general abuse which may be found in the libellous imputation.

(*a*) See also *McGregor* v. *Gregory* (11 M. & W. 287); *Clarkson* v. *Lawson* (6 Bing. 266); *Goodburne* v. *Bowman* (9 Bing. 532, 667); *O'Brien* v. *Bryant* (16 M. & W. 168); *Smith* v. *Parker* (13 M. & W. 259); *Mountney* v. *Watton* (2 B. & Ad. 673).

Thus, where the substantial charge in the libel was that the plaintiffs compounded and sold poisonous and deleterious pills, and that the defendant had crushed the system of poisoning pursued by the scamps and rascals, a plea to the whole declaration was held good, although it contained no justification of the terms scamps and rascals;(*a*)

A statement that the plaintiff was convicted of a special offence, and received a certain sentence, is not justified by a plea alleging that he was convicted of the offence, and received a less sentence; because the Court cannot, as a matter of law, say that the difference cannot be libellous. But in the case of *Alexander* v. *the North-Eastern Railway Company*,(*b*) the defendants were allowed to amend such a plea by setting out the same sentence as the libel stated, although such statement was in fact false. To this amended plea the plaintiff replied by setting out the conviction verbatim; and the defendants rejoined that the conviction was described with sufficient accuracy and truth, both in the libel and the plea, and that the words, so far as they were libellous, appeared, from the allegations in the plea, to be and were true in substance. On demurrer to this rejoinder, the Court held the rejoinder good, as the substitution, in the alleged libel, of three weeks' for a fortnight's imprisonment (the actual sentence) was not necessarily libellous.(*c*)

It is a good plea to an action for libelling the plaintiff's character that a certain transaction took place, and that the libel was published of the plaintiff solely in reference to that transaction and was justified by it.(*d*)

Plea or demurrer to part of libel.

Although the defendant may demur or plead to part of a libel, he can only do so when it contains distinct imputations; "but no case has been, nor can any be, produced, in which, where many statements tend to one conclusion and imputation, a single sentence or portion of a sentence may be selected and separately dealt with; either by plea or demurrer." (*e*)

Justification of words with or without meaning in innuendo.

To a declaration setting out the libel with innuendos, the defendant may plead the general issue as to the words

(*a*) *Morison* v. *Harmer* (4 Scott. 524; see p. 534; 3 Bing. N. C. 759). See the passage from the judgment of the court cited *ante*, pp. 396, 397. See also *Edwards* v. *Bell* (1 Bing. 403); *Biggs* v. *Great Eastern Railway Company* (18 L. T. N. S. 482).

(*b*) 34 L. J. 152, Q. B.; 11 Jur. N. S. 619; 13 W. R. 651.

(*c*) *Ib.*

(*d*) *Tighe* v. *Cooper* (7 E. & B. 641; 26 L. J. 215, Q. B.); See *Cromwell's case* (4 Rep. 13).

(*e*) *Per* Lord Abinger, C.B., *Eaton* v. *Jones* (1 Dowl. N. S. 608).

with the meaning in the innuendo, and justify as to them without the meaning; or he may justify as to them with the meaning in the innuendo, and also as to them without the meaning; (*a*) but care must be taken to limit the plea to that construction which it is intended to answer.

Where all imputations in libel are not set out.

Where a libel contains several distinct imputations on the plaintiff, and the declaration sets out only some of them, the defendant will not be allowed to plead that the other charges were contained in the libel, and to justify the whole article; nor may he put any other sense on the words than that assigned to them in the declaration.(*b*)

Previous publication by another no justification.

It is no justification to an action for libel that the libellous matter has previously been published by a third person —notwithstanding the fourth resolution in the Earl of Northampton's case,(*c*) viz.: "In a private action for slander of a common person, if J. L. publish that he hath heard J. N. say that J. G. was a traitor, or thief, in an action on the case, if the truth be such, he may justify." Pollock, C. B., in the case of *Tidman* v. *Ainslie*,(*d*) said that this doctrine, "assuming it to be law, has never been applied to written slander, in which the repetition, by being more largely circulated, produces a greater injury to the individual slandered."

Privilege specially pleaded.

Although, as has already been seen, it is not necessary or usual to plead specially the defence of privilege, yet it is sometimes done, in order to raise the question on the record by demurrer.

A plea that the alleged libel is a report of a trial, must aver that it is a true and accurate account; it is not sufficient to plead that it is in substance a true report;(*e*) although it will suffice to *prove* that it is a fair and impartial (though not verbatim) report.(*f*)

If the publication contain comment on the trial, the plea must justify that as well as the report.(*g*)

In strictness, a plea of privilege ought to aver that the matter was published *bonâ fide*, and without malice;(*h*) but, it is apprehended, the abolition of special demurrers has

(*a*) See *Watkin* v. *Hall* (L. Rep. 3 Q. B. 396; 18 L. T. N. S. 561; 37 L. J. 125, Q. B.; 16 W. R. 857).

(*b*) *Brembridge* v. *Latimer* (12 W. R. 878). (*c*) 12 Rep. 133.

(*d*) 10 Ex. 66. See also *M'Pherson* v. *Daniels* (10 B. & C. 270; 1 Wms. Saunders, 244).

(*e*) *Flint* v. *Pike* (4 B. & C. 473); *Lewis* v. *Walter* (4 B. & A. 605).

(*f*) *Lewis* v. *Levy* (E. B. & E. 537; see p. 553).

(*g*) *Cooper* v. *Lawson* (8 A. & E. 746).

(*h*) *Smith* v. *Thomas* (2 Bing. N. C. 372).

precluded the plaintiff from taking advantage of the omission of such an averment.(*a*)

So, in the old days of pleading, a plea of justification which did not formally confess the publication of the libel was bad;(*b*) but this formality is no longer requisite, (*c*) and in practice is never observed.

Plea of apology and payment into court.

The next defence which requires our notice is that provided by the Legislature, for the protection of the liberty of the Press.

The 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, s. 2, enacts "that in an action for a libel contained in any public newspaper, or other periodical publication, it shall be competent to the defendant to plead that such libel was inserted in such newspaper or other periodical publication without actual malice, and without gross negligence, and that before the commencement of the action, or at the earliest opportunity afterwards, he inserted in such newspaper or other periodical publication a full apology for the said libel, or, if the newspaper or periodical publication in which the said libel appeared should be ordinarily published at intervals exceeding one week, had offered to publish the said apology in any newspaper or periodical publication, to be selected by the plaintiff in such action; and that every such defendant shall, upon filing such plea, be at liberty to pay into court a sum of money by way of amends for the injury sustained by the publication of such libel, and such payment into court shall be of the same effect, and be available in the same manner, and to the same extent, and be subject to the same rules and regulations as to payment of costs and the form of pleading, except so far as regards the pleading of the additional facts hereinbefore required to be pleaded by such defendant, as if actions for libel had not been excepted from the personal actions in which it is lawful to pay money into court, ... and that to such plea to such action it shall be competent to the plaintiff to reply generally,(*d*) denying the whole of such plea."

Unless the defendant pay money into court at the time

(*a*) See *Young* v. *Austen* (L. Rep. 4 C. P. 553; 21 L. T. N. S. 327; 38 L. J. 233, Q. B.; 18 W. R. 63).

(*b*) *Johns* v. *Gittings* (Cro. Eliz. 239; see 1 Wms. Saunders, 244, *a*).

(*c*) Stephens on Pleading, 185.

(*d*) This means that the plaintiff shall be at liberty to deny the whole *or any part* of such a plea: the plaintiff is not bound to deny the whole of the plea: (*Chadwick* v. *Herepath*, 3 C. B. 885.) A replication which admitted that the libel was inserted in a newspaper, and the payment of money into Court, and traversed the insertion of the libel without actual malice, and without gross negligence, and the sufficiency of the money paid into Court as amends, was held good: (*Ib.*)

of pleading the above plea, the plaintiff is empowered by 8 & 9 Vict. c. 75, s. 2, to treat the plea as a nullity.

The payment into court is conditional on the plea being proved, and is not to be taken as an absolute admission of liability.(*a*)

Whether other pleas can be pleaded with plea of apology and payment into court.

It is doubtful whether the defendant will be allowed to plead any other plea, together with this special plea, to the same part of the declaration.

In *O'Brien* v. *Clement*,(*b*) the defendant obtained a judge's order, allowing the following pleas, viz.: first, not guilty, to the whole declaration; secondly, a justification as to part of the libel; and, thirdly, the statutory plea of an apology and payment of money into court. The Court of Exchequer amended the order by confining the general issue to such part of the declaration as the plea of payment into court did not apply to.

Parke, B., in delivering the judgment of the court, said: "It seems to me that we ought not to allow this special plea together with the general issue; for if we were, and the verdict for the general issue should be for the defendant, there would be a difficulty as to the judgment. What would become of the damages paid into court? because the special plea would shew, on the record, a cause of action in respect of which the plaintiff ought to recover them. . . . . The only respect in which payment of money into court under this statute differs from a payment into court in cases under the new rules is, that those rules give a *general* plea, applicable to all cases except such as are therein specified; whereas this statute makes that general form insufficient, in cases to which the statute applies; and if you pay money into court under it, you must bring your case within the description of libel to which it refers. The intention plainly was to extend to certain actions of libel the benefit of the plea of payment of money into court, as it existed in other forms of action."

The difficulty of disposing of the money paid into court arises, however, in those cases which we have just noticed, where the jury find that the plea of apology is not proved, and give a less amount than the defendant has paid into court. In the case of *Jones* v. *Mackie*,(*c*) Channell, B., said that the defendant by his plea of apology and payment into court "in effect says, 'I published this libel without malice

(*a*) *Lafone* v. *Smith* (4 H. & N. 158; 28 L. J. 33, Ex.); *Jones* v. *Mackie* (L. Rep. 3 Ex. 1; 17 L. T. N. S. 151; 37 L. J. 1, Ex.; 16 W. R. 109).

(*b*) 15 M. & W. 435; 3 D. & L. 676.

(*c*) *Ubi supra*.

or negligence, and if you will accept my apology, I will give you 5*l.*;' but he does not bind himself to give anything if his terms are not accepted." If this be so, the reasons of the court for refusing to allow other pleas would seem not to apply.

Nothing contained in the 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, takes away or prejudices any defence under the plea of not guilty, which, before the passing of the Act, it was competent to the defendant to make under such plea: (see sect. 6).

Evidence of apology in mitigation of damages.

The first section of the Act just mentioned contains a provision, which is not limited to actions for libels contained in newspapers or other periodicals, but applies to any action for defamation, and enacts that "it shall be lawful for the defendant (after notice in writing of his intention so to do, duly given to the plaintiff at the time of filing or delivering the plea in such action) to give in evidence, in mitigation of damages, that he made or offered an apology to the plaintiff for such defamation before the commencement of the action, or as soon afterwards as he had an opportunity of doing so, in case the action shall have been commenced before there was an opportunity of making or offering such apology." This section rather tends to support the view taken by some, that the Legislature intended to allow the general issue, or other pleas, together with the plea of apology and payment into court, as it expressly allows a man to take advantage of an apology and to plead to the declaration at the same time.

Plea of accord and satisfaction.

A plea in accord and satisfaction is a good defence to an action for libel, and may be pleaded to its further maintenance when the matter has taken place after action brought.

Thus, an agreement by the plaintiff to waive his action in consideration that the defendant would destroy certain documents in his possession, imputing the same crime to the plaintiff as the slander, is a bar to the action.(*a*)

So, a parol agreement after action, between the plaintiff and defendant, to accept the publication of mutual apologies, in satisfaction and discharge of the causes of action, damages, and costs, executed by the defendant, is a good accord and satisfaction.(*b*)

Plea of Statute of Limitations.

In addition to a defence on the merits of the case, the Statute of Limitations may sometimes furnish an

(*a*) *Lane* v. *Applegate* (1 Starkie, 97). In the marginal note it is said "when executed by the burning of the papers;" but the judgment of Lord Ellenborough does not contain those words.

(*b*) *Boosey* v. *Wood* (3 H. & C. 484; 34 L. J. 65, Ex.).

answer to the plaintiff's suit;(a) but it must be pleaded specially.(b)

A plea of the Statute of Limitations, to an action for a libel published in a newspaper seventeen years before, was held to be negatived by proof that a copy had been purchased from the defendant, by an agent of the plaintiff, within the six years.(c)

Plea in actions for libel on wife

Before the Common Law Procedure Act of 1860, it was a good plea in bar to an action by husband and wife for defamation of the wife, that the female plaintiff was not the wife of the other plaintiff, "inasmuch" according to Pollock, C.B., "as it shows that the alleged husband, if he be not such in fact, has no right to sue at all. It is not a plea in abatement, giving the wife a better writ; but matter in bar, showing that he who is in one sense the substantial plaintiff, if he be not in fact the husband, has no right to sue at all."(d)

And now, if the supposed husband joined a count for special damage to himself, no doubt such a plea would still be good. But if the declaration contained only a count for the injury to the wife, it is submitted that under the Common Law Procedure Act of 1860, the female plaintiff would be entitled to judgment, if the jury found a verdict for her, notwithstanding such verdict should also find her not to be the wife of the male plaintiff; for, by the 19th section of that Act,(e) it is enacted that "the joinder of too many plaintiffs shall not be fatal, but every action may be brought in the name of all the persons in whom the legal right may be supposed to exist; and judgment may be given in favour of the plaintiffs by whom the action is brought, or of one or more of them, or, in case of any question of misjoinder being raised, then in favour of such one or more of them as shall be adjudged by the court to be entitled to recover: provided always, that the defendant, though unsuccessful, shall be entitled to his costs occasioned by joining any person or persons in whose favour judgment is not given, unless otherwise ordered by the court or a judge."

Plea in abatement.

A plea in abatement, on the ground of the nonjoinder of a party who ought to be a co-plaintiff, is rarely available in actions of libel; for, even in the case of libels upon mercan-

(a) *Vide ante*, p. 539.
(b) See the form in the schedule to the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, Schedule B. See also 2 Wms. Saunders, 63, *a*.
(c) *Duke of Brunswick* v. *Harmer* (14 Q. B. 185).
(d) *Chantler and Wife* v. *Lindsey* (16 M. & W. 82).
(e) 23 & 24 Vict. c. 126.

tile or trading firms, the defamation of the firm is generally a libel upon each member of it, and entitles him to a remedy for his individual injury. And, though one partner in such action should claim damages for the injury to the firm, a plea in abatement would be bad, as being a plea to the damages and not to the cause of action.(*a*)

Demurrer.

The defendant may demur to the declaration, on the ground that it states no libel; for "it is not enough to entitle a plaintiff to judgment that he should charge malicious motives and a calumnious tendency; he must also show that there is a libel."(*b*)

There are not many instances to be found of demurrers to libels, because, where the words are capable of a calumnious meaning, the jury are the proper judges as to whether they bear it.

But the defendant may rely entirely on the judgment of the court, by demurring only. This was done in the case of *Reeves* v. *Templar*,(*c*) in which case the court, *dubitante* Parke, B., gave judgment for the defendant, on the ground that the letter set out in the declaration was not libellous. Parke, B., said the rule to be applied in deciding the demurrer was, whether judgment could be arrested after verdict.

The effect of a demurrer is to submit the whole record to the judgment of the court; so that if the plaintiff demur to the defendant's plea, he may be called upon to support his own declaration, and in this way may sometimes be hoist with his own petard. For example, in *Clay* v. *Roberts*(*d*) the declaration alleged, by way of inducement, that the plaintiff was a physician and a legally qualified medical practitioner, and carried on the profession of a physician; and that there were certain medical practitioners assuming to themselves the names and designations of homœopathists, and differing and professing to differ from the great majority of medical practitioners as respects the theory and practice of medicine; and that, according to the opinion and professional etiquette prevailing amongst the great body of physicians, it was considered to be improper and disgraceful for any of them to meet, in medical consultation, any medical practitioner professing homœopathy, and that so doing would be injurious to the professional character of any physician.

(*a*) *Robinson* v. *Marchant* (7 Q. B. 918; 15 L. J. 134, Q. B.) See also *Forster* v. *Lawson* (3 Bing 452).

(*b*) *Per* Lord Denman, C.J., *Hearne* v. *Stowell* (12 A. & E. 731).

(*c*) 2 Jur. 137. See also *Cox* v. *Cooper* (12 W. R. 75; 9 L. T. N. S. 329).

(*d*) 11 W. R. 649; 8 L. T. N. S. 397; 9 Jur. N. S. 580).

The declaration then alleged that the defendant published of the plaintiff that he was in the habit of meeting, in medical consultation, medical practitioners professing to practice the theory and practice of homœopathy. The defendant pleaded a traverse to the allegation that it was considered by the great body of medical practitioners improper and disgraceful to meet, in medical consultation, medical practitioners professing to practice homœopathy; and the plaintiff demurred to this plea. On the argument, the court at once called upon the plaintiff's counsel to support the declaration, and gave judgment for the defendant, without considering the merits of the plea.

Replication.

The plaintiff usually replies to defendant's pleas by joining issue; but occasion may render it advisable to demur, to reply specially, or to new assign.

Alexander v. *North-Eastern Railway Company* (*a*) furnishes an example of a replication, setting out the conviction relied upon in the plea as a justification, a rejoinder, and a demurrer to the rejoinder.

If the justification in the plea were that the plaintiff had committed a certain crime, a replication pleading a pardon would be good;(*b*) but when the libel was, that the plaintiff was convicted of a crime, Blackburn, J., in the case of *Alexander* v. *North-Eastern Railway*, said: "It is perfectly immaterial whether the conviction is still subsisting or not; for if the plaintiff was convicted, the libel is true."

New assignment.

Where the declaration charges a publication generally, and the defendant pleads that he has published it lawfully, as to the members of a committee of the House of Commons, and the plaintiff proceeds for a publication to other persons, he should new assign such illegal publication.(*c*)

The plea of not guilty to the new assignment raises the same issue precisely as if the libel new assigned had been set out in the declaration, and the defendant had pleaded not guilty only.(*d*)

Discovery of proprietors, printers, or publishers of newspapers.

After joinder of issue is the proper time for the plaintiff to seek the aid of the court in obtaining information from the defendant, which may be necessary or material to prove his case.

It will be seen, however, that this assistance will only be granted under very special circumstances.

(*a*) 34 L. J. 152, Q. B.; 11 Jur. N. S. 619; 13 W. R. 651. *Vide ante*, p. 564.
(*b*) *Cuddington* v. *Wilkins* (Hobart, 81).
(*c*) See 2 Lush's Saunders, 945; 1 Wms. Saunders, 133.
(*d*) *Duke of Brunswick* v. *Pepper* (2 C. & K. 685).

PART IV. CHAPTER XII.

The Newspapers, Printers, and Reading-rooms Act, 1869 (32 & 33 Vict. c. 24), repealing many former enactments, has left certain statutory provisions for assisting the plaintiff in proving the publication by the defendant of the newspaper containing the libel.

39 Geo. 3, c. 79, s. 29,(*a*) renders it obligatory (under a penalty) on every printer to keep, for six months' after the printing thereof, a copy of every paper printed by him, with the name of his employer written or printed thereon; which he is to show to any justice of the peace who, within the six months, may require to see it.

6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, s. 19,(*b*) provides for the discovery of the proprietors, printers, or publishers of newspapers, by filing a bill for discovery in equity.

The former of these enactments (39 Geo. 3, c. 79, s. 29) is rendered nugatory, so far as private plaintiffs are concerned, by 9 & 10 Vict. c. 33, s. 1, which prohibits any proceedings for the penalty under that Act, except in the name of the law officers of the Crown.

The power of compelling discovery of the publisher by filing a bill, is a costly and tedious process, and appears never to have been exercised;—at least we are unable to find any reported cases.

Interrogatories.

The only other mode by which the plaintiff can obtain information from the defendant, as to the publication of the libel, is by administering interrogatories under the 51st section of the Common Law Procedure Act of 1854. But, before he can do this, he must obtain an order of the court or judge, which is by no means an easy task.

In *Tupling* v. *Ward* (*c*) the Court of Exchequer held that it was unfair to submit questions which a party is clearly not bound to answer, the object being either to compel him to answer when not bound, or to refuse, and so create a prejudice against him. On this ground the court refused to allow interrogatories to be put to the defendant, as to whether he composed the article complained of? whether he knew who composed it? whether the name on the title-page was real or fictitious? whether he had been, or expected to be, indemnified? with other questions of a like kind.

Two years later, the Court of Common Pleas rescinded an order made by Keating, J., allowing interrogatories to be put to the defendant, as to whether he spoke the slander

(*a*) See the enactment set out, *ante*, p. 257.
(*b*) See the section set out, *ante*, p. 259.
(*c*) 6 H. & N. 749; 30 L. J. 222, Ex. See also *Baker* v. *Lane* (3 H. & C. 544; 34 L. J. 57, Ex.).

charged in the declaration, Erle, C.J., saying: "I do not mean to say that in no case will the court allow interrogatories in an action of slander; but, before I will consent to allow them, I must be satisfied that there are very peculiar circumstances of grievance and oppression to justify so novel a proceeding."(*a*)

These cases were followed in the case of *Edmunds* v. *Greenwood*,(*b*) the court there holding that very special circumstances ought to appear before interrogatories, the express object of which was to make the defendant criminate himself, were allowed.

There is, however, one instance of a plaintiff's obtaining a judge's order for such interrogatories, in an action of libel, and keeping it, notwithstanding an appeal to the court.

The action was for sending to the *Times* newspaper a libellous extract from a letter. The defendant pleaded not guilty, and a justification. The affidavit in support of the summons was in the usual form, and did not state any special circumstances. Blackburn, J., allowed the following interrogatory, and others of a like nature: "Did you, on or about the 10th March, 1870, write, and send to the *Times* for publication, a letter signed 'Z.,' accompanied by what purported to be an extract from the letter from a Halifax merchant?" On the argument of a rule to set aside the order allowing these interrogatories, it appeared that the defendant had obtained a commission to Nova Scotia to examine witnesses, on an affidavit stating that the extract was from a letter which he had received from a person in Nova Scotia, with whom he had since communicated, and on whose information, believing it to be true, he had pleaded a justification, in support of which it was necessary to examine witnesses in Nova Scotia. The court refused to interfere with the discretion of the judge, holding that the affidavit of the defendant, together with his plea of justification, were sufficiently special circumstances to take the case out of the ordinary rules.(*c*)

Where answers tend to criminate defendant.

But when the plaintiff has obtained the order, and administered the interrogatories, he has a still more formidable difficulty to encounter, viz., that of extorting answers from an unwilling defendant. If the defendant refuses to

(*a*) *Stern* v. *Sevastopulo* (14 C. B. N. S. 737).
(*b*) L. Rep. 4 C. P. 70; 19 L. T. N. S. 423; 38 L. J. 115, C. P.; 17 W. R. 142.
(*c*) *Inman* v. *Jenkins* (L. Rep. 5 C. P. 738; 22 L. T. N. S. 659; 39 L. J. 258, C. P.; 18 W. R. 897.

answer, on the ground that the answers would tend to criminate him, the court has no power to compel him.

Thus, in *Bowden* v. *Allen*,(*a*) the defendant declined, on this ground, to say whether he was the publisher of the newspaper containing the libel; and Bramwell, B., dismissed a summons for further and better answers. On appeal, the Court of Common Pleas held that he was right in so doing, as sect. 19 of the 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76 (re-enacted by 32 & 33 Vict. c. 24) was confined to a bill of discovery in Chancery, and did not apply to interrogatories at common law, and the court had no power to supply the omission.

An incorporated company, however, would probably be compelled to answer, as it could not be made criminally responsible for the publication.(*b*)

Inspection of documents by plaintiff.

If the defendant justifies the libel, and has in his possession documents which tend to disprove the truth of such justification, the plaintiff will be allowed inspection of them, under sect. 50 of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1854.(*c*)

The defendant sometimes desires the assistance of the court to enable him to procure evidence material to the issues, which lie upon him to prove.

Commission to examine witnesses.

If the libel relates to transactions which occurred abroad, the defendant is entitled to a commission for the examination of witnesses on the spot;(*d*) but the court may make it a condition of the order, that the defendant state what he expects them to prove.(*e*)

Inspection by defendant.

On an affidavit denying that he is the author, the court will allow him, his attorney, and witnesses (without naming them) to inspect and take fac-simile copies of the documents referred to in the declaration.(*f*)

The court will not, however, allow him to inspect books and papers in the custody of the plaintiff in order to establish the truth of the libel. *Macaulay* v. *Shackell*(*g*) is often quoted as an authority to the contrary; but Pollock, C.B., stated, in the case of the *Metropolitan Saloon Omnibus Company* v. *Hawkins*,(*h*) that that case merely decided that the defendant was entitled to a commission to examine witnesses at the

(*a*) 39 L. J. 217, C. P.; 22 L. T. N. S. 342; 18 W. R. 695.
(*b*) *King of the Two Sicilies* v. *Wilcox* (1 Simon, N. S. 335).
(*c*) *Collins* v. *Yates and another* (27 L. J. 150, Ex.).
(*d*) *Thorpe* v. *Macaulay* (5 Madd. 230); *Macaulay* v. *Shackell* (2 Sim. & Str. 79); S. C., Dom. Proc. 1 Bl. N. S. 96; *Metropolitan Saloon Omnibus Company* v. *Hawkins* (4 H. & N. 146).
(*e*) *Barry* v. *Barclay* (15 C. B. N. S. 849).
(*f*) *Davey* v. *Pemberton* (11 C. B. N. S. 628). (*g*) *Ubi supra.*
(*h*) *Ubi supra*

place where the events happened. He added: "A person who ventures to publish a libel, or utter slander, should be in a condition to justify his conduct, and not come to the court to ask for assistance to get up some proof." Martin, B., in the same case said: "Looking at the case of *Macaulay* v. *Shackell*, although it is difficult to collect from it any distinct proposition as to the right of a defendant in an action for libel, I am not prepared to say, that, in no case, would he be entitled to an inspection; but he would be bound to give the tribunal to which he applied, reason to believe that there was some particular document, which he could specify and put his hands upon, which would support his case; and neither a court of law or equity would give him an opportunity of searching the plaintiffs' books, in order to get up a defence."(*a*)

CHAPTER XIII.

PROCEEDINGS AT AND AFTER TRIAL OF ACTION.

Right to begin.

THE plaintiff, at the trial, is always entitled to begin, even where the onus of proving all the issues lies on the defendant.

The practice upon this point remained for a long time unsettled;(*b*) but in the year 1833, a resolution was come to by the judges, that "In actions for libel, slander, and injuries to the person, the plaintiff shall begin, although the affirmative issue is on the defendant."(*c*) In *Mercer* v. *Whall*, Lord Denman said that this was not at all intended to introduce a new practice, but was limited to a declaration of that rule, which they never would have promulgated if they had not believed it to be law.(*d*)

Proof of publication.

The issue under the plea of not guilty is upon the plaintiff; and the first step in proving it is to give *primâ facie* evidence of the publication, by the defendant, of the libel. As to this, there is little to add to what has been said in chapter XI. upon the evidence sufficient to sustain an indictment.(*e*)

Comparison of hand writing.

Sect. 27 of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1854, provides that "comparison of a disputed writing with any

(*a*) 4 H. & N. 150. 151.

(*b*) *Cooper* v. *Wakley* (3 C. & P. 474; 1 M. & M. 248); *Cottom* v. *James* (3 C. & P. 505, and 1 M. & M. 278, where see a learned note by the reporter).

(*c*) *Carter* v. *Jones* (6 C. & P. 64; 1 M. & R. 281).

(*d*) 5 Q. B. 463.

(*e*) *Vide ante*, pp. 505-507, 517-521.

writing proved to the satisfaction of the judge to be genuine, shall be permitted to be made by witnesses; and such writings, and the evidence of witnesses respecting the same, may be submitted to the court and jury as evidence of the genuineness or otherwise of the writing in dispute."

Admission of defendant.

Publication may be proved by the admission of the defendant; but an admission of writing the libel is no evidence of publishing; and an admission that the defendant was the editor of a periodical at a certain date, is not evidence to connect him with a libel published in that periodical subsequently to that date.(*a*)

Where libel is lost.

If the libel is lost, secondary evidence may be given to connect the defendant with its publication.

Thus, in the case of *Johnson* v. *Hudson and Morgan*,(*b*) where the libel complained of was a song, which had been published by singing it in the street. The copy which was sung had been destroyed, but it appeared that it had been sung from a printed paper taken from the defendant Hudson's shop, from a parcel containing about 300 copies. The person who sang it swore that it corresponded with a printed song which was produced, and which had Morgan's name on it as printer; and one of Morgan's journeymen swore that the printed song produced, corresponded with that which Morgan had printed and delivered to Hudson. This was held sufficient secondary evidence to connect Morgan with the libel.

So, in the case of *Gathercole* v. *Miall*,(*d*) after proof that a newspaper had been left at a literary institution, and had been removed without authority, and was believed to have been lost or destroyed, secondary evidence was admitted to identify it with the paper containing the libel. But in this case the evidence was offered, not to connect the defendant with the publication of that particular copy, but to show that the libel had obtained an extensive circulation.

Evidence that the libel was in the handwriting of the daughter of the defendant, who usually wrote his letters of business, was held to be no evidence of publication by the defendant, in the absence of evidence to show that it was written by his procurement; and it was held that the daughter could not be called to say by whose authority she wrote it, as it might criminate her.(*e*) This latter proposition, however, is not law now. The daughter would be obliged to take the oath; but, when the question was put to

(*a*) *The Seven Bishops case* (4 St. Tr. 300); *Macleod* v. *Wakley* (3 C. & P. 311).
(*b*) 7 A. & E. 233, *in notis*. (*c*) 15 M. & W. 319.
(*d*) 15 M. & W. 319. (*e*) *Harding* v. *Greening* (1 Moore, 479).

her, she would be allowed to refuse to answer if the answer might tend to criminate her.

Proof of publication where several defendants.

Where there are several defendants to the action, to secure a verdict against all it will not be sufficient to prove that they have all published the libel, but it must be shown that they have been guilty of a joint publication; and if one of them has let judgment go by default, it will still be necessary to show a publication by him with the others.(*a*)

It is not often, however, that a difficulty can arise as to this, in the cases with which alone this work is concerned, viz., literary libels; because the author and the publisher are responsible for every publication which is made of the work issued by them. The point would arise if two retail booksellers were joined as defendants, as each is only guilty of publishing the copies sold by him.

Libel addressed to State officer or department.

Where the libel is contained in a communication to a State officer or department, the judge must decide first whether it is privileged from being produced on grounds of public policy; and if he decides that it is, then no evidence can be given of its contents.

In the case of *Anderson* v. *Hamilton*(*b*) Lord Ellenborough observed: "It is said that the fact that there has been a complaint made against the defendant by the plaintiff to Lord Liverpool, is the only fact sought to be put in evidence on this occasion; but it is not competent for the defendant to get at that fact, if it be embodied in an official letter. Neither can an extract of such a letter be admitted, for the plaintiff must be entitled to the whole or none."

Putting in the libel.

After sufficient evidence has been given to connect the defendant with the publication, the libel must be put in and read by the officer of the court.

Amendment of variance.

Should there appear to be any variance in the libel read from the matter charged in the declaration, the court or the judge has ample power to amend the record, as in his discretion he may think most conducive to the ends of justice.(*c*)

Where the declaration merely set out the effect of a libellous letter, Wightman, J., allowed it to be amended by setting out the letter *verbatim*, with the words "meaning thereby" immediately before the libel charged in the declaration, and offered to postpone the trial to enable the defendant to justify the amended declaration; but the defendant declined

(*a*) *Johnson* v. *Hudson* (7 Ad. & E. 233).

(*b*) 2 B. & B. 157, n.; cited by Lord Chelmsford in *Stace* v. *Griffith* (L. Rep. 2 P. C. 428; S.C., 6 Moore, P. C. C. N.S. 18; 20 L. T. N. S. 197).

(*c*) 9 Geo. 4, c. 15; 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 42; 15 & 16 Vict. c. 76, s. 222; 17 & 18 Vict. c. 125, s. 96; 23 & 24 Vict. c. 126, s. 36.

to avail himself of the offer, and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff. On a motion for a new trial, the Court of Exchequer held that the amendment was properly made.(*a*)

Where the declaration stated that the defendant published a libel "contained in, and being an article, in a certain weekly publication or paper called the *Paul Pry*," and at the trial the publication proved was that the defendant had given a printed slip of paper, appearing to have been cut from the *Paul Pry*, to several persons to read, the declaration was amended by striking out the words quoted above.(*b*)

Introductory averments.

As introductory a verments are nolonger necessary, it is apprehended that, if inserted, they may be treated as surplusage, and need not be proved.

Proof of innuendoes.

To prove that the words have the meaning which is attached to them by the innuendoes, and that they refer to the plaintiff, it often becomes necessary to call witnesses who are acquainted with the circumstances out of which the libel arose, and who are therefore capable of saying to whom it applies, and what meaning it bears when read by the light of surrounding circumstances.(*c*) For the purpose of identifying the plaintiff with the subject of the libel, evidence of his having been laughed at at a public meeting is admissible.(*d*)

But where a meaning is sought to be put upon words which differs from their ordinary construction, a foundation must be laid for it by showing that something occurred which gave them a special meaning, and then the witnesses may be asked, with reference to those occurrences, what was the sense in which they understood the words.(*e*)

It is not necessary to give evidence of the meaning of words which are in common use, although they may not have existed long enough to be found in the last edition of the English dictionary;(*f*) nor is it necessary to explain by evidence ordinary historical, figurative, or parabolical terms and allusions.(*g*)

It is the duty of the judge to say whether the publication is capable of the meaning ascribed to it by the innuendo;

(*a*) *Saunders* v. *Bate* (1 H. & N. 402).
(*b*) *Foster* v. *Pointer* (9 C. & P. 718).
(*c*) See 2 Starkie on Evidence, 628.
(*d*) *Cook* v. *Ward* (4 M. & P. 99; 6 Bing. 412); and see *Du Bost* v. *Beresford* (2 Camp. 512).
(*e*) See *Daines* v. *Hartley* (3 Ex. 200); *Broome* v. *Gosden* (1 C. B. 728); *Barnett* v. *Allen* (3 H. & N. 376; 27 L. J. 412, Ex.); *Brunswick* (*Duke of*) v. *Harmer* (3 C. & K. 10).
(*f*) *Homer* v. *Taunton* (5 H. & N. 661).
(*g*) *Hoare* v. *Silverlock* (12 Q. B. 624).

but when the judge is satisfied of that, it must be left to the jury to say whether the publication has the meaning so ascribed to it.(*a*)

Evidence of malice to rebut privilege.

When the inference of malice is rebutted by the occasion of the publication, it will be necessary for the plaintiff, in order to avoid a nonsuit, either to show that the libel contains intrinsic evidence of malice, or to give extrinsic proof of it. It is a matter of law to be decided by the judge whether the legal presumption of malice is rebutted; but when there is any evidence of malice the matter must be left to the jury to determine.(*b*)

The language of the libel is sometimes evidence of express malice; *e.g.*, if, in a report of facts, the writer goes out of his way to impute motives which are not a necessary inference from the facts;(*c*) and therefore the libel itself should be submitted to the jury, so that they may judge from it, as well as from the extrinsic circumstances, whether it is malicious.(*d*)

Proof that the libel is false in a part of the statement, is evidence for the jury to renew the presumption of malice which has been rebutted by the occasion of the publication.(*e*)

Evidence that the plaintiff and defendant lived on bad terms is evidence from which the jury may infer malice, and this, whether the provocation was given by the defendant or the plaintiff.(*f*)

Acts done by the defendant subsequently to the publication of the libel may indicate the existence of motives at a former period; and therefore where the plaintiff expressed in court his willingness to accept an apology and nominal damages, if the defendant would withdraw his plea of justification, and the defendant refused to do so, but offered no evidence in support of it, it was held that the judge was right in leaving this to the jury as evidence of express malice;(*g*) but such evidence would not be admissible upon the issue as to whether the communication was privileged.(*h*)

(*a*) *Blagg* v. *Sturt* (10 Q. B. 899. See p. 908).

(*b*) *Cooke* v. *Wildes* (5 E. & B. 328); *Somerville* v. *Hawkins* (10 C. B. 583); *Taylor* v. *Hawkins* (16 Q. B. 308); *Stace* v. *Griffith* (L. Rep. 2 P. C. 429; 20 L. T. N. S. 197; 6 Moore P. C. C. N. S. 18).

(*c*) *Cooke* v. *Wildes* (5 E. & B. 332); *Gilpin* v. *Fowler* (9 Ex. 615; 23 L. J. 152, Ex.); *Tuson* v. *Evans* (12 A. & E. 733); *Wright* v. *Woodgate* (2 C. M. & R. 573).

(*d*) *Gilpin* v. *Fowler* (*ubi supra*); *Fryer* v. *Kinnersley* (15 C. B. N. S. 422; 33 L. J. 96, C. P.; 9 L. T. N. S. 415; 12 W. R. 155).

(*e*) *Blagg* v. *Sturt* (10 Q. B. 899).

(*f*) *Simpson* v. *Robinson* (12 Q. B. 511). See also 15 C. B. N. S. 431.

(*g*) *Ib.* (*h*) *Wilson* v. *Robinson* (7 Q. B. 68).

PART IV. CHAPTER XIII.

But where the action is brought against the bookseller or trade publisher, evidence of the personal malice of the writer of the libel is not admissible.(*a*)

By letters from defendant to plaintiff.

Letters of the defendant, addressed to the plaintiff about the same period as the publication of the libel, may be given in evidence to show *quo animo* the libel was published;(*b*) and anonymous letters have been admitted for this purpose.(*c*)

By evidence of other defamatory publications or statements of defendant.

At one time it was a moot question whether other libels or actionable slanders could be received in evidence to prove express malice. There were numerous *nisi prius* cases which supported the affirmative and negative of the proposition. The will be found reviewed by the Court of Common Pleas in the case of *Pearson* v. *Le Maitre*,(*d*) where that court decided that, even in cases where there was no pretence for saying that the publication was privileged, the plaintiff might show the spirit and intention of the party publishing a libel, although the evidence tending to prove it disclosed another and different cause of action. And in the case of *Barrett* v. *Long* (*e*) it was held by the House of Lords that where the defendant pleaded the general issue, and also a plea under the statute 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, denying actual malice, and stating the publication of an apology set forth in the plea, the plaintiff might give in evidence other publications by the defendant—some of them more than six years before the publication complained of—of and concerning the plaintiff, in order to prove malice on the part of the defendant.

Parke, B., in delivering the opinion of the judges upon this question, in the case last referred to, said: "We are all of opinion that, under such a plea, the publication of previous libels on the plaintiff by the defendant, is admissible evidence to show that the defendant wrote the libel in question with actual malice against the plaintiff. A long practice of libelling the plaintiff may show in the most satisfactory manner, that the defendant was actuated by malice in the particular publication, and that it did not take place through carelessness or inadvertence; and the more the evidence approaches to the proof of a systematic practice, the more convincing it is. The circumstance that the other libels are more or less frequent, or more or less remote from the time of the publication of that in question, merely affects the weight, not the admissibility, of the evidence."(*f*)

(*a*) *Robertson* v. *Wylde* (2 M. & Rob. 101).
(*b*) *Tarpley* v. *Blaby* (2 Scott, 642).
(*c*) *Hughes* v. *Lady Dinorben* (32 L. T. 271).
(*d*) 5 M. & G. 700. See p. 719.
(*e*) 3 H. L. C. p. 395. See p. 413. (*f*) *Id.* p. 414.

Where evidence is given of statements made by the defendant a long time after the publication of the libel charged in the declaration, the judge should point out to the jury distinctly the interval between the libel and the subsequent statements, and suggest to them to take into their consideration the possibility that such statements might refer to something which happened after the libel, so as not to show malice at the time of the publication.(*a*)

By reference to defendant's pleas.

It has sometimes been sought to prove express malice by reference to the defendant's pleas.

In the case of *Wilson* v. *Robinson*(*b*) the Court of Queen's Bench held that the fact that the defendant had pleaded a justification of the libel, which he abandoned at the trial, was no evidence of malice, for the purpose of depriving him of the protection which he derived from the libel being a privileged communication, and that, at the utmost, the plea could only have been urged in aggravation of damages, if the jury had found that the libel was not a private communication in the course of business.

In the case of *Simpson* v. *Robinson*,(*c*) the plaintiff expressed in court his willingness to accept an apology and nominal damages, the defendant not persisting in a justification of the truth which he had pleaded. The defendant refused this offer; and, though he gave no evidence in support of the justification, he did not withdraw the charge. Erle, J., told the jury that they might consider the whole of the defendant's conduct, with reference to the question of malice, and that acts, although subsequent, might indicate the existence of motives at a former time; and, with reference to the question of damages, he remarked that the jury should consider the nature of the imputation, how it had been made, and how it had been persisted in down to the time of the verdict, and they should calmly consider what damages would reinstate the plaintiff's character; and the Court of Queen's Bench upheld this direction. Lord Denman, C.J., in delivering the judgment of the court, said: "The defendant's conduct in putting a justification on the record which he does not attempt to prove, and will not abandon, may be taken into consideration as proving malice and aggravating the injury. And, if the defendant's conduct in that respect may at all affect the verdict, every other part of his conduct shewing the same disposition may equally be laid before the jury: refusing to make reparation for unjustifiable slander may have that effect; and the malice

(*a*) *Hemmings* v. *Gasson* (El. Bl. & El. 346; 27 L. J. 252, Q. B.).
(*b*) 7 Q. B. 68.
(*c*) 12 Q. B. 511.

proved to exist at the time of the trial, but connected with the subject matter of it, may well be believed to have existed at the time of speaking the words."(*a*)

Notwithstanding this authority, it is apprehended that the rule which the courts would adopt at the present day is that laid down by Willes, J., in *Caulfield* v. *Whitworth*,(*b*) (an action for slander,) where his Lordship said: "The other circumstance relied on was the plea of justification; but the rule is clear that when there are more issues than one, the pleadings on one of them cannot be used as evidence to establish the opponents' case on another. It would be astonishing if the plea of justification of itself were sufficient to establish the allegations in the declaration. . . . . The decision in *Simpson* v. *Robinson* does not come up to the statement in the marginal note, for it had reference to the damages only. I am free to say that I consider that the decisions on this subject which were given about the time of the case of *Simpson* v. *Robinson* are not creditable to the law, and I hope that they will at some time be revised."

When question of express malice should be left to jury.

The question of express malice ought not to be left to the jury, unless the evidence raises a probability of malice, and is more consistent with its existence than with its non-existence; for the onus of proving malice lies on the plaintiff.(*c*)

Where, however, the question of privilege involves matters of fact, which are disputed, it will be for the jury to find the facts, and for the judge to decide whether the facts so found make the publication privileged.(*d*)

Evidence of damage.

The next part of the plaintiff's case which requires to be considered is the evidence to be offered in respect to the damages claimed in the declaration.

The amount of general damages is entirely a matter for the jury, who may assess the damages, on proof of the publication of the libel, without any evidence of actual damage.(*e*)

The plaintiff may rest his case upon the character of the

(*a*) 12 Q. B. 513, 514. (*b*) 18 L. T. N. S. 527; 16 W. R. 936.

(*c*) *Somerville* v. *Hawkins* (10 C. B. 590); *Taylor* v. *Hawkins* (16 Q. B. 308); *Caulfield* v. *Whitworth* (18 L. T. N. S. 527); *Lawless* v. *Anglo-Egyptian Cotton Company* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 262; 38 L. J. 129, Q. B.); *Spill* v. *Maule* (L. Rep. 4 Ex. 232; 38 L. J. 138, Ex.; 20 L. T. N. S. 675; 17 W. R. 805).

(*d*) *Beatson* v. *Skene* (5 H. & N. 838; 29 L. J. 430, Ex.); *Stace* v. *Griffith* (L. Rep. 2 P. C. 420; 6 Moore, P. C. C. N. S. 18; 20 L. T. N. S. 197).

(*e*) *Tripp* v. *Thomas* (3 B. & C. 427); *Ingram* v. *Lawson* (6 Bing. N. C. 212).

imputations, or he may offer evidence, in aggravation, of the injury he has sustained. For the latter purpose he may prove that the libel has been extensively circulated, although such circulation be not traced to the defendant;(*a*) or that the libel has caused him to be the subject of laughter;(*b*) and he may prove the manner of the publication.(*c*)

Where there are actions pending against other parties for publishing the same libel, the jury are not to take them into account, as the plaintiff has a right to recover against the defendant all the damage which arose from his wrongful act.(*d*)

The conduct of the defendant may also influence the amount of the verdict; and, therefore, the plaintiff may give evidence of express malice, the nature of which has already been treated of.(*e*) But, where other libels are read for this purpose, the jury should be cautioned not to give damages in respect of them, but only to consider them so far as they prove the malicious nature of the libel which is the subject of the action they have to try.(*f*) The omission of the judge to do this is not, however, a misdirection.(*g*)

Not only is express malice a proper matter for the jury to consider, in determining the amount of damages, but gross negligence in inserting a libel in a newspaper is also a reason for giving a substantial sum.(*h*)

Evidence of pecuniary damage sustained.

Where the libel is published of the plaintiff in the way of his trade, he may give general evidence of a decrease in his trade, even after the commencement of the action, and although the declaration contain no allegation of special damage. Thus, where the declaration averred generally that, by reason of the libel, the plaintiff was injured in his reputation as shipowner and master mariner, and it was believed that his ship was unfit for freight and passengers of respectability, and that he had conducted himself dishonestly and improperly in relation to an intended voyage, the plaintiff was allowed to prove what was the average profit to a captain of a ship upon an East India voyage, and that, upon the first voyage which he took after the publication of the libel, and after the commencement of the action, his profits were nearly 1500*l.* below the average. On a motion for a new

(*a*) *Gathercole* v. *Miall* (15 M. & W. 319).
(*b*) *Cook* v. *Ward* (6 Bing. 409).
(*c*) *Vines* v. *Serrell* (7 C. & P. 163).
(*d*) *Frescoe* v. *May* (2 F. & F. 122); *Harrison* v. *Pearce* (1 F. & F. 567).
(*e*) *Vide ante*, p. 579, *et seq.*
(*f*) *Pearson* v. *Le Maitre* (5 M. & G. 700).
(*g*) *Darby* v. *Ouseley* (1 H. & N. 1; 25 L. J. 229, Ex.).
(*h*) *Smith* v. *Harrison* (1 F. & F. 565).

trial, on the ground of misdirection, the court held that the evidence was properly admitted. Coltman, J., said: "With respect to the damages, the jury must have some mode of estimating them; and they could not be in a condition to do so, unless they knew something of the nature of the plaintiff's business, and of the general return from his voyages." And Maule, J., who had tried the case, said the evidence was admitted "only that the jury might know what sort of business the plaintiff carried on; for the same amount of damages ought not to be given in respect of a libel on a plaintiff in the way of his business, where his trade is small, as where his trade is large."(*a*)

And in the more recent case of *Harrison* v. *Pearce*,(*b*) which was an action for libel upon a newspaper proprietor, the Court of Exchequer held that Martin, B., had properly admitted evidence to prove that the circulation of the plaintiff's papers had greatly declined after action brought, as "the damage proved was general damage, not special; the action was maintainable without it; and in many ready-money businesses it was impossible to give evidence of specific customers lost." "If," said Pollock, C.B., in this case,(*c*) "a period has elapsed between the commencement of the action and the trial of the cause, which has disclosed circumstances calculated to throw light upon the question of general damage, the plaintiff, in my opinion, has a right to give it in evidence, in order that the jury may be able more correctly and satisfactorily to judge."

It should be noted here that, although written slander is actionable without proof of special damage, or of its having been published of the plaintiff in the way of his trade, cases may occur where there is no imputation upon the plaintiff's character, and nothing in the libel which could injure him in the esteem of those who might believe the statements complained of, but in which, nevertheless, the publication may be defamatory of, and damaging to, the plaintiff in the exercise of his profession, trade, or occupation. In cases such as these the averment of the plaintiff's avocation is material, and, if traversed, must be proved,(*d*) unless it is admitted on the face of the libel.(*e*) It is sufficient to prove

(*a*) *Ingram* v. *Lawson* (6 Bing. N. C. 212).

(*b*) 1 F. & F. 567. See p. 570, *in notis*, and 32 L. T. Rep. 298. See also *Ashley* v. *Harrison* (1 Esp. 48); *Evans* v. *Harries* (1 H. & N. 251).

(*c*) 32 L. T. 298.

(*d*) *Manning* v. *Clement* (7 Bing. 362); *Wakley* v. *Healey and another* (4 Ex. 53); and see Pleading Rules, Hilary Term, 1856 (1 E. & B. App. p. 81, rule 16).

(*e*) *Irisarri* v. *Clement* (3 Bing. 441); *Jones* v. *Stevens* (11 Price, 235).

that the defendant acted in the capacity in which he is libelled, and he need not burden himself with proof that he was duly appointed or is legally qualified, unless the libel charges the contrary.(*a*)

The plaintiff will not be allowed to give any evidence of special damage which is not stated in the declaration; and the special damage must be the legal and natural result of the publication of the libel.(*b*)

Evidence to rebut defence.

The foregoing is an outline of the evidence which is necessary to prove the issues which lie upon the plaintiff; and it is usual for him to rest his case there, and call upon the defendant, if there are pleas of justification on the record, to establish his defence, reserving the right to rebut such defence by fresh evidence; but he may anticipate the justification if he thinks fit, and give all his evidence at the outset. He will not, however, be allowed to give part of such evidence in the first instance, and reserve the remainder for the reply.(*c*)

Defence

At the close of the plaintiff's case the defendant's counsel frequently finds it advisable to abstain from calling evidence, so as to gain the advantage of making the last speech to the jury. The defendant should, however, be prepared, so far as the facts will allow him, to rebut the plaintiff's proofs by evidence.

Omission of part of publication.

Where the case made out against the defendant is, that he was the author of the libellous publication, he may prove that the publisher of it has omitted portions of his manuscript which materially qualify and render less offensive the part which has been published. But the omission of matter which does not qualify or diminish the libellous tendency of the remainder, does not make the defendant less responsible than he would have been if the whole had been printed.(*d*)

Publication brought about by plaintiff.

It is doubtful how far evidence that the publication was brought about by the plaintiff's contrivance will bar the action. The cases would seem to show that, to establish such a defence, it is necessary to prove that the plaintiff caused both the creation of the libel and the particular publication of it for which he sues.

In the case of *Rex* v. *Waring*,(*e*) Lord Alvanley held that where the libel was written in answer to a letter sent, not with a view to obtaining a character, but with the intention of obtaining such an answer as should be the

(*a*) *Rutherford* v. *Evans* (6 Bing. 451); *Jones* v. *Stevens* (*ubi sup.*); *Berryman* v. *Wise* (4 T. R. 366); *Long* v. *Chubb* (5 C. & P. 55).

(*b*) See 1 Wms. Saunders, 243, d.; and *Vicars* v. *Wilcocks* (8 East. 1; 2 Smith's L. C. p. 487). (*c*) *Browne* v. *Murray* (1 Ry. & Moo. 254).

(*d*) *Tarpley* v. *Blaby* (2 Scott, 655, 656). (*e*) 5 Esp. 14.

ground of an action for libel, the action could not be sustained. And where it was sought to prove the publication of a libellous caricature by a witness who, having heard that the defendant had a copy of it, had gone to his house and requested to see it, Lord Ellenborough ruled that this was not sufficient evidence of publication to support an action.(*a*)

In a contrary direction are the cases of *Cook* v. *Ward*,(*b*) and the *Duke of Brunswick* v. *Harmer*.(*c*) In the first of these it was held that the fact that the plaintiff had put in circulation a ridiculous story of himself, did not justify the defendant's publishing it in a newspaper. In the second case the only evidence of publication was the sale of a copy of the newspaper to a person who had been sent by the plaintiff to purchase it, and who had handed it when purchased to the plaintiff. But a copy of the same paper, purporting to have been published more than six years before the commencement of the action, was also produced from the British Museum. The court held that the publication was proved, and Coleridge, J., in delivering the judgment of the court,(*d*) said: "The defendant, who, on the application of a stranger, delivers to him the writing which libels a third person, publishes the libellous matter to him, though he may have been sent for the purpose of procuring the work by that third person. So far as in him lies, he lowers the reputation of the principal in the mind of the agent, which, although that of an agent, is as capable of being affected by the assertions as if he were a stranger. The act is complete by the delivery; and its legal character is not altered, either by the plaintiff's procurement or by the subsequent handing over of the writing to him."

In the case last referred to there could be no doubt that the plaintiff had not caused the original publication of the libel, but had only adopted a ruse to procure evidence which might disprove the plea of the Statute of Limitations. Had the plaintiff entrapped the defendant into composing the libel, it is submitted that the maxim *Volenti non fit injuria* would have furnished the defendant with a complete answer to the action.

Proof that defendant was not author, and that he published innocently.

The defendant may prove that he was not the author of the libel, and that he published it innocently, as, for instance, that it was inserted in a magazine which he sold without knowledge of the contents,(*e*) or that he delivered it as a porter.(*f*)

(*a*) *Smith* v. *Wood* (3 Camp. 323).
(*b*) 6 Bing. 409.
(*c*) 14 Q. B. 185.
(*d*) *Id.* 189.
(*e*) *Chubb* v. *Flannagan* (6 C. & P. 431).
(*f*) *Day* v. *Bream* (2 M. & Rob. 54).

But it is doubtful whether such evidence would entitle him to the verdict, although it would materially affect the damages.

When the defence to be established is that the publication is privileged, the defendant should be prepared with evidence of the circumstances under which it was published. As a rule, however, literary publications, when privileged, are their own witnesses to the fact.

It is not necessary to repeat here what has been said in former chapters(*a*) as to the essential requisites of a privileged publication.

Denial of plaintiff's trade.

In the last chapter it was stated that the plea of not guilty throws upon the plaintiff the onus of proving all the material allegations in the declaration;(*b*) but there is an exception to this rule, for, where the averment of the plaintiff's trade or business is material, the defendant must traverse it specially if he intends to question it at the trial.(*c*) When such a plea is on the record, the defendant may give evidence to prove that the plaintiff does not carry on the business or follow the avocation alleged in the declaration; and it is no objection to such evidence that it also shews the libel to be true.(*d*)

Justification.

The plea of justification must be proved in every material part, or the plaintiff will be entitled to the verdict upon the entire issue;(*e*) but where the part not sustained by the evidence relates to only a small portion of the libel, the judge may amend the plea, by limiting it to so much of the libel as is justified by the evidence. The effect of such amendment would be to entitle the plaintiff to some damages on the part not covered by the plea, and the defendant to the verdict on the remainder.(*f*)

Where libel charges commission of crime.

Where the libel imputes the commission of a crime to the plaintiff, the evidence to support the plea of justification must be such as would warrant a verdict of guilty on an indictment for the crime.(*g*) And it would appear that if the jury find that the charges in the libel are proved, the plaintiff may be put on his trial for the offence, without the intervention of a grand jury.(*h*)

(*a*) *Vide ante*, chaps. vii., viii., and ix. (*b*) *Vide ante*, p. 556.
(*c*) See Rule 16, Pleading Rule, Hil. Term, 1856.
(*d*) *Manning* v. *Clement* (7 Bing. 368). See also *Eastwood* v. *Holmes* (1 F. & F. 347).
(*e*) *Weaver* v. *Lloyd* (2 B. & C. 678).
(*f*) *Cory* v. *Bond* (2 F. & F. 241).
(*g*) *Chalmers* v. *Shackell and others* (6 C. & P. 475); *Wilmett* v. *Harmer and another* (8 C. & P. 695).
(*h*) See note (*b*) to *Prosser* v. *Rowe* (2 C. & P. 422), and *Cook* v. *Field* (3 Esp. 133).

The record in a criminal case is not admissible evidence either to prove or disprove the truth of the libel, because it is *res inter alios acta:* the parties are not the same, neither are the rules of decision and the course of proceedings.(*a*)

In an action for saying of the plaintiff that he was a thief and a murderer, Lord Kenyon said that if there had been a plea of justification on the record, he would have tried the truth of the charges, notwithstanding the acquittal.(*b*) But if the libel charges that the plaintiff was convicted of the offence, the fact must be proved by producing a copy of the record, omitting the formal parts thereof, certified under the hand of the officer having the custody of the records of the court, or his deputy.(*c*) It will then be a question for the jury whether the libel substantially agrees with the conviction.(*d*)

Evidence must justify sting of libel.

The gist and sting of the libel must be justified by the facts brought forward in support of the plea. Proof of one act done by the plaintiff is not sufficient to justify the imputation of a certain character to him. So that where the defendants pleaded by way of justification to the words "libellous journalist," that the plaintiff, intending to injure one B. B. Cooper, in his profession as a surgeon, published of him a false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory libel (setting out the libel), the court held that the plea was not proved by the production of the record in the case stated in the plea, which showed that 100*l.* damages had been recovered against the plaintiff. Parke, B., said: "I am perfectly satisfied that the words 'libellous journalist,' do not mean that the plaintiff had been guilty, upon one occasion only, of having merely published a libel, but that he has been guilty of gross misconduct as a journalist, by the habit of libelling others. . . . . I take it to be clear that the publication of a libel which may make a man civilly liable only, does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that he has been guilty of any moral misconduct. The words 'libellous journalist,' may be understood in that sense; but it appears to me that the plea does not convey a charge of libelling, but an imputation that the plaintiff published from the malicious motive of injuring Mr. Cooper. With regard, therefore, to the last point, as to the effect of the production of the record in the case of *Cooper* v. *Wakley*, I think it

(*a*) *Justice* v. *Gosling* (12 C. B. 39); 2 Taylor on Evidence, sect. 1505.

(*b*) *England* v. *Bourke* (3 Esp. 80). See also *Cook* v. *Field* (3 Esp. 133).

(*c*) 14 & 15 Vict. c. 99, s. 13.

(*d*) *Alexander* v. *North-Eastern Railway Company* (34 L. J. 152, Q. B.; 6 B. & S. 240; 13 W. R. 651).

would only go to show that an action had been brought, and that the plaintiff in that case had obtained a verdict for so much; but it did not prove the plaintiff to be a libellous journalist within the meaning of the words of the fifth plea."(*a*)

Where the moral quality of the act is ambiguous, and the libel puts a bad construction upon it, the evidence must prove circumstances which justify the complexion given to it.

An article imputed to the plaintiffs that they had bought goods from bankrupt traders under the market price, and while they were insolvent, and that the plaintiffs must have known they were insolvent, and were disposing of the goods in fraud of their creditors: innuendo that they had been guilty of dishonest dealings. The defendants pleaded that the libels were true in substance and effect; and in support of the plea proved that a bankrupt had sold to the plaintiffs a large quantity of cloth, which was not usually sold at all, worth about 12,000*l.* at prices greatly under the market value, and at a loss of about 1300*l.*; and that such sales were on a promise by the plaintiffs not to resell them in the Manchester market, and were not in the usual way in the markets, but by private arrangements, and that the last purchase was a few days before the bankruptcy. There was no express evidence that the plaintiffs knew the circumstances of the bankrupts at the time, or supposed them to be insolvent; and, on the contrary, people generally supposed them to be solvent. Erle, C.J., left it to the jury to say whether it was proved that the plaintiffs had bought the goods knowingly, under such circumstances as that they were guilty of dishonest dealings, and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiffs.(*b*)

In *Warman* v. *Hine*(*c*) the libel accused the plaintiff of being a "great defaulter" in his accounts as poor law guardian, and not paying the balance due from him till an execution to levy it was issued. In support of a plea of justification, it was proved that the plaintiff had used the parish money; that when he went out of office he made himself debtor to the parish in about 130*l.*; that he was applied to for payment repeatedly by his successors; and that he finally borrowed money, or a subscription was made for him by his friends, and with this money he at last paid the parish; but no execution was issued. Lord Denman, C.J., left it to the jury to say whether the facts proved came up to the

(*a*) *Wakley* v. *Cooke and another* (4 Ex. 511, 517).
(*b*) *Behrens* v. *Allen* (3 F. & F. 135).
(*c*) 1 Jur. 820.

imputation of the plaintiff's being a "great defaulter;" and they found a verdict for the plaintiff. On a motion being made for a new trial, the court refused to grant a rule, on the ground that the fact that the plaintiff was a defaulter did not prove him to be a "great defaulter." Patteson, J., said: "Taking the plea altogether, it means that the plaintiff did not pay over the money, but made great default and paid in small sums, and not till a long time. The question, therefore, was, whether there was a criminal default. The jury have found for the plaintiff on this issue, being of opinion, I presume, that the defendant was not a criminal defaulter. I cannot say the jury were wrong: therefore I can see no ground for setting aside the verdict, and I do not see how the judge could, on this evidence, have told the jury that they must find for the defendant."

Apology and payment into court.

In order to prove the plea of apology and payment into court under Lord Campbell's Act, the defendant must prove that the libel was inserted in the newspaper without actual malice or gross negligence, and that the apology is sufficient.(*a*)

The apology must be printed in proper type, and placed in a part of the paper where ordinary readers would be likely to see it.

In the case of *Lafone* v. *Smith*(*b*) the apology was in small type, amongst the notices to correspondents; and the jury found that, though it was sufficient in its terms, the type should have been larger, and the apology should have been inserted in a more prominent part of the newspaper; they also found that the forty shillings paid into court was sufficient to cover the damages, whereupon Martin, B., directed a verdict for the plaintiffs, with one shilling damages, but reserved to the defendants leave to move to enter the verdict for them or to strike out the damages; but the court refused to grant a rule, on the ground, as stated by Pollock, C.B., that "an apology means the insertion of something which may operate as an apology. Inserting an expression of regret in small type, suitable only to a notice to correspondents, amounts to this, that the defendant did not insert an apology."

Accord and satisfaction.

The evidence to support the plea of accord and satisfaction must depend entirely upon the nature of the plea.

Evidence to rebut express malice and in mitigation of damages.

The defendant is not confined to evidence in proof of his pleas, but is at liberty to offer certain matters in mitiga-

(*a*) *Risk Allah Bey* v. *Johnstone* (18 L. T. N. S. 620); *Jones* v. *Mackie* (L. Rep. 3 Ex. 1; 17 L. T. N. S. 151; 37 L. J. 1, Ex.; 16 W. R. 109).
(*b*) 3 H. & N. 735.

tion of damages, and to negative actual malice. To this end he is entitled to have read, as part of the plaintiff's case, other passages of the publication from which the words declared on are taken;(*a*) but this right is subject to certain limits. In the case of *Darby* v. *Ouseley*,(*b*) a passage from a subsequent number of the defendant's newspaper having been given in evidence by the plaintiff, for the purpose of shewing actual malice, the defendant's counsel proposed to read as part of the same evidence another paragraph in the same paper, relating to the action, but Willes, J., ruled that it could not be so read, as it did not in any degree mitigate, modify, or explain the article put in as evidence of actual malice. On appeal to the Court of Exchequer it was held that the learned judge had properly refused to allow it to be read. In the course of the argument, Pollock, C.B., stated the rule to be "that other paragraphs or passages of a document put in by the plaintiff, are to be read as part of his evidence, if they are connected with, or construe, or control, modify, qualify, or explain the passages which have been read by the plaintiff; but that was not the case in the present instance. Not only was the article an entirely distinct one, but it did not at all interpret, modify, or explain the passages put in by the plaintiff, and it was entirely irrelevant to it; except that it related to the plaintiff, it was upon a different subject. It did not in the least control the sense of the libel or of the article put in as evidence of the malice of the libel."(*c*)

Where the alleged libel consists entirely of a criticism on the plaintiff's book, the book ought to be put in as part of his case, and if he refuses to do so he will run the risk of not keeping his verdict.(*d*)

The defendant may prove in mitigation of damages that he did not originate the libel, but copied it from a newspaper.(*e*)

Evidence of existence of rumours to same effect as libel.

It is submitted, after a careful consideration of all the authorities, that evidence of the plaintiff's general reputation, or that at the time of the publication of the libel there were rumours and reports afloat to the same effect as the libel, is not admissible.

It is true that such evidence has sometimes been admitted:

(*a*) *Cooke* v. *Hughes* (1 R. & M. 112). See also *Hedley* v. *Barlow* (4 F. & F. 227). (*b*) 25 L. J. 227, Ex.; S. C., 1 H. & N. 1.

(*c*) 25 L. J. 229, Ex.

(*d*) Per Erle, C.J., and Cockburn, C.J., *Strauss* v. *Francis* (4 F. & F. 941, 1109).

(*e*) *Pearson* v. *Le Maitre* (5 M. & G. 719); *Saunders* v. *Mills* (6 Bing. 213).

thus in the case of *The Earl of Leicester* v. *Walter*(*a*) a witness was allowed to prove that, before and at the time of the publication of the libel, there was a general suspicion of the plaintiff's character and habits; that it was generally rumoured that such a charge as the libel imputed had been brought against him; and that his relations and former acquaintances had on this ground ceased to visit him. The counsel for the plaintiff objected that, if such evidence were admitted, no plaintiff ought to come into court, since a malicious and artful defendant might ruin his character by shaping the defence a little short of a justification. The learned judge, Sir Jas. Mansfield, C.J., admitted that he never could answer to his own satisfaction this objection, but said: "At the same time, as it appears to have been decided in several cases that, if you do not justify, you may give in evidence anything to mitigate the damages, though not to prove the crime which is charged in the libel, I do not know how to reject these witnesses. Besides, the plaintiff's declaration says that he had always preserved a good character in society, from which he had been driven by the insinuations in the libel. Now the question for the jury is, whether the plaintiff actually suffered this gravamen or not. Evidence to prove that his character was in as bad a situation before as after the libel must therefore be admitted." This case was followed by the King's Bench, in an action for words imputing to the plaintiff unnatural practices.(*b*) The declaration contained an averment, as in the preceding case, of the plaintiff's good character, and, to contradict this, Grose, J. allowed a witness, on cross-examination, to be asked whether he had not heard reports in the neighbourhood that the plaintiff had been guilty of similar practices. Upon this, the plaintiff's counsel submitted to a nonsuit, and afterwards moved the court to set it aside on the ground that the evidence was improperly received, to contradict that which was matter of inducement only and immaterial. The court conceded that the inducement was immaterial, but said that the evidence was not admitted in bar, but in diminution of damages, and Lord Ellenborough, C.J., added: "And certainly a person of disparaged fame is not entitled to the same measure of damages with one whose character is unblemished; and it is competent to show that by evidence." The rule was refused.(*c*)

But the later cases are against admitting such evidence. In *Thompson* v. *Nye*,(*d*) the declaration, without any pre-

(*a*) 2 Camp. 251. (*b*) —— v. *Moor* (1 M. & S. 284).
(*c*) See also *Richards* v. *Richards* (2 M. & Rob. 557).
(*d*) 16 Q. B. 175.

vious averment of the plaintiff's good character, charged the defendant with speaking words imputing to the plaintiff the practice of unnatural crimes. At the trial the defendant's counsel proposed to ask a witness, in cross-examination, whether he had not heard from other persons that the plaintiff was addicted to practices of this kind. Wilde, C.J., ruled that the question could not be put. On a motion for a new trial, on the ground of the wrongful rejection of this evidence, the court, without expressly deciding the general point, held that the question was rightly rejected, as it was not confined to reports existing before and at the time of the uttering of the slander, and, therefore, the reports might have been set on foot by the defendant himself. Although the court based its judgment upon this narrower ground, it is clear from the report which way the opinion of the judges leaned. Coleridge, J., said: "I am clearly of opinion that the question was here proposed in too general a form, and is liable to the objection stated by my brother Patteson, whose example I shall follow in abstaining from an opinion on the general point. I will go only so far as to say, that I do not wish it to be supposed that I am in favour of allowing the question to be put even in its most limited form; my present impression is against doing so." And Erle, J., said: "It is not necessary to give any opinion as to the admissibility of the question in a qualified form; many learned judges have admitted it; but they all acted on a decision at *Nisi Prius*, *Earl of Leicester* v. *Walter*, which it was not worth the plaintiff's while to question.(*a*) But in *Jones* v. *Stevens*,(*b*) the point was brought before the full Court of Exchequer; and there the question was held to be inadmissible in its general form."

In the most recent reported case upon the subject, questions of this nature were rejected at *Nisi Prius* by Byles, J. The action was for slander imputing forgery; and, at the close of the plaintiff's case, the plaintiff himself was put into the box and tendered for cross-examination. The counsel for the defendant proposed to ask him questions as to his past conduct and life; but Byles, J., said that as there was no plea of justification, no question could be asked which would go to the justification; and, after consulting with Willes, J., his Lordship held "that no evidence of bad character or questions relating to the plaintiff's previous life or habits, or tending to discredit him and to mitigate damages,

(*a*) In that case the jury, notwithstanding the evidence, returned a verdict for the plaintiff for 1000*l*. (1 Campb. 255).

(*b*) 11 Price, 235. See *Snowdon* v. *Smith* (1 M. & S. 286, *note*).

were admissible either on cross-examination or examination in chief."(*a*)

Apart from these authorities, there appears to be very good reason why such evidence should be rejected, as the plaintiff is not allowed to give evidence of his good character,(*b*) nor (unless the defence set up be that the charges are true, or that the publication is privileged) to prove that the libel is false.(*c*)

When defendant may prove imputations to be true.

Where, the occasion of publication being privileged, the plaintiff, to show actual malice on the part of the defendant, gives evidence of the falsity of the imputations, the defendant is bound to show that he believed them to be true,(*d*) and, as the most conclusive evidence of that, may, of course, prove that in fact they were so.

Defendant not allowed to inquire into plaintiff's religious opinions.

The defendant will not be allowed, for the purpose of mitigating damages, or of justifying the libel, to inquire into the plaintiff's religious opinions, even where the libel concerns his religious creed.(*e*) Nor will he be allowed to read, in his address to the jury, specific books and documents, as proofs of what the doctrines of the plaintiff's co-religionists are. These are matters of fact and must be proved by witnesses.(*f*)

Evidence of plaintiff's conduct to mitigate damages.

The conduct of the plaintiff in provoking the libel, is a fit subject for the jury to take into account, in estimating the amount of compensation for his injured feelings.(*g*)

And evidence may be given of libels on the defendant, published by the plaintiff, respecting the same subject-matter. In the words of Sir James Mansfield, C.J., "If a man is in the habit of libelling others, he complains with a very bad grace of being libelled himself; and he cannot be supposed to suffer much injury from this source."(*h*) But before such publications are read, it must be shown that they are connected with the libels proceeding from the defendant: for it is not a proper ground for mitigating damages that, on other occasions, the plaintiff has written libels on the defendant, on some other matter unconnected with that which is the subject of the action;(*i*) and it

(*a*) *Bracegirdle* v. *Bailey* (1 F. & F. 538). See also *Waithman* v. *Weever* (11 Price, 257 *n*). (*b*) *Cornwall* v. *Richardson* (1 Ry. & Moo. 305).
(*c*) *Stuart* v. *Lovell* (2 Starkie, 93); *Thompson* v. *Nye* (16 Q. B. 175).
(*d*) *Fountain* v. *Boodle* (3 Q. B. 5); *Brown* v. *Croome* (2 Starkie, 297).
(*e*) *Darby* v. *Ouseley* (1 H. & N. 1); *sed vide Turnbull* v. *Bird* (2 F. & F. 508). (*f*) *Ib.*
(*g*) *Kelly* v. *Sherlock* (L. Rep. 1 Q. B. 686; 35 L. J. 209, Q. B.).
(*h*) *Finnerty* v. *Tipper* (2 Camp. 72).
(*i*) *May* v. *Brown* (3 B. & C. 113); *Tarpley* v. *Blabey* (2 Bing. N. C. 437); *Wakley* v. *Johnson* (1 Ry. & Moo. 422).

must also be proved that they came to the defendant's knowledge before he libelled the plaintiff.(*a*)

Evidence of apology.

Lastly, the defendant may (after notice in writing, of his intention so to do, duly given to the plaintiff at the time of delivering the pleas) give in evidence, in mitigation of damages, that he made or offered an apology to the plaintiff, before the commencement of the action, or as soon afterwards as he had an opportunity of doing so, in case the action was commenced before he had such opportunity.(*b*)

Judge not bound to state his opinion.

The judge is not bound to state to the jury his opinion whether the publication be libellous or not. Fox's Libel Act (32 Geo. 3, c. 60) applies only to criminal cases; but there is no distinction between the law in criminal and that in civil cases in this respect; and that Act leaves it to the discretion of the judge to give his opinion, or not, as he thinks proper.(*c*)

Question for jury.

The proper question for the jury is, not whether the intention of the publisher was to injure the plaintiff, but whether the tendency of the publication is injurious to him.(*d*)

Bill of exceptions.

When it is desired to except to the ruling of the judge, the bill of exceptions must be tendered before verdict, so that the judge may have the opportunity of reforming his ruling.(*e*)

At the present day bills of exceptions are rarely resorted to, in actions in the superior courts, their object being in most cases obtained by a motion for a new trial.(*f*) But, where the action is brought in a local court of record, a bill of exceptions is often the only means a suitor has of appealing to the superior courts. It is well, therefore, to bear in mind the proper time for tendering the exceptions; also the fact that no suitor can be nonsuited against his will, but that, if he submits to a nonsuit, a bill of exceptions will not lie.(*g*)

Assessing damages.

When there is doubt as to the soundness of any of the counts of the declaration, the plaintiff should endeavour to have the damages assessed separately on the several counts; for, if the verdict is entered generally, and one of

(*a*) *Watts* v. *Fraser and another* (7 Ad. & E. 223).

(*b*) *Vide ante*, p. 568.

(*c*) *Baylis* v. *Lawrence* (11 Ad. & E. 920); *Parmiter* v. *Coupland* (6 M. & W. 105).

(*d*) *Fisher* v. *Clement* (10 B. & C. 472).

(*e*) *Rutter* v. *Chapman* (8 M. & W. 38); *Armstrong* v. *Lewis* (2 Cr. & M. 274).

(*f*) See 2 Lush's Practice, 654.

(*g*) *Corsar* v. *Reed* (21 L. J. 18, Q. B.; 2 L. M. & P. 646); *Strother* v. *Hutchinson* (4 Bing. N. C. 83; 5 Scott. 346). A bill of exceptions was tendered in the case of *Wason* v. *Walter* (17 L. T. N. S. 391), but was not proceeded with.

the counts is held to be bad, the court will award a *venire de novo*.(*a*)

If the jury find the plea of apology under Lord Campbell's Act not proved, they must assess the damages irrespectively of the amount paid into court.(*b*)

It is not within the scope of this work to go minutely into questions of practice, not peculiar to the action for libel. It will be sufficient to point out generally what proceedings may arise after verdict.

Costs.

If the jury find for the plaintiff a sum not exceeding 10*l*., he will not obtain the costs of the action, unless the judge certify on the record that there was sufficient reason for bringing the action in the superior courts; or unless the court, or a judge at chambers, shall by rule or order allow the costs.(*c*) This is now the rule in all actions of tort, and it has been decided, both by the Court of Queen's Bench and the Court of Exchequer, that the fact that the action could not have been brought in the county court, does not take it out of the operation of the rule.(*d*)

When the action is brought in any of the local courts of record, the plaintiff, although the amount of the verdict be under 10*l*., will obtain his costs, subject to the rules of the particular court; as the County Courts Act of 1867 (30 & 31 Vict. c. 142), s. 29, only affects the costs, in those courts, of actions which might have been brought in the county court; and an action for libel cannot be commenced there,(*e*) although it may be remitted to that court for trial by an order of a judge of the superior court in which it is brought, upon the application of the defendant, supported by an affidavit that the plaintiff has no visible means of paying the costs of the defendant, should a verdict not be found for the plaintiff. The order to be thereupon made is, that, unless the plaintiff shall, within a time to be therein mentioned, give full security for the defendant's costs, to the satisfaction of one of the masters of the said court, or satisfy the judge that he has a cause of action fit to be prosecuted in the superior court, all proceedings in the action shall be stayed, or, in the event of the plaintiff being unable or unwilling to give such

(*a*) *Day* v. *Robinson* (1 A. & E. 554); and see 2 Lush's Practice, 625.

(*b*) *Jones* v. *Mackie* (L. Rep. 3 Ex. 1; 17 L. T. N. S. 151; 37 L. J. 1, Ex.; 16 W. R. 109); *Lafone* v. *Smith* (3 H. & N. 735; 28 L. J. Ex. 33).

(*c*) 30 & 31 Vict. c. 142, s. 5.

(*d*) *Sampson* v. *Mackay* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 643; 20 L. T. N. S. 807; 38 L. J. 245, Q. B; 17 W. R. 883); *Gray* v. *West* (L. Rep. 4 Q. B. 175; 9 B. & S. 196; 20 L. T. N. S. 221; 38 L. J. 78, Q. B.; 17 W. R. 497); *Craven* v. *Smith* (L. Rep. 4 Ex. 146; 20 L. T. N. S. 400; 38 L. J. 90, Ex.; 17 W. R. 710).

(*e*) 9 & 10 Vict. c. 108, s. 23.

security, or failing to satisfy the judge as aforesaid, that the cause be remitted for trial before a county court to be therein named.(*a*)

The county court has also jurisdiction to try the action by the consent of both parties, given in writing, signed by them or their respective attorneys.(*b*)

To return to the proceedings in the superior courts: when the amount of the verdict is under forty shillings the plaintiff is not entitled to any costs, unless the judge or presiding officer, before whom such verdict is obtained, immediately afterwards(*c*) certifies on the back of the record, or on the writ of trial, or writ of inquiry, that the action was really brought to try a right, besides the right to recover damages, or that the libel was wilful and malicious.(*d*)

Jury should not be told what damages will carry costs.

The jury ought not to be told what amount of damages will carry costs; and if the counsel for the plaintiff informs them that the plaintiff will probably not get his costs unless they give a verdict for so much, the court will grant a new trial without imposing terms.(*e*) "The Legislature," observes a learned judge, "in express terms, says that it is the judge, and not the jury, who shall have the power of deciding whether or not the plaintiff shall have costs. . . . . It is most important that the province of the judge and that of the jury should be kept distinct. I do not agree that every man is to be presumed to know the law. I admit that *Ignorantia juris non excusat*. It would be absurd, indeed, to suppose that even the most experienced judge knows the statute law upon all subjects, without looking into the books. I think it would lead to a most inconvenient inequality in the administration of the law, if the question of costs were in any shape left to the consideration of the jury."(*f*)

Costs, where several issues.

By the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, s. 81, it is enacted that the costs of any issue of law, or of fact, shall follow the finding or judgment upon such issue, and be adjudged to the successful party, whatever may be the result of the other issue or issues.

If there are several issues, and one is found for the plaintiff and the other for the defendant, if that found for

(*a*) 30 & 31 Vict. c. 142, s. 10. (*b*) 19 & 20 Vict. c. 108, s. 23.
(*c*) See *Forsdike* v. *Stone* (37 L. J. 301, C. P.; L. Rep. 3 C. P. 607; 18 L. T. N. S. 722; 16 W. R. 976).
(*d*) 3 & 4 Vict. c. 24, s. 2; *Foster* v. *Pointer* (8 M. & W. 395, 399.)
(*e*) *Poole* v. *Whitcomb* (12 C. B. N. S. 770); and see *Kelly* v. *Sherlock* (L. Rep. 1 Q. B. 691; 35 L. J. 209, Q. B.).
(*f*) *Per* Willes, J., 12 C. B. N. S. 775.

the plaintiff entitle him to recover damages, he will be entitled to the *postea*, and to the general costs of the cause. But the defendant will be entitled to the *postea*, if the defence raised upon the issue found for him furnishes a defence to the whole action. Thus, if there is a plea of justification and a plea of not guilty, and a verdict is found for the defendant on the latter plea, and for the plaintiff on the plea of justification, the defendant is entitled to the general costs of the cause.(*a*)

The party who is entitled to the general costs of the cause, is entitled to the costs of all such witnesses as are not called exclusively on the issues which are found against him; so that where all the witnesses called were material to both the issues of not guilty and a justification, and the verdict was found for the plaintiff on the second issue, and for the defendant on the first, it was held that the plaintiff was not entitled to the costs of any witness, and that the defendant was entitled to the costs of all the witnesses called by him.(*b*)

New trial.

The next subject to be considered is, under what circumstances the defeated party may prevail upon the court *in banc* to set aside the verdict which has been given against him.

The court will grant a new trial when the jury have found a verdict for the defendant upon the general issue, in a case in which no question is made as to the fact of publication of the libel, or as to its application to the plaintiff, and when there can be no doubt that the matter complained of is libellous.

The leading case upon this point is *Hakewell* v. *Ingram*.(*c*) The libel was contained in a newspaper article, on the subject of the want of some efficient protection to married women. The writer mentioned two cases as showing the necessity for legislation; one case being described as that of a husband who acted towards his wife like "a sot and a brute." The article then proceeded: "The other is that of Mrs. H." (meaning the wife of the plaintiff), "who, having been restored to her husband's protection by a decree of the Ecclesiastical Court, found her misery so aggravated by the restitution of her conjugal rights that she was compelled to resort to the police-court for the little help the law gives:" and it concluded by saying that the law did not meet such cases; and that "the condition of woman, when the brute intervenes, is more oppressive than

(*a*) See 1 Chit. Arch. Pract. 499.
(*b*) *Harrison* v. *Bush* (5 E. & B. 344; 25 L. J. 99, Q. B.).
(*c*) 2 C. L. Rep. 1397.

that of the negro." It was not disputed at the trial that the passage applied to the plaintiff, and Crowder, J., told the jury that, in his opinion, the passage was a libel, but that the question was for them. The jury found a verdict for the defendant.

On showing cause against a rule for a new trial, on the ground that the verdict was against the evidence and was perverse, it was contended for the defendant that it was for the jury alone to say whether the matter was libellous. The Court, however, held otherwise, and made the rule absolute. Jervis, C. J., said: "The true effect of the statute(*a*) was this: before the statute it was the habit of the judges to state their opinion whether the paper was a libel, as a matter of law, and confine the jury to the question of publication. And the statute said that the case of libel shall be like any other case of criminal proceeding, the judge defining the law, and the jury having a right to determine, by a general verdict, upon the whole question, guilty or not guilty. Although the Act is confined in its terms to criminal proceedings, yet, as Lord Chief Justice Best stated in the case cited, 'It is in principle a practice applicable to civil cases.' In *Parmiter* v. *Coupland*,(*b*) Parke, B., points out that; and though, in criminal proceedings for libel, there may be no review, in civil matters there are cases in which verdicts for the defendant are set aside, upon the ground that the matter was a libel, though the jury found that it was not. A case was referred to in which that course was taken; and there is no technical rule to prevent us from applying the ordinary practice of reviewing the decision of the jury, when they have come to a wrong conclusion." Maule, J., although he dissented from the judgment of the rest of the court upon the particular case, concurred as to the power of the court to grant a new trial, when it could "say with certainty that the jury must have miscarried in finding a verdict of not guilty."

In an earlier case, where the jury had inquired whether a shilling would carry costs, and, being answered in the affirmative, had found a verdict for the defendant, notwithstanding the matter was clearly libellous, the court granted a new trial.(*c*)

A new trial will not, however, be granted, unless it appears to the court that the jury have done manifestly wrong in finding the publication not to be libellous.(*d*)

(*a*) Fox's Libel Act.
(*b*) 6 M. & W. 105.
(*c*) *Levi* v. *Milne* (4 Bing. 195).
(*d*) See *per* Tindal, C.J., *Broome* v. *Cosden* (1 C. B. 731).

PART IV.
CHAPTER XIII.

New trial not granted merely because damages too low.

The court will not grant a new trial merely because the damages are low, unless there has been some misdirection on the part of the judge, or a mistake of their duty on the part of the jury, or unfair practice on the part of the defendant. There is no reported case where a new trial has been ordered, on this ground, in an action for libel, although in one case the Court of Queen's Bench went so far as to grant a rule *nisi* which was finally discharged, Shee, J., dissenting.(*a*) In a case of *Moyell* v. *Gambier* (not reported), the Court of Common Pleas held that the practice was so inexorable as to preclude the court from entertaining the motion. On the other hand, it is a very rare thing for the court to interfere on behalf of the defendant, when the damages are excessive.

Or because jury have expressed opinion inconsistent with verdict.

A new trial will not be granted on the ground that the jury have, after the close of the evidence, and during the summing up, expressed an opinion inconsistent with their formal verdict.(*b*)

Leave to move.

The most common applications to the court *in banc* are with reference to the question of privilege; and it not unfrequently happens that the judge, at *Nisi Prius*, reserves leave to the party against whom he decides, to move to enter a nonsuit or a verdict, if the court should be of opinion that the direction to the jury was wrong, or that the verdict was contrary to the evidence. The advantage of this leave is that, if the rule is made absolute, no second trial is required.(*c*)

Arrest of judgment.

When the statements charged in the declaration appear on their face not to be libellous, and yet the jury find a verdict for the plaintiff, the defendant should move the court in arrest of judgment. The same objections may be taken to the declaration, upon a motion in arrest of judgment, that could have been taken by demurrer; and Lord Coke's advice to the pleader was not to demur in actions of slander, but just to take advantage of the matters of fact, and leave the matters in law, which always arise upon the matters in fact, *ad ultimum*.(*d*)

(*a*) *Kelly* v. *Sherlock* (L. Rep. 1 Q. B. 686; 35 L. J. 209, Q. B.). See *Rendall* v. *Hayward* (5 Bing. N. C. 424); *Forshike* v. *Stone* (L. Rep. 3 C. P. 607; 37 L. J. 301, C. P.; 18 L. T. N. S. 722; 16 W. R. 976).

(*b*) *Napier* v. *Daniel* (3 Bing. N. C. 77).

(*c*) *Gardner* v. *Slade* (13 Q. B. 796); *Lewis* v. *Levy* (E. B. & E. 562; 27 L. J. 282, Q. B.); *Harrison* v. *Bush* (5 E. & B. 344; 25 L J. 28, Q. B.).

(*d*) 4 Reports, 14 *a*. For examples of cases where judgment has been arrested, see *Hearne* v. *Stowell* (12 Ald. & E. 719); *Goldstein* v. *Foss* (6 B. & C. 154).

Motion for judgment *non obstante veredicto.*

The motion for judgment *non obstante veredicto* is open to the plaintiff, when the plea of justification is defective in point of law, and the plaintiff, instead of demurring to it, has joined issue upon it, and that issue has been found for the defendant.(*a*)

(*a*) *Clement* v. *Lewis* (10 Price. 184); *Morrison* v. *Harmer* (3 Bing. N. C. 759); 2 Wms. Saunders. 319 *d.*

COPYRIGHT IN DESIGNS.

SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTER TO PART I.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

Acts of Parliament.

THE older Acts of Parliament (27 Geo. 3, c. 38; 29 Geo. 3, c. 19; 34 Geo. 3, c. 23; and 2 & 3 Vict. c. 13), dealing with the copyright in designs, have been repealed by the Act of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100,(*a*) which, amended by subsequent Acts (6 & 7 Vict. c. 65; 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104; 21 & 22 Vict. c. 70; and 24 & 25 Vict. c. 73) is now the governing statute on this branch of the law relating to copyright.

Before 2 & 3 Vict. c. 13, copyright in designs existed only in the case of linens, cottons, calicoes, and muslins. That Act (sect. 3) extended the copyright to fabrics composed of wool, silk, or hair, and to mixed fabrics composed of any two or more of the following materials—linen, cotton, wool, silk, or hair.

Copyright twofold.

Copyright in designs is of a twofold character: (1) copyright in the application of designs for ornament; and (2) copyright in the application of designs to some purpose of utility. The latter kind of copyright owes its origin to the stat. 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65.

I. NATURE AND DURATION OF THE RIGHT.

Designs for ornament.

As to the subjects in which copyright in the application of designs for ornament may be enjoyed, sect. 3 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, enacts, with regard to any new and original design, whether such design be applicable to the ornamenting of any article of manufacture, or of any substance, artificial or natural, or partly artificial and partly natural, and whether such design be so applicable for the pattern, or for the shape or configuration, or for the ornament thereof, or for any two or more of such purposes, and by whatever means such design may be so applicable, whether by printing, or by painting, or by embroidery, or by weaving, or by sewing, or by modelling, or by casting, or

(*a*) Sect. 2 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, contains a proviso saving all rights under previously existing copyrights.

by embossing, or by engraving, or by staining, or by any other means whatsoever, manual, mechanical, or chemical, separate or combined, that the proprietor of any such design, not previously published either within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or elsewhere, shall have the sole right to apply the same to any articles of manufacture, or to any substances as aforesaid, provided the same be done within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland [see next paragraph], for the respective terms mentioned in the Act, to be computed from the time of such design being registered according to the Act.

The necessity of the application of the design being made "within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland" has since been done away with.(*a*)

Copyright is conditional on the observance of certain requisites, which are referred to, *post*, p. 610.

Designs for purposes of utility.

The protection given to designs of an ornamental character was extended, by 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, to designs not of an ornamental character, but applicable to purposes of utility, so far as any such design is, for "the shape or configuration" of any article of manufacture having reference to some purpose of utility, and that "whether it be for the whole of such shape or configuration, or only for a part thereof."

This Act does not extend to designs which are within 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, 38 Geo. 3, c. 71, or 54 Geo. 3, c. 56.

Copyright.

The proprietor of every such new or original design as above-mentioned, not previously published within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or elsewhere, is to have the sole right to apply such design to any article, or to make or sell any article according to such design, for a specified time, to be computed from the time of such design being registered according to the Act.(*b*)

Utility must depend on shape or configuration.

If the utility of a design is not produced by the "shape or configuration" of any of the parts, but only by the mode of putting them together, the design does not come within 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65; the Act not applying to designs which have reference to a purpose of utility through the combination of parts, independently of their shape and configuration.(*c*)

Thus, where the design was for a ventilator, consisting of a thin metallic frame occupying the place of one of the panes of the upper sash of a window, containing a whole pane and a half of glass, the one within the other, so as to appear,

(*a*) By 24 & 25 Vict. c. 73, s. 1. (*b*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 3.
(*c*) *Reg.* v. *Bessell* (16 Q. B. 810; 20 L. J. 177, M. C.; 15 Jur. 773).

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

when the ventilator was closed, to be one single pane; the frame being hinged at the top, so as to open by means of a straight screw, the head of which formed a pulley, over which were passed cords for the purpose of turning it, and so of either opening or shutting the ventilating pane; the half pane of glass being fixed in the lower portion of the frame, in which the ventilating frame moved, in order to prevent a downward draught of cold air; and the registration of the design stated that the part or parts of the design which were not new or original were "all the parts taken *per se*, and apart from the purposes thereof," and that what was claimed as new was "the general configuration and combination of the parts;" it was held by the Court of Queen's Bench that the design was not for "the shape or configuration" of an article of manufacture within the Act, and was, therefore, not the subject of registration.(*a*) "It appears to me," said Erle, J.,(*b*) "that this invention is not within the meaning of the statute. It is a skilful combination of means for producing an end. But the statute applies only to shape or configuration; and, in producing the end which is here attained, shape and configuration are immaterial. The figure of the pane in the drawing is an oblong rectangle; a square or a circular pane would produce the same result. The screw is straight; a crooked screw would produce the result equally well, perhaps better." "Combination," said Patteson, J.,(*c*) "is not 'shape.' What the general meaning of 'configuration' is, I cannot exactly define; but the word must, I think, have been used by the Legislature to denote some relation to shape visible to the eye. Here there is nothing peculiar in the shape; all depends upon the way in which the parts are put together; that is, as has been rightly said, upon the general combination. The case is not, therefore, within stat. 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65."

The design of a newly invented brick, having on two of its opposite sides a semicircular cavity, corresponding with a similar cavity in the brick which was to be placed next to it, so that when two were laid together a cylindrical aperture was formed; and when the bricks were built into a wall, and the apertures fitted to each other, the air was admitted to circulate, and a saving in the number of bricks required was effected, was held to be a design which may be registered under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65.(*d*) "The novelty,"

(*a*) *Reg.* v. *Bessell* (16 Q. B. 810; 20 L. J. 177, M. C.; 15 Jur. 773).
(*b*) 16 Q. B. 818. (*c*) *Id.* 817.
(*d*) *Rogers* v. *Driver* (16 Q. B. 102; 20 L. J. 31, Q. B.).

said Wightman, J.,(*a*) "is in the new shape and configuration of *that ancient article of manufacture called a brick*; and I agree with my brother Erle, that it is precisely such a specimen of a new design for an article of manufacture, having reference to a purpose of utility, as might have been referred to by the Legislature as explanatory of their meaning."

The applicability of the Act to the design of a "protector label," which consisted in making, in the label, an eyelet-hole and lining it with a ring of metallic substance, through which a string, attaching the label to packages, passed, was considered so doubtful by Knight Bruce, V.C., that he refused an injunction, before t hearing, against an infringement of such design.(*b*)

The inventor of a design for a "dog-cart phaeton" claimed four things as new and as conducive to the *utility* of the design, the specified purpose of utility being that "higher front wheels could be used, or closer coupling effected, and a saving in horse power." Three of the things claimed as new (the seat, the opera board, and the boot) were not new and did not contribute to the *utility*. The fourth (the curved arch under which the wheels turned) did contribute to the utility, but it was not new. It was held that the design did not come within the protection of 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65. It was held also that it was not protected under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, as an *ornamental* design, not having been registered under that Act.(*c*)

A design consisting of a particular collocation of shaded and bordered stars, on an ornamental chain surface, forming together the ornamentation of a woven fabric, was held to be a design protected by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.(*d*)

New combination of old patterns

A new combination of old patterns may be "a new and original design" within 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, and entitled to the protection of that Act.(*e*)

Thus, where a person designed a pattern for woollen cloths, in which large and small honeycomb cells were so arranged

(*a*) 16 Q. B. 108.

(*b*) *Margetson* v. *Wright* (2 De G. & S. 420). And see *Millingen* v. *Picken* (1 C. B. 799), where it was doubted whether a mechanical contrivance within the stem of a parasol, for raising or lowering it with one hand, was a design for the shape or configuration of an article of manufacture within the Act.

(*c*) *Windover* v. *Smith* (32 Beav. 200; 7 L. T. N. S. 776; 32 L. J. 561, Ch.)

(*d*) *Holdsworth* v. *M'Crae* (L. Rep. 2 Eng. & Ir. App. 380; 36 L. J. 297, Q. B.; S. C., in courts below, 5 B. & S. 495; 33 L. J. 329, Q. B.; L. Rep. 1 Q. B. 264; 35 L. J. 123, Q. B.; 13 L. T. N. S. 801).

(*e*) *Harrison* v. *Taylor* (4 H. & N. 815; 29 L. J. 3, Ex.)

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

that a border of the larger cells surrounded an inclosed portion of the smaller cells, though neither the large nor the small honeycomb was new, it was held by the Court of Exchequer Chamber, reversing the decision of the Court of Exchequer, that this combination of the two was a new and original design within the meaning of the Act.(*a*)

"I cannot help thinking," said Wightman, J., "that the Court of Exchequer, in their decision, proceeded upon a supposed analogy between the case of an invention for which a patent is obtained, and a design which comes under the protection of the Act for amending the laws relating to the copyright of designs for ornamenting articles of manufacture. The Act uses the words 'any new and original design.' That is not a project or idea in the nature of an invention, but the representation of something which a draughtsman has for the first time produced. If that be the true meaning of the word 'design,' there is no doubt in this case that there was a design; for there was a drawing, and it was an original drawing. It is true that all its component parts had already been produced; but no one had produced such a pattern. It was said in the court below, that this was 'a mere combination in a manner well-known.' So it is with a picture: all its parts may be old, but the combination forms a new design."(*b*)

So it has been held that a new and original combination, to be protected as a design, may be the result of simultaneously applying two old and known designs to the ornamenting of a button.(*c*)

But where four old designs were respectively applied to three ribbons and a button, the three ribbons being then united so as to form a badge, Lord Hatherley (when Vice-Chancellor Wood) considered it so very doubtful whether this union amounted to a new design within 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, that he refused to grant an injunction to restrain the manufacture and sale of a similar combination.(*d*)

New combination must constitute one design

The new combination must, however, in order to be protected, constitute one design, and not a multiplicity of designs.(*e*)

(*a*) *Harrison* v. *Taylor* (4 H. & N. 815; 29 L. J. 3, Ex.).
(*b*) 4 H. & N. 820.
(*c*) *Reg.* v. *Firman*, referred to by Lord Campbell, C.J., in *Norton* v. *Nicholls* (1 El. & El. 765; 27 L. J. 225, Q. B.; 7 W. R. 421; 33 L. T. 181); and *arguendo* in *Harrison* v. *Taylor* (3 H. & N. 301, 304).
(*d*) *Mulloney* v. *Stevens* (10 L. T. N. S. 190).
(*e*) *Norton* v. *Nicholls* (1 El. & El. 761; 27 L. J. 225, Q. B.; 7 W. R. 420; 33 L. T. 131).

Thus, where a person claimed the protection of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, for a shawl which he contended was new in respect of the five following points: (1) a reversible cloth, with the two sides of different texture and colours; (2) a scollop pattern on parts of the shawl; (3) a particular border round the shawl; (4) a particular configuration of the corners of the shawl; (5) a newly-invented fringe to surround the shawl; all which points had been in public use before, but the combination of them in the case of his shawl was new, the Court of Queen's Bench was strongly inclined to think that such a combination was not a "design" within the meaning of the Act.(*a*) "The five points relied upon," said Lord Campbell, C.J., "being all old, no distinction is to be made between them and any other, in the texture, configuration, or ornaments of the shawl. Therefore the combination supposed to constitute the design which the plaintiff now seeks to protect, comprehends all that is to be discovered on both sides of the shawl, colour as well as shape. We do not doubt that a combination may be a 'design' within the meaning of the statute: and we adhere to the decision of this court in *Reg.* v. *Firman*, cited in *Harrison* v. *Taylor*,(*b*) that a new and original combination, to be protected as a 'design,' may be the result of simultaneously applying two old and known designs to the ornamenting of a button. But, having regard to the language of the Act of Parliament, and to the object of the Legislature, we think that the result of the combination, to be protected as a 'design,' must be one design and not a multiplicity of designs. The statute does not mention any article of manufacture being a design, but considers the design to be protected as 'applicable to the ornamenting of any article of manufacture.' The 'design' is always considered different from the 'article of manufacture or the substance to which it is to be applied.' This is particularly to be observed in sect. 3, in which the articles of manufacture are enumerated, 'to which' the design 'is to be applied.' An ornament for a lady's gown may well be a 'design' to be protected, although the ornament be the result of a new combination of lace and ribands: but the whole gown itself could hardly be such a 'design,' although it be granted that the compound parts and ornaments, before well-known separately, are arranged according to a fashion entirely new. Such an extension of the statute is quite unnecessary for the object which the Legislature

(*a*) *Norton* v. *Nicholls* (1 El. & El. 761; 27 L. J. 225, Q. B.; 7 W. R. 420; 33 L. T. 131).

(*b*) 3 H. & N. 301, 304.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

seems to have had in view; and we need not point out the great public inconvenience which would arise if we were to put such a construction upon it."

Duration of the right.

The duration of the copyright in designs for ornamental purposes varies according to the class of articles to which they are applicable.

In designs for ornament

The various terms are to be computed from the time of the designs being registered according to the Act (5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 3), and are as follow:

Class 1.	Articles of manufacture composed wholly or chiefly of any metal or mixed metals ...	Five years.
,, 2.	Articles of manufacture composed wholly or chiefly of wood	Three years.
,, 3.	Articles of manufacture composed wholly or chiefly of glass	
,, 4.	Articles of manufacture composed wholly or chiefly of earthenware. Also ivory, bone, *papier maché*, and other solid substances not already comprised within classes 1, 2, or 3(*a*)	
,, 5.	Paper Hangings	
,, 6.	Carpets, and all articles of manufacture commonly known by the name of floor-cloths or oil-cloth(*b*)	
,, 7.	Shawls, if the design be applied solely by printing, or by any other process by which colours are or may hereafter be produced upon tissue or textile fabrics	Nine calendar months.
,, 8.	Shawls not comprised in class 7	Three years.
,, 9.	Yarn, thread, or warp, if the design be applied by printing or by any other process by which colours are or may hereafter be produced ...	Nine calendar months.
,, 10.	Woven fabrics, composed of linen, cotton, wool, silk, or hair, or of any two or more of such materials, if the design be applied by printing, or by any other process by which colours are or may hereafter be produced upon tissue or textile fabrics, excepting the articles included in class 11.	Three years; but the term must expire on the 31st of December in the second year after the year in which the design is registered, whatever the day of registration.(*c*)

(*a*) Designs for ornamenting ivory, bone, *papier maché*, and other solid substances not comprised within classes 1, 2, or 3, have been added to class 4 by 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 8.

(*b*) Floor-cloths and oil-cloths have been added to class 6 by 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 5.

(*c*) The duration of the copyright in designs applicable to articles of the 10th class was only nine calendar months by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 10. It has been extended as above by 21 & 22 Vict. c. 71, s. 3.

Designs for sewed muslin collars, transferred to the muslin by printing or stamping with lithographic ink or other colour, and which, so printed or stamped with the pattern, are worked by a needle on the muslin, and present, when finished, the appearance of ornamental sewing only, have been held to come within class 10 (*Lowndes* v. *Brown*, 12 Ir. L. Rep. 293.)

Class 11. Woven fabrics, composed of linen, cotton, wool, silk, or hair, or of any two or more of such materials, if the design be applied by printing, or by any other process by which colours are or may hereafter be produced upon tissue or textile fabrics, such woven fabrics being or coming within the description technically called furniture, and the repeat of the design whereof shall be more than twelve inches by eight inches...	Three years.	
,, 12. Woven fabrics, not comprised in any preceding class	Twelve calendar months.	
,, 13. Lace, and any article of manufacture or substance not comprised in any preceding class...		

In designs for purposes of utility.

The duration of the copyright in designs for purposes of utility is three years from the time of registration.(*a*)

Extension of time by Board of Trade.

The Board of Trade may from time to time order that the copyright of any class of designs, or any particular design registered under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, may be extended for such term, not exceeding the additional term of three years, as it thinks fit; and may also revoke or alter any such order as may from time to time appear necessary.(*b*)

Whenever any order for the extension of the period of copyright is made by the Board of Trade, it must be registered in the office for the registration of designs; and, during the extended term, the protection and benefits conferred by the Designs Acts are to continue as fully as if the original term had not expired.(*c*)

Consequence of registering under wrong class

The consequence of registering a design under a wrong class has not been judicially determined.

In one case,(*d*) a rule *nisi* for a *certiorari* to quash a conviction by justices under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, was granted on the ground that the prosecutor had registered, under class 2, a design for the application to straw hats of an ornamental border, composed of the Brazilian pine, the proper registration of which would have been under class 13.

This cannot, however, be regarded as a sufficient authority for the proposition that a design may be pirated because the proprietor has registered it under a wrong class. "It would be a strange construction," said an Irish judge,(*e*) "to put on the statute, to say that if the designer registered wrong, the pirate would have a right to use his design."

Who is "proprietor."

The term "proprietor" is explained by sect. 5 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100. That section enacts, "that the author of any

(*a*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 2.
(*b*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 9.
(*c*) *Ib.*
(*d*) *Reg.* v. *West* (17 L. T. 83).
(*e*) Moore, J., *Lowndes* v. *Brown* (12 Ir. L. Rep. 303).

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

such new and original design shall be considered the proprietor thereof, unless he have executed the work on behalf of another person for a good or a valuable consideration, in which case such person shall be considered the proprietor, and shall be entitled to be registered in the place of the author;(*a*) and every person acquiring for a good or a valuable consideration a new and original design, or the right to apply the same to ornamenting any one or more articles of manufacture, or any one or more such substances as aforesaid, either exclusively of any other person or otherwise, and also every person upon whom the property in such design or such right to the application thereof shall devolve, shall be considered the proprietor of the design in the respect in which the same may have been so acquired, and to that extent, but not otherwise."

The word "proprietor" has the same meaning, in the Act (6 & 7 Vict. c. 65), relating to designs for purposes of utility,(*b*) and also in the Act (13 & 14 Vict. c. 104) relating to the "provisional registration" of designs.(*c*)

The Copyright of Designs Acts are to apply to cases where the inventor or proprietor of the design is not, as well as where he is, a subject of Her Majesty; and are not to be construed as applying to the subjects of Her Majesty only.(*d*)

II. REGISTRATION.

Two requisites to copyright

Two requisites must be observed in order to entitle the proprietor of a design, whether of an ornamental or a useful character, to a copyright in it: First, the design must be registered in the manner provided by statute; secondly, every article to which it is applied, after publication of the design, must have on it a mark denoting that it has been registered, with the date of registration.

Registration.

Sect. 4 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, provides as to designs for ornament, "that no person shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, with regard to any design in respect of the application thereof to ornamenting any article of manufacture, or any such substance, unless such design have before publication(*e*) thereof been registered according to this Act, and unless, at the time of such registration, such design have been registered in respect of the application thereof to some or one of the articles of manufacture or substances

(*a*) See *M'Crae* v. *Holdsworth* (2 De G. & S. 496).
(*b*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6.
(*c*) See 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 16.; *post*, p. 619.
(*d*) 24 & 25 Vict. c. 73, ss. 1, 2.
(*e*) See *Dalglish* v. *Jarvie* (2 Mac. & Gor. 231).

comprised in the above-mentioned classes, by specifying the number of the class in respect of which such registration is made, and unless the name of such person shall be registered according to this Act as a proprietor of such design, and unless after publication of such design every such article of manufacture, or such substance to which the same shall be so applied, published by him, hath thereon, if the article of manufacture be a woven fabric for printing, at one end thereof, or if of any other kind or such substance as aforesaid, at the end or edge thereof, or other convenient place thereon, the letters "Rd," together with such number or letter, or number and letter, and in such form as shall correspond with the date of the registration of such design according to the registry of designs in that behalf; and such marks may be put on any such article of manufacture or such substance, either by making the same in or on the material itself of which such article or such substance shall consist, or by attaching thereto a label containing such marks."

Mark of registered design.

As to designs for purposes of utility, sect. 3 of 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, enacts that no person shall be entitled to the benefit of that Act unless the design has, before publication thereof, been registered according to the Act, and unless the name of such person shall be registered according to the Act as a proprietor of such design, and unless, after publication of such design, every article of manufacture made by him according to such design, or on which such design is used, has thereon the word "Registered," with the date of registration.

Effect of sale without mark of registration.

If the proprietor, whether English or foreign, sells the registered article abroad, without the letters "Rd," (under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 4) or the word "Registered" (under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 3) he loses the copyright in the registered design.(a)

Where the plaintiffs, who had registered a design for lace under 5 & 6 Vict., c. 100, were shown to have sold a quantity of lace, of the same pattern, in France, without attaching thereto the letters "Rd," and the distinctive number, as required by the 4th section of the Act, Lord Romilly, M.R., held that they had lost the copyright. After referring to the 3rd section of the Act, and the subsequent stat. 24 & 25 Vict. c. 73 (enacting that former Acts shall be construed as if the words "provided the same be done within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,"

(a) *Sarazin* v. *Hamel* (32 Beav. 145, 151; 7 L. T. N. S. 660; 32 L. J. 380, Ch.).

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

were not contained in them), his Lordship observed: "The plaintiffs say we are foreigners, and this part of the Act does not apply to articles published abroad. Why not? What is there to say that it means published within England or Ireland? What power has the court to introduce into the Act these words, which relate to all foreigners as well as to all Englishmen? I am of opinion that the condition, the performance of which is necessary, is just as general as the benefit given by the Act, and that if a foreigner choose to take the benefit of this statute, he must comply with its conditions, and put on the registered article the letters "Rd," and if he do not, he loses the benefit of the Act. It is not of the slightest importance whether the sale is at Calais or at Dover: the spirit, the meaning, and the words of the Act are clear, and they apply to every person and to every place."

A bill to restrain the infringement of the copyright in a registered design is not, however, demurrable for want of an allegation that the letters "Rd," had been attached to every article.(*a*)

Where the inventor of new designs published and sold them in a book, registered under the 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, and containing a notice that persons wishing to manufacture them for purposes of sale, must have the inventor's permission, it was held that the book did not require to be stamped with the letters "Rd," under sect. 4 of the Act.(*b*)

It was held by the majority of the Court of Queen's Bench (Lord Campbell, C.J., and Wightman, J.; *dissentiente* Coleridge, J.), in the case of *Heywood* v. *Potter*,(*c*) that the sale of patterns only of certain small pieces of paperhangings containing the whole design, registered under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, but not bearing the letters "Rd," disentitled the proprietor to protection against parties copying the design from such pattern pieces, and publishing articles with such design applied to them. The majority of the court considered that these pattern pieces were "articles of manufacture" within sect. 4 of the Act, and that every article, containing the design secured, should, if put forth by the manufacturer in the ordinary course of trade, contain the mark intended to be a caution to the public that the design of the article had been secured to the proprietor by registration. Lord Campbell said he could not see that

(*a*) *Surazin* v. *Hamel* (32 Beav. 145, 151; 7 L. T. N. S. 660; 32 L. J. 370, Ch.).

(*b*) *De la Bruchardière* v. *Elrey* (4 Exch. 380; 18 L. J. 381, Ex.).

(*c*) 1 E. & Bl. 439; 22 L. J. 133, Q. B.

any limit was fixed to the size of the article so put forth. Coleridge, J., on the other hand, considered that these pieces, sold merely as patterns, could not properly be considered as paper hangings. "There is," he said, "a broad distinction, as it seems to me, between the pattern of an article and the article itself; between what is the ordinary subject of trade and what is put forth, as it were, to induce such trade."

Sect. 4 of 21 & 22 Vict. c. 70, now provides that nothing in the 4th section of the Copyright of Designs Act, 1842, shall extend or be construed to extend to deprive the proprietor of any new and original design, applied to ornamenting any article of manufacture contained in the 10th class, of the benefits of the Copyright of Designs Acts, or of this Act, provided there shall have been printed on such articles, at each end of the *original piece* thereof, the name and address of such proprietor, and the word "Registered," together with the years for which such design was registered.

Sculpture, models, and casts.

We have already seen(*a*) that any sculpture, model, copy, and cast, within the protection of the Sculpture Copyright Acts, may be registered under the Design Acts. In the case of such designs it is not necessary to put on any mark after registration, but merely the word "Registered," and the date of registration.(*b*)

Appointment of registrar, &c., of designs

For the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of the Copyright of Designs Acts, the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for the consideration of all matters of trade and plantations are empowered to appoint a person to be a registrar of designs for articles of manufacture, and, if they see fit, an assistant registrar, and other necessary officers and servants; and such registrar, assistant registrar, officers, and servants, are to hold their offices during the pleasure of the Lords of the said Committee; and such registrar is to have a seal of office. The Commissioners of the Treasury may from time to time fix the salary or other remuneration of such registrar, assistant registrar, and other officers and servants.(*c*)

The Lords of the said Committee may, subject to the provisions of the Acts, make rules for regulating the execution of the duties of the office of the registrar.(*d*)

(*a*) *Ante*, p. 125.

(*b*) See 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 6, and the directions issued by the Board of Trade for registration of designs, set out in the Appendix, *post*.

(*c*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 7, repealing in part 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 14.

(*d*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 14. The directions issued by the Board of Trade for registering designs will be found in the appendix to this work.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

The Board of Trade may also from time to time make, alter, and revoke rules and regulations with respect to the mode of registration, and the documents and other matters and particulars to be furnished by persons effecting registration and provisional registration under these Acts, or under 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104.(*a*)

All such rules and regulations are to be published in the *London Gazette*, and forthwith upon the issuing thereof to be laid before Parliament, if Parliament be sitting, and if Parliament be not sitting, then within fourteen days after the commencement of the then next session.(*b*)

Such rules and regulations, or any of them, are also to be published or notified by the registrar of designs in such other manner as the Board of Trade shall think fit to direct.(*c*)

Registrar's duties— 1st. As to designs for ornament.

The registrar is not to register any design in respect of any application of it to purposes of ornament, unless he is furnished,(*d*) in respect of each such application, with two copies, drawings, or prints of the design, accompanied with the name of every person who claims to be proprietor, or of the style or title of the firm under which such proprietor may be trading, with his place of abode or place of carrying on his business, or other place of address, and the number of the class in respect of which such registration is made. The registrar is to register all such copies, drawings, or prints, from time to time successively, as they are received by him for that purpose; and on every such copy, drawing, or print to affix a number corresponding to such succession. He is also to retain one copy, drawing, or print, and to file it in his office, and return the other to the person by whom it has been forwarded to him; and, in order to give ready access to the copies of designs so registered, he is to class such copies of designs, and keep a proper index of each class.(*e*)

2nd. As to designs for purposes of utility.

The registrar is not to register any design for the shape or configuration of any article of manufacture, unless he be furnished with two exactly similar drawings or prints of such design, with such description in writing as may be necessary to render the same intelligible according to his judgment, together with the title of the design, and the name of every person who claims to be proprietor, or of the style or title of the firm under which such proprietor may be trading, with his place of abode, or place of carrying on business, or other place of address.(*f*)

(*a*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 10. (*b*) *Ib.* (*c*) *Ib.*
(*d*) The Designs Office is at No. 1, Whitehall.
(*e*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 15. (*f*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 8.

Every such drawing or print, together with the title and description of the design, and the name and address of the proprietor, are to be on one sheet of paper or parchment, and on the same side thereof: the size of the sheet is not to exceed twenty-four inches by fifteen inches, and there is to be left on one of the said sheets a blank space on the same side on which are the said drawings, title, description, name, and addr[illegible]f the size of six inches by four inches, for the certific[illegible] herein mentioned. The drawings or prints are to be made on a proper geometric scale; and the description must set forth such part or parts of the design (if any) as shall not be new or original.(*a*)

The registrar is to register all such drawings or prints from time to time as they are received by him for that purpose; and on every such drawing or print to affix a number corresponding to the order of succession in the register, and retain one drawing or print, which he is to file at his office, and return the other to the person by whom it has been forwarded to him; and, in order to give a ready access to the designs so registered, he is to keep a proper index of the titles thereof.(*b*)

Certificate of registration of design.

Upon every copy, drawing, or print of an original design so returned to the person registering as aforesaid, or attached thereto, and upon every copy, drawing, or print thereof received for the purpose of such registration, or of the transfer of such design being certified thereon or attached thereto, the registrar is to certify under his hand that the design has been so registered, the date of such registration, and the name of the registered proprietor, or the style or title of the firm under which such proprietor may be trading, with his place of abode or place of carrying on his business, or other place of address, and also the number of such design, together with such number or letter, or number and letter, and in such form as shall be employed by him to denote or correspond with the date of such registration.(*c*)

What certificate proves.

Such certificate made on every such original design, or on such copy thereof, and purporting to be signed by the registrar or deputy registrar, and purporting to have the seal of office of such registrar affixed thereto, is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to be sufficient proof—

Of the design, and of the name of the proprietor therein mentioned, having been duly registered; and

Of the commencement of the period of registry; and

(*a*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 8. (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 16; 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

Of the person named therein as proprietor being the proprietor; and

Of the originality of the design; and

Of the provisions of this Act, and of any rule under which the certificate appears to be made, having been complied with:

And any such writing purporting to be such certificate is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to be received as evidence, without proof of the handwriting of the signature thereto, or of the seal of office affixed thereto, or of the person signing, the same being the registrar or deputy registrar.(*a*)

Power to dispense with drawings, &c., in certain cases

If in any case in which the registration of a design is required to be made under either of the Designs Acts, it appears to the registrar that copies, drawings, or prints, as required by those Acts, cannot be furnished, or that it is unreasonable or unnecessary to require them, he may dispense with such copies, drawings, or prints, and may allow in lieu thereof such specification or description, in writing or in print, as may be sufficient to identify and render intelligible the design in respect of which registration is desired. Whenever registration shall be so made in the absence of such copies, drawings, or prints, the registration is to be as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes as if such copies, drawings, or prints had been furnished.(*b*)

Discretionary power as to registry vested in the registrar.

If any design is brought to the registrar to be registered under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, and it appears to him that it ought to be registered under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, he may refuse to register it otherwise than under the latter Act, and in the manner thereby provided.(*c*)

If it appear to him that the design brought to be registered under either Act is not intended to be applied to any article of manufacture, but only to some label, wrapper, or other covering in which such article might be exposed for sale, or that the design is contrary to public morality or order, he may also, in his discretion, wholly refuse to register the design.(*d*)

Appeal to Privy Council.

The Lords of the Committee of Privy Council may, however, on representation made to them by the proprietor of any design so wholly refused to be registered, if they shall see fit, direct the registrar to register such design; whereupon he is required by the Act to register the same accordingly.(*e*)

(*a*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 16; 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6.
(*b*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 11.
(*c*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 9. (*d*) *Ib.* (*e*) *Ib.*

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

Pattern may be registered.

The registration of any pattern or portion of an article of manufacture to which a design is applied, instead or in lieu of a copy, drawing, print, specification, or description in writing, has, by 21 & 22 Vict. c. 70, s. 5, been made as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes as if such copy, drawing, print, specification, or description in writing had been furnished to the Registrar under the Copyright of Designs Acts.

Previously to this enactment, it was held, in the case of *Norton* v. *Nicholls*,(*a*) an insufficient registration of a design, to deposit a copy of the article to which it was intended to be applied, with the design upon it, unless it was clearly apparent, from the inspection of the article, what the design intended to be claimed was, as in the case of a paper-hanging.(*b*) "A section of the paper," said Lord Campbell, C.J., "having the design impressed upon it, would clearly disclose the claim of the inventor, and would fully put the registrar in possession of all the information he ought to have, to enable him to perform the duties imposed upon him. But the plaintiff, by leaving one of his shawls with the registrar, gives no information of the nature of his claim, and cannot, we think, be said to have registered his 'design.'" Lord Hatherley (when Vice-Chancellor Wood) had taken a different view of this case, and was of opinion that the provisions of the Act (5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 15) had been sufficiently complied with by furnishing the registrar with a specimen of the shawl itself, to which the design was applied; but the plaintiff was required to establish his title at law.(*c*)

Inspection of registered designs—1st. Designs for ornament.

Every person is to be at liberty to inspect any design of which the copyright has expired, on payment of such fee as is appointed by virtue of the Act.(*d*)

With regard to designs of which the copyright has not expired, no such design is to be open to inspection, except by a proprietor of such design, or by any person authorised by him in writing, or by any person specially authorised by the registrar, and then only in the presence of the registrar, or in the presence of some person holding an appointment under the Act, and not so as to take a copy of any such design, or of any part thereof, nor without paying for every such inspection such fee as aforesaid.(*e*)

The registrar may give to any person applying to him,

(*a*) 1 El. & El. 765; 27 L. J. 225, Q. B.; 33 L. T. 161; 7 W. R. 421.
(*b*) Class 5, *ante*, p. 608. (*c*) *Norton* v. *Nichols* (4 K. & J. 475).
(*d*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 17. See the Table of Fees, in the Appendix, *post*. (*e*) *Ib.*

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

and producing a particular design, together with the registration mark thereof, or producing such registration mark only, a certificate stating whether there is any copyright existing of such design, and, if there be, in respect to what particular article of manufacture or substance such copyright exists, and the term of such copyright, and the date of registration, and also the name and address of the registered proprietor thereof.(*a*)

2nd. Designs for purposes of utility.

It is also provided that every person shall be at liberty to inspect the index of the titles of the designs, not being ornamental designs, registered under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, and to take copies from the same, on payment of such fees as are appointed by virtue of that Act, and that every person shall be at liberty to inspect any such design, and to take copies thereof, paying such fee as aforesaid. But no design whereof the copyright shall not have expired is to be open to inspection, except in the presence of the registrar, or in the presence of some person holding an appointment under that Act, and not so as to take a copy of such design, nor without paying such fee as aforesaid.(*b*)

Penalty for wrongfully using mark denoting a registered design.

A penalty is inflicted on persons wrongfully using marks denoting a registered design.

Sect. 7 of 21 & 22 Vict. c. 70, enacts that "any person who shall wilfully apply any mark of registration to any article of manufacture, in respect whereof the application of the design thereto shall not have been registered, or after the term of copyright shall have expired, or who shall, during the term of copyright, without the authority of the proprietor of any registered design, wilfully apply the mark printed on the piece of any article of manufacture, or who shall knowingly sell or issue any article of manufacture to which such mark has been wilfully and without due authority applied, shall be subject to a penalty of ten pounds, to be recovered by the proprietor of such design, with full costs of suit, in any court of competent jurisdiction."

Amending or cancelling registration.

The registration of any design, whether for purposes of ornament or utility, may be amended or cancelled by decree or order of a judge in equity, where it is made to appear to him that the design has been registered in the name of a wrong person.

Sect. 10 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100,(*c*) enacts "that in any suit in equity which may be instituted by the proprietor of any design or the person lawfully entitled thereto, relative to such design, if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the judge

(*a*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 17.
(*b*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 10. (*c*) And see 6 & 7 Vict c. 65, s. 6.

having cognizance of such suit, that the design has been registered in the name of a person not being the proprietor or lawfully entitled thereto, it shall be competent for such judge, in his discretion, by a decree or order in such suit, to direct either that such registration be cancelled (in which case the same shall thenceforth be wholly void), or that the name of the proprietor of such design, or other person lawfully entitled thereto, be substituted in the register for the name of such wrongful proprietor or claimant, in like manner as is hereinbefore directed in case of the transfer of a design, and to make such order respecting the costs of such cancellation or substitution, and of all proceedings to procure and effect the same, as he shall think fit; and the registrar is hereby authorised and required, upon being served with an official copy of such decree or order, and upon payment of the proper fee, to comply with the tenour of such decree or order, and either cancel such registration or substitute such new name, as the case may be."

The same provisions are applicable in the case of designs provisionally registered.(*a*)

Provisional registration.

The Designs Act, 1850,(*b*) enables the proprietors of designs, whether of an ornamental or useful character, to have them provisionally registered for the period of a year, which the Board of Trade may further extend by a period not exceeding six months, during which time the same protection is to be given as in the case of designs registered under the former Designs Acts.

Mode of obtaining.

Sect. 1 provides, "that the Registrar of Designs, upon application by or on behalf of the proprietor of any design not previously published within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or elsewhere, and which may be registered under the Designs Act, 1842, or under the Designs Act, 1843, for the provisional registration of such design, under this Act, and upon being furnished with such copy, drawing, print, or description in writing or in print as in the judgment of the said registrar shall be sufficient to identify the particular design in respect of which such registration is desired, and the name of the person claiming to be proprietor, together with his place of abode or business, or other place of address, or the style or title of the firm under which he may be trading, shall register such design in such manner and form as shall from time to time be prescribed or approved by the Board of Trade; and any design so registered shall be deemed 'provisionally registered,' and the registration thereof shall continue in force

(*a*) See 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 15. (*b*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

for the term of one year from the time of the same being registered as aforesaid."

Certificate of provisional registration.

The registrar is to certify, under his hand and seal of office, in such form as the Board of Trade shall direct or approve, that the design has been provisionally registered, the date of such registration, and the name of the registered proprietor, together with his place of abode or business, or other place of address.(*a*)

Extension of time by Board of Trade.

Sect. 5 provides, "that the Board of Trade may, by order in writing, with respect to any particular class of designs, or any particular design, extend the period for which any design may be provisionally registered under this Act, for such term, not exceeding the additional term of six months, as to the said Board may seem fit; and whenever any such order shall be made, the same shall be registered in the office for the registration of designs, and, during the extended term, the protection and benefits conferred by this Act in case of provisional registration shall continue as fully as if the original term of one year had not expired."

Protection given by provisional registration.

The proprietor of any design which shall have been provisionally registered is, during the continuance of such registration, to have the sole right and property in such design; and the penalties and provisions of the Designs Act, 1842, for preventing the piracy of designs, are to extend to—

1. The application of any provisionally registered design, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, to any article of manufacture or to any substance:
2. The publication, sale, or exposure for sale of any article of manufacture or any substance to which any provisionally registered design shall have been applied.(*b*)

Exhibition of provisionally registered designs in certain places not to defeat copyright, &c.

During the continuance of such provisional registration neither such registration, nor the exhibition or exposure of any design provisionally registered, or of any article to which any such design may have been or be intended to be applied, in any place, whether public or private, in which articles are not sold or exposed or exhibited for sale, and to which the public are not admitted gratuitously, or in any place which shall have been previously certified by the Board of Trade to be a place of public exhibition within the meaning of the Act, nor the publication of any account or description of any provisionally registered design exhibited or exposed, or intended to be exhibited or exposed,

(*a*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 1. (*b*) Sect. 2.

in any such place of exhibition or exposure in any catalogue, paper, newspaper, periodical, or otherwise, is to prevent the proprietor thereof from registering any such design under the Designs Acts of 1842 and 1843 at any time during the continuance of the provisional registration, in the same manner and as fully and effectually as if no such registration, exhibition, exposure, or publication had been made; provided that every article to which any such design shall be applied, and which shall be exhibited or exposed by or with the licence or consent of the proprietor of such design, has thereon or attached thereto the words "provisionally registered," with the date of registration.(*a*)

Sale of articles to which provisionally registered designs, &c. have been applied, to defeat copyright, but design itself may be sold.

If, however, during the continuance of such provisional registration, the proprietor of any design provisionally registered shall sell, expose, or offer for sale any article, substance, or thing to which any such design has been applied, it is provided, by sect. 4, that the provisional registration shall be deemed to have been null and void immediately before any such sale, offer, or exposure shall have been first made.

But this is not to hinder or prevent the proprietor from selling or transferring the right and property in any such design.(*b*)

All the provisions of the former Designs Acts, as to the transfer of copyright, piracy, remedies for piracy, penalties for wrongfully using marks, &c., are made applicable to the case of designs provisionally registered.(*c*)

Judge's order necessary to removal of public books, &c. in Designs Office for evidence.

In order to prevent the frequent and unnecessary removal of the public books and documents in the Office for the Registration of Designs, it is provided by 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 12, that no book or document in the said office shall be removed for the purpose of being produced in any court or before any justice of the peace, without a special order of a judge of the Court of Chancery, or of one of Her Majesty's superior courts of law, first had and obtained by the party who shall desire the production of the same.

Judges may order copies of documents to be furnished for evidence.

If application be made to a judge of any of Her Majesty's courts of law at Westminster, by any person desiring to obtain a copy of any registration, entry, drawing, print, or document of which such person is not entitled as of right to have a copy, for the purpose of being used in evidence in any cause, or otherwise howsoever, and if such judge be satisfied that such copy is *bonâ fide* intended for that purpose, he is to order the Registrar of Designs to deliver such copy to the party applying, and the Registrar

(*a*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 3. (*b*) Sect. 4. (*c*) Sect. 15.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

of Designs is, upon payment for the same of the fee or fees fixed according to the provisions of the Designs Act, to deliver such copy accordingly.(*a*)

Copies of documents delivered by the registrar to be sealed, and to be evidence.

Every copy of any registration, entry, drawing, print, or document delivered by the Registrar of Designs to any person requiring it, is to b signed by the registrar, and sealed with his seal of office.(*b*)

Every document so sealed, purporting to be a copy of any registration, entry, drawing, print, or document, is to be deemed to be a true copy of such registration, entry, drawing, print, or document, and without further proof, to be received in evidence before all courts in like manner, and to the same extent and effect as the original book, registration, entry, drawing, print, or document would or might be received if tendered in evidence, as well for the purpose of proving the contents, purport, and effect of such book, registration, entry, drawing, print, or document, as also proving the same to be a book, registration, entry, drawing, print, or document of or belonging to the said office, and in the custody of the Registrar of Designs.(*c*)

III. TRANSFER.

Copyright may be transferred by writing.

The copyright in designs, whether for purposes of ornament or utility, may be transferred by any writing purporting to be a transfer of the copyright, and signed by the proprietor thereof.(*d*)

Every person purchasing or otherwise acquiring the right to the entire or partial use of any design may enter his title in the register. The registrar is, on request, and the production of the written transfer, or, in case of the right being acquired by any other mode than that of purchase, on the production of any evidence to his satisfaction, to insert the name of the new proprietor in the register.(*e*)

The following forms are given in the statute as those which *may be* pursued. They are applicable in the case of designs for purposes of utility or of ornament.(*f*)

Form of Transfer, and Authority to Register.

I *A. B.*, author [*or* proprietor] of design, No. having transferred my right thereto [*or, if such transfer be partial*], so far as regards the ornamenting of [*describe the articles of manufacture or substances, or the locality, with respect to which the right is transferred*], to *B. C.* of do hereby authorise you to insert his name on the register of designs accordingly.

(*a*) 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 15. (*b*) Sect. 14. (*c*) *Ib.*
(*d*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 104, s. 6; 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6. (*e*) *Ib.*
(*f*) 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6.

Forms of Request to register.

I *B. C.*, the person mentioned in the above transfer, do request you to register my name and property in the said design as entitled [*if to the entire use*] to the entire use of such design [*or, if to the partial use*], to the partial use of such design, so far as regards the application thereof [*describe the articles of manufacture, or the locality, in relation to which the right is transferred*].

If the request to register be made by any person to whom any design devolves otherwise than by transfer, the request may be in the following form:

I *C. D.*, in whom is vested by [*state bankruptcy or otherwise*] the design, No. [*or, if such devolution be of a partial right*, so far as regards the application thereof] to [*describe the articles of manufacture or substance, or the locality, in relation to which the right has devolved*].

The law is the same as to the transfer of designs "provisionally" registered.(*a*)

IV. PIRACY.

Modes in which piracy may be committed.

The copyright in a registered design, whether for purposes of ornament or utility, may be infringed (1) by the unauthorised application of the design, or any fraudulent imitation of it, for the purpose of sale, to any article; or (2) by selling any article to which the design has been so applied, after knowledge of such application being unauthorised, or notice to the same effect from the proprietor or his agent.(*b*)

It is provided, by sect. 7 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, that during the existence of the right to the entire or partial use of any design for purposes of ornament, "no person shall either do or cause to be done any of the following acts with regard to any articles of manufacture, or substances, in respect of which the copyright of such design shall be in force, without the licence or consent in writing of the registered proprietor thereof; (that is to say),

No person shall apply any such design, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, for the purpose of sale, to the ornamenting of any article of manufacture, or any substance, artificial or natural, or partly artificial and partly natural:

No person shall publish, sell, or expose for sale any article of manufacture, or any substance to which such design, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, shall have been so applied, after having received, either verbally or in writing, or otherwise, from any source other than

(*a*) See 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 15.
(*b*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 7; 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

the proprietor of such design, knowledge that his consent has not been given to such application, or after having been served with or had left at his premises a written notice signed by such proprietor or his agent to the same effect."

These provisions are extended to designs for purposes of utility by 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6.

The manufacture, within the period of protection, of articles to which a registered design is applied without authority, although without the intention of selling them within that period, is piracy.(*a*)

Notice.

The following was held not to be a sufficient statement, within the above enactment, that the proprietor of the copyright had not given his consent to the application of his design to a particular manufactured article: "I hereby further give you notice that in case you apply such design, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, for any purpose whatsoever, or publish, sell, or expose for sale any article of manufacture, or any substance to which such design, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, shall have been so applied, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the said Act of Parliament, the said Joseph Norton(*b*) will institute such proceedings as he may be advised for the recovery of the penalties which you may thereby incur, and also for the recovery of the damages which he may thereby sustain, and likewise to restrain you from any further violation of the said Act of Parliament."(*c*)

"The notice," said Lord Campbell, C.J., delivering the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, "does say that if the defendants either apply the design to an article of manufacture, or sell or expose to sale an article of manufacture with the design applied to it, he will sue them; but we cannot think that this is tantamount to a notice that he had not given his consent to the application of his design to the manufactured article. Such notice is perfectly consistent with the fact of his having actually given his consent, and cannot, we think, be considered the performance of a condition introduced to save retail dealers from very serious liability. It is likewise worthy of observation that the notice gives no indication of the plaintiff's real claim, and that this remained a mystery till the trial began."(*d*)

(*a*) *M'Crae* v. *Holdsworth* (2 De G. & S. 199; 12 Jur. 820).

(*b*) The notice was given "for and on behalf of Mr. Joseph Norton," by his solicitor and agent, and stated at its commencement that the design had been registered.

(*c*) *Norton* v. *Nicholls* (1 El. & El. 761; 5 Jur. N. S. 1205; 7 W. R. 420).

(*d*) *Ib.*

V. Remedies for Piracy.

Remedies at law.

The remedies at law for infringements of the copyright in designs, whether for ornamental or useful purposes, are (1) by action for damages; (2) by action to recover the statutory penalties; (3) by summary proceeding before justices for the recovery of penalties.

By action for damages.

It is provided, by sect. 9 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100 (and see 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6), that, notwithstanding the remedies given by the Act for the recovery of penalties, it shall be lawful for the proprietor in respect of whose right such penalty shall have been incurred (if he shall elect to do so) to bring such action as he may be entitled to, for the recovery of any damages which he shall have sustained, either by the application of any such design or of a fraudulent imitation thereof, for the purpose of sale, to any articles of manufacture or substances, or by the publication, sale or exposure to sale, as aforesaid, by any person, of any article or substance to which such design or any fraudulent imitation thereof shall have been so applied, such person knowing that the proprietor of such design had not given his consent to such application.

Recovery of penalties for piracy:

The amount of the penalties to be recovered and the mode of recovering them are set out in sect. 8 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100 (and see 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6). It enacts that if any person commits any of the Acts mentioned in sect. 7 of the same Act, cited *ante*, pp. 623, 624, he shall for every offence forfeit a sum not less than five pounds and not exceeding thirty pounds, to the proprietor of the design in respect of whose right such offence has been committed; and such proprietor may recover such penalty as follows:

In England.

In England, either by an action of debt or on the case against the party offending, or by summary proceeding before two justices having jurisdiction where the party offending resides.

If the proprietor proceed by summary proceeding, any justice of the peace acting for the county, riding, division, city, or borough where the party offending resides, and not being concerned either in the sale or manufacture of the article of manufacture, or in the design, to which such summary proceeding relates, may issue a summons requiring such party to appear on a day and at a time and place to be named in such summons, such time not being less than eight days from the date thereof; and every such summons shall be served on the party offending, either in person or at his usual place of abode; and either upon the appearance

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

or upon the default to appear of the party offending, any two or more of such justices may proceed to the hearing of the complaint, and upon proof of the offence, either by the confession of the party offending, or upon the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, which such justices are by the Act authorised to administer, may convict the offender in a penalty of not less than five pounds or more than thirty pounds, as aforesaid, for each offence, as to such justices doth seem fit; but the aggregate amount of penalties for offences in respect of any one design committed by any one person, up to the time at which any of the proceedings herein mentioned shall be instituted, shall not exceed the sum of one hundred pounds; and if the amount of such penalty or of such penalties, and the costs attending the conviction so assessed by such justices, be not forthwith paid, the amount of the penalty or of the penalties and of the costs, together with the costs of the distress and sale, shall be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender, wherever the same happen to be in England; and the justices before whom the party has been convicted, or, on proof of the conviction, any two justices acting for any county, riding, division, city, or borough in England, where goods and chattels of the person offending happen to be, may grant a warrant for such distress and sale; and the overplus, if any, shall be returned to the owner of the goods and chattels on demand.

Aggregate amount of penalties.

Every information and conviction which shall be respectively laid or made in such summary proceeding before two justices under this Act, may be drawn or made out in certain forms given in the Act,(*a*) or to the effect thereof, *mutatis mutandis*, as the case may require.(*b*)

In Scotland.

The proprietor may recover the penalty in Scotland, by action before the Court of Session in ordinary form, or by summary action before the sheriff of the county where the offence may be committed or the offender resides, who, upon proof of the offence or offences, either by confession of the party offending or by the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, shall convict the offender and find him liable in the penalty or penalties aforesaid, as also in expenses; and it shall be lawful for the sheriff, in pronouncing such judgment for the penalty or penalties and costs, to insert in such judgment a warrant, in the event of such penalty or penalties and costs not being paid, to levy and recover the amount of the same by poinding: Provided

(*a*) See the forms in the appendix, *post*. (*b*) Sect. 8.

always, that it shall be lawful to the sheriff, in the event of his dismissing the action, and assoilzieing the defender, to find the complainer liable in expenses; and any judgment so to be pronounced by the sheriff in such summary application shall be final and conclusive, and not subject to review by advocation, suspension, reduction, or otherwise.(*a*)

In Ireland. In Ireland the penalty may be recovered, either by action in a superior court of law at Dublin, or by civil bill in the civil bill court of the county or place where the offence was committed.(*b*)

Limitation of actions, &c. No action or other proceeding for any offence or injury under the Acts is to be brought after the expiration of twelve calendar months from the commission of the offence.(*c*)

Costs. In every such action or other proceeding the party who prevails is to recover his full costs of suit or of such other proceeding.(*d*)

Costs in cases of summary proceeding. In case of any summary proceeding before justices in England, the justices may award payment of costs to the party prevailing, and grant a warrant for enforcing payment thereof against the summoning party, if unsuccessful, in like manner as before provided for recovering any penalty with costs against any offender under the Acts.(*e*)

Designs provisionally registered. The above provisions as to actions for damages, the limitation of actions, the mode of recovering penalties, and the awarding and recovery of costs, are applicable in the case of designs provisionally registered.(*f*)

Proceedings in county court. The proprietor may also institute proceedings in the county court of the district within which the piracy is alleged to have been committed, for the recovery of damages which he may have sustained by reason of such piracy.(*g*)

In any such proceedings in the county court the plaintiff must deliver, with his plaint, a statement of particulars as to the date and title, or other description of the registration whereof the copyright is alleged to be pirated, and as to the alleged piracy.(*h*)

The defendant, if he intends at the trial to rely as a defence on any objection to the copyright, or to the title of the proprietor therein, must give notice, in the manner

(*a*) Sect. 8. (*b*) *Ib.*
(*c*) 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 12; 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6. (*d*) *Ib.*
(*e*) See 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, s. 13; and 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, s. 6.
(*f*) See 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104, s. 15.
(*g*) 21 & 22 Vict. c. 70, s. 8. (*h*) *Ib.*

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I.

provided by the 76th section of 9 & 10 Vict. c. 95,(*a*) of his intention to rely on such special defence, and also state in such notice the date of publication and other particulars of any design whereof prior publication is alleged, or of any objection to such copyright.(*b*)

The judge of the county court, at the instance of the defendant or plaintiff respectively, may require any statement or notice delivered by either party to be amended in such manner as he may think fit.(*c*)

The provisions of 9 & 10 Vict. c. 95 (the County Courts Act, 1846), and of 12 & 13 Vict. c. 101, as to proceedings in a plaint, to appeal, and to writs of prohibition, are to be applicable to proceedings for piracy of designs.(*d*)

Remedy in equity.

The equitable remedy by injunction, is also open to the person whose copyright is infringed.

(*a*) This notice is to be given to the registrar of the county court at least five clear days before the return, and he is to communicate it to the plaintiff. The defendant need not prove at the trial that the notice was so communicated to the plaintiff.

(*b*) 21 & 22 Vict. c. 70, s. 8. (*c*) *Ib.* (*d*) *Id.* sect. 9.

APPENDIX.

8 GEO. 2, CAP. 13.

An Act for the Encouragement of the Arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other Prints, by vesting the Properties thereof in the Inventors and Engravers during the Time therein mentioned.

8 GEO. 2, c. 13

WHEREAS divers persons have, by their own genius, industry, pains, and expense, invented and engraved, or worked in mezzotinto, or chiaro oscuro, sets of historical and other prints, in hopes to have reaped the sole benefit of their labours: and whereas printsellers and other persons have of late, without the consent of the inventors, designers, and proprietors of such prints, frequently taken the liberty of copying, engraving, and publishing, or causing to be copied, engraved, and published, base copies of such works, designs, and prints, to the very great prejudice and detriment of the inventors, designers, and proprietors thereof: for remedy thereof, and for preventing such practices for the future, may it please your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the twenty-fourth day of June, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, every person who shall invent and design, engrave, etch, or work, in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, or from his own works and invention shall cause to be designed and engraved, etched, or worked, in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, any historical or other print or prints, shall have the sole right and liberty of printing and reprinting the same for the term of fourteen years, to commence from the day of the first publishing thereof, which shall be truly engraved with the name of the proprietor on each plate, and printed on every such print or prints; and that if any printseller or other person whatsoever, from and after the said twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, within the time limited by this Act, shall engrave, etch, or work as aforesaid, or in any other manner copy and sell, or cause to be engraved, etched, or copied and sold, in the whole or in part, by varying, adding to, or diminishing from the main design, or shall print, reprint, or import for sale, or cause to be printed, reprinted, or imported for sale, any such print or prints, or any parts thereof, without the consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing signed by him or them respectively in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, or, knowing the same to be so printed or reprinted without the consent of the proprietor or proprietors, shall publish, sell, or expose to sale, or otherwise or in any other manner dispose of, or cause to be published, sold, or exposed to sale, or otherwise or

After 24th June, 1735, the property of historical and other prints vested in the inventor for fourteen years.

Proprietor's name to be affixed to each print.

Penalty on printsellers or others pirating the same.

8 Geo. 2, c. 13

in any other manner disposed of, any such print or prints, without such consent first had and obtained as aforesaid, then such offender or offenders shall forfeit the plate or plates on which such print or prints are or shall be copied, and all and every sheet or sheets (being part of or whereon such print or prints are or shall be so copied or printed), to the proprietor or proprietors of such original print or prints, who shall forthwith destroy and damask the same, and further, that every such offender or offenders shall forfeit five shillings for every print which shall be found in his, her, or their custody, either printed or published, and exposed to sale or otherwise disposed of, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, the one moiety thereof to the King's most excellent Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the other moiety thereof to any person or persons that shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any of his Majesty's courts of record at Westminster, by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in which no wager of law, essoign, privilege, or protection, or more than one imparlance, shall be allowed.

Not to extend to purchasers of plates from the original proprietors.

2. Provided nevertheless, that it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons who shall hereafter purchase any plate or plates for printing from the original proprietors thereof to print and reprint from the said plates without incurring any of the penalties in this Act mentioned.

Limitation of actions for anything done in pursuance of Act

General issue.

3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any action or suit shall be commenced or brought against any person or persons whatsoever for doing or causing to be done anything in pursuance of this Act, the same shall be brought within the space of three months after so doing; and the defendant and defendants in such action or suit shall or may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence; and if upon such action or suit a verdict shall be given for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs become nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their action or actions, then the defendant or defendants shall have and recover full costs, for the recovery whereof he shall have the same remedy as any other defendant or defendants in any other case hath or have by law.

Limitation of actions for offences against this Act.

4. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any action or suit shall be commenced or brought against any person or persons for any offence committed against this Act, the same shall be brought within the space of three months after the discovery of every such offence, and not afterwards, anything in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

5. Clause relating to J. Pyne.

Public Act.

6. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be a public Act, and be judicially taken notice of as such by all judges, justices, and other persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

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15 Geo. 3, cap. 53.

15 Geo. 3, c. 53

An Act for enabling the two Universities in England, the four Universities in Scotland, and the several colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, to hold in perpetuity their Copyright in Books, given or bequeathed to the said Universities and Colleges for the advancement of useful learning and other purposes of education; and for amending so much of an Act of the eighth year of the reign of Queen Anne, as relates to the delivery of books to the warehouse keeper of the Stationers' Company, for the use of the several libraries therein mentioned.

15 Geo. 3, c. 53.

Preamble.

WHEREAS authors have heretofore bequeathed or given, and may hereafter bequeath or give, the copies of books composed by them, to or in trust for one of the two universities in that part of Great Britain called England, or to or in trust for some of the colleges or houses of learning within the same, or to or in trust for the four universities in Scotland, or to or in trust for the several colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, and in and by their several wills or other instruments of donation, have directed or may direct, that the profits arising from the printing and reprinting such books shall be applied or appropriated as a fund for the advancement of learning, and other beneficial purposes of education within the said universities and colleges aforesaid: and whereas such useful purposes will frequently be frustrated, unless the sole printing and reprinting of such books, the copies of which have been or shall be so bequeathed or given as aforesaid, be preserved and secured to the said universities, colleges, and houses of learning respectively in perpetuity; may it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the said universities and colleges respectively shall, at their respective presses, have, for ever, the sole liberty of printing and reprinting all such books as shall at any time heretofore have been, or (having not been heretofore published or assigned) shall at any time hereafter be bequeathed, or otherwise given by the author or authors of the same respectively, or the representatives of such author or authors, to or in trust for the said universities, or to or in trust for any college or house of learning within the same, or to or in trust for the said four universities in Scotland, or to or in trust for the said colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, or any of them, for the purposes aforesaid, unless the same shall have been bequeathed or given, or shall hereafter be bequeathed or given, for any term of years, or other limited term; any law or usage to the contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Universities, &c. in England and Scotland to have, for ever, the sole right of printing, &c. such books as have been, or shall be, bequeathed to them,

unless the same have been, or shall be, given for a limited time.

2. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any bookseller, printer, or other person whatsoever, from and after the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, shall print, reprint, or import, or cause to be printed, reprinted, or imported, any such book or books; or, knowing the same to be so printed or reprinted, shall sell, publish, or expose to sale, or cause to be sold, published, or exposed to sale, any such book or books; then such offender or offenders shall forfeit such book or books, and all and every sheet or sheets, being part of such book or books, to the university, college, or house of learning respectively, to whom the copy of such book or books shall have been bequeathed or given as aforesaid, who shall forthwith damask and make waste paper of them; and further, that every such offender or offenders shall forfeit one penny for every sheet which shall be found in his, her, or their custody, either printed or printing, published or exposed to sale, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act; the one moiety thereof to the King's most excellent Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the other moiety thereof to any person or persons who shall sue for the same; to be recovered in any of his Majesty's courts of record at Westminster, or in the Court of Session in Scotland, by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in which no wager of law, essoin, privilege, or protection, or more than one imparlance, shall be allowed.

After June 24, 1775, persons printing or selling such books shall for feit the same, and also 1*d.* for every sheet;

One moiety to his Majesty, and the other to the prosecutor.

15 Geo. 3, c. 53.

Nothing in this Act to extend to grant any exclusive right longer than such books are printed at the presses of the universities.

3. Provided, nevertheless, that nothing in this Act shall extend to grant any exclusive right otherwise than so long as the books or copies belonging to the said universities or colleges are printed only at their own printing-presses within the said universities or colleges respectively, and for their sole benefit and advantage; and that if any university or college shall delegate, grant, lease, or sell their copyrights, or exclusive rights of printing the books hereby granted, or any part thereof, or shall allow, permit, or authorise any person or persons, or bodies corporate, to print or reprint the same, that then the privileges hereby granted are to become void and of no effect, in the same manner as if this Act had not been made; but the said universities and colleges, as aforesaid, shall nevertheless have a right to sell such copies so bequeathed or given as aforesaid, in like manner as any author or authors now may do under the provisions of the statute of the eighth year of her Majesty Queen Anne.

Universities may sell copyrights in like manner as any author.

No person subject to penalties for printing, &c books already bequeathed, unless they be entered before June 24, 1775.

4. And whereas many persons may through ignorance offend against this Act, unless some provision be made whereby the property of every such book as is intended by this Act to be secured to the said universities, colleges, and houses of learning within the same, and to the said universities in Scotland, and to the respective colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, may be ascertained and known, be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to extend to subject any bookseller, printer, or other person whatsoever, to the forfeitures or penalties herein mentioned, for or by reason of the printing or reprinting, importing, or exposing to sale, any book or books, unless the title to the copy of such book or books, which has or have been already bequeathed or given to any of the said universities or colleges aforesaid, be entered in the register-book of the Company of Stationers kept for that purpose, in such manner as hath been usual, on or before the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five; and of all and every such book or books as may or shall hereafter be bequeathed or given as aforesaid, be entered in such register within the space of two months after any such bequest or gift shall have come to the knowledge of the vice-chancellors of the said universities, or heads of houses and colleges of learning, or of the principal of any of the said four universities respectively; for every of which entries so to be made as aforesaid, the sum of sixpence shall be paid, and no more; which said register-book shall and may, at all seasonable and convenient times, be referred to and inspected by any bookseller, printer, or other person, without any fee or reward; and the clerk of the said Company of Stationers shall, when and as often as thereunto required, give a certificate under his hand of such entry or entries, and for every such certificate may take a fee not exceeding sixpence.

All books that may hereafter be bequeathed, must be entered within two months after such bequest shall be known.

6d. to be paid for each entry in the register-book,

which may be inspected without fee.

Clerk to give a certificate being paid 6d.

If clerk refuse or neglect to make entry, &c.

Proprietor of such copyright to have like benefit as if such entry had been made,

and the clerk shall forfeit 20l.

5. And be it further enacted, that if the clerk of the said Company of Stationers for the time being shall refuse or neglect to register or make such entry or entries, or to give such certificate, being thereunto required by the agent of either of the said universities or colleges aforesaid, lawfully authorised for that purpose, then either of the said universities or colleges aforesaid, being the proprietor of such copyright or copyrights as aforesaid (notice being first given of such refusal by an advertisement in the *Gazette*), shall have the like benefit as if such entry or entries, certificate or certificates had been duly made and given; and the clerk so refusing shall, for every such offence, forfeit twenty pounds to the proprietor or proprietors of every such copyright; to be recovered in any of his Majesty's courts of record

at Westminster, or in the Court of Session in Scotland, by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in which no wager of law, essoin, privilege, protection, or more than one imparlance, shall be allowed. 15 Geo. 3, c. 53.

6. And whereas in and by an Act of Parliament, made in the eighth year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled, "An Act for the encouragement of learning, by vesting the copies of printed books in the authors or purchasers of such copies during the times therein mentioned," it is enacted, that nine copies of each book or books, upon the best paper, that, from and after the tenth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and ten, should be printed and published, as therein mentioned, or reprinted and published with additions, shall, by the printer and printers thereof, be delivered to the warehouse-keeper of the said Company of Stationers for the time being, at the hall of the said company, before such publication made, for the use of the Royal Library, the libraries of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the libraries of the four Universities in Scotland, the Library of Sion College in London, and the library commonly called The Library belonging to the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh, respectively; which such warehouse-keeper was thereby required, within ten days after demand by the keepers of the respective libraries, or any person or persons by them, or any of them, authorised to demand the said copy, to deliver the same for the use of the aforesaid libraries; and if any proprietor, bookseller, or printer, or the said warehouse-keeper of the said Company of Stationers, should not observe the direction of the said Act therein, that then he and they so making default, in not delivering the said printed copies as aforesaid, should forfeit as therein mentioned: And whereas the said provision has not proved effectual, but the same hath been eluded by the entry only of the title to a single volume, or of some part of such book or books so printed and published, or reprinted and republished, as aforesaid; be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person or persons whatsoever shall be subject to the penalties in the said Act mentioned, for or by reason of the printing or reprinting, importing or exposing to sale, any book or books, without the consent mentioned in the said Act, unless the title to the copy of the whole of such book, and every volume thereof, be entered, in manner directed by the said Act, in the register book of the Company of Stationers, and unless nine such copies of the whole of such book or books, and every volume thereof printed and published, or reprinted or republished, as therein mentioned, shall be actually delivered to the warehouse keeper of the said company, as therein directed, for the several uses of the several libraries in the said Act mentioned.

Clause in Act 8 Anne recited.

No person subject to penalties in the said Act for printing, &c. any book, unless the title to the copy of the whole be entered, &c.

7. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any action or suit shall be commenced or brought against any person or persons whatsoever, for doing, or causing to be done, anything in pursuance of this Act, the defendants in such action may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence; and if upon such action a verdict, or if the same shall be brought in the Court of Session in Scotland, a judgment be given for the defendant, or the plaintiff become nonsuited, and discontinue his action, then the defendant shall have and recover his full costs, for which he shall have the same remedy as a defendant in any case by law hath.

Limitation of actions.

General issue.

8. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall be adjudged, deemed, and taken to be a public Act; and shall be judicially taken notice of as such, by all judges, justices, and other persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

Public Act.

17 Geo. 3, cap. 57.

17 Geo 3, c. 57.

An Act for more effectually securing the Property of Prints to Inventors and Engravers, by enabling them to sue for and recover Penalties in certain Cases.

Recit. of Acts Geo. 2, and Geo. 3.

WHEREAS an Act of Parliament passed in the eighth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, intituled "An Act for the Encouragement of the Arts of designing, engraving, and etching Historical and other Prints, by vesting the Properties thereof in the Inventors and Engravers, during the Time therein mentioned:" And whereas by an Act of Parliament passed in the seventh year of the reign of his present Majesty, for amending and rendering more effectual the aforesaid Act, and for other purposes therein mentioned, it was (among other things) enacted, that from and after the first day of January one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven, all and every person or persons who should engrave, etch, or work in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, or cause to be engraved, etched, or worked, any print taken from any picture, drawing, model, or sculpture, either ancient or modern, should have, and were thereby declared to have the benefit and protection of the said former Act and that Act, for the term thereinafter mentioned, in like manner as if such print had been graved or drawn from the original design of such graver, etcher, or draughtsman: And whereas the said Acts have not effectually answered the purposes for which they were intended, and it is necessary, for the encouragement of artists, and for securing to them the property of and in their works, and for the advancement and improvement of the aforesaid arts, that such further provisions should be made as are hereinafter mentioned and contained: May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the twenty-fourth day of June one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, if any engraver, etcher, printseller, or other person, shall, within the time limited by the aforesaid Acts, or either of them, engrave, etch, or work, or cause or procure to be engraved, etched, or worked, in mezzotinto or chiaro oscuro, or otherwise, or in any other manner copy in the whole or in part, by varying, adding to, or diminishing from the main design, or shall print, reprint, or import for sale, or cause or procure to be printed, reprinted, or imported for sale, or shall publish, sell, or otherwise dispose of, or cause or procure to be published, sold, or otherwise disposed of, any copy or copies of any historical print or prints, or any print or prints of any portrait, conversation, landscape, or architecture, map, chart, or plan, or any other print or prints whatsoever, which hath or have been, or shall be engraved, etched, drawn, or designed, in any part of Great Britain, without the express consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing, signed by him, her, or them respectively, with his, her, or their own hand or hands, in the presence of and attested by two or more credible witnesses, then every such proprietor or proprietors shall and may, by and in a special action upon the case, to be brought against the person or persons so offending, recover such damages as a jury on the trial of such action, or on the execution of a writ of inquiry thereon, shall give or assess, together with double costs of suit.

After June 24, 1777, if any engraver, &c. shall, within the time limited by the aforesaid Acts, engrave or etch, &c. any print, without the consent of the proprietor, he shall be liable to damages, and double costs.

32 Geo. 3, cap. 60.

[Fox's Libel Act.]

An Act to remove Doubts respecting the Functions of Juries in Cases of Libel. 32 Geo. 3, c. 60.

Preamble. WHEREAS doubts have arisen whether on the trial of an indictment or information for the making or publishing any libel, where an issue or issues are joined between the king and the defendant or defendants, on the plea of not guilty pleaded, it be competent to the jury impanelled to try the same to give their verdict upon the whole matter in issue: Be it therefore declared and enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that, on every such trial, the jury sworn to try the issue may give a general verdict of guilty or not guilty upon the whole matter put in issue upon such indictment or information; and shall not be required or directed, by the court or judge before whom such indictment or information shall be tried, to find the defendant or defendants guilty, merely on the proof of the publication by such defendant or defendants of the paper charged to be a libel, and of the sense ascribed to the same in such indictment or information.

On trial of an indictment for a libel, jury may give a general verdict upon the whole matter put in issue, and shall not be required by the court to find the defendant guilty merely on proof of publication, and of the sense ascribed to it in the information.

2. Provided always, that, on every such trial, the court or judge before whom such indictment or information shall be tried, shall, according to their or his discretion, give their or his opinion and directions to the jury on the matter in issue between the king and the defendant or defendants, in like manner as in other criminal cases.

But court shall give their opinion and directions on matter in issue, as in other criminal cases.

3. Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend, to prevent the jury from finding a special verdict, in their discretion, as in other criminal cases.

Jury may find a special verdict.

4. Provided also, that in case the jury shall find the defendant or defendants guilty, it shall and may be lawful for the said defendant or defendants to move in arrest of judgment, on such ground and in such manner as by law he or they might have done before the passing of this Act; anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Defendants may move in arrest of judgment, as before passing this Act.

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54 Geo. 3, cap. 56.

An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act of His present Majesty, for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts, and other things therein mentioned; and for giving further Encouragement to such Arts.—[18th *May*, 1814.] 54 Geo. 3, c. 56.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the thirty-eighth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled "An Act for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts, and other things therein mentioned;" the sole right and property thereof were vested in the original proprietors, for a time therein specified: And whereas the provisions of the said Act having been found ineffectual for the purposes thereby intended, it is expedient to amend the same, and to make other provisions and regulations for the encouragement of artists, and to secure to them the profits of and in their works, and for the advancement of the said arts: May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's 38 Geo. 3, c. 71.

54 Geo. 3, c. 56.

The sole right and property of all new and original sculpture, models, copies, and casts, vested in the proprietors for fourteen years.

most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, every person or persons who shall make or cause to be made any new and original sculpture, or model, or copy, or cast of the human figure or human figures, or of any bust or busts, or of any part or parts of the human figure, clothed in drapery or otherwise, or of any animal or animals, or of any part or parts of any animal combined with the human figure or otherwise, or of any subject being matter of invention in sculpture, or of any alto or basso relievo representing any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, or any cast from nature of the human figure, or of any part or parts of the human figure, or of any cast from nature of any animal, or of any part or parts of any animal, or of any such subject containing or representing any of the matters and things hereinbefore mentioned, whether separate or combined, shall have the sole right and property of all and in every such new and original sculpture, model, copy and cast of the human figure or human figures, and of all and in every such bust or busts, and of all and in every such part or parts of the human figure, clothed in drapery or otherwise, and of all and in every such new and original sculpture, model, copy and cast, representing any animal or animals, and of all and in every such work representing any part or parts of any animal combined with the human figure or otherwise, and of all and in every such new and original sculpture, model, copy and cast of any subject, being matter of invention in sculpture, and of all and in every such new and original sculpture, model, copy and cast in alto or basso relievo, representing any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, and of every such cast from nature, for the term of fourteen years from first putting forth or publishing the same; provided, in all and in every case, the proprietor or proprietors do cause his, her, or their name or names, with the date, to be put on all and every such new and original sculpture, model, copy or cast, and on every such cast from nature, before the same shall be put forth or published.

Works published under the recited Act, vested in the proprietors for fourteen years.

2. And be it further enacted, that the sole right and property of all works, which have been put forth or published under the protection of the said recited Act, shall be extended, continued to and vested in the respective proprietors thereof, for the term of fourteen years, to commence from the date when such last-mentioned works respectively were put forth or published.

Persons putting forth pirated copies or pirated casts, may be prosecuted.

3. And be it further enacted, that if any person or persons shall, within such term of fourteen years, make or import, or cause to be made or imported, or exposed to sale, or otherwise disposed of, any pirated copy or pirated cast of any such new and original sculpture, or model or copy, or cast of the human figure or human figures, or of any such bust or busts, or of any such part or parts of the human figure clothed in drapery or otherwise, or of any such work of any animal or animals, or of any such part or parts of any animal or animals combined with the human figure or otherwise, or of any such subject being matter of invention in sculpture, or of any such alto or basso relievo representing any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, or of any such cast from nature as aforesaid, whether such pirated copy or pirated cast be produced by moulding or copying from, or imitating in any way, any of the matters or things put forth or published under the protection of this Act, or of any works which have been put forth or published under the pro-

tection of the said recited Act, the right and property whereof is and are secured, extended and protected by this Act, in any of the cases as aforesaid, to the detriment, damage, or loss of the original or respective proprietor or proprietors of any such works so pirated; then and in all such cases the said proprietor or proprietors, or their assignee or assignees, shall and may, by and in a special action upon the case to be brought against the person or persons so offending, receive such damages as a jury on a trial of such action shall give or assess, together with double costs of suit. 54 GEO. 3, c. 56. Damages and double costs.

4. Provided nevertheless, that no person or persons who shall or may hereafter purchase the right or property of any new and original sculpture or model, or copy or cast, or of any cast from nature, or of any of the matters and things published under or protected by virtue of this Act, of the proprietor or proprietors, expressed in a deed in writing signed by him, her, or them respectively, with his, her, or their own hand or hands, in the presence of and attested by two or more credible witnesses, shall be subject to any action for copying or casting, or vending the same, anything contained in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding. Purchasers of copyright secured in the same.

5. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that all actions to be brought as aforesaid, against any person or persons for any offence committed against this Act shall be commenced within six calendar months next after the discovery of every such offence, and not afterwards. Limitation of actions.

6. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that from and immediately after the expiration of the said term of fourteen years, the sole right of making and disposing of such new and original sculpture, or model, or copy, or cast of any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, shall return to the person or persons who originally made or caused to be made the same, if he or they shall be then living, for the further term of fourteen years, excepting in the case or cases where such person or persons shall by sale or otherwise have divested himself, herself or themselves, of such right of making or disposing of any new and original sculpture, or model, or copy, or cast of any of the matters or things hereinbefore mentioned, previous to the passing of this Act. An additional term of fourteen years, in case the maker of the original sculpture, &c. shall be living.

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60 GEO. 3, CAP. 8.

An Act for the more effectual Prevention and Punishment of Blasphemous and Seditious Libels.—[30*th December*, 1819.] 60 GEO. 3, c. 8.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make more effectual provision for the punishment of blasphemous and seditious libels; be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act, in every case in which any verdict or judgment by default shall be had against any person for composing, printing, or publishing any blasphemous libel, or any seditious libel, tending to bring into hatred or contempt the person of his Majesty, his heirs or successors, or the Regent, or the Government and Constitution of the United Kingdom as by law established, or either House of Parliament, or to excite his Majesty's subjects to attempt the alteration of any matter in Church or State as by law established, otherwise than by lawful means, it shall be lawful for the judge, or the court before whom or in which such verdict shall Court to make order for the seizure of copies of the libel in possession of the persons against whom verdicts shall have been had, &c.

60 Geo. 3, c. 8.

have been given, or the court in which such judgment by default shall be had, to make an order for the seizure and carrying away and detaining in safe custody, in such manner as shall be directed in such order, all copies of the libel which shall be in the possession of the person against whom such verdict or judgment shall have been had, or in the possession of any other person named in the order for his use; evidence upon oath having been previously given to the satisfaction of such court or judge, that a copy or copies of the said libel is or are in the possession of such other person for the use of the person against whom such verdict or judgment shall have been had as aforesaid; and in every such case it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, or for any constable or other peace officer acting under any such order, or for any person or persons acting with or in aid of any such justice of the peace, constable, or other peace officer, to search for any copies of such libel in any house, building, or other place whatsoever belonging to the person against whom any such verdict or judgment shall have been had, or to any other person so named, in whose possession any copies of any such libel, belonging to the person against whom any such verdict or judgment shall have been had, shall be; and in case admission shall be refused or not obtained within a reasonable time after it shall have been first demanded, to enter by force by day into any such house, building, or place whatsoever, and to carry away all copies of the libel there found, and to detain the same in safe custody until the same shall be restored under the provisions of this Act, or disposed of according to any further order made in relation thereto.

Copies of libels so seized to be restored, if judgment for defendant; otherwise to be disposed of as the court shall direct.

2. And be it further enacted, that if in any such case as aforesaid judgment shall be arrested, or if, after judgment shall have been entered, the same shall be reversed upon any writ of error, all copies so seized shall be forthwith returned to the person or persons from whom the same shall have been so taken as aforesaid, free of all charge and expense, and without the payment of any fees whatever; and in every case in which final judgment shall be entered upon the verdict so found against the person or persons charged with having composed, printed, or published such libel, then all copies so seized shall be disposed of as the court in which such judgment shall be given shall order and direct.

Court of Justiciary in Scotland to make order for seizing copies of libels, &c.

3. Provided always, and be it enacted, That in Scotland, in every case in which any person or persons shall be found guilty before the court of justiciary, of composing, printing, or publishing any blasphemous or seditious libel, or where sentence of fugitation shall have been pronounced against any person or persons, in consequence of their failing to appear to answer to any indictment charging them with having composed, printed, or published any such libel, then and in either of such cases, it shall and may be lawful for the said court to make an order for the seizure, carrying away, and detaining in safe custody, all copies of the libel in the possession of any such person or persons, or in the possession of any other person or persons named in such order, for his or their use, evidence upon oath having been previously given to the satisfaction of such court or judge, that a copy or copies of the said libel is or are in the possession of such other person for the use of the person against whom such verdict or judgment shall have been had as aforesaid; and every such order so made shall and may be carried into effect, in such and the same manner as any order made by the Court of Justiciary, or any circuit Court of Justiciary, may be carried into effect according to the law and practice of Scotland: Provided always, that in the event of any

person or persons being reponed against any such sentence of fugitation, and being thereafter acquitted, all copies so seized shall be forthwith returned to the person or persons from whom the same shall have been so taken as aforesaid; and in all other cases, the copies so seized shall be disposed of in such manner as the said court may direct.

Punishment of persons convicted of second offence.

4. And be it further enacted, that if any person shall, after the passing of this Act, be legally convicted of having after the passing of this Act composed, printed, or published any blasphemous libel or any such seditious libel as aforesaid, and shall, after being so convicted, offend a second time, and be thereof legally convicted before any commission of oyer and terminer or gaol delivery, or in his Majesty's Court of King's Bench, such person may, on such second conviction, be adjudged, at the discretion of the court, either to suffer such punishment as may now by law be inflicted in cases of high misdemeanors, or to be banished from the United Kingdom, and all other parts of his Majesty's dominions, for such term of years as the court in which such conviction shall take place shall order.

Persons not departing within thirty days after sentence of banishment, may be conveyed out of his Majesty's dominions.

5. And be it further enacted, that in case any person so sentenced and ordered to be banished as aforesaid, shall not depart from this United Kingdom within thirty days after the pronouncing of such sentence and order as aforesaid, for the purpose of going into such banishment as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for his Majesty to convey such person to such parts out of the dominions of his said Majesty, as his Majesty by and with the advice of his privy council shall direct.

Persons banished found at large within his Majesty's dominions to suffer transportation.

6. And be it further enacted, that if any offender who shall be so ordered by any such court as aforesaid to be banished in manner aforesaid, shall after the end of forty days from the time such sentence and order had been pronounced, be at large within any part of the United Kingdom, or any other part of his Majesty's dominions, without some lawful cause, before the expiration of the term for which such offender shall have been so ordered to be banished as aforesaid, every such offender being so at large as aforesaid, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be transported to such place as shall be appointed by his Majesty for any term not exceeding fourteen years; and such offender may be tried, either before any justices of assize, oyer and terminer, great sessions, or gaol delivery, for the county, city, liberty, borough, or place where such offender shall be apprehended and taken, or where he or she was sentenced to banishment; and the clerk of assize, clerk of the peace, or other clerk or officer of the court having the custody of the records where such order of banishment shall have been made, shall, when thereunto required on his Majesty's behalf, make out and give a certificate in writing, signed by him, containing the effect and substance only (omitting the formal part) of every indictment and conviction of such offender, and of the order for his or her banishment, to the justices of assize, oyer and terminer, great sessions, or gaol delivery, where such offender shall be indicted, for which certificate six shillings and eight pence, and no more, shall be paid, and which certificate shall be sufficient proof of the conviction and order for banishment of any such offender.

Certificate to be given of conviction of former libel.

7. And be it further enacted, that the clerk of assize, clerk of the peace, or other clerk or officer of the court having the custody of the records where any offender shall have been convicted of having composed, printed, or published any blasphemous or seditious libel, shall, upon request of the prosecutor on His Majesty's behalf, make out and

60 Geo. 3, c. 8.

give a certificate in writing, signed by him, containing the effect and substance only (omitting the formal part) of every indictment and conviction of such offender, to the justices of assize, oyer and terminer, great sessions, or gaol delivery, where such offender or offenders shall be indicted for any second offence of composing, printing, or publishing any blasphemous or seditious libel, for which certificate six shillings and eightpence and no more shall be paid, and which certificate shall be sufficient proof of the conviction of such offender.

Limitation of actions.

8. And be it further enacted, that any action and suit which shall be brought or commenced against any justice or justices of the peace, constable, peace officer, or other person or persons, within that part of Great Britain called England, or in Ireland, for anything done or acted in pursuance of this Act, shall be commenced within six calendar months next after the fact committed, and not afterwards; and the venue in every such action or suit shall be laid in the proper county where the fact was committed, and not elsewhere; and the

General issue may be pleaded.

defendant or defendants in every such action or suit may plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon; and if such action or suit shall be brought or commenced after the time limited for bringing the same, or the venue shall be laid in any other place than as aforesaid, then the jury shall find a verdict for the defendant or defendants; and in such case, or if the jury shall find a verdict for the defendant or defendants upon the merits, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuit, or discontinue his, her, or their actions after appearance, or if, upon demurrer, judgment shall be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, the defendant or defendants shall have

Double costs.

double costs, which he or they shall and may recover in such and the same manner as any defendant can by law in other cases.

Limitation of actions, &c. in Scotland.

9. And be it further enacted, that every action and suit which shall be brought or commenced against any person or persons in Scotland, for anything done or acted in pursuance of this Act, shall in like manner be commenced within six calendar months after the fact committed, and not afterwards, and shall be brought in the Court of Session in Scotland; and the defender or defenders may plead that the matter complained of was done in pursuance of this Act, and may give this Act and the special matter in evidence; and if such action or suit shall be brought or commenced after the time limited for bringing the same, then the same shall be dismissed; and in such case, or if the defender or defenders shall be assoilzied, or the pursuer or pursuers shall suffer the action or suit to fall asleep, or a decision shall be pronounced against the pursuer or pursuers upon

Double costs.

the relevancy, the defender or defenders shall have double costs, which he or they shall and may receive in such and the same manner as any defender can by law recover costs or expenses in other cases.

Not to alter the law of Scotland in respect to punishment for libels.

10. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall be held or considered as in any respect altering the law or practice of Scotland regarding the punishment of persons convicted of composing, printing, publishing, or circulating any blasphemous or seditious libel.

Act may be repealed or altered this session.

11. And be it further enacted that this Act may be repealed in the whole or in any part thereof, or in any manner altered or amended, during the present session of Parliament.

3 WILL. 4, CAP. 15.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Dramatic Literary Property. 3 WILL. 4, c. 15.
[10*th June*, 1833.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the fifty-fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third intituled "An Act to amend the several Acts for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies and Copyright of printed Books to the Authors of such Books, or their Assigns," it was amongst other things provided and enacted, that from and after the passing of the said Act the author of any book or books composed, and not printed or published, or which should thereafter be composed and printed and published, and his assignee or assigns, should have the sole liberty of printing and reprinting such book or books for the full term of twenty-eight years, to commence from the day of first publishing the same, and also, if the author should be living at the end of that period, for the residue of his natural life: and whereas it is expedient to extend the provisions of the said Act: be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act the author of any tragedy, comedy, play, opera, farce, or any other dramatic piece or entertainment, composed, and not printed and published by the author thereof or his assignee, or which hereafter shall be composed, and not printed or published by the author thereof or his assignee, or the assignee of such author, shall have as his own property the sole liberty of representing, or causing to be represented, at any place or places of dramatic entertainment whatsoever, in any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Isles of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey, or in any part of the British dominions, any such production as aforesaid, not printed and published by the author thereof or his assignee, and shall be deemed and taken to be the proprietor thereof; and that the author of any such production, printed and published within ten years before the passing of this Act by the author thereof or his assignee, or which shall hereafter be so printed and published, or the assignee of such author, shall, from the time of passing this Act, or from the time of such publication respectively, until the end of twenty-eight years from the day of such first publication of the same, and also, if the author or authors, or the survivor of the authors, shall be living at the end of that period, during the residue of his natural life, have as his own property the sole liberty of representing, or causing to be represented, the same at any such place of dramatic entertainment as aforesaid, and shall be deemed and taken to be the proprietor thereof: provided nevertheless, that nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice, alter, or affect the right or authority of any person to represent or cause to be represented, at any place or places of dramatic entertainment whatsoever, any such production as aforesaid, in all cases in which the author thereof or his assignee shall, previously to the passing of this Act, have given his consent to or authorised such representation, but that such sole liberty of the author or his assignee shall be subject to such right or authority.

54 Geo. 3, c. 156.

The author of any dramatic piece shall have as his property the sole liberty of representing it or causing it to be represented at any place of dramatic entertainment.

Proviso as to cases where, previous to the passing of this Act, a consent has been given.

2. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall, during the continuance of such sole liberty as aforesaid, contrary to the intent of this Act, or right of the author or his assignee, represent, or cause to be represented, without the consent in writing of the author or other proprietor first had and obtained, at any place of dramatic entertain-

Penalty on persons performing pieces contrary to this Act.

3 WILL. 4, c. 15.

ment within the limits aforesaid, any such production as aforesaid, or any part thereof, every such offender shall be liable for each and every such representation to the payment of an amount not less than forty shillings, or to the full amount of the benefit or advantage arising from such representation, or the injury or loss sustained by the plaintiff therefrom, whichever shall be the greater damages, to the author or other proprietor of such production so represented contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, to be recovered, together with double costs of suit, by such author or other proprietors, in any court having jurisdiction in such cases in that part of the said United Kingdom or of the British Dominions in which the offence shall be committed; and in every such proceeding where the sole liberty of such author or his assignee as aforesaid shall be subject to such right or authority as aforesaid, it shall be sufficient for the plaintiff to state that he has such sole liberty, without stating the same to be subject to such right or authority, or otherwise mentioning the same.

Limitation of actions.

3. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, That all actions or proceedings for any offence or injury that shall be committed against this Act shall be brought, sued, and commenced within twelve calendar months next after such offence committed, or else the same shall be void and of no effect.

Explanation of words.

4. And be it further enacted, That whenever authors, persons, offenders, or others are spoken of in this Act in the singular number or in the masculine gender, the same shall extend to any number of persons and to either sex.

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5 & 6 WILL. 4, CAP. 65.

5 & 6 WILL. 4, c. 65.

An Act for preventing the Publication of Lectures without Consent.
[*9th September*, 1835.]

WHEREAS printers, publishers, and other persons have frequently taken the liberty of printing and publishing lectures delivered upon divers subjects, without the consent of the authors of such lectures, or the persons delivering the same in public, to the great dotriment of such authors and lecturers: Be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five

Authors of lectures, or their assigns, to have the sole right of publishing them.

the author of any lecture or lectures, or the person to whom he hath sold or otherwise conveyed the copy thereof, in order to deliver the same in any school, seminary, institution, or other place, or for any other purpose, shall have the sole right and liberty of printing and publishing such lecture or lectures; and that if any person shall, by taking down the same in shorthand or otherwise in writing, or in any other way, obtain or make a copy of such lecture or lectures, and shall print or lithograph or otherwise copy and publish the same, or cause the same to be printed, lithographed, or otherwise copied and published, without leave of the author thereof, or of the person to whom the author thereof hath sold or otherwise conveyed the same, and every person who, knowing the same to have been printed or copied and published without such consent, shall sell, publish, or expose to sale, or cause to be sold, published, or exposed to sale, any such lecture or lectures, shall forfeit such printed or otherwise copied lecture or lectures, or parts thereof, together with one penny for

Penalty on other persons publishing, &c. lectures without leave.

every sheet thereof which shall be found in his custody, either printed, lithographed, or copied, or printing, lithographing, or copying, published or exposed to sale, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, the one moiety thereof to his Majesty, his heirs or successors, and the other moiety thereof to any person who shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record in Westminster, by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in which no wager of law, essoign, privilege, or protection, or more than one imparlance, shall be allowed. 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65.

Penalty on printers or publishers of newspapers publishing lectures without leave.

2. And be it further enacted, that any printer or publisher of any newspaper who shall, without such leave as aforesaid, print and publish in such newspaper any lecture or lectures, shall be deemed and taken to be a person printing and publishing without leave within the provisions of this Act, and liable to the aforesaid forfeitures and penalties in respect of such printing and publishing.

Persons having leave to attend lectures not on that account licensed to publish them.

3. And be it further enacted, That no person allowed for certain fee and reward, or otherwise, to attend and be present at any lecture delivered in any place, shall be deemed and taken to be licensed or to have leave to print, copy, and publish such lectures only because of having leave to attend such lecture or lectures.

Act not to prohibit the publishing of lectures after expiration of the copyright.

4. Provided always, That nothing in this Act shall extend to prohibit any person from printing, copying, and publishing any lecture or lectures which have or shall have been printed and published with leave of the authors thereof or their assignees, and whereof the time hath or shall have expired within which the sole right to print and publish the same is given by an Act passed in the eighth year of the reign of Queen Anne, intituled "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by vesting the Copies of printed Books in the Authors or Purchasers of such copies during the times therein mentioned," and by another Act passed in the fifty-fourth year of the reign of King George the Third, intituled "An Act to amend the several Acts for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies and Copyright of printed Books to the Authors of such Books, or their Assigns," or to any lectures which have been printed or published before the passing of this Act. 8 Ann. c. 19. 54 Geo. 3, c. 156.

Act not to extend to lectures delivered in unlicensed places, &c.

5. Provided further, That nothing in this Act shall extend to any lecture or lectures, or the printing, copying, or publishing any lecture or lectures, or parts thereof, of the delivering of which notice in writing shall not have been given to two justices living within five miles from the place where such lecture or lectures shall be delivered two days at the least before delivering the same, or to any lecture or lectures delivered in any university or public school or college, or on any public foundation, or by any individual in virtue of or according to any gift, endowment, or foundation; and that the law relating thereto shall remain the same as if this Act had not been passed.

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6 & 7 Will. 4, cap. 59.

An Act to extend the Protection of Copyright in Prints and Engravings to Ireland.—[13*th August*, 1836.] 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59.

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the seventeenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act for more effectually securing the Property of Prints to Inventors and Engravers, by enabling them to sue for and recover Penalties in certain cases:" and whereas it is desirable to extend the provisions 17 Geo. 3, c. 57.

6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59.

of the said Act to Ireland; be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act all the provisions contained in the said recited Act of the seventeenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, and of all the other Acts therein recited, shall be and the same are hereby extended to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Provisions of recited Act extended to Ireland.

Penalty on engraving or publishing any print without consent of proprietor.

2. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, if any engraver, etcher, printseller, or other person shall, within the time limited by the aforesaid recited Acts, engrave, etch, or publish, or cause to be engraved, etched, or published, any engraving or print of any description whatever, either in whole or in part, which may have been or which shall hereafter be published in any part of Great Britain or Ireland, without the express consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing, signed by him, her, or them respectively, with his, her, or their own hand or hands, in the presence of and attested by two or more credible witnesses, then every such proprietor shall and may, by and in a separate action upon the case, to be brought against the person so offending in any court of law in Great Britain or Ireland, recover such damages as a jury on the trial of such action or on the execution of a writ of inquiry thereon shall give or assess, together with double costs of suit.

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6 & 7 Will. 4, cap. 76.

6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76.

An Act to reduce the Duties on Newspapers, and to amend the Laws relating to the Duties on Newspapers and Advertisements.—[13*th August*, 1836.

Whereas it is expedient to reduce the stamp duties now payable on newspapers in Great Britain and Ireland respectively, and to consolidate and amend the laws relating thereto and also to the duties on advertisements: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that in lieu of the stamp duties on newspapers by this Act repealed as hereinafter mentioned there shall be granted, raised, levied, and paid unto and for the use of his Majesty, his heirs and successors, in and throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the several duties or sums of money set down in figures, or otherwise specified and set forth in the schedule marked (A.) to this Act annexed; which said schedule, and every clause, regulation, matter, and thing therein contained, shall be deemed and taken to be part of this Act; and the said duties hereby granted shall commence and take effect on the fifteenth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, and shall be denominated and deemed to be stamp duties, and shall be under the care and management of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, who are hereby empowered and required to provide and use proper and sufficient dies for expressing and denoting the said duties; and all the powers, provisions, clauses, regulations, and directions, fines, forfeitures, pains, and penalties, contained in and imposed by the several Acts of Parliament in force relating to the stamp duties, and not repealed by this Act, shall be of full force and effect with respect

Reduced duties granted on newspapers in lieu of duties repealed.

Duties to commence on the 15th day of September, 1836.

Powers and provisions of existing Stamp Acts to extend to the duties granted by this Act.

to the duties hereby granted, as far as the same are or shall be applicable, in all cases not hereby expressly provided for, and shall be observed, applied, enforced, and put in execution for the raising, levying, collecting, and securing of the said duties hereby granted and otherwise relating thereto, so far as the same shall not be superseded by and shall be consistent with the express provisions of this Act, as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as if the same had been herein repeated and specially enacted with reference to the said duties hereby granted. 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76.

Discount of 25*l.* per cent. allowed on newspaper stamps in Ireland.

2. And be it enacted, that a discount after the rate of twenty-five pounds per centum on the prompt payment of any sum amounting to ten pounds or upwards, for the duties on newspapers granted by this Act, shall be allowed to all proprietors of newspapers in Ireland on the purchase of stamps for the printing of newspapers in Ireland, which discount shall be denoted on the face of every stamp in respect of which the same shall be allowed: Provided always, that if any newspaper shall be printed in Great Britain upon paper stamped with a stamp denoting the allowance of any such discount, such stamp shall be of no avail, and such newspaper shall be deemed to be not duly stamped as required by this Act.

A separate stamp or die to be used for each newspaper.

3. And be it enacted, that from and after the thirty-first day of December next after the passing of this Act in the stamp to be impressed on each and every newspaper under the provisions of this Act the title of such newspaper, or some part thereof, shall be expressed in such convenient manner and form as to the said commissioners of stamps and taxes shall seem expedient; and the said commissioners shall cause a proper die for stamping each such newspaper to be prepared under their directions, and a new or other die to be from time to time prepared, in like manner as they shall think necessary; and the reasonable costs and expenses of preparing such stamps or dies shall be from time to time defrayed by the proprietor of each such newspaper, and paid when and as required by the said commissioners to such person as the said commissioners shall appoint to receive the same, before any paper shall be stamped under the directions of such commissioners for each such newspaper; and that from and after the thirty-first day of December next after the passing of this Act no newspaper liable to duty under this Act shall be printed upon paper not stamped with such die, containing the title of such newspaper, or some part thereof as aforesaid; and if any newspaper shall be printed on paper stamped otherwise than as aforesaid the stamp thereon shall be of no avail, and such newspaper shall be deemed to be not duly stamped as required by this Act.

After 31st December, 1836, no newspaper to be printed on paper not stamped with such appropriated die.

Newspapers subject to the regulations of this Act.

4. And be it enacted, that every paper declared by the schedule (A.) to this Act annexed to be chargeable with the duties by this Act granted on newspapers shall be deemed and taken to be a newspaper within the meaning of this Act and of every Act relating to the printing or publishing of newspapers, and shall be subject and liable to all the regulations by this Act imposed; and wheresoever in this Act or in any other Act or Acts relating to the printing or publishing of newspapers the word "newspaper" is or may be used, it shall be deemed and taken to mean and include any and every such paper as aforesaid; and in all proceedings at law or otherwise, and upon all occasions whatsoever, it shall be sufficient to describe by the word "newspaper" any paper by this Act declared to be a newspaper, without further or otherwise designating or describing the same.

Discovery of proprietors.

19. And be it enacted, That if any person shall file any bill in any court for the discovery of the name of any person concerned as

6 & 7 WILL. 4, c. 76.

printers, or publishers of newspapers, may be enforced by bill, &c.

printer, publisher, or proprietor of any newspaper, or of any matters relative to the printing or publishing of any newspaper, in order the more effectually to bring or carry on any suit or action for damages alleged to have been sustained by reason of any slanderous or libellous matter contained in any such newspaper respecting such person, it shall not be lawful for the defendant to plead or demur to such bill, but such defendant shall be compellable to make the discovery required: Provided always, that such discovery shall not be made use of as evidence or otherwise in any proceeding against the defendant save only in that proceeding for which the discovery is made.

Stamps rendered useless by this Act may be cancelled and allowed.

34. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any person having in his possession any paper stamped with any of the duties hereby repealed, and not made use of, or who may at any time hereafter have in his possession any paper stamped for denoting the duties by this Act granted, and which may be rendered useless by reason of any change of dies, or by the operation of any of the provisions of this Act, to bring the same to the head office for stamps in London, Edinburgh, or Dublin respectively at any time within six calendar months next after the said fifteenth day of September One thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, or within six calendar months next after the same shall be so rendered useless, in order that the stamps thereon may be cancelled and allowed; and it shall be lawful for the commissioners of stamps and taxes or their proper officers to cancel and allow such stamps accordingly, and to stamp such paper or any portion thereof, and any other paper which shall be brought for that purpose, with stamps denoting the duty by this Act granted to the amount or value of the stamps so to be cancelled and allowed as aforesaid, after deducting the amount of any discount allowed thereon.

Construction of the terms used in this Act.

35. And in order to avoid the frequent use of divers terms and expressions in this Act, and to prevent any misconstruction of the terms and expressions used therein; be it enacted, that wherever in this Act, with reference to any person, matter, or thing, any word or words is or are used importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, yet such word or words shall be understood and construed to include several persons as well as one person, females as well as males, bodies politic or corporate as well as individuals, and several matters or things as well as one matter or thing, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO IN THIS ACT.

SCHEDULE (A.)

	£	s.	d.
Containing the duties imposed by this Act on Newspapers; (that is to say,)			
For every sheet or other piece of paper whereon any newspaper shall be printed	0	0	1
And where such sheet or piece of paper shall contain on one side thereof a superficies, exclusive of the margin of the letter-press, exceeding one thousand five hundred and thirty inches, and not exceeding two thousand two hundred and ninety-five inches, the additional duty of	0	0	0½
And where the same shall contain on one side thereof a superficies, exclusive of the margin of the letter-press, exceeding two thousand two hundred and ninety-five inches, the additional duty of	0	0	1

Provided always, that any sheet or piece of paper containing on one side thereof a superficies, exclusive of the margin of the letter-press, not exceeding seven hundred and sixty-five inches, which shall be published with and as a supplement to any newspaper chargeable with any of the duties aforesaid, shall be chargeable only with the duty of 0 0 0½

And the following shall be deemed and taken to be newspapers chargeable with the said duties; viz.

Any paper containing public news, intelligence, or occurrences printed in any part of the United Kingdom to be dispersed and made public:

Also any paper printed in any part of the United Kingdom weekly or oftener, or at intervals not exceeding twenty-six days, containing only or principally advertisements:

And also any paper containing any public news, intelligence, or occurrences, or any remarks or observations thereon, printed in any part of the United Kingdom for sale, and published periodically or in parts or numbers at intervals not exceeding twenty-six days between the publication of any two such papers, parts, or numbers, where any of the said papers, parts, or numbers respectively shall not exceed two sheets of the dimensions hereinafter specified, (exclusive of any cover or blank leaf, or any other leaf upon which any advertisement or other notice shall be printed,) or shall be published for sale for a less sum than sixpence, exclusive of the duty by this Act imposed thereon: Provided always, that no quantity of paper less than a quantity equal to twenty-one inches in length and seventeen inches in breadth, in whatever way or form the same may be made or may be divided into leaves, or in whatever way the same may be printed, shall, with reference to any such paper, part, or number as aforesaid, be deemed or taken to be a sheet of paper:

And provided also, that any of the several papers hereinbefore described shall be liable to the duties by this Act imposed thereon, in whatever way or form the same may be printed or folded, or divided into leaves or stitched, and whether the same shall be folded, divided, or stitched, or not.

EXEMPTIONS.

Any paper called "Police Gazette, or Hue and Cry," published in Great Britain by authority of the Secretary of State, or in Ireland by the authority of the Lord Lieutenant.

Daily accounts or bills of goods imported and exported, or warrants or certificates for the delivery of goods, and the weekly bills of mortality, and also papers containing any lists of prices current, or of the state of the markets, or any account of the arrival, sailing, or other circumstances relating to merchant ships or vessels, or any other matter wholly of a commercial nature, provided such bills, lists, or accounts do not contain any other matter than what hath been usually comprised therein.

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3 VICT. CAP. 9.

An Act to give summary Protection to Persons employed in the Publication of Parliamentary Papers.—[*14th April*, 1840.]

WHEREAS it is essential to the due and effectual exercise and discharge of the functions and duties of Parliament, and to the promotion of wise legislation, that no obstructions or impediments should exist to the publication of such of the reports, papers, votes, or proceedings of either House of Parliament as such House of Parliament may deem fit or necessary to be published: And whereas obstructions or impediments to such publication have arisen, and hereafter may arise, by means of civil or criminal proceedings being taken against

8 Vict. c. 9.

persons employed by or acting under the authority of the Houses of Parliament, or one of them, in the publication of such reports, papers, votes, or proceedings; by reason and for remedy whereof it is expedient that more speedy protection should be afforded to all persons acting under the authority aforesaid, and that all such civil or criminal proceedings should be summarily put an end to and determined in manner hereinafter mentioned: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons who now is or are, or hereafter shall be, a defendant or defendants in any civil or criminal proceeding commenced or prosecuted in any manner soever, for or on account or in respect of the publication of any such report, paper, votes, or proceedings by such person or persons, or by his, her, or their servant or servants, by or under the authority of either House of Parliament, to bring before the court in which such proceeding shall have been or shall be so commenced or prosecuted, or before any judge of the same (if one of the superior courts at Westminster), first giving twenty-four hours' notice of his intention so to do to the prosecutor or plaintiff in such proceeding, a certificate under the hand of the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, or the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, or of the Speaker of the House of Lords, for the time being, or of the Clerk of the Parliaments, or of the Speaker of the House of Commons, or of the Clerk of the same House, stating that the report, paper, votes, or proceedings, as the case may be, in respect whereof such civil or criminal proceeding shall have been commenced or prosecuted, was published by such person or persons, or by his, her, or their servant or servants, by order or under the authority of the House of Lords or of the House of Commons, as the case may be, together with an affidavit verifying such certificate; and such court or judge shall thereupon immediately stay such civil or criminal proceeding, and the same, and every writ or process issued therein, shall be and shall be deemed and taken to be finally put an end to, determined, and superseded by virtue of this Act.

Proceedings, criminal or civil, against persons for publication of papers printed by order of Parliament, to be stayed, upon delivery of a certificate and affidavit to the effect that such publication is by order of either House of Parliament.

2. And be it enacted, that in case of any civil or criminal proceeding hereafter to be commenced or prosecuted for or on account or in respect of the publication of any copy of such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, it shall be lawful for the defendant or defendants at any stage of the proceedings to lay before the court or judge such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, and such copy, with an affidavit verifying such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, and the correctness of such copy, and the court or judge shall immediately stay such civil or criminal proceeding, and the same, and every writ or process issued therein, shall be and shall be deemed and taken to be finally put an end to, determined, and superseded by virtue of this Act.

Proceedings to be stayed when commenced in respect of a copy of an authenticated report, &c.

3. And be enacted, that it shall be lawful in any civil or criminal proceeding to be commenced or prosecuted for printing any extract from or abstract of such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, to give in evidence under the general issue such report, paper, votes, or proceedings, and to show that such extract or abstract was published *bonâ fide* and without malice; and if such shall be the opinion of the jury, a verdict of not guilty shall be entered for the defendant or defendants.

In proceedings for printing any extract or abstract of a paper, it may be shown that such extract was *bonâ fide* made.

4. Provided always, and it is hereby expressly declared and enacted, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken, or held or construed, directly or indirectly, by implication or otherwise, to affect the privileges of Parliament in any manner whatsoever.

Act not to affect the privileges of Parliament.

5 & 6 Vict. cap. 45.

An Act to amend the Law of Copyright.—[1*st July*, 1842.] 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the law relating to copyright, and to afford greater encouragement to the production of literary works of lasting benefit to the world: Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from the passing of this Act an Act passed in the eighth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Anne, intituled "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by vesting the Copies of Printed Books in the Authors or Purchasers of such Copies during the Times therein mentioned;" and also an Act passed in the forty-first year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act for the further Encouragement of Learning in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, by securing the Copies and Copyright of printed Books to the Authors of such Books, or their Assigns, for the Time therein mentioned;" and also an Act passed in the fifty-fourth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act to amend the several Acts for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies and Copyright of printed Books to the Authors of such Books, or their Assigns," be and the same are hereby repealed, except so far as the continuance of either of them may be necessary for carrying on or giving effect to any proceedings at law or in equity pending at the time of passing this Act, or for enforcing any cause of action or suit, or any right or contract, then subsisting. Repeal of former Acts; 8 Anne, c. 19. 41 Geo. 3, c. 107. 54 Geo. 3, c. 156.

2. And be it enacted, that in the construction of this Act the word "book" shall be construed to mean and include every volume, part or division of a volume, pamphlet, sheet of letterpress, sheet of music, map, chart, or plan separately published; that the words "dramatic piece" shall be construed to mean and include every tragedy, comedy, play, opera, farce, or other scenic, musical, or dramatic entertainment; that the word "copyright" shall be construed to mean the sole and exclusive liberty of printing or otherwise multiplying copies of any subject to which the said word is herein applied; that the words "personal representative" shall be construed to mean and include every executor, administrator, and next of kin entitled to administration; that the word "assigns" shall be construed to mean and include every person in whom the interest of an author in copyright shall be vested, whether derived from such author before or after the publication of any book, and whether acquired by sale, gift, bequest, or by operation of law, or otherwise; that the words "British Dominions" shall be construed to mean and include all parts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, all parts of the East and West Indies, and all the colonies, settlements, and possessions of the Crown which now are or hereafter may be acquired; and that whenever in this Act, in describing any person, matter, or thing, the word importing the singular number or the masculine gender only is used, the same shall be understood to include and to be applied to several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, and several matters or things as well as one matter or thing, respectively, unless there shall be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction. Interpretation of Act.

3. And be it enacted, that the copyright in every book which shall after the passing of this Act be published in the lifetime of its author Endurance of term of copy-

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

right in any book hereafter to be published in the lifetime of the author;

shall endure for the natural life of such author, and for the further time of seven years, commencing at the time of his death, and shall be the property of such author and his assigns: Provided always, that if the said term of seven years shall expire before the end of forty-two years from the first publication of such book, the copyright shall in that case endure for such period of forty-two years; and that the

If published after the author's death.

copyright in every book which shall be published after the death of its author shall endure for the term of forty-two years from the first publication thereof, and shall be the property of the proprietor of the author's manuscript from which such book shall be first published, and his assigns.

In cases of subsisting copyright, the term to be extended, except when it shall belong to an assignee for other consideration than natural love and affection; in which case it shall cease at the expiration of the present term, unless its extension be agreed to between the proprietor and the author.

4. And whereas it is just to extend the benefits of this Act to authors of books published before the passing thereof, and in which copyright still subsists; Be it enacted, that the copyright which at the time of passing this Act shall subsist in any book theretofore published (except as hereinafter mentioned) shall be extended and endure for the full term provided by this Act in cases of books thereafter published, and shall be the property of the person who at the time of passing of this Act shall be the proprietor of such copyright: Provided always, that in all cases in which such copyright shall belong in whole or in part to a publisher or other person who shall have acquired it for other consideration than that of natural love and affection, such copyright shall not be extended by this Act, but shall endure for the term which shall subsist therein at the time of passing of this Act, and no longer, unless the author of such book, if he shall be living, or the personal representative of such author, if he shall be dead, and the proprietor of such copyright, shall, before the expiration of such term, consent and agree to accept the benefits of this Act in respect of such book, and shall cause a minute of such consent in the form in that behalf given in the schedule to this Act annexed to be entered in the book of registry hereinafter directed to be kept, in which case such copyright shall endure for the full term by this Act provided in cases of books to be published after the passing of this Act, and shall be the property of such person or persons as in such minute shall be expressed.

Judicial Committee of the Privy Council may license the republication of books which the proprietor refuses to republish after death of the author.

5. And whereas it is expedient to provide against the suppression of books of importance to the public; be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, on complaint made to them that the proprietor of the copyright in any book after the death of its author has refused to republish or to allow the republication of the same, and that by reason of such refusal such book may be withheld from the public, to grant a licence to such complainant to publish such book, in such manner and subject to such conditions as they may think fit, and that it shall be lawful for such complainant to publish such book according to such licence.

Copies of books published after the passing of this Act, and of all subsequent editions, to be delivered within certain times at the British Museum.

6. And be it enacted, that a printed copy of the whole of every book which shall be published after the passing of this Act, together with all maps, prints, or other engravings belonging thereto, finished and coloured in the same manner as the best copies of the same shall be published, and also of any second or subsequent edition which shall be so published with any additions or alterations, whether the same shall be in letter-press, or in the maps, prints, or other engravings belonging thereto, and whether the first edition of such book shall have been published before or after the passing of this Act, and also of any second or subsequent edition of every book of which the first or some preceding edition shall not have been delivered for the use of the British Museum, bound, sewed, or stitched together, and

upon the best paper on which the same shall be printed, shall, within one calendar month after the day on which any such book shall first be sold, published, or offered for sale within the bills of mortality, or within three calendar months if the same shall first be sold, published, or offered for sale in any other part of the United Kingdom, or within twelve calendar months after the same shall first be sold, published, or offered for sale in any other part of the British dominions, be delivered, on behalf of the publisher thereof, at the British Museum.

Mode of delivering at the British Museum.

7. And be it enacted, that every copy of any book which under the provisions of this Act ought to be delivered as aforesaid shall be delivered at the British Museum between the hours of ten in the forenoon and four in the afternoon on any day except Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Christmas Day, to one of the officers of the said museum, or to some person authorised by the trustees of the said museum to receive the same, and such officer or other person receiving such copy is hereby required to give a receipt in writing for the same, and such delivery shall to all intents and purposes be deemed to be good and sufficient delivery under the provisions of this Act.

A copy of every book to be delivered within a month after demand to the officer of the Stationers Company, for the following libraries: the Bodleian at Oxford, the Public Library at Cambridge, the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh, and that of Trinity College, Dublin.

8. And be it enacted, that a copy of the whole of every book, and of any second or subsequent edition of every book containing additions and alterations, together with all maps and prints belonging thereto, which after the passing of this Act shall be published, shall, on demand thereof in writing, left at the place of abode of the publisher thereof, at any time within twelve months next after the publication thereof, under the hand of the officer of the Company of Stationers who shall from time to time be appointed by the said company for the purposes of this Act, or under the hand of any other person thereto authorised by the persons or bodies politic and corporate, proprietors and managers of the libraries following, (*videlicet*,) the Bodleian Library at Oxford, the Public Library at Cambridge, the Library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh, the Library of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin, be delivered, upon the paper of which the largest number of copies of such book or edition shall be printed for sale, in the like condition as the copies prepared for sale by the publisher thereof respectively, within one month after demand made thereof in writing as aforesaid, to the said officer of the said Company of Stationers for the time being, which copies the said officer shall and he is hereby required to receive at the hall of the said company, for the use of the library for which such demand shall be made within such twelve months as aforesaid; and the said officer is hereby required to give a receipt in writing for the same, and within one month after any such Book shall be so delivered to him as aforesaid to deliver the same for the use of such library.

Publishers may deliver the copies to the libraries, instead of at the Stationers Company.

9. Provided also, and be it enacted, that if any publisher shall be desirous of delivering the copy of such book as shall be demanded on behalf of any of the said libraries at such library, it shall be lawful for him to deliver the same at such library, free of expense, to such librarian or other person authorised to receive the same (who is hereby required in such case to receive and give a receipt in writing for the same), and such delivery shall to all intents and purposes of this Act be held as equivalent to a delivery to the said officer of the Stationers Company.

Penalty for default in delivering copies for the use of the libraries.

10. And be it enacted, that if any publisher of any such book, or of any second or subsequent edition of any such book, shall neglect to deliver the same, pursuant to this Act, he shall for every such

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

default forfeit besides the value of such copy of such book or edition which he ought to have delivered, a sum not exceeding five pounds, to be recovered by the librarian or other officer (properly authorised) of the library for the use whereof such copy should have been delivered, in a summary way, on conviction before two justices of the peace for the county or place where the publisher making default shall reside, or by action of debt or other proceeding of the like nature, at the suit of such librarian or other officer, in any court of record in the United Kingdom, in which action, if the plaintiff shall obtain a verdict, he shall recover his costs reasonably incurred, to be taxed as between attorney and client.

Book of registry to be kept at Stationers hall.

11. And be it enacted, that a book of registry, wherein may be registered, as hereinafter enacted, the proprietorship in the copyright of books, and assignments thereof, and in dramatic and musical pieces, whether in manuscript or otherwise, and licenses affecting such copyright, shall be kept at the hall of the Stationers Company, by the officer appointed by the said company for the purposes of this Act, and shall at all convenient times be open to the inspection of any person, on payment of One shilling for every entry which shall be searched for or inspected in the said book; and that such officer shall, whenever thereunto reasonably required, give a copy of any entry in such book, certified under his hand, and impressed with the stamp of the said company, to be provided by them for that purpose, and which they are hereby required to provide, to any person requiring the same, on payment to him of the sum of five shillings; and such copies so certified and impressed shall be received in evidence in all courts, and in all summary proceedings, and shall be *primâ facie* proof of the proprietorship or assignment of copyright or license as therein expressed, but subject to be rebutted by other evidence, and in the case of dramatic or musical pieces shall be *primâ facie* proof of the right of representation or performance, subject to be rebutted as aforesaid.

Making a false entry in the book of registry a misdemeanor.

12. And be it enacted, that if any person shall wilfully make or cause to be made any false entry in the registry book of the Stationers Company, or shall wilfully produce or cause to be tendered in evidence any paper falsely purporting to be a copy of any entry in the said book, he shall be guilty of an indictable misdemeanour, and shall be punished accordingly.

Entries of copyright may be made in the book of registry.

13. And be it enacted, that after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for the proprietor of copyright in any book heretofore published, or in any book hereafter to be published, to make entry in the registry book of the Stationers Company of the title of such book, the time of the first publication thereof, the name and place of abode of the publisher thereof, and the name and place of abode of the proprietor of the copyright of the said book, or of any portion of such copyright, in the form in that behalf given in the schedule to this Act annexed, upon payment of the sum of five shillings to the officer of the said company; and that it shall be lawful for every such registered proprietor to assign his interest, or any portion of his interest therein, by making entry in the said book of registry of such assignment, and of the name and place of abode of the assignee thereof, in the form given in that behalf in the said schedule, on payment of the like sum; and such assignment so entered shall be effectual in law to all intents and purposes whatsoever, without being subject to any stamp or duty, and shall be of the same force and effect as if such assignment had been made by deed.

Persons aggrieved by any entry in the book of registry may apply to a court of law in term, or judge in vacation, who may order such entry to be varied or expunged.

14. And be it enacted, that if any person shall deem himself aggrieved by any entry made under colour of this Act in the said book of registry, it shall be lawful for such person to apply by motion to the Court of Queen's Bench, Court of Common Pleas, or Court of Exchequer, in term time, or to apply by summons to any judge of either of such courts in vacation, for an order that such entry may be expunged or varied; and that upon any such application by motion or summons to either of the said courts, or to a judge as aforesaid, such court or judge shall make such order for expunging, varying, or confirming such entry, either with or without costs, as to such court or judge shall seem just; and the officer appointed by the Stationers Company for the purposes of this Act shall, on the production to him of any such order for expunging or varying any such entry, expunge or vary the same according to the requisitions of such order.

Remedy for the piracy of books by action on the case.

15. And be it enacted, that if any person shall, in any part of the British dominions, after the passing of this Act, print or cause to be printed, either for sale or exportation, any book in which there shall be subsisting copyright, without the consent in writing of the proprietor thereof, or shall import for sale or hire any such book so having been unlawfully printed from parts beyond the sea, or, knowing such book to have been so unlawfully printed or imported, shall sell, publish, or expose to sale or hire, or cause to be sold, published, or exposed to sale or hire, or shall have in his possession, for sale or hire, any such book so unlawfully printed or imported, without such consent as aforesaid, such offender shall be liable to a special action on the case at the suit of the proprietor of such copyright, to be brought in any court of record in that part of the British dominions in which the offence shall be committed: Provided always, that in Scotland such offender shall be liable to an action in the Court of Session in Scotland, which shall and may be brought and prosecuted in the same manner in which any other action of damages to the like amount may be brought and prosecuted there.

In actions for piracy the defendant to give notice of the objections to the plaintiff's title on which he means to rely.

16. And be it enacted, that after the passing of this Act, in any action brought within the British dominions against any person for printing any such book for sale, hire, or exportation, or for importing, selling, publishing, or exposing to sale or hire, or causing to be imported, sold, published, or exposed to sale or hire, any such book, the defendant, on pleading thereto, shall give to the plaintiff a notice in writing of any objections on which he means to rely on the trial of such action; and if the nature of his defence be, that the plaintiff in such action was not the author or first publisher of the book in which he shall by such action claim copyright, or is not the proprietor of the copyright therein, or that some other person than the plaintiff was the author or first publisher of such book, or is the proprietor of the copyright therein, then the defendant shall specify in such notice the name of the person who he alleges to have been the author or first publisher of such book, or the proprietor of the copyright therein, together with the title of such book, and the time when and the place where such book was first published, otherwise the defendant in such action shall not at the trial or hearing of such action be allowed to give any evidence that the plaintiff in such action was not the author or first publisher of the book in which he claims such copyright as aforesaid, or that he was not the proprietor of the copyright therein; and at such trial or hearing no other objection shall be allowed to be made on behalf of such defendant than the objection stated in such notice, or that any other person was the author or first publisher of such book, or the proprietor of the copyright therein, than the person

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

specified in such notice, or give in evidence in support of his defence any other book than one substantially corresponding in title, time, and place of publication with the title, time, and place specified in such notice.

No person except the proprietor, &c. shall import into the British Dominions for sale or hire any book first composed, &c. within the United Kingdom, and reprinted elsewhere, under penalty of forfeiture thereof, and also of 10*l.* and double the value.

17. And be it enacted, that after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person, not being the proprietor of the copyright, or some person authorised by him, to import into any part of the United Kingdom, or into any other part of the British dominions, for sale or hire, any printed book first composed or written or printed and published in any part of the said United Kingdom, wherein there shall be copyright, and reprinted in any country or place whatsoever out of the British dominions; and if any person, not being such proprietor or person authorised as aforesaid, shall import or bring, or cause to be imported or brought, for sale or hire, any such printed book, into any part of the British dominions, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, or shall knowingly sell, publish, or expose to sale or let to hire, or have in his possession for sale or hire, any such book, then every such book shall be forfeited, and shall be seized by any officer of customs or excise, and the same shall be destroyed by such officer; and every person so offending, being duly convicted thereof before two justices of the peace for the county or place in which such book shall be found, shall also for every such offence forfeit the sum of ten pounds, and double the value of every copy of such book which he shall so import or cause to be imported into any part of the British dominions, or shall knowingly sell, publish, or expose to sale or let to hire, or shall cause to be sold, published, or exposed to sale or let to hire, or shall have in his possession for sale or hire, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, five pounds to the use of such officer of customs or excise, and the remainder of the penalty to the use of the proprietor of the copyright in such book.

Books may be seized by officers of customs or excise.

As to the copyright in encyclopædias, periodicals, and works published in a series, reviews, or magazines.

18. And be it enacted, that when any publisher or other person shall, before or at the time of the passing of this Act, have projected, conducted, and carried on, or shall hereafter project, conduct, and carry on, or be the proprietor of any encyclopædia, review, magazine, periodical work, or work published in a series of books or parts, or any book whatsoever, and shall have employed or shall employ any persons to compose the same, or any volumes, parts, essays, articles, or portions thereof, for publication in or as part of the same, and such work, volumes, parts, essays, articles, or portions shall have been or shall hereafter be composed under such employment, on the terms that the copyright therein shall belong to such proprietor, projector, publisher, or conductor, and paid for by such proprietor, projector, publisher, or conductor, the copyright in every such encyclopædia, review, magazine, periodical work, and work published in a series of books or parts, and in every volume, part, essay, article, and portion so composed and paid for, shall be the property of such proprietor, projector, publisher, or other conductor, who shall enjoy the same rights as if he were the actual author thereof, and shall have such term of copyright therein as is given to the authors of books by this Act; except only that in the case of essays, articles, or portions forming part of and first published in reviews, magazines, or other periodical works of a like nature, after the term of twenty-eight years from the first publication thereof respectively the right of publishing the same in a separate form shall revert to the author for the remainder of the term given by this Act: Provided always, that during the term of twenty-eight years the said proprietor, projector, publisher, or conductor shall not publish any such essay, article, or

portion separately or singly without the consent previously obtained of the author thereof, or his assigns: Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall alter or affect the right of any person who shall have been or who shall be so employed as aforesaid to publish any such his composition in a separate form, who by any contract, express or implied, may have reserved or may hereafter reserve to himself such right; but every author reserving, retaining, or having such right shall be entitled to the copyright in such composition when published in a separate form, according to this Act, without prejudice to the right of such proprietor, projector, publisher, or conductor as aforesaid.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

Proviso for authors who have reserved the right of publishing their articles in a separate form.

19. And be it enacted, that the proprietor of the copyright in any encyclopædia, review, magazine, periodical work, or other work published in a series of books or parts, shall be entitled to all the benefits of the registration at Stationers Hall under this Act, on entering in the said book of registry the title of such encyclopædia, review, periodical work, or other work published in a series of books or parts, the time of the first publication of the first volume, number, or part thereof, or of the first number or volume first published after the passing of this Act in any such work which shall have been published heretofore, and the name and place of abode of the proprietor thereof, and of the publisher thereof, when such publisher shall not also be the proprietor thereof.

Proprietors of encyclopædias, periodicals, and works published in a series, may enter at once at Stationers' Hall, and thereon have the benefit of the registration of the whole.

20. And whereas an Act was passed in the third year of the reign of his late Majesty, to amend the law relating to dramatic literary property, and it is expedient to extend the term of the sole liberty of representing dramatic pieces given by that Act to the full time by this Act provided for the continuance of copyright: And whereas it is expedient to extend to musical compositions the benefits of that Act, and also of this Act; be it therefore enacted, that the provisions of the said Act of his late Majesty, and of this Act, shall apply to musical compositions, and that the sole liberty of representing or performing, or causing or permitting to be represented or performed, any dramatic piece or musical composition, shall endure and be the property of the author thereof, and his assigns, for the term in this Act provided for the duration of copyright in books; and the provisions hereinbefore enacted in respect of the property of such copyright, and of registering the same, shall apply to the liberty of representing or performing any dramatic piece or musical composition, as if the same were herein expressly re-enacted and applied thereto, save and except that the first public representation or performance of any dramatic piece or musical composition shall be deemed equivalent, in the construction of this Act, to the first publication of any book: Provided always, that in case of any dramatic piece, or musical composition in manuscript, it shall be sufficient for the person having the sole liberty of representing or performing, or causing to be represented or performed the same, to register only the title thereof, the name and place of abode of the author or composer thereof, the name and place of abode of the proprietor thereof, and the time and place of its first representation or performance.

The provisions of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15, extended to musical compositions, and the term of copyright, as provided by this Act, applied to the liberty of representing dramatic pieces and musical compositions.

21. And be it enacted, that the person who shall at any time have the sole liberty of representing such dramatic piece or musical composition shall have and enjoy the remedies given and provided in the said Act of the third and fourth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, passed to amend the laws relating to dramatic literary property, during the whole of his interest therein, as fully as if the same were re-enacted in this Act.

Proprietors of right of dramatic representations shall have all the remedies given by 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

Assignment of copyright of a dramatic piece not to convey the right of representation.

22. And be it enacted, that no assignment of the copyright of any book consisting of or containing a dramatic piece or musical composition shall be holden to convey to the assignee the right of representing or performing such dramatic piece or musical composition, unless an entry in the said registry book shall be made of such assignment, wherein shall be expressed the intention of the parties that such right should pass by such assignment.

Books pirated shall become the property of the proprietor of the copyright, and may be recovered by action.

23. And be it enacted, that all copies of any book wherein there shall be copyright, and of which entry shall have been made in the said registry book, and which shall have been unlawfully printed or imported without the consent of the registered proprietor of such copyright, in writing under his hand first obtained, shall be deemed to be the property of the proprietor of such copyright, and who shall be registered as such, and such registered proprietor shall, after demand thereof in writing, be entitled to sue for and recover the same, or damages for the detention thereof, in an action of detinue, from any party who shall detain the same, or to sue for and recover damages for the conversion thereof in an action of trover.

No proprietor of copyright commencing after this Act shall sue or proceed for any infringement before making entry in the book of registry.

Proviso for dramatic pieces.

24. And be it enacted, that no proprietor of copyright in any book which shall be first published after the passing of this Act shall maintain any action or suit, at law or in equity, or any summary proceeding, in respect of any infringement of such copyright, unless he shall, before commencing such action, suit, or proceeding, have caused an entry to be made, in the book of registry of the Stationers Company, of such book, pursuant to this Act: Provided always, that the omission to make such entry shall not affect the copyright in any book, but only the right to sue or proceed in respect of the infringement thereof as aforesaid: Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall prejudice the remedies which the proprietor of the sole liberty of representing any dramatic piece shall have by virtue of the Act passed in the third year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, to amend the laws relating to dramatic literary property, or of this Act, although no entry shall be made in the book of registry aforesaid.

Copyright shall be personal property.

25. And be it enacted, that all copyright shall be deemed personal property, and shall be transmissible by bequest, or, in case of intestacy, shall be subject to the same law of distribution as other personal property, and in Scotland shall be deemed to be personal and moveable estate.

General issue.

26. And be it enacted, that if any action or suit shall be commenced or brought against any person or persons whomsoever for doing or causing to be done anything in pursuance of this Act, the defendant or defendants in such action may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence; and if upon such action a verdict shall be given for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuited, or discontinue his action, then the defendant shall have and recover his full costs, for which he shall have the same remedy as a defendant in any case by law hath; and that all actions, suits, bills, indictments, or informations for any offence that shall be committed against this Act shall be brought, sued, and commenced within twelve calendar months next after such offence committed, or else the same shall be void and of none effect; provided that such limitation of time shall not extend or be construed to extend to any actions, suits, or other proceedings which under the authority of this Act shall or may be brought, sued, or commenced for or in respect of any copies of books to be delivered for the use of the British Museum, or of any one of the four libraries hereinbefore mentioned.

Limitation of actions;

not to extend to actions, &c. in respect of the delivery of books.

27. Provided always, and be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall affect or alter the rights of the two universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the colleges or houses of learning within the same, the four Universities in Scotland, the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth, near Dublin, and the several colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, in any copyrights heretofore and now vested or hereafter to be vested in such universities and colleges respectively, anything to the contrary herein contained notwithstanding. 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45. Saving the rights of the Universities, and the Colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester.

28. Provided also, and be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall affect, alter, or vary any right subsisting at the time of passing of this Act, except as herein expressly enacted; and all contracts, agreements, and obligations made and entered into before the passing of this Act, and all remedies relating thereto, shall remain in full force, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Saving all subsisting rights, contracts, and engagements.

29. And be it enacted, that this Act shall extend to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and to every part of the British dominions. Extent of the Act.

30. And be it enacted, that this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in the present Session of Parliament. Act may be amended this session.

SCHEDULE TO WHICH THE PRECEDING ACT REFERS

No. 1.

FORM OF MINUTE OF CONSENT TO BE ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

We the undersigned, *A.B.* of the author of a certain book, intituled *Y.Z.* [*or* the personal representative of the author, *as the case may be*], and *C.D.* of do hereby certify, that we have consented and agreed to accept the benefits of the Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, cap. , for the extention of the term of copyright therein provided by the said Act, and hereby declare that such extended term of copyright therein is the property of the said *A.B.* or *C.D.*

Dated this day of 18 .

(Signed) *A.B.*
C.D.

Witness .

To the Registering Officer appointed by the Stationers Company.

No. 2.

FORM OF REQUIRING ENTRY OF PROPRIETORSHIP.

I *A.B.* of do hereby certify, that I am the proprietor of the copyright of a book, intituled *Y.Z.*, and I hereby require you to make entry in the register book of the Stationers Company of my proprietorship of such copyright, according to the particulars underwritten.

Title of Book.	Name of Publisher, and Place of Publication.	Name and Place of Abode of the Proprietor of the Copyright.	Date of First Publication.
Y.Z.		*A.B.*	

Dated this day of 18 .

Witness, *C.D.*

(Signed) *A.B.*

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

No. 3.

ORIGINAL ENTRY OF PROPRIETORSHIP OF COPYRIGHT OF A BOOK.

Time of making the Entry.	Title of Book.	Name of the Publisher, and Place of Publication.	Name and Place of Abode of the Proprietor of the Copyright.	Date of First Publication.
	Y.Z.	*A.B.*	*C.D.*	

No. 4.

FORM OF CONCURRENCE OF THE PARTY ASSIGNING IN ANY BOOK PREVIOUELY REGISTERED.

I *A.B.* of being the assigner of the copyright of the book hereunder described, do hereby require you to make entry of the assignment of the copyright therein.

Title of Book.	Assigner of the Copyright.	Assignee of Copyright
Y.Z.	*A.B.*	*C.D.*

Dated this day of 18 .

(Signed) *A.B.*

No. 5.

FORM OF ENTRY OF ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHT IN ANY BOOK PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED.

Date of Entry.	Title of Book.	Assigner of the Copyright.	Assignee of Copyright.
	[Set out the title of the book, and refer to the page of the registry book in which the original entry of the copyright thereof is made.]	*A.B.*	*C.D.*

5 & 6 VICT. CAP. 100.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 100. *An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Copyright of Designs for ornamenting Articles of Manufacture.*—[10*th August*, 1842.]

WHEREAS by the several Acts mentioned in the schedule (A.) to this Act annexed there was granted, in respect of the woven fabrics therein mentioned, the sole right to use any new and original pattern for printing the same during the period of three calendar months: And whereas by the Act mentioned in the schedule (B.) to this Act annexed there was granted, in respect of all articles except lace, and except the

articles within the meaning of the Acts hereinbefore referred to, the sole right of using any new and original design, for certain purposes, during the respective periods therein mentioned; but forasmuch as the protection afforded by the said Acts in respect of the application of designs to certain articles of manufacture is insufficient, it is expedient to extend the same, but upon the conditions hereinafter expressed: Now for that purpose, and for the purpose of consolidating the provisions of the said Acts, be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that this Act shall come into operation on the first day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, and that thereupon all the said Acts mentioned in the said schedules (A.) and (B.) to this Act annexed shall be and they are hereby revealed. 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

Commencement of Act and repeal of former Acts.

2. Provided always, and be it enacted, that notwithstanding such repeal of the said Acts every copyright in force under the same shall continue in force till the expiration of such copyright; and with regard to all offences or injuries committed against any such copyright before this Act shall come into operation, every penalty imposed and every remedy given by the said Acts, in relation to any such offence or injury, shall be applicable as if such Acts had not been repealed; but with regard to such offences or injuries committed against any such copyright after this Act shall come into operation, every penalty imposed and every remedy given by this Act in relation to any such offence or injury shall be applicable as if such copyright had been conferred by this Act.

Proviso as to existing copyrights.

3. And with regard to any new and original design (except for sculpture and other things within the provisions of the several Acts mentioned in the schedule (C.) to this Act annexed), whether such design be applicable to the ornamenting of any article of manufacture, or of any substance, artificial or natural, or partly artificial and partly natural, and that whether such design be so applicable for the pattern, or for the shape or configuration, or for the ornament thereof, or for any two or more of such purposes, and by whatever means such design may be so applicable, whether by printing, or by painting, or by embroidery, or by weaving, or by sewing, or by modelling, or by casting, or by embossing, or by engraving, or by staining, or by any other means whatsoever, manual, mechanical, or chemical, separate or combined: Be it enacted, that the proprietor of every such design, not previously published, either within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or elsewhere, shall have the sole right to apply the same to any articles of manufacture, or to any such substances as aforesaid, provided the same be done within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the respective terms hereinafter mentioned, such respective terms to be computed from the time of such design being registered according to this Act; (that is to say,)

Grant of copyright.

In respect of the application of any such design to ornamenting any article of manufacture contained in the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth, or eleventh of the classes following, for the term of three years:

In respect of the application of any such design to ornamenting any article of manufacture contained in the seventh, ninth, or tenth of the classes following, for the term of nine calendar months:

In respect of the application of any such design to ornamenting

5 & 6 Vict c. 100.

any article of manufacture or substance contained in the twelfth or thirteenth of the classes following, for the term of twelve calendar months:

Class 1.--Articles of manufacture composed wholly or chiefly of any metal or mixed metals:

Class 2.—Articles of manufacture composed wholly or chiefly of wood:

Class 3.—Articles of manufacture composed wholly or chiefly of glass:

Class 4.—Articles of manufacture composed wholly or chiefly of earthenware:

Class 5.—Paper hangings:

Class 6.—Carpets:

Class 7.—Shawls, if the design be applied solely by printing, or by any other process by which colours are or may hereafter be produced upon tissue or textile fabrics:

Class 8.—Shawls not comprised in class 7:

Class 9.—Yarn, thread, or warp, if the design be applied by printing, or by any other process by which colours are or may hereafter be produced:

Class 10.—Woven Fabrics composed of linen, cotton, wool, silk, or hair, or of any two or more of such materials, if the design be applied by printing, or by any other process by which colours are or may hereafter be produced upon tissue or textile fabrics; excepting the articles included in class 11:

Class 11.—Woven fabrics composed of linen, cotton, wool, silk, or hair, or of any two or more of such materials, if the design be applied by printing, or by any other process by which colours are or may hereafter be produced upon tissue or textile fabrics, such woven fabrics being or coming within the description technically called furnitures, and the repeat of the design whereof shall be more than twelve inches by eight inches:

Class 12.—Woven fabrics not comprised in any preceding class:

Class 13.—Lace, and any article of manufacture or substance not comprised in any preceding class.

Conditions of copyright.

4. Provided always, and be it enacted, that no person shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, with regard to any design in respect of the application thereof to ornamenting any article of manufacture, or any such substance, unless such design have before publi-

Registration.

cation thereof been registered according to this Act, and unless at the time of such registration such design have been registered in respect of the application thereof to some or one of the articles of manufacture or substances comprised in the above-mentioned classes, by specifying the number of the class in respect of which such registration is made, and unless the name of such person shall be registered according to this Act as a proprietor of such design, and unless after publication of such design every such article of manufacture, or such substance to which the same shall be so applied, published by him, hath thereon, if the article of manufacture be a woven fabric for printing, at one end thereof, or if of any other kind or such substance as aforesaid, at the end or edge thereof, or other convenient place

Marks denoting a registered design.

thereon, the letters "Rd," together with such number or letter, or number and letter, and in such form as shall correspond with the

date of the registration of such design according to the registry of designs in that behalf; and such marks may be put on any such article of manufacture or such substance, either by marking the same in or on the material itself of which such article or such substance shall consist, or by attaching thereto a label containing such marks.

The term "proprietor" explained.

5. And be it enacted, that the author of any such new and original design shall be considered the proprietor thereof, unless he have executed the work on behalf of another person for a good or a valuable consideration, in which case such person shall be considered the proprietor, and shall be entitled to be registered in the place of the author; and every person acquiring for a good or a valuable consideration a new and original design, or the right to apply the same to ornamenting any one or more articles of manufacture, or any one or more such substances as aforesaid, either exclusively of any other person or otherwise, and also every person upon whom the property in such design or such right to the application thereof shall devolve, shall be considered the proprietor of the design in the respect in which the same may have been so acquired, and to that extent, but not otherwise.

Transfer of copyright, and register thereof.

6. And be it enacted, that every person purchasing or otherwise acquiring the right to the entire or partial use of any such design may enter his title in the register hereby provided, and any writing purporting to be a transfer of such design, and signed by the proprietor thereof, shall operate as an effectual transfer; and the registrar shall, on request, and the production of such writing, or, in the case of acquiring such right by any other mode than that of purchase, on the production of any evidence to the satisfaction of the registrar, insert the name of the new proprietor in the registrar; and the following may be the form of such transfer, and of such request to the registrar:

Form of Transfer, and Authority to register.

I *A.B.*, author [*or* proprietor] of design, No. having transferred my right thereto, [*or, if such transfer be partial,*] so far as regards the ornamenting of [*describe the articles of manufacture or substances, or the locality, with respect to which the right is transferred,*] to *B.C.* of do hereby authorise you to insert his name on the register of designs accordingly.

Form of Request to register.

I *B.C.*, the person mentioned in the above transfer, do request you to register my name and property in the said design as entitled [*if to the entire use*] to the entire use of such design, [*or, if to the partial use,*] to the partial use of such design, so far as regards the application thereof [*describe the articles of manufacture, or the locality, in relation to which the right is transferred*].

But if such request to register be made by any person to whom any such design shall devolve otherwise than by transfer, such request may be in the following form:

I *C.D.*, in whom is vested by [*state bankruptcy or otherwise*] the design, No. [*or, if such devolution be of a partial right,* so far as regards the application thereof] to [*describe the articles of manufacture or substance, or the locality, in relation to which the right has devolved*].

5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

Piracy of designs.

7. And for preventing the piracy of registered designs, be it enacted, that during the existence of any such right to the entire or partial use of any such design no person shall either do or cause to be done any of the following acts with regard to any articles of manufacture, or substances, in respect of which the copyright of such design shall be in force, without the licence or consent in writing of the registered proprietor thereof; (that is to say,)

No person shall apply any such design, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, for the purpose of sale, to the ornamenting of any article of manufacture, or any substance, artificial or natural, or partly artificial and partly natural:

No person shall publish, sell, or expose for sale any article of manufacture, or any substance to which such design, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, shall have been so applied, after having received, either verbally or in writing, or otherwise, from any source other than the proprietor of such design, knowledge that his consent has not been given to such application, or after having been served with or had left at his premises a written notice signed by such proprietor or his agent to the same effect.

Recovery of penalties for piracy.

8. And be it enacted, that if any person commit any such act he shall for every offence forfeit a sum not less than five pounds and not exceeding thirty pounds to the proprietor of the design in respect of whose right such offence has been committed; and such proprietor may recover such penalty as follows:

In England, either by an action of debt or on the case against the party offending, or by summary proceeding before two justices having jurisdiction where the party offending resides; and if such proprietor proceed by such summary proceeding, any justice of the peace acting for the county, riding, division, city, or borough where the party offending resides, and not being concerned either in the sale or manufacture of the article of manufacture, or in the design, to which such summary proceeding relates, may issue a summons requiring such party to appear on a day and at a time and place to be named in such summons, such time not being less than eight days from the date thereof; and every such summons shall be served on the party offending, either in person or at his usual place of abode; and either upon the appearance or upon the default to appear of the party offending, any two or more of such justices may proceed to the hearing of the complaint, and upon proof of the offence, either by the confession of the party offending, or upon the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, which such justices are hereby authorised to administer, may convict the offender in a penalty of not less than five pounds or more than thirty pounds, as aforesaid, for each offence, as to such justices doth seem fit; but the aggregate amount of penalties for offences in respect of any one design committed by any one person, up to the time at which any of the proceedings herein mentioned shall be instituted, shall not exceed the sum of one hundred pounds; and if the amount of such penalty or of such penalties, and the costs attending the conviction, so assessed by such justices, be not forthwith paid, the amount of the penalty or of the penalties, and of the costs, together with the costs of the distress and sale, shall be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender, wherever the same happen to be in England; and the justices before whom the party has been convicted, or, on proof of the

conviction, any two justices acting for any county, riding, division, city, or borough in England, where goods and chattels of the person offending happen to be, may grant a warrant for such distress and sale; and the overplus, if any, shall be returned to the owner of the goods and chattels, on demand; and every information and conviction which shall be respectively laid or made in such summary proceeding before two justices under this Act may be drawn or made out in the following forms respectively, or to the effect thereof, *mutatis mutandis*, as the case may require: 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

Form of Information.

Be it remembered, that on the at in the county of *A.B.* of in the county of [*or C.D.* of in the county of at the instance and on the behalf of *A.B.* of in the county of] cometh before us and two of Her Majesty's justices of the peace in and for the county of , and giveth us to understand that the said *A.B.* before and at the time when the offence hereinafter mentioned was committed, was the proprietor of a new and original design for [*here describe the design*], and that within twelve calendar months last past, to wit, on the at in the county of *E.F.* of in the county of did [*here describe the offence*], contrary to the form of the Act passed in the year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the Copyright of Designs for ornamenting Articles of Manufacture."

Form of Conviction.

Be it remembered, that on the day of in the year of our Lord at in the county of *E.F.* of in the county aforesaid is convicted before us and two of Her Majesty's justices of the peace for the said county, for that he the said *E.F.* on the day of in the year at in the county of did [*here describe the offence*] contrary to the form of the statute in that case made and provided; and we the said justices do adjudge that the said *E.F.* for his offence aforesaid hath forfeited the sum of to the said *A.B.*

In Scotland, by action before the Court of Session in ordinary form, or by summary action before the sheriff of the county where the offence may be committed or the offender resides, who, upon proof of the offence or offences, either by confession of the party offending or by the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, shall convict the offender and find him liable in the penalty or penalties aforesaid, as also in expenses; and it shall be lawful for the sheriff, in pronouncing such judgment for the penalty or penalties and costs, to insert in such judgment a warrant, in the event of such penalty or penalties and costs not being paid, to levy and recover the amount of the same by poinding: Provided always, that it shall be lawful to the sheriff, in the event of his dismissing the action, and assoilzieing the defender, to find the complainer liable in expenses; and any judgment so to be pronounced by the sheriff in such summary application shall be final and conclusive, and not subject to review by advocation, suspension, reduction, or otherwise:

5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

In Ireland, either by action in a superior court of law at Dublin, or by civil bill in the Civil Bill Court of the county or place where the offence was committed.

Proviso as to action for damages.

9. Provided always, and be it enacted, that, notwithstanding the remedies hereby given for the recovery of any such penalty as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the proprietor in respect of whose right such penalty shall have been incurred (if he shall elect to do so) to bring such action as he may be entitled to for the recovery of any damages which he shall have sustained, either by the application of any such design or of a fraudulent imitation thereof, for the purpose of sale, to any articles of manufacture or substances, or by the publication, sale or exposure to sale, as aforesaid, by any person, of any article or substance to which such design or any fraudulent imitation thereof shall have been so applied, such person knowing that the proprietor of such design had not given his consent to such application.

Registration may in some cases be cancelled or amended.

10. And be it enacted, that in any suit in equity which may be instituted by the proprietor of any design or the person lawfully entitled thereto, relative to such design, if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the judge having cognizance of such suit that the design has been registered in the name of a person not being the proprietor or lawfully entitled thereto, it shall be competent for such judge, in his discretion, by a decree or order in such suit to direct either that such registration be cancelled (in which case the same shall thenceforth be wholly void), or that the name of the proprietor of such design, or other person lawfully entitled thereto, be substituted in the register for the name of such wrongful proprietor or claimant, in like manner as is hereinbefore directed in case of the transfer of a design, and to make such order respecting the costs of such cancellation or substitution, and of all proceedings to procure and effect the same, as he shall think fit; and the registrar is hereby authorised and required, upon being served with an official copy of such decree or order, and upon payment of the proper fee, to comply with the tenour of such decree or order, and either cancel such registration or substitute such new name, as the case may be.

Penalty for wrongfully using marks denoting a registered design.

11. And be it enacted that unless a design applied to ornamenting any article of manufacture or any such substance as aforesaid be so registered as aforesaid, and unless such design so registered shall have been applied to the ornamenting such article or substance within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and also after the copyright of such design in relation to such article or substance shall have expired, it shall be unlawful to put on any such article or such substance, in the manner hereinbefore required with respect to articles or substances whereto shall be applied a registered design, the marks hereinbefore required to be so applied, or any marks corresponding therewith or similar thereto; and if any person shall so unlawfully apply any such marks, or shall publish, sell, or expose for sale any article of manufacture, or any substance with any such marks so unlawfully applied, knowing that any such marks have been unlawfully applied, he shall forfeit for every such offence a sum not exceeding five pounds, which may be recovered by any person proceeding for the same by any of the ways hereinbefore directed with respect to penalties for pirating any such design.

Limitation of actions.

12. And be it enacted, that no action or other proceeding for any offence or injury under this Act shall be brought after the expiration of twelve calendar months from the commission of the offence; and

Costs.

in every such action or other proceeding the party who shall prevail shall recover his full costs of suit or of such other proceeding.

13. And be it enacted, that in the case of any summary proceeding before any two justices in England such justices are hereby authorised to award payment of costs to the party prevailing, and to grant a warrant for enforcing payment thereof against the summoning party, if unsuccessful, in the like manner as is hereinbefore provided for recovering any penalty with costs against any offender under this Act. 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100. Justices may order payment of costs in cases of summary proceeding.

14. And for the purpose of registering designs for articles of manufacture, in order to obtain the protection of this Act, be it enacted, That the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for the consideration of all matters of trade and plantations may appoint a person to be a registrar of designs for ornamenting articles of manufacture, and, if the Lords of the said Committee see fit, a deputy registrar, clerks, and other necessary officers and servants; and such registrar, deputy registrar, clerks, officers, and servants, shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the Lords of the said Committee; and the Commissioners of the Treasury may from time to time fix the salary or remuneration of such registrar, deputy registrar, clerks, officers, and servants; and, subject to the provisions of this Act, the Lords of the said Committee may make rules for regulating the execution of the duties of the office of the said registrar; and such registrar shall have a seal of office. Registrar, &c. of Designs to be appointed.

15. And be it enacted, that the said registrar shall not register any design in respect of any application thereof to ornamenting any articles of manufacture or substances, unless he be furnished, in respect of each such application, with two copies, drawings, or prints of such design, accompanied with the name of every person who shall claim to be proprietor, or of the style or title of the firm under which such proprietor may be trading, with his place of abode or place of carrying on his business, or other place of address, and the number of the class in respect of which such registration is made; and the registrar shall register all such copies, drawings, or prints, from time to time successively as they are received by him for that purpose; and on every such copy, drawing, or print he shall affix a number corresponding to such succession; and he shall retain one copy, drawing, or print, which he shall file in his office, and the other he shall return to the person by whom the same has been forwarded to him; and in order to give ready access to the copies of designs so registered, he shall class such copies of designs, and keep a proper index of each class. Registrar's duties.

16. And be it enacted, that upon every copy, drawing, or print of an original design so returned to the person registering as aforesaid, or attached thereto, and upon every copy, drawing, or print thereof received for the purpose of such registration, or of the transfer of such design being certified thereon or attached thereto, the registrar shall certify under his hand that the design has been so registered, the date of such registration, and the name of the registered proprietor, or the style or title of the firm under which such proprietor may be trading, with his place of abode or place of carrying on his business, or other place of address, and also the number of such design, together with such number or letter, or number and letter, and in such form as shall be employed by him to denote or correspond with the date of such registration; and such certificate made on every such original design, or on such copy thereof, and purporting to be signed by the registrar or deputy registrar, and purporting to have the seal of office of such registrar affixed thereto, shall, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, be sufficient proof, as follows, Certificate of registration of design.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

Of the design, and of the name of the proprietor therein mentioned, having been duly registered; and
Of the commencement of the period of registry; and
Of the person named therein as proprietor being the proprietor; and
Of the originality of the design; and
Of the provisions of this Act, and of any rule under which the certificate appears to be made, having been complied with:

and any such writing purporting to be such certificate shall, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, be received as evidence, without proof of the handwriting of the signature thereto, or of the seal of office affixed thereto, or of the person signing the same being the registrar or deputy registrar.

Inspection of registered designs.

17. And be it enacted, that every person shall be at liberty to inspect any design whereof the copyright shall have expired, paying only such fee as shall be appointed by virtue of this Act in that behalf; but with regard to designs whereof the copyright shall not have expired, no such design shall be open to inspection, except by a proprietor of such design, or by any person authorised by him in writing, or by any person specially authorised by the registrar, and then only in the presence of such registrar or in the presence of some person holding an appointment under this Act, and not so as to take a copy of any such design or of any part thereof, nor without paying for every such inspection such fee as aforesaid: Provided always, that it shall be lawful for the said registrar to give to any person applying to him, and producing a particular design, together with the registration mark thereof, or producing such registration mark only, a certificate stating whether of such design there be any copyright existing, and if there be, in respect to what particular article of manufacture or substance such copyright exists, and the term of such copyright, and the date of registration, and also the name and address of the registered proprietor thereof.

Application of fees of registration.

18. And be it enacted, that the Commissioners of the Treasury shall from time to time fix fees to be paid for the services to be performed by the registrar, as they shall deem requisite, to defray the expenses of the said office, and the salaries or other remuneration of the said registrar, and of any other persons employed under him, with the sanction of the Commissioners of the Treasury, in the execution of this Act; and the balance, if any, shall be carried to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, and be paid accordingly into the receipt of Her Majesty's Exchequer at Westminster; and the Commissioners of the Treasury may regulate the manner in which such fees are to be received, and in which they are to be kept, and in which they are to be accounted for, and they may also remit or dispense with the payment of such fees in any cases where they may think it expedient so to do: Provided always, that the fee for registering a design to be applied to any woven fabric mentioned or comprised in classes 7, 9, or 10, shall not exceed the sum of one shilling; that the fee for registering a design to be applied to a paper hanging shall not exceed the sum of ten shillings; and that the fee to be received by the registrar for giving a certificate relative to the existence or expiration of any copyright in any design printed on any woven fabric, yarn, thread, or warp, or printed, embossed, or worked on any paper hanging, to any person exhibiting a piece end of a registered pattern, with the registration mark thereon, shall not exceed the sum of two shillings and sixpence.

Penalty for extortion.

19. And be it enacted, that if either the registrar or any person employed under him either demand or receive any gratuity or reward,

whether in money or otherwise, except the salary or remuneration authorised by the Commissioners of the Treasury, he shall forfeit for every such offence fifty pounds to any person suing for the same by action of debt in the Court of Exchequer at Westminster; and he shall also be liable to be either suspended or dismissed from his office, and rendered incapable of holding any situation in the said office, as the Commissioners of the Treasury see fit. 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

20. And for the interpretation of this Act, be it enacted, that the following terms and expressions, so far as they are not repugnant to the context of this Act, shall be construed as follows; (that is to say,) the expression "Commissioners of the Treasury" shall mean the Lord High Treasurer for the time being, or the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the time being, or any three or more of them; and the singular number shall include the plural as well as the singular number; and the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender as well as the masculine gender. Interpretation of Act.

21. And be it enacted, that this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in the present session of Parliament. Alteration of Act.

SCHEDULES REFERRED TO BY THE FOREGOING ACT.

SCHEDULE (A.)

Date of Acts.	Title.
27 Geo. 3, c. 38. (1787.)	An Act for the encouragement of the arts of designing and printing linens, cottons, calicoes, and muslins, by vesting the properties thereof in the designers, printers, and proprietors for a limited time.
29 Geo. 3, c. 19. (1789.)	An Act for continuing an Act for the encouragement of the arts of designing and printing linens, cottons, calicoes, and muslins, by vesting the properties thereof in the designers, printers, and proprietors for a limited time.
34 Geo. 3, c. 23. (1794.)	An Act for amending and making perpetual an Act for the encouragement of the arts of designing and printing linens, cottons, calicoes, and muslins, by vesting the properties thereof in the designers, printers, and proprietors for a limited time.
2 Vict. c. 13. (1839.)	An Act for extending the copyright of designs for calico printing to designs for printing other woven fabrics.

SCHEDULE (B.)

Date of Acts.	Title.
2 Vict. c. 17. (1839.)	An Act to secure to proprietors of designs for articles of manufacture the copyright of such designs for a limited time.

SCHEDULE (C.)

Date of Acts.	Title.
38 Geo. 3, c. 71. (1798.)	An Act for encouraging the art of making new models and casts of busts and other things therein mentioned.
54 Geo. 3, c. 56. (1814.)	An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act for encouraging the art of making new models and casts of busts and other things therein mentioned, and for giving further encouragement to such arts.

6 & 7 Vict. cap. 65.

6 & 7 Vict c. 65.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Copyright of Designs.
[*22nd August*, 1843.]

5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the Copyright of Designs for ornamenting Articles of Manufacture," there was granted to the proprietor of any new and original design, with the exceptions therein mentioned, the sole right to apply the same to the ornamenting of any article of manufacture or any such substance as therein described during the respective periods therein mentioned: And whereas it is expedient to extend the protection afforded by the said Act to such designs hereinafter mentioned, not being of an ornamental character, as are not included therein: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that this Act shall come into operation on the first day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty-three.

Commencement of Act.

Grant of copyright.

2. And with regard to any new or original design for any article of manufacture having reference to some purpose of utility, so far as such design shall be for the shape or configuration of such article, and that whether it be for the whole of such shape or configuration or only for a part thereof, be it enacted, that the proprietor of such design not previously published within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or elsewhere shall have the sole right to apply such design to any article, or make or sell any article according to such design, for the term of three years, to be computed from the time of such design being registered according to this Act: Provided always, that this enactment shall not extend to such designs as are within the provisions of the said Act, or of two other Acts passed respectively in the thirty-eighth and fifty-fourth years of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, and intituled respectively "An Act for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts, and other things therein mentioned," and "An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts and other things therein mentioned."

Proviso.

38 Geo. 3, c. 71.

54 Geo. 3, c 56.

Conditions of copyright.

3. Provided always, and be it enacted, that no person shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act unless such design have before publication thereof been registered according to this Act, and unless the name of such person shall be registered according to this Act as a proprietor of such design, and unless after publication of such design every article of manufacture made by him according to such design, or on which such design is used, hath thereon the word "Registered," with the date of registration.

Penalty for wrongfully using marks denoting a registered design.

4. And be it enacted, that unless a design applied to any article of manufacture be registered either as aforesaid or according to the provisions of the said first-mentioned Act, and also after the copyright of such design shall have expired, it shall be unlawful to put on any such article the word "registered," or to advertise the same for sale as a registered article; and if any person shall so unlawfully publish, sell, or expose or advertise for sale any such article of manufacture, he shall forfeit for every such offence a sum not exceeding five pounds nor less than one pound, which may be recovered by any person proceeding for the same by any of the remedies hereby given for the recovery of penalties for pirating any such design.

5. And be it enacted, that all such articles of manufacture as are commonly known by the name of floor cloths or oil cloths shall henceforth be considered as included in class six in the said first-mentioned Act in that behalf mentioned, and be registered accordingly. 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65. Floor or oil cloths included in class six.

6. And be it enacted, that all and every the clauses and provisions contained in the said first-mentioned Act, so far as they are not repugnant to the provisions contained in this Act, relating respectively to the explanation of the term proprietor, to the transfer of designs, to the piracy of designs, to the mode of recovering penalties, to actions for damages, to cancelling and amending registrations, to the limitation of actions, to the awarding of costs, to the certificate of registration, to the fixing and application of fees of registration, and to the penalty for extortion, shall be applied and extended to this present Act as fully and effectually, and to all intents and purposes, as if the said several clauses and provisoes had been particularly repeated and re-enacted in the body of this Act. Certain provisions of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, to apply to this Act.

7. And be it enacted, that so much of the said first-mentioned Act as relates to the appointment of a registrar of designs for ornamenting articles of manufacture, and other officers, as well as to the fixing of the salaries for the payment of the same, shall be and the same is hereby repealed; and for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions as well of this Act as of the said first-mentioned Act, the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for the consideration of all matters of trade and plantations may appoint a person to be registrar of designs for articles of manufacture, and, if the Lords of the said committee see fit, an assistant registrar and other necessary officers and servants; and such registrar, assistant registrar, officers, and servants shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the Lords of the said committee; and such registrar shall have a seal of office; and the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may from time to time fix the salary or other remuneration of such registrar, assistant registrar, and other officers and servants; and all the provisions contained in the said first-mentioned Act, and not hereby repealed, relating to the registrar, deputy registrar, clerks, and other officers and servants thereby appointed and therein named, shall be construed and held to apply respectively to the registrar, assistant registrar, and other officers and servants to be appointed under this Act. Appointment of Registrar &c.

8. And be it enacted, that the said registrar shall not register any design for the shape or configuration of any article of manufacture as aforesaid unless he be furnished with two exactly similar drawings or prints of such design, with such description in writing as may be necessary to render the same intelligible according to the judgment of the said registrar, together with the title of the said design, and the name of every person who shall claim to be proprietor, or of the style or title of the firm under which such proprietor may be trading, with his place of abode, or place of carrying on business, or other place of address; and every such drawing or print, together with the title and description of such design, and the name and address of the proprietor aforesaid, shall be on one sheet of paper or parchment, and on the same side thereof; and the size of the said sheet shall not exceed twenty-four inches by fifteen inches; and there shall be left on one of the said sheets a blank space on the same side on which are the said drawings, title, description, name, and address, of the size of six inches by four inches, for the certificate herein mentioned; and the said drawings or prints shall be made on a proper geometric scale; and the said description shall set forth such part or parts of the said design (if any) as shall not be new or original; and the said registrar Registrar's duties. Drawings

6 & 7 Vict. c. 65. shall register all such drawings or prints from time to time as they are received by him for that purpose; and on every such drawing or print he thall affix a number corresponding to the order of succession in the register, and he shall retain one drawing or print which he shall file at his office. and the other he shall return to the person by whom the same has been forwarded to him; and in order to give a ready access to the designs so registered he shall keep a proper index of the titles thereof.

Discretionary power as to registry vested in the registrar.

9. And be it enacted, that if any design be brought to the said registrar to be registered under the said first-mentioned Act, and it shall appear to him that the same ought to be registered under this present Act, it shall be lawful for the said registrar to refuse to register such design otherwise than under the present Act and in the manner hereby provided; and if it shall appear to the said registrar that the design brought to be registered under the said first-mentioned Act or this Act is not intended to be applied to any article of manufacture, but only to some label, wrapper, or other covering in which such article might be exposed for sale, or that such design is contrary to public morality or order, it shall be lawful for the said registrar, in his discretion, wholly to refuse to register such design:

Proviso.

Provided always, that the Lords of the said Committee of Privy Council may, on representation made to them by the proprietor of any design so wholly refused to be registered as aforesaid, if they shall see fit, direct the said registrar to register such design, whereupon and in such case the said registrar shall be and is hereby required to register the same accordingly.

Inspection of index of titles of designs, &c.

10. And be it enacted, that every person shall be at liberty to inspect the index of the titles of the designs, not being ornamental designs, registered under this Act, and to take copies from the same, paying only such fees as shall be appointed by virtue of this Act in that behalf; and every person shall be at liberty to inspect any such design, and to take copies thereof, paying such fee as aforesaid; but no design whereof the copyright shall not have expired shall be open to inspection, except in the presence of such registrar, or in the presence of some person holding an appointment under this Act, and not so as to take a copy of such design, nor without paying such fee as aforesaid.

Interpretation of Act.

11. And, for the interpretation of this Act, be it enacted, that the following terms and expressions, so far as they are not repugnant to the context of this Act, shall be construed as follows; (that is to say,) the expression "Commissioners of the Treasury" shall mean the Lord High Treasurer for the time being, or the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for the time being, or any three or more of them; and the singular number shall include the plural as well as the singular number, and the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender as well as the masculine gender.

Alteration of Act.

12. And be it enacted, that this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in the present session of Parliament.

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6 & 7 Vict. cap. 96.

6 & 7 Vict. c. 96. *An Act to amend the Law respecting defamatory Words and Libel.* [24*th August*, 1843.]

For the better protection of private character, and for more effectually securing the liberty of the press, and for better preventing

abuses in exercising the said liberty: Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that in any action for defamation it shall be lawful for the defendant (after notice in writing of his intention so to do, duly given to the plaintiff at the time of filing or delivering the plea in such action,) to give in evidence, in mitigation of damages, that he made or offered an apology to the plaintiff for such defamation before the commencement of the action, or as soon afterwards as he had an opportunity of doing so, in case the action shall have been commenced before there was an opportunity of making or offering such apology.

6 & 7 Vict. c. 96.

Offer of an apology admissible in evidence in mitigation of damages.

2. And be it enacted, that in an action for a libel contained in any public newspaper or other periodical publication it shall be competent to the defendant to plead that such libel was inserted in such newspaper or other periodical publication without actual malice, and without gross negligence, and that before the commencement of the action, or at the earliest opportunity afterwards, he inserted in such newspaper or other periodical publication a full apology for the said libel, or, if the newspaper or periodical publication in which the said libel appeared should be ordinarily published at intervals exceeding one week, had offered to publish the said apology in any newspaper or periodical publication to be selected by the plaintiff in such action; and that every such defendant shall upon filing such plea be at liberty to pay into court a sum of money by way of amends for the injury sustained by the publication of such libel, and such payment into court shall be of the same effect and be available in the same manner and to the same extent, and be subject to the same rules and regulations as to payment of costs and the form of pleading, except so far as regards the pleading of the additional facts hereinbefore required to be pleaded by such defendant, as if actions for libel had not been excepted from the personal actions in which it is lawful to pay money into court under an Act passed in the session of Parliament held in the fourth year of his late Majesty, intituled "An Act for the further Amendment of the Law and the better Advancement of Justice;" and that to such plea to such action it shall be competent to the plaintiff to reply generally, denying the whole of such plea.

In an action against a newspaper for libel, the defendant may plead that it was inserted without malice and without neglect, and may pay money into court as amends.

3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 42.

3. And be it enacted, that if any person shall publish or threaten to publish any libel upon any other person, or shall directly or indirectly threaten to print or publish, or shall directly or indirectly propose to abstain from printing or publishing, or shall directly or indirectly offer to prevent the printing or publishing, of any matter or thing touching any other person, with intent to extort any money or security for money, or any valuable thing from such or any other person, or with intent to induce any person to confer or procure for any person any appointment or office of profit or trust, every such offender, on being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, in the common gaol or house of correction, for any term not exceeding three years: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall in any manner alter or affect any law now in force in respect of the sending or delivery of threatening letters or writings.

Publishing or threatening to publish a libel, or proposing to abstain from publishing any thing, with intent to extort money, punishable by imprisonment and hard labour.

4. And be it enacted, that if any person shall maliciously publish any defamatory libel knowing the same to be false, every such person, being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction for any term not exceeding two years, and to pay such fine as the court shall award.

False defamatory libel punishable by imprisonment and fine;

6 & 7 Vict. c. 96.

Malicious defamatory libel, by imprisonment or fine.

5. And be it enacted, that if any person shall maliciously publish any defamatory libel, every such person, being convicted thereof, shall be liable to fine or imprisonment or both, as the court may award, such imprisonment not to exceed the term of one year.

Proceedings upon the trial of an indictment or information for a defamatory libel.

6. And be it enacted, that on the trial of any indictment or information for a defamatory libel, the defendant having pleaded such plea as hereinafter mentioned, the truth of the matters charged may be inquired into, but shall not amount to a defence, unless it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published; and that to entitle the defendant to give evidence of the truth of such matters charged as a defence to such indictment or information it shall be necessary for the defendant, in pleading to the said indictment or information, to allege the truth of the said matters charged in the manner now required in pleading a justification to an action for defamation, and further to allege that it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published, and the particular fact or facts by reason whereof it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published, to which plea the prosecutor shall be at liberty to reply generally, denying the whole thereof; and that if after such plea the defendant shall be convicted on such indictment or information it shall be competent to the court, in pronouncing sentence, to consider whether the guilt of the defendant is aggravated or mitigated by the said plea, and by the evidence given to prove or to disprove the same: Provided always, that the truth of the matters charged in the alleged libel complained of by such indictment or information shall in no case be inquired into without such plea of justification: Provided also, that, in addition to such plea, it shall be competent to the defendant to plead a plea of not guilty: Provided also, that nothing in this Act contained shall take away or prejudice any defence under the plea of not guilty which it is now competent to the defendant to make under such plea to any action or indictment or information for defamatory words or libel.

Double plea.

Proviso as to plea of Not Guilty in civil and criminal proceedings.

Evidence to rebut *primâ facie* case of publication by an agent.

7. And be it enacted, that whensoever, upon the trial of any indictment or information for the publication of a libel, under the plea of not guilty, evidence shall have been given which shall establish a presumptive case of publication against the defendant by the act of any other person by his authority, it shall be competent to such defendant to prove that such publication was made without his authority, consent, or knowledge, and that the said publication did not arise from want of due care or caution on his part.

On prosecution for private libel defendant entitled to costs on acquittal.

8. And be it enacted, that in the case of any indictment or information by a private prosecutor for the publication of any defamatory libel, if judgment shall be given for the defendant, he shall be entitled to recover from the prosecutor the costs sustained by the said defendant by reason of such indictment or information; and that upon a special plea of justification to such indictment or information, if the issue be found for the prosecutor, he shall be entitled to recover from the defendant the costs sustained by the prosecutor by reason of such plea, such costs so to be recovered by the defendant or prosecutor respectively to be taxed by the proper officer of the court before which the said indictment or information is tried.

Interpretation of Act.

9. And be it enacted, that wherever throughout this Act, in describing the plaintiff or the defendant, or the party affected or intended to be affected by the offence, words are used importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, yet they shall be

understood to include several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, unless when the nature of the provision or the context of the Act shall exclude such construction. 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96

10. And be it enacted, that this Act shall take effect from the first day of November next; and that nothing in this Act contained shall extend to Scotland. Commencement and extent of Act.

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7 Vict. cap. 12.

An Act to amend the Law relating to International Copyright. 7 Vict. c. 12.
[10*th May*, 1844.]

Whereas by an Act passed in the session of Parliament held in the first and second years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for securing to Authors in certain Cases the Benefit of international Copyright" (and which Act is hereinafter, for the sake of perspicuity, designated as "The International Copyright Act"), Her Majesty was empowered by Order in Council to direct that the authors of books which should after a future time, to be specified in such Order in Council, be published in any foreign country, to be specified in such Order in Council, and their executors, administrators, and assigns, should have the sole liberty of printing and reprinting such books within the British dominions for such term as Her Majesty should by such Order in Council direct, not exceeding the term which authors, being British subjects, were then, (that is to say) at the time of passing the said Act, entitled to in respect of books first published in the United Kingdom; and the said Act contains divers enactments securing to authors and their representatives the copyright in the books to which any such Order in Council should extend: And whereas an Act was passed in the Session of Parliament held in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Law of Copyright" (and which Act is hereinafter, for the sake of perspicuity, designated as "The Copyright Amendment Act"), repealing various Acts therein mentioned relating to the copyright of printed books, and extending, defining, and securing to authors and their representatives the copyright of books: And whereas an Act was passed in the Session of Parliament held in the third and fourth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to Dramatic Literary Property" (and which Act is hereinafter, for the sake of perspicuity, designated as "The Dramatic Literary Property Act"), whereby the sole liberty of representing or causing to be represented any dramatic piece in any place of dramatic entertainment in any part of the British dominions, which should be composed and not printed or published by the author thereof or his assignee, was secured to such author or his assignee; and by the said Act it was enacted, that the author of any such production which should thereafter be printed and published, or his assignee, should have the like sole liberty of representation until the end of twenty-eight years from the first publication thereof: And whereas by the said Copyright Amendment Act the provisions of the said Dramatic Literary Property Act and of the said Copyright Amendment Act were made applicable to musical compositions; and it was thereby also enacted, that the sole liberty of representing or performing, or causing or permitting to be represented or performed, in any part of the British dominions, any dramatic piece or musical composition,

1 & 2 Vict. c. 59.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

3 & 4 Will 4, c. 15.

7 Vict. c. 12. should endure and be the property of the author thereof and his assigns for the term in the said Copyright Amendment Act provided for the duration of the copyright in books, and that the provisions therein enacted in respect of the property of such copyright should apply to the liberty of representing or performing any dramatic piece or musical composition: And whereas under or by virtue of the four several Acts next hereinafter mentioned; (that is to say,) an Act passed in the eighth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George
8 Geo. 2, c. 13. the Second, intituled "An Act for the Encouragement of the Arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other Prints, by vesting the Properties thereof in the Inventors or Engravers during the Time therein mentioned;" an Act passed in the seventh year of
7 Geo. 3, c. 38. his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act made in the eighth year of the reign of King George the Second, for Encouragement of the Arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other Prints; and for vesting in and securing to Jane Hogarth, widow, the property in certain Prints;" an Act passed in the seventeenth year of the reign
17 Geo. 3, c. 57. of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act for more effectually securing the Property of Prints to Inventors and Engravers, by enabling them to sue for and recover Penalties in certain Cases;" and an Act passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of his late Majesty King
6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59. William the Fourth, intituled "An Act to extend the Protection of Copyright in Prints and Engravings to Ireland;" (and which said four several Acts are hereinafter, for the sake of perspicuity, designated as the Engraving Copyright Acts;) every person who invents or designs, engraves, etches, or works in mezzotinto or chiaro-oscuro, or from his own work, design, or invention causes or procures to be designed, engraved, etched, or worked in mezzotinto or chiaro-oscuro any historical print or prints, or any print or prints of any portrait, conversation, landscape, or architecture, map, chart, or plan, or any other print or prints whatsoever, and every person who engraves, etches, or works in mezzotinto or chiaro-oscuro, or causes to be engraved, etched, or worked, any print taken from any picture, drawing, model, or sculpture, either ancient or modern, notwithstanding such print shall not have been graven or drawn from the original design of such graver, etcher, or draftsman, is entitled to the copyright of such print for the term of twenty-eight years from the first publishing thereof; and by the said several Engraving Copyright Acts it is provided that the name of the proprietor shall be truly engraved on each plate, and printed on every such print, and remedies are provided for the infringement of such copyright: And whereas under and by virtue of an Act passed in the thirty-eighth year of the reign of
38 Geo. 3, c. 71. his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts and other Things therein mentioned," and of an Act passed in the fifty-fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled
54 Geo. 3, c. 56. "An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act of his present Majesty, for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts and other Things therein mentioned, and for giving further Encouragement to such Arts," (and which said Acts are, for the sake of perspicuity, hereinafter designated as the Sculpture Copyright Acts,) every person who makes or causes to be made any new and original sculpture, or model or copy or cast of the human figure, any bust or part of the human figure clothed in drapery or otherwise, any animal or part of any animal combined with the human

figure or otherwise, any subject, being matter of invention in sculpture, any alto or basso relievo, representing any of the matters aforesaid, or any cast from nature of the human figure or part thereof, or of any animal or part thereof, or of any such subject representing any of the matters aforesaid, whether separate or combined, is entitled to the copyright in such new and original sculpture, model, copy, and cast, for fourteen years from first putting forth and publishing the same, and for an additional period of fourteen years in case the original maker is living at the end of the first period; and by the said Acts it is provided that the name of the proprietor, with the date of the publication thereof, is to be put on all such sculptures, models, copies, and casts, and remedies are provided for the infringement of such copyright: And whereas the powers vested in Her Majesty by the said International Copyright Act are insufficient to enable Her Majesty to confer upon authors of books first published in foreign countries copyright of the like duration, and with the like remedies for the infringement thereof, which are conferred and provided by the said Copyright Amendment Act with respect to authors of books first published in the British dominions; and the said International Copyright Act does not empower Her Majesty to confer any exclusive right of representing or performing dramatic pieces or musical compositions first published in foreign countries upon the authors thereof, nor to extend the privilege of copyright to prints and sculpture first published abroad; and it is expedient to vest increased powers in Her Majesty in this respect, and for that purpose to repeal the said International Copyright Act, and to give such other powers to Her Majesty, and to make such further provisions, as are hereinafter contained: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the said recited Act, herein designated as the International Copyright Act shall be and the same is hereby repealed. 7 Vict. c. 12.

Repeal of International Copyright Act.

2. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any order of Her Majesty in Council, to direct that, as respects all or any particular class or classes of the following works, (namely,) books, prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art, to be defined in such order, which shall after a future time, to be specified in such order, be first published in any foreign country to be named in such order, the authors, inventors, designers, engravers, and makers thereof respectively, their respective executors, administrators, and assigns, shall have the privilege of copyright therein during such period or respective periods as shall be defined in such order, not exceeding, however, as to any of the above-mentioned works, the term of copyright which authors, inventors, designers, engravers, and makers of the like works respectively first published in the United Kingdom may be then entitled to under the hereinbefore recited Acts respectively, or under any Acts which may hereafter be passed in that behalf.

Her Majesty, by Order in Council, may direct that authors, &c. of works first published in foreign countries shall have copyright therein within Her Majesty's dominions.

3. And be it enacted, that in case any such order shall apply to books, all and singular the enactments of the said Copyright Amendment Act, and of any other Act for the time being in force with relation to the copyright in books first published in this country, shall, from and after the time so to be specified in that behalf in such order, and subject to such limitation as to the duration of the copyright as shall be therein contained, apply to and be in force in respect of the books to which such order shall extend, and which shall have

If the order applies to books the copyright law as to books first published in this country shall apply to the books to which the order relates, with certain exceptions.

7 Vict. c. 12.

been registered as hereinafter is provided, in such and the same manner as if such books were first published in the United Kingdom, save and except such of the said enactments, or such parts thereof, as shall be excepted in such order, and save and except such of the said enactments as relate to the delivery of copies of books at the British Museum, and to or for the use of the other libraries mentioned in the said *Copyright Amendment Act*.

If the order applies to prints, sculptures, &c. the copyright law as to prints or sculptures first published in this country shall apply to the prints, sculptures, &c. to which such order relates.

4. And be it enacted, that in case any such order shall apply to prints, articles of sculpture, or to any such other works of art as aforesaid, all and singular the enactments of the said Engraving Copyright Acts and the said Sculpture Copyright Acts, or of any other Act for the time being in force with relation to the copyright in prints or articles of sculpture first published in this country, and of any Act for the time being in force with relation to the copyright in any similar works of art first published in this country, shall, from and after the time so to be specified in that behalf in such order, and subject to such limitation as to the duration of the copyright as shall be therein contained respectively, apply to and be in force in respect of the prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art to which such order shall extend, and which shall have been registered as hereinafter is provided, in such and the same manner as if such articles and other works of art were first published in the United Kingdom, save and except such of the said enactments or such parts thereof as shall be excepted in such order.

Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, direct that authors and composers of dramatic pieces and musical compositions first publicly represented and performed in foreign countries shall have similar rights in the British dominions.

5. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any order of Her Majesty in Council, to direct that the authors of dramatic pieces and musical compositions which shall after a future time, to be specified in such order, be first publicly represented or performed in any foreign country to be named in such order, shall have the sole liberty of representing or performing in any part of the British dominions such dramatic pieces or musical compositions during such period as shall be defined in such order, not exceeding the period during which authors of dramatic pieces and musical compositions first publicly represented or performed in the United Kingdom may for the time be entitled by law to the sole liberty of representing and performing the same; and from and after the time so specified in any such last-mentioned order the enactments of the said dramatic Literary Property Act, and of the said Copyright Amendment Act, and of any other Act for the time being in force with relation to the liberty of publicly representing and performing dramatic pieces or musical compositions, shall, subject to such limitation as to the duration of the right conferred by any such order as shall be therein contained, apply to and be in force in respect of the dramatic pieces and musical compositions to which such order shall extend, and which shall have been registered as hereinafter is provided, in such and the same manner as if such dramatic pieces and musical compositions had been first publicly represented and performed in the British dominions, save and except such of the said enactments or such parts thereof as shall be excepted in such order.

Particulars to be observed as to Registry and to delivery of copies.

6. Provided always, and be it enacted, that no author of any book, dramatic piece or musical composition, or his executors, administrators, or assigns, and no inventor, designer, or engraver of any print, or maker of any article of sculpture, or other work of art, his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, or of any Order in Council to be issued in pursuance thereof, unless, within a time or times to be in that behalf prescribed in each

such Order in Council, such book, dramatic piece, musical composition, print, article of sculpture, or other work of art, shall have been so registered, and such copy thereof shall have been so delivered as hereinafter is mentioned; (that is to say,) as regards such book, and also such dramatic piece or musical composition, (in the event of the same having been printed,) the title to the copy thereof, the name and place of abode of the author or composer thereof, the name and place of abode of the proprietor of the copyright thereof, the time and place of the first publication, representation, or performance thereof, as the case may be, in the foreign country named in the Order in Council under which the benefit of this Act shall be claimed, shall be entered in the register book of the Company of Stationers in London, and one printed copy of the whole of such book, and of such dramatic piece or musical composition, in the event of the same having been printed, and of every volume thereof, upon the best paper upon which the largest number or impression of the book, dramatic piece, or musical composition shall have been printed for sale, together with all maps and prints relating thereto, shall be delivered to the officer of the Company of Stationers at the Hall of the said Company; and as regards dramatic pieces and musical compositions in manuscript, the title to the same, the name and place of abode of the author or composer thereof, the name and place of abode of the proprietor of the right of representing or performing the same, and the time and place of the first representation or performance thereof in the country named in the Order in Council under which the benefit of the Act shall be claimed, shall be entered in the said register book of the said Company of Stationers in London; and as regards prints, the title thereof, the name and place of abode of the inventor, designer, or engraver thereof, the name of the proprietor of the copyright therein, and the time and place of the first publication thereof in the foreign country named in the Order in Council under which the benefits of the Act shall be claimed, shall be entered in the said register book of the said Company of Stationers in London, and a copy of such print, upon the best paper upon which the largest number or impressions of the print shall have been printed for sale, shall be delivered to the officer of the Company of Stationers at the hall of the said company; and as regards any such article of sculpture, or any such other work of art as aforesaid, a descriptive title thereof, the name and place of abode of the maker thereof, the name of the proprietor of the copyright therein, and the time and place of its first publication in the foreign country named in the Order in Council under which the benefit of this Act shall be claimed, shall be entered in the said register book of the said Company of Stationers in London; and the officer of the said Company of Stationers receiving such copies so to be delivered as aforesaid shall give a receipt in writing for the same, and such delivery shall to all intents and purposes be a sufficient delivery under the provisions of this Act.

In case of books published anonymously, the name of the publisher to be sufficient.

7. Provided always, and be it enacted, that if a book be published anonymously it shall be sufficient to insert in the entry thereof in such register book the name and place of abode of the first publisher thereof, instead of the name and place of abode of the author thereof, together with a declaration that such entry is made either on behalf of the author or on behalf of such first publisher, as the case may require.

The provisions of the Copyright Amendment Act

8. And be it enacted, that the several enactments in the said Copyright Amendment Act contained with relation to keeping the said

7 Vict. c. 12. as regards entries in the register book of the Company of Stationers, &c. to apply to entries under this Act.

register book, and the inspection thereof, the searches therein, and the delivery of certified and stamped copies thereof, the reception of such copies in evidence, the making of false entries in the said book, and the production in evidence of papers falsely purporting to be copies of entries in the said book, the applications to the courts and judges by persons aggrieved by entries in the said book, and the expunging and varying such entries, shall apply to the books, dramatic pieces, and musical compositions, prints, articles of sculpture, and other works of art, to which any Order in Council issued in pursuance of this Act shall extend, and to the entries and assignments of copyright and proprietorship therein, in such and the same manner as if such enactments were here expressly enacted in relation thereto, save and except that the forms of entry prescribed by the said Copyright Amendment Act may be varied to meet the circumstances of the case, and that the sum to be demanded by the officer of the said Company of Stationers for making any entry required by this Act shall be one shilling only.

As to expunging or varying entry grounded in wrongful first publication.

9. And be it enacted, that every entry made in pursuance of this Act of a first publication shall be *primâ facie* proof of a rightful first publication; but if there be a wrongful first publication, and any party have availed himself thereof to obtain an entry of a spurious work, no order for expunging or varying such entry shall be made unless it be proved to the satisfaction of the court or of the judge taking cognisance of the application for expunging or varying such entry, first, with respect to a wrongful publication in a country to which the author or first publisher does not belong, and in regard to which there does not subsist with this country any treaty of international copyright, that the party making the application was the author or first publisher, as the case requires; second, with respect to a wrongful first publication either in the country where a rightful first publication has taken place, or in regard to which there subsists with this country a treaty of international copyright, that a court of competent jurisdiction in any such country where such wrongful first publication has taken place has given judgment in favour of the right of the party claiming to be the author or first publisher.

Copies of books wherein copyright is subsisting under this Act printed in foreign countries other than those wherein the book was first published prohibited to be imported.

10. And be it enacted, that all copies of books wherein there shall be any subsisting copyright under or by virtue of this Act, or of any Order in Council made in pursuance thereof, printed or reprinted in any foreign country except that in which such books were first published, shall be and the same are hereby absolutely prohibited to be imported into any part of the British dominions, except by or with the consent of the registered proprietor of the copyright thereof, or his agent authorised in writing, and if imported contrary to this prohibition the same and the importers thereof shall be subject to the enactments in force relating to goods prohibited to be imported by any Act relating to the customs; and as respects any such copies so prohibited to be imported, and also as respects any copies unlawfully printed in any place whatsoever of any books wherein there shall be any such subsisting copyright as aforesaid, any person who shall in any part of the British dominions import such prohibited or unlawfully printed copies, or who, knowing such copies to be so unlawfully imported or unlawfully printed, shall sell, publish, or expose to sale or hire, or shall cause to be sold, published, or exposed to sale or hire, or have in his possession for sale or hire, any such copies so unlawfully imported or unlawfully printed, such offender shall be liable to a special action on the case at the suit of the proprietor of such copyright, to be brought and prosecuted in the same

courts and in the same manner, and with the like restrictions upon the proceedings of the defendant, as are respectively prescribed in the said Copyright Amendment Act with relation to actions thereby authorised to be brought by proprietors of copyright against persons importing or selling books unlawfully printed in the British dominions. 7 Vict. c. 12.

Officer of Stationers Company to deposit books, &c. in the British Museum.

11. And be it enacted, that the said officer of the said Company of Stationers shall receive at the hall of the said company every book, volume, or print so to be delivered as aforesaid, and within one calendar month after receiving such book, volume, or print shall deposit the same in the library of the British Museum.

Second or subsequent editions

12. Provided always, and be it enacted, that it shall not be requisite to deliver to the said officer of the said Stationers Company any printed copy of the second or of any subsequent edition of any book or books so delivered as aforesaid, unless the same shall contain additions or alterations.

Orders in Council may specify different periods for different foreign countries and for different classes of works.

13. And be it enacted, that the respective terms to be specified by such Orders in Council respectively for the continuance of the privilege to be granted in respect of works to be first published in foreign countries may be different for works first published in different foreign countries and for different classes of such works; and that the times to be prescribed for the entries to be made in the register book of the Stationers Company, and for the deliveries of the books and other articles to the said officer of the Stationers Company, as hereinbefore is mentioned, may be different for different foreign countries and for different classes of books or other articles.

No Order in Council to have any effect unless it states that reciprocal protection is secured.

14. Provided always, and be it enacted, that no such Order in Council shall have any effect unless it shall be therein stated, as the ground for issuing the same, that due protection has been secured by the foreign power so named in such Order in Council for the benefit of parties interested in works first published in the dominions of Her Majesty similar to those comprised in such order.

Orders in Council to be published in Gazette, and to have same effect as this Act.

15. And be it enacted, that every Order in Council to be made under the authority of this Act shall as soon as may be after the making thereof by Her Majesty in council be published in the *London Gazette*, and from the time of such publication shall have the same effect as if every part thereof were included in this Act.

Orders in Council to be laid before Parliament.

16. And be it enacted, that a copy of every Order of Her Majesty in Council made under this Act shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within six weeks after issuing the same, if Parliament be then sitting, and if not, then within six weeks after the commencement of the then next session of Parliament.

Orders in Council may be revoked.

17. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty by an Order in Council from time to time to revoke or alter any Order in Council previously made under the authority of this Act, but nevertheless without prejudice to any rights acquired previously to such revocation or alteration.

Translations.

18. Provided always, and be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to prevent the printing, publication, or sale of any translation of any book the author whereof and his assigns may be entitled to the benefit of this Act.

Authors of works first published in foreign countries not entitled to copyright except under this Act.

19. And be it enacted, that neither the author of any book, nor the author or composer of any dramatic piece or musical composition, nor the inventor, designer, or engraver of any print, nor the maker of any article of sculpture, or of such other work of art as aforesaid, which shall after the passing of this Act be first published out of Her Majesty's dominions, shall have any copyright therein respectively,

7 Vict. c. 12.

or any exclusive right to the public representation or performance thereof, otherwise than such (if any) as he may become entitled to under this Act.

Interpretation clause.

20. And be it enacted, that in the construction of this Act the word "book" shall be construed to include "volume," "pamphlet," "sheet of letter-press," "sheet of music," "map," "chart," or "plan;" and the expression "articles of sculpture" shall mean all such sculptures, models, copies, and casts as are described in the said Sculpture Copyright Acts, and in respect of which the privileges of copyright are thereby conferred; and the words "printing" and "re-printing" shall include engraving and any other method of multiplying copies; and the expression "Her Majesty" shall include the heirs and successors of Her Majesty; and the expression "Order of Her Majesty in Council," "Order in Council," and "Order," shall respectively mean Order of Her Majesty acting by and with the advice of Her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council; and the expression "Officer of the Company of Stationers" shall mean the officer appointed by the said Company of Stationers for the purposes of the said Copyright Amendment Act; and in describing any persons or things any word importing the plural number shall mean also one person or thing, and any word importing the singular number shall include several persons or things, and any word importing the masculine shall include also the feminine gender; unless in any of such cases there shall be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

Act may be repealed this session.

21. And be it enacted, that this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

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8 & 9 Vict. cap. 75.

8 & 9 Vict. c. 75.

An Act to amend an Act passed in the Session of Parliament held in the Sixth and Seventh Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Law respecting defamatory Words and Libel." —[31*st July*, 1845.]

Whereas by an Act passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled

6 & 7 Vict. c. 96.

"An Act to amend the Law respecting defamatory Words and Libel," it is, amongst other things, enacted and provided, that the defendant in an action for a libel contained in any public newspaper or other periodical publication may plead certain matters therein mentioned, and may upon filing such plea be at liberty to pay into court a sum of money by way of amends for the injury sustained by the publication of such libel; and it is thereby further enacted, that such payment into court shall be of the same effect, and be available in the same manner and to the same extent, and be subject to the same rules and regulations as to payment of costs and the form of pleading, except so far as regards the pleading of the additional facts thereinbefore required to be pleaded by such defendant, as if actions for libel had not been excepted from the personal actions in which it is lawful to pay money into court, under an Act passed in the session of Parlia-

3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 42.

ment held in the fourth year of his late Majesty, intituled "An Act for the further Amendment of the Law, and the better Advancement of Justice:" And whereas the said Act of the fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty relates only to proceedings in the superior courts in England, but by an Act passed in the session of Parliament held in the third

3 & 4 Vict. c. 105.

and fourth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act

for abolishing Arrest on Mesne Process in civil Actions, except in certain Cases, for extending the Remedies of Creditors against the Property of Debtors, and for the further Advancement of Justice, in Ireland," a like provision is made for payment of money into court in all personal actions pending in any of the superior courts in Ireland as is contained in the said Act of the fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty in regard to actions pending in the superior courts in England, with a like exception of actions for libel; and it is expedient to prevent any doubts as to the application of the said recited Act of the sixth and seventh years of the reign of Her present Majesty to actions pending in the superior courts in Ireland, which may be created by reason of the omission of a reference in the last-mentioned Act to the said Act of the third and fourth years of the reign of Her present Majesty: Be it therefore enacted and declared by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that when in any action pending in the superior courts in Ireland for a libel contained in any public newspaper or other periodical publication the defendant shall plead the matters allowed to be pleaded by the said first-mentioned Act, and shall on filing such plea pay money into court as provided by such Act, such payment into court shall be of the same effect, and be available in the same manner and to the same extent, and be subject to the same rules and regulations now in force or hereafter to be made as to payment of costs and the form of pleading, except so far as regards the pleading of the additional facts so required to be pleaded by such defendant, as if actions for libel had not been excepted from the personal actions in which it is lawful to pay money into court under the said recited Act of the third and fourth years of the reign of Her present Majesty.

8 & 9 Vict. c. 75.

In cases of action for libel in Ireland, where defendant shall plead matters allowed by 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 42, and pay money into court, such payment to be of same effect as if required by said Act.

2. And be it declared and enacted, that it shall not be competent to any defendant in such action, whether in England or in Ireland, to file any such plea, without at the same time making a payment of money into court by way of amends as provided by said Act, but every such plea so filed without payment of money into court shall be deemed a nullity, and may be treated as such by the plaintiff in the action.

Defendant not to file such plea without paying money into court by way of amends.

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10 & 11 Vict. cap. 95.

An Act to amend the Law relating to the Protection in the Colonies of works entitled to Copyright in the United Kingdom.—[22*nd July*, 1847.]

10 & 11 Vict. c. 95.

Whereas by an Act passed in the session of Parliament holden in the fifth and sixth years of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Law of Copyright," it is amongst other things enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any person not being the proprietor of the copyright, or some person authorised by him, to import into any part of the United Kingdom, or into any other part of the British dominions, for sale or hire, any printed book first composed or written or printed or published in any part of the United Kingdom wherein there shall be copyright, and reprinted in any country or place whatsoever out of the British dominions: And whereas by an Act passed in the session of Parliament holden in the eighth and ninth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to regulate the Trade of the British Possessions abroad," books

5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

8 & 9 Vict. c. 93.

10 & 11 Vict. c. 95.

wherein the copyright is subsisting, first composed or written or printed in the United Kingdom, and printed or reprinted in any other country, are absolutely prohibited to be imported into the British possessions abroad: And whereas by the said last-recited Act it is enacted, that all laws, bye laws, usages, or customs in practice, or endeavoured or pretended to be in force or practice in any of the British possessions in America, which are in anywise repugnant to the said Act or to any Act of Parliament made or to be made in the United Kingdom, so far as such Act shall relate to and mention the said possessions, are and shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever: Now be it enacted, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that in case the Legislature or proper legislative authorities in any British possession shall be disposed to make due provision for securing or protecting the rights of British authors in such possession, and shall pass an Act or make an ordinance for that purpose, and shall transmit the same in the proper manner to the Secretary of State, in order that it may be submitted to Her Majesty, and in case Her Majesty shall be of opinion that such Act or Ordinance is sufficient for the purpose of securing to British authors reasonable protection within such possession, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, if she think fit so to do, to express her royal approval of such Act or ordinance, and thereupon to issue an Order in Council declaring that so long as the provisions of such Act or ordinance continue in force within such colony the prohibitions contained in the aforesaid Acts, and hereinbefore recited, and any prohibitions contained in the said Acts or in any other Acts against the importing, selling, letting out to hire, exposing for sale or hire, or possessing foreign reprints of books first composed, written, printed, or published in the United Kingdom, and entitled to copyright therein, shall be suspended so far as regards such colony; and thereupon such Act or ordinance shall come into operation, except so far as may be otherwise provided therein, or as may be otherwise directed by such Order in Council, anything in the said last-recited Act or in any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Her Majesty may suspend in certain cases the prohibitions against the admission of pirated books into the colonies in certain cases.

Orders in council to be published in Gazette.

2. And be it enacted, that every such Order in Council shall, within one week after the issuing thereof, be published in the *London Gazette*, and that a copy thereof, and of every such Colonial Act or ordinance so approved as aforesaid by Her Majesty, shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within six weeks after the issuing of such order, if Parliament be then sitting, or if Parliament be not then sitting, then within six weeks after the opening of the next Session of Parliament,

Orders in Council and the Colonial Acts or ordinances to be laid before Parliament.

Act may be amended, &c.

3. And be it enacted, this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in the present Session of Parliament.

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13 & 14 Vict. cap. 104.

13 & 14 Vict. c. 104.

An Act to extend and amend the Acts relating to the Copyright of Designs.—[*14th August*, 1850.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to extend and amend the Acts relating to the copyright of designs: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same:

1. That the registrar of designs, upon application by or on behalf of the proprietor of any design not previously published within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or elsewhere, and which may be registered under the Designs Act, 1842, or under the Designs Act, 1843, for the provisional registration of such design, under this Act, and upon being furnished with such copy, drawing, print, or description in writing or in print as in the judgment of the said registrar shall be sufficient to identify the particular design in respect of which such registration is desired, and the name of the person claiming to be proprietor, together with his place of abode or business, or other place of address, or the style or title of the firm under which he may be trading, shall register such design in such manner and form as shall from time to time be prescribed or approved by the Board of Trade; and any design so registered shall be deemed "provisionally registered," and the registration thereof shall continue in force for the term of one year from the time of the same being registered as aforesaid; and the said registrar shall certify, under his hand and seal of office, in such form as the said board shall direct or approve, that the design has been provisionally registered, the date of such registration, and the name of the registered proprietor, together with his place of abode or business, or other place of address.

13 & 14 Vict. c. 104.

Certain designs may be registered provisionally for one year.

2. That the proprietor of any design which shall have been provisionally registered shall, during the continuance of such registration, have the sole right and property in such design; and the penalties and provisions of the said Designs Act, 1842, for preventing the piracy of designs, shall extend to the acts, matters, and things next hereinafter enumerated, as fully as if those penalties and provisions had been re-enacted in this Act, and expressly extended to such acts, matters, and things respectively; that is to say,

Benefits conferred by provisional registration.

1. To the application of any provisionally registered design, or any fraudulent imitation thereof, to any article of manufacture or to any substance:
2. To the publication, sale, or exposure for sale of any article of manufacture or any substance to which any provisionally registered design shall have been applied.

3. That during the continuance of such provisional registration neither such registration nor the exhibition or exposure of any design provisionally registered, or of any article to which any such design may have been or be intended to be applied, in any place, whether public or private, in which articles are not sold or exposed or exhibited for sale, and to which the public are not admitted gratuitously, or in any place which shall have been previously certified by the Board of Trade to be a place of public exhibition within the meaning of this Act, nor the publication of any account or description of any provisionally registered design exhibited or exposed or intended to be exhibited or exposed in any such place of exhibition or exposure in any catalogue, paper, newspaper, periodical, or otherwise, shall prevent the proprietor thereof from registering any such design under the said Designs Acts at any time during the continuance of the provisional registration, in the same manner and as fully and effectually as if no such registration, exhibition, exposure, or publication had been made; provided that every article to which any such design shall be applied, and which shall be exhibited or exposed by or with the licence or consent of the proprietor of such design, shall have thereon or attached thereto the words "provisionally registered," with the date of registration.

The exhibition of provisionally registered designs in certain places not to defeat copyright, &c.

13 & 14 Vict. c. 104.

4. That if during the continuance of such provisional registration the proprietor of any design provisionally registered shall sell, expose, or offer for sale any article, substance, or thing to which any such design has been applied, such provisional registration shall be deemed to have been null and void immediately before any such sale, offer, or exposure shall have been first made; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to hinder or prevent such proprietor from selling or transferring the right and property in any such design.

Sale of articles to which provisionally registered designs, &c. have been applied to defeat copyright, but design itself may be sold.

5. That the Board of Trade may by order in writing with respect to any particular class of designs, or any particular design, extend the period for which any design may be provisionally registered under this Act, for such term not exceeding the additional term of six months as to the said Board may seem fit; and whenever any such order shall be made, the same shall be registered in the office for the registration of designs, and during the extended term the protection and benefits conferred by this Act in case of provisional registration shall continue as fully as if the original term of one year had not expired.

Extension of period of provisional registration by Board of Trade.

6. That the registrar of designs, upon application by or on behalf of the proprietor of any sculpture, model, copy, or cast within the protection of the Sculpture Copyright Acts, and upon being furnished with such copy, drawing, print, or description, in writing or in print, as in the judgment of the said registrar shall be sufficient to identify the particular sculpture, model, copy, or cast in respect of which registration is desired, and the name of the person claiming to be proprietor, together with his place of abode or business or other place of address, or the name, style, or title of the firm under which he may be trading, shall register such sculpture, model, copy, or cast in such manner and form as shall from time to time be prescribed or approved by the Board of Trade for the whole or any part of the term during which copyright in such sculpture, model, copy, or cast may or shall exist under the Sculpture Copyright Acts; and whenever any such registration shall be made, the said registrar shall certify under his hand and seal of office, in such form as the said Board shall direct or approve, the fact of such registration, and the date of the same, and the name of the registered proprietor, or the style or title of the firm under which such proprietor may be trading, together with his place of abode or business or other place of address.

Registration of sculpture, models, &c.

7. That if any person shall, during the continuance of the copyright in any sculpture, model, copy, or cast which shall have been so registered as aforesaid, make, import, or cause to be made, imported, exposed for sale, or otherwise disposed of, any pirated copy or pirated cast of any such sculpture, model, copy, or cast, in such manner and under such circumstances as would entitle the proprietor to a special action on the case under the Sculpture Copyright Acts, the person so offending shall forfeit for every such offence a sum not less than five pounds and not exceeding thirty pounds to the proprietor of the sculpture, model, copy, or cast whereof the copyright shall have been infringed; and for the recovery of any such penalty the proprietor of the sculpture, model, copy, or cast which shall have been so pirated shall have and be entitled to the same remedies as are provided for the recovery of penalties incurred under the Designs Act, 1842: Provided always, that the proprietor of any sculpture, model, copy, or cast which shall be registered under this Act shall not be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless every copy or cast of such sculpture, model, copy, or cast which shall be published by him after such registration shall be marked with the word "registered," and with the date of registration.

Benefits conferred by registration of sculpture, &c.

8. That designs for the ornamenting of ivory, bone, papier maché, and other solid substances, not already comprised in the classes numbered 1, 2, or 3 in the Designs Act, 1842, shall be deemed and taken to be comprised within the class numbered 4 in that Act, and such designs shall be so registered accordingly. 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104

Designs for ornamenting ivory, &c. may be registered under Designs Act, 1842, for three years.

9. That the Board of Trade may from time to time order that the copyright of any class of designs or any particular design registered or which may be registered under the Designs Act, 1842, may be extended for such term, not exceeding the additional term of three years, as the said Board may think fit, and the said Board shall have power to revoke or alter any such order as may from time to time appear necessary; and whenever any order shall be made by the said Board under this provision, the same shall be registered in the office for the registration of designs; and during the extended term the protection and benefits conferred by the said Designs Acts shall continue as fully as if the original term had not expired.

Board of Trade may extend copyright in ornamental designs.

10. That the Board of Trade may from time to time make, alter, and revoke rules and regulations with respect to the mode of registration, and the documents and other matters and particulars to be furnished by persons effecting registration and provisional registration under the said Acts and this Act: Provided always, that all such rules and regulations shall be published in the *London Gazette*, and shall forthwith upon the issuing thereof be laid before Parliament, if Parliament be sitting, and if Parliament be not sitting, then within fourteen days after the commencement of the then next session; and such rules and regulations, or any of them, shall be published or notified by the registrar of designs in such other manner as the Board of Trade shall think fit to direct.

Regulations for the registration of designs may be made by Board of Trade.

11. That if in any case in which the registration of a design is required to be made under either of the said Designs Acts it shall appear to the registrar that copies, drawings, or prints as required by those Acts cannot be furnished, or that it is unreasonable or unnecessary to require the same, the said registrar may dispense with such copies, drawings, or prints, and may allow in lieu thereof such specification or description in writing or in print as may be sufficient to identify and render intelligible the design in respect of which registration is desired; and whenever registration shall be so made in the absence of such copies, drawings, or prints, the registration shall be as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes as if such copies, drawings, or prints had been furnished.

Registrar of designs may dispense with drawings, &c. in certain cases.

12. That in order to prevent the frequent and unnecessary removal of the public books and documents in the office for the registration of designs, no book or document in the said office shall be removed for the purpose of being produced in any court or before any justice of the peace, without a special order of a judge of the Court of Chancery, or one of Her Majesty's superior courts of law, first had and obtained by the party who shall desire the production of the same.

Public books and documents in the Designs Office not to be removed without judge's order.

13. That if application shall be made to a judge of any of Her Majesty's courts of law at Westminster by any person desiring to obtain a copy of any registration, entry, drawing, print, or document, of which such person is not entitled as of right to have a copy, for the purpose of being used in evidence in any cause, or otherwise howsoever, and if such judge shall be satisfied that such copy is *bonâ fide* intended for such purpose as aforesaid, such judge shall order the Registrar of Designs to deliver such copy to the party applying, and the Registrar of Designs shall, upon payment for the same of such fee or fees as may

Judges may order copies of documents to be furnished to be given in evidence.

13 & 14 Vict. c. 104.

be fixed according to the provisions of the said Designs Act in this behalf, deliver such copy accordingly.

Copies of documents delivered by the registrar to be sealed, and to be evidence.

14. That every copy of any registration, entry, drawing, print, or document delivered by the Registrar of Designs to any person requiring the same shall be signed by the said registrar, and sealed with his seal of office; and every document sealed with the said seal purporting to be a copy of any registration, entry, drawing, print, or document shall be deemed to be a true copy of such registration, entry, drawing, print, or document, and shall, without further proof, be received in evidence before all courts in like manner and to the same extent and effect as the original book, registration, entry, drawing, print, or document would or might be received if tendered in evidence, as well for the purpose of proving the contents, purport, and effect of such book, registration, entry, drawing, print, or document, as also proving the same to be a book, registration, entry, drawing, print, or document of or belonging to the said office, and in the custody of the Registrar of Designs.

Certain provisions of Designs Acts, 1842 and 1843, extended to this Act.

15. That the several provisions contained in the said Designs Acts (so far as they are not repugnant to the provisions of this Act) relating to the transfer of designs, to cancelling and amending registration, to the refusal of registration in certain cases, to the mode of recovering penalties, to the awarding and recovery of costs, to actions for damages, to the limitation of actions, to the certificate of registration, to penalties for wrongfully using marks, to the fixing and application of fees for registration, and to the penalty for extortion, shall apply to the registration, provisional registration, and transfer of designs, sculptures, models, copies, and casts, and to the designs, sculptures, models, copies, and casts entitled to protection under this Act, and to matters under this Act, as fully and effectually as if those provisions had been re-enacted in this Act with respect to designs, sculptures, models, copies, and casts registered and provisionally registered under this Act; and the forms contained in the Designs Act, 1842, may for the purposes of this Act be varied so as to meet the circumstances of the case.

Interpretation of terms.

16. That in the interpretation of this Act the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings hereinafter assigned to them, unless such meanings shall be repugnant to or inconsistent with the context or subject-matter; that is to say,

The expression "Designs Act, 1842," shall mean an Act passed in the sixth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws, relating to the Copyright of Designs for ornamenting Articles of Manufacture:"

The expression "Designs Act, 1843," shall mean an Act passed in the seventh year of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Copyright of Designs:"

The expression "Sculpture Copyright Acts" shall mean two Acts passed respectively in the thirty-eighth and fifty-fourth years of the reign of King George the Third, and intituled respectively "An Act for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts and other Things herein mentioned," and "An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts and other Things therein mentioned:"

The expression the "Board of Trade," shall mean the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for the consideration of all matters of trade and plantations:

The expression "Registrar of Designs" shall mean the Registrar or Assistant-Registrar of Designs for Articles of Manufacture:

The expression "proprietor" shall be construed according to the interpretation of that word in the said Designs Act, 1842: 13 & 14 Vict. c. 104.

And words in the singular number shall include the plural, and words applicable to males shall include females.

17. That in citing this Act in other Acts of Parliament, and in any instrument, document, or proceeding, it shall be sufficient to use the words and figures following, that is to say, "the Designs Act, 1850." Short title.

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15 Vict. cap. 12.

An Act to enable Her Majesty to carry into effect a Convention with France on the Subject of Copyright; to extend and explain the International Copyright Acts; and to explain the Acts relating to Copyright in Engravings.—[28*th May*, 1852.] 15 Vict. c. 12.

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the seventh year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to International Copyright," hereinafter called "The International Copyright Act:" and whereas a convention has lately been concluded between Her Majesty and the French Republic, for extending in each country the enjoyment of copyright in works of literature and the fine arts first published in the other, and for certain reductions of duties now levied on books, prints, and musical works published in France: and whereas certain of the stipulations on the part of Her Majesty contained in the said treaty require the authority of Parliament: and whereas it is expedient that such authority should be given, and that Her Majesty should be enabled to make similar stipulations in any treaty on the subject of copyright which may hereafter be concluded with any foreign power: Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12.

Translations.

Partial repeal of 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, s. 18.

1. The eighteenth section of the said Act of the seventh year of Her present Majesty, chapter twelve, shall be repealed, so far as the same is inconsistent with the provisions hereinafter contained.

Her Majesty may by Order in Council direct that the authors of books published in foreign countries may for a limited time prevent unauthorised translations.

2. Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, direct that the authors of books which are, after a future time, to be specified in such order, published in any foreign country, to be named in such order, their executors, administrators, and assigns, shall, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained or referred to, be empowered to prevent the publication in the British Dominions of any translations of such books not authorised by them, for such time as may be specified in such order, not extending beyond the expiration of five years from the time at which the authorised translations of such books hereinafter mentioned are respectively first published, and in the case of books published in parts, not extending as to each part beyond the expiration of five years from the time at which the authorised translation of such part is first published.

Thereupon the law of copyright shall extend to prevent such translations.

3. Subject to any provisions or qualifications contained in such order, and to the provisions herein contained or referred to, the laws and enactments for the time being in force for the purpose of preventing the infringement of copyright in books published in the British dominions shall be applied for the purpose of preventing the publication of translations of the books to which such order extends which are not sanctioned by the authors of such books, except only such parts of the said enactments as relate to the delivery of copies of

15 VICT. c. 12.

books for the use of the British Museum, and for the use of the other libraries therein referred to.

Her Majesty may by Order in Council direct that the authors of dramatic works represented in foreign countries may for a limited time prevent unauthorised translations.

4. Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, direct that authors of dramatic pieces which are, after a future time, to be specified in such order, first publicly represented in any foreign country, to be named in such order, their executors, administrators, and assigns, shall, subject to the provisions hereinafter mentioned or referred to, be empowered to prevent the representation in the British dominions of any translation of such dramatic pieces not authorised by them, for such time as may be specified in such order, not extending beyond the expiration of five years from the time at which the authorised translations of such dramatic pieces hereinafter mentioned are first published or publicly represented.

Thereupon the law for protecting the representation of such pieces shall extend to prevent unauthorised translations.

5. Subject to any provisions or qualifications contained in such last-mentioned order, and to the provisions hereinafter contained or referred to, the laws and enactments for the time being in force for ensuring to the author of any dramatic piece first publicly represented in the British dominions the sole liberty of representing the same shall be applied for the purpose of preventing the representation of any translations of the dramatic pieces to which such last-mentioned order extends, which are not sanctioned by the authors thereof.

Adaptations, &c. of dramatic pieces to the English stage not prevented.

6. Nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent fair imitations or adaptations to the English stage of any dramatic piece or musical composition published in any foreign country.

All articles in newspapers, &c. relating to politics may be republished or translated; and also all similar articles on any subject, *unless the author* has notified his intention to reserve the right.

7. Notwithstanding anything in the said International Copyright Act or in this Act contained, any article of political discussion which has been published in any newspaper or periodical in a foreign country may, if the source from which the same is taken be acknowledged, be republished or translated in any newspaper or periodical in this country; and any article relating to any other subject which has been so published as aforesaid may, if the source from which the same is taken be acknowledged, be republished or translated in like manner, unless the author has signified his intention of preserving the copyright therein, and the right of translating the same, in some conspicious part of the newspaper or periodical in which the same was first published, in which case the same shall, without the formalities required by the next following section, receive the same protection as is by virtue of the International Copyright Act or this Act extended to books.

No author to be entitled to benefit of this Act without complying with the requisitions herein specified.

8. No author, or his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, or of any Order in Council issued in pursuance thereof, in respect of the translation of any book or dramatic piece, if the following requisitions are not complied with; (that is to say,)

1. The original work from which the translation is to be made must be registered and a copy thereof deposited in the United Kingdom in the manner required for original works by the said International Copyright Act, within three calendar months of its first publication in the foreign country:
2. The author must notify on the title page of the original work, or if it is published in parts, on the title page of the first part, or if there is no title page, on some conspicuous part of the work, that it is his intention to reserve the right of translating it:
3. The translation sanctioned by the author, or a part thereof, must be published either in the country mentioned in the Order in Council by virtue of which it is to be protected or in the British dominions, not later than one year after the registration and

deposit in the United Kingdom of the original work, and the whole of such translation must be published within three years of such registration and deposit:

4. Such translation must be registered and a copy thereof deposited in the United Kingdom within a time to be mentioned in that behalf in the order by which it is protected, and in the manner provided by the said International Copyright Act for the registration and deposit of original works:

5. In the case of books published in parts, each part of the original work must be registered and deposited in this country in the manner required by the said International Copyright within three months after the first publication thereof in the foreign country:

6. In the case of dramatic pieces the translation sanctioned by the author must be published within three calendar months of the registration of the original work:

7. The above requisitions shall apply to articles originally published in newspapers or periodicals if the same be afterwards published in a separate form, but shall not apply to such articles as originally published.

Pirated copies prohibited to be imported, except with consent of proprietor;

9. All copies of any works of literature or art wherein there is any subsisting copyright by virtue of the International Copyright Act and this Act, or of any Order in Council made in pursuance of such Acts or either of them, and which are printed, reprinted, or made in any foreign country except that in which such work shall be first published, and all unauthorised translations of any book or dramatic piece the publication or public representation in the British dominions of translations whereof not authorised as in this Act mentioned shall for the time being be prohibited under any Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act, are hereby absolutely prohibited to be imported into any part of the British dominions, except by or with the consent of the registered proprietor of the copyright of such work or of such book or piece, or his agent authorised in writing; and the provision of the Act of the sixth year of Her Majesty "to amend the Law of Copyright," for the forfeiture, seizure, and destruction of any printed book first published in the United Kingdom wherein there shall be copyright, and reprinted in any country out of the British dominions, and imported into any part of the British dominions by any person not being the proprietor of the copyright, or a person authorised by such proprietor, shall extend and be applicable to all copies of any works of literature and art, and to all translations the importation whereof into any part of the British dominions is prohibited under this Act.

Provisions of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, as to forfeiture, &c. of pirated works, &c. to extend to works prohibited to be imported under this Act.

Foregoing provisions and 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, to be read as one Act.

10. The provisions hereinbefore contained shall be incorporated with the International Copyright Act, and shall be read and construed therewith as one Act.

French translations to be protected as hereinbefore mentioned, without further Order in Council.

11. And whereas Her Majesty has already, by Order in Council under the said International Copyright Act, given effect to certain stipulations contained in the said convention with the French republic; and it is expedient that the remainder of the stipulations on the part of Her Majesty in the said convention contained should take effect from the passing of this Act without any further Order in Council: during the continuance of the said convention, and so long as the Order in Council already made under the said International Copyright Act remains in force, the provisions hereinbefore contained shall apply to the said convention, and to translations of books and dramatic pieces which are, after the passing of this Act, published or

15 Vict. c. 12.

represented in France, in the same manner as if Her Majesty had issued her Order in Council in pursuance of this Act for giving effect to such convention, and had therein directed that such translations should be protected as hereinbefore mentioned for a period of five years from the date of the first publication or public representation thereof respectively, and as if a period of three months from the publication of such translation were the time mentioned in such order as the time within which the same must be registered and a copy thereof deposited in the United Kingdom.

Reduction of Duties.

Recital of 9 & 10 Vict. c. 58.

12. And whereas an Act was passed in the tenth year of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend an Act of the Seventh and Eighth Years of Her present Majesty, for reducing, under certain Circumstances, the Duties payable upon Books and Engravings:" and whereas by the said convention with the French Republic it was stipulated that the duties on books, prints, and drawings published in the territories of the French Republic should be reduced to the amounts specified in the schedule to the said Act of the tenth year of Her present Majesty, chapter fifty-eight: and whereas Her Majesty has, in pursuance of the said convention, and in exercise of the powers given by the said Act, by Order in Council declared that such duties shall be reduced accordingly: and whereas by the said convention it was further stipulated that the said rates of duty should not be raised during the continuance of the said convention; and that if during the continuance of the said convention any reduction of those rates should be made in favour of books, prints, or drawings published in any other country, such reduction shall be at the same time extended to similar articles published in France: and whereas doubts are entertained whether such lastmentioned stipulations can be carried into effect without the authority of Parliament: Be it enacted,

Rates of duty not to be raised during continuance of treaty, and if further reduction is made for other countries it may be extended to France.

that the said rates of duty so reduced as aforesaid shall not be raised during the continuance of the said convention; and that if during the continuance of the said convention any further reduction of such rates is made in favour of books, prints, or drawings published in any other foreign country, Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, declare that such reduction shall be extended to similar articles published in France, such order to be made and published in the same manner and to be subject to the same provisions as orders made in pursuance of the said Act of the tenth year of Her present Majesty, chapter fifty-eight.

13. And whereas doubts have arisen as to the construction of the schedule of the Act of the tenth year of Her present Majesty, chapter fifty-eight:

For removal of doubts as to construction of schedule to 9 & 10 Vict. c. 58.

It is hereby declared, that for the purposes of the said Act every work published in the country of export, of which part has been originally produced in the United Kingdom, shall be deemed to be and be subject to the duty payable on "works originally produced in the United Kingdom, and republished in the country of export," although it contains also original matter not produced in the United Kingdom, unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs by the importer, consignee, or other person entering the same that such original matter is at least equal to the part of the work produced in the United Kingdom, in which case the work shall be subject only to the duty on "works not originally produced in the United Kingdom."

Lithographs, &c.

Recital of 8 Geo. 2, c. 13. 7 Geo. 3, c. 38. 17 Geo. 3, c. 57.

14. And whereas by the four several Acts of Parliament following; (that is to say,) an Act of the eighth year of the reign of King George the Second, chapter thirteen; an Act of the seventh year of the reign of King George the Third, chapter thirty-eight; an Act of

the seventeenth year of the reign of King George the Third, chapter fifty-seven; and an Act of the seventh year of King William the Fourth, chapter fifty-nine, provision is made for securing to every person who invents, or designs, engraves, etches, or works in mezzotinto or chiaro-oscuro, or, from his own work, design, or invention, causes or procures to be designed, engraved, etched, or worked in mezzotinto or chiaro-oscuro, any historical print or prints, or any print or prints of any portrait, conversation, landscape, or architecture, map, chart, or plan, or any other print or prints whatsoever, and to every person who engraves, etches, or works in mezzotinto or chiaro-oscuro, or causes to be engraved, etched, or worked any print taken from any picture, drawing, model, or sculpture, notwithstanding such print has not been graven or drawn from his own original design, certain copyrights therein defined: And whereas doubts are entertained whether the provisions of the said Acts extend to lithographs and certain other impressions, and it is expedient to remove such doubts:

15 Vict. c. 12.
6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59.

It is hereby declared, that the provisions of the said Acts are intended to include prints taken by lithography, or any other mechanical process by which prints or impressions of drawings or designs are capable of being multiplied indefinitely, and the said Acts shall be construed accordingly.

For removal of doubts as to the provisions of the said Acts including lithographs, prints, &c.

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18 & 19 Vict, cap. 41.

An Act for abolishing the Jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts of England and Wales in Suits for Defamation.—[26th *June*, 1855.]

18 & 19 Vict. c. 41.

Whereas the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts in suits for defamation has ceased to be the means of enforcing the spiritual discipline of the Church, and has become grievous and oppressive to the subjects of this realm: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. From and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any ecclesiastical court in England or Wales to entertain or adjudicate upon any suit for or cause of defamation, any statute, law, canon, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Jurisdiction of ecclesiastical courts in England, &c. in suits for defamation abolished.

2. In the case of every person committed to gaol before the passing of this Act under any writ *de contumace capiendo*, issued in consequence of any proceedings before any ecclesiastical court, in any cause or suit for defamation of character, the judge of the ecclesiastical court before whom such proceedings shall have been had shall make an order upon the officer in whose custody such person is for discharging such person out of custody, and such officer shall, on the receipt of such order, forthwith discharge such person; and it shall not be necessary for such person to take any oath of future obedience to his or her ordinary: Provided always, that such order shall not be made unless the costs lawfully incurred in any such suit shall have been previously paid into the registry of such ecclesiastical court, or unless the person against whom such costs shall have been decreed shall have already suffered imprisonment for one month in consequence of nonpayment thereof.

Persons in custody for defamation under order of ecclesiastical courts to be discharged, but such order not to be made until costs are paid.

20 & 21 Vict. cap. 83.

20 & 21 Vict. c. 83.

An Act for more effectually preventing the Sale of Obscene Books, Pictures, Prints, and other Articles.—[*25th August*, 1857.]

Whereas it is expedient to give additional powers for the suppression of the trade in obscene books, prints, drawings, and other obscene articles: Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Justices, &c. may authorise search of suspected premises.

1. It shall be lawful for any metropolitan police magistrate or other stipendiary magistrate, or for any two justices of the peace, upon complaint made before him or them upon oath that the complainant has reason to believe, and does believe, that any obscene books, papers, writings, prints, pictures, drawings, or other representations are kept in any house, shop, room, or other place within the limits of the jurisdiction of any such magistrate or justices, for the purpose of sale or distribution, exhibition for purposes of gain, lending upon hire, or being otherwise published for purposes of gain, which complainant shall also state upon oath that one or more articles of the like character have been sold, distributed, exhibited, lent, or otherwise published as aforesaid, at or in connection with such place, so as to satisfy such magistrate or justices that the belief of the said complainant is well founded, and upon such magistrate or justices being also satisfied that any of such articles so kept for any of the purposes aforesaid are of such a character and description that the publication of them would be a misdemeanour, and proper to be prosecuted as such, to give authority by special warrant to any constable or police officer into such house, shop, room, or other place, with such assistance as may be necessary, to enter in the daytime, and, if necessary, to use force, by breaking open doors or otherwise, and to search for and seize all such books, papers, writings, prints, pictures, drawings, or other representations as aforesaid found in such house, shop, room, or other place, and to carry all the articles so seized before the magistrate or justices issuing the said warrant, or some other magistrate or justices exercising the same jurisdiction; and such magistrate or justices shall thereupon issue a summons calling upon the occupier of the house or other place which may have been so entered by virtue of the said warrant to appear within seven days before such police stipendiary magistrate or any two justices in petty sessions for the district, to show cause why the articles so seized should not be destroyed; and if such occupier or some other person claiming to be the owner of the said articles shall not appear within the time aforesaid, or shall appear, and such magistrate or justices shall be satisfied that such articles or any of them are of the character stated in the warrant, and that such or any of them have been kept for any of the purposes aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said magistrate or justices, and he or they are hereby required, to order the articles so seized, except such of them as he or they may consider necessary to be preserved as evidence in some further proceeding, to be destroyed at the expiration of the time hereinafter allowed for lodging an appeal, unless notice of appeal as hereinafter mentioned be given, and such articles shall be in the meantime impounded; and if such magistrate or justices shall be satisfied that the articles seized are not of the character stated in the warrant, or have not been kept for any of the purposes aforesaid, he or they shall forthwith direct them to be

restored to the occupier of the house or other place in which they were seized. 20 & 21 Vict. c. 83.

Tender of amends, &c.

2. No plaintiff shall recover in any action for any irregularity, trespass, or other wrongful proceeding made or committed in the execution of this Act, or in, under, or by virtue of any authority hereby given, if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made by or on behalf of the party who shall have committed such irregularity, trespass, or other wrongful proceeding, before such action brought; and in case no tender shall have been made it shall be lawful for the defendant in any such action, by leave of the court where such action shall depend, at any time before issue joined, to pay into court such sum of money as he shall think fit, whereupon such proceeding, order, and adjudication shall be had and made in and by such court as in other actions where defendants are allowed to pay money into court.

Limitation of actions.

3. No action, suit, or information, or any other proceeding, of what nature soever, shall be brought against any person for anything done or omitted to be done in pursuance of this Act, or in the execution of the authorities under this Act, unless notice in writing shall be given by the party intending to prosecute such action, suit, information, or other proceeding, to the intended defendant, one calendar month at least before prosecuting the same, nor unless such action, suit, information, or other proceeding shall be brought or commenced within three calendar months next after the act or omission complained of, or in case there shall be a continuation of damage, then within three calendar months next after the doing such damage shall have ceased.

Appeal.

4. Any person aggrieved by any act or determination of such magistrate or justices in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the next general or quarter sessions for the county, riding, division, city, borough, or place in and for which such magistrate or justices shall have so acted, giving to the magistrate or justices of the peace whose act or determination shall be appealed against notice in writing of such appeal, and of the grounds thereof, within seven days after such act or determination and before the next general or quarter sessions, and entering within such seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient surety, before a justice of the peace for the county, city, borough, or place in which such act or determination shall have taken place, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal, and to abide the order of and pay such costs as shall be awarded by such court of quarter sessions or any adjournment thereof, and the court at such general or quarter sessions shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and such court, upon hearing and finally determining such appeal, shall and may, according to their discretion, award such costs to the party appealing or appealed against as they shall think proper; and if such appeal be dismissed or decided against the appellant or be not prosecuted, such court may order the articles seized forthwith to be destroyed: Provided always, that it shall not be lawful for the appellant on the hearing of any such appeal to go into or give evidence of any other grounds of appeal against any such order, act, or determination than those set forth in such notice of appeal.

Act not to extend to Scotland.

5. This Act shall not extend to Scotland.

21 & 22 VICT. CAP. 70.

21 & 22 Vict. c. 70.

An Act to amend the Act of the fifth and sixth Years of Her present Majesty, to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Copyright of Designs for ornamenting Articles of Manufacture.—[2nd *August*, 1858.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of
5 & 6 Vict. c. 100. Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Copyright of Designs for ornamenting Articles of Manufacture," hereinafter called "The Copyright of Designs Act, 1842," there was granted to the proprietor of any new and original design in respect of the application of any such design to ornamenting any article of manufacture contained in the tenth class therein mentioned, with the exceptions therein mentioned, the sole right to apply the same to any articles of manufacture, or any such substances as therein mentioned, for the term of nine calendar months, to be computed from the time of such design being registered according to the said Act: And whereas it is expedient that the term of copyright, in respect of the application of designs to the ornamenting of articles of manufacture comprised in the said tenth class, should be extended, and that some of the provisions of the said Act should be altered, and that further provision should be made for the prevention of piracy, and for the protection of copyright in designs under the Acts in the schedule hereto annexed, and hereinafter called "The Copyright of Designs Acts:" Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows; that is to say,

Short title.

1. In citing this Act for any purpose whatsoever it shall be sufficient to use the expression "The Copyright of Designs Act, 1858."

Copyright of Designs Acts and this Act to be as one.

2. The said Copyright of Designs Act and this Act shall be construed together as one Act.

Extension of term of copyright as to the tenth class mentioned in 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

3. In respect of the application of any new and original design for ornamenting any article of manufacture contained in the tenth class mentioned in the Copyright of Designs Act, 1842, the term of copyright shall be three years, to be computed from the time of such design being registered, in pursuance of the provisions of the Copyright of Designs Acts, and of this Act: Provided nevertheless, that the term of such copyright shall expire on the thirty-first of December in the second year after the year in which such design was registered, whatever may be the day of such registration.

Copyright not to be prejudiced if articles marked.

4. Nothing in the fourth section of the Copyright of Designs Act, 1842, shall extend or be construed to extend to deprive the proprietor of any new and original design applied to ornamenting any article of manufacture contained in the said tenth class of the benefits of the Copyright of Designs Acts, or of this Act: Provided there shall have been printed on such articles at each end of the original piece thereof the name and address of such proprietor, and the word "registered," together with the years for which such design was registered.

Pattern may be registered.

5. And be it declared, that the registration of any pattern or portion of an article of manufacture to which a design is applied, instead or in lieu of a copy, drawing, print, specification, or description in writing, shall be as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes as if such copy, drawing, print, specification, or description in writing had been furnished to the registrar under the Copyright of Designs Acts.

Proprietor to give the number and date of registration.

6. The proprietor of such extended copyright shall, on application by or on behalf of any person producing or vending any article of

manufacture so marked, give the number and the date of the registration of any article of manufacture so marked; and any proprietor so applied to who shall not give the number and date of such registration shall be subject to a penalty of ten pounds, to be recovered by the applicant, with full costs of suit, in any court of competent jurisdiction. 21 & 22 Vict. c. 70.

Penalty on issuing articles not so marked.

7. Any person who shall wilfully apply any mark of registration to any article of manufacture in respect whereof the application of the design thereto shall not have been registered, or after the term of copyright shall have expired, or who shall, during the term of copyright, without the authority of the proprietor of any registered design, wilfully apply the mark printed on the piece of any article of manufacture, or who shall knowingly sell or issue any article of manufacture to which such mark has been wilfully and without due authority applied, shall be subject to a penalty of ten pounds, to be recovered by the proprietor of such design, with full costs of suit, in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Proceedings for prevention of piracy may be instituted in the county courts.

8. Notwithstanding anything in the Copyright of Designs Acts, it shall be lawful for the proprietor of copyright in any design under the Copyright of Designs Acts, or this Act, to institute proceedings in the county court of the district within which the piracy is alleged to have been committed, for the recovery of damages which he may have sustained by reason of such piracy: Provided always, that in any such proceedings the plaintiff shall deliver with his plaint a statement of particulars as to the date and title or other description of the registration whereof the copyright is alleged to be pirated, and as to the alleged piracy; and the defendant, if he intends at the trial to rely as a defence on any objection to such copyright, or to the title of the proprietor therein, shall give notice in the manner provided in the seventy-sixth section of the Act of the ninth and tenth Victoria, chapter ninety-five, of his intention to rely on such special defence, and shall state in such notice the date of publication and other particulars of any designs whereof prior publication is alleged, or of any objection to such copyright, or to the title of the proprietor to such copyright; and it shall be lawful for the judge of the county court, at the instance of the defendant or plaintiff respectively, to require any statement or notice so delivered by the plaintiff or of the defendant respectively to be amended in such manner as the said judge may think fit.

The proceedings of County Courts Acts applicable to proceedings for piracy of designs.

9. The provisions of an Act of the ninth and tenth Victoria, chapter ninety-five, and of the twelfth and thirteenth Victoria, chapter one hundred, as to proceedings in any plaint, and as to appeal, and as to writs of prohibition, shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with or repugnant to the provisions of this Act, be applicable to any proceedings for piracy of copyright of designs under the said Copyright of Designs Acts or this Act.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING ACT.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 100. [10 Aug. 1842.]	An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the copyright of designs for ornamenting articles of manufacture.
6 & 7 Vict. c. 65. [22 Aug. 1843.]	An Act to amend the laws relating to the copyright of designs.
13 & 14 Vict. c. 104. [14 Aug. 1850.]	An Act to extend and amend the Acts relating to the copyright of designs.
14 Vict. c. 3. [11 April, 1851.]	An Act to extend the provisions of the Designs Act, 1850, and to give protection from piracy to persons exhibiting new inventions in the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations in One thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

24 & 25 Vict. cap. 73.

24 & 25 Vict. c. 73.

An Act to amend the Law relating to the Copyright of Designs. [*6th August*, 1861.]

Whereas by an Act passed in the session holden in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter one hundred, intituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Copyright of Designs for ornamenting Articles of Manufacture," it was enacted, that the proprietor of every such design as therein mentioned, not previously published either within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or elsewhere, should have the sole right to apply the same to any articles of manufacture, or to any such substances as therein mentioned, provided the same were done within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the respective terms therein mentioned, and should have such copyright in such designs as therein provided: And whereas divers Acts have since been passed extending or amending the said recited Acts: and whereas it is expedient that the provisions of the said recited Act, and of all Acts extending or amending the same, should apply to designs, and to the application of such designs, within the meaning of the said Acts, whether such application be effected within the United Kingdom or elsewhere: Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

5 & 6 Vict. c. 100, and other Acts relating to copyright of designs, extended.

1. That the said recited Act, and all Acts extending or amending the same, shall be construed as if the words "provided the same be done within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland" had not been contained in the said recited Act; and the said recited Act, and all Acts extending or amending the same, shall apply to every such design as therein referred to, whether the application thereof be done within the United Kingdom or elsewhere, and whether the inventor or proprietor of such design be or be not a subject of Her Majesty.

Application of Acts.

2. That the said several Acts shall not be construed to apply to the subjects of Her Majesty only.

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25 & 26 Vict. cap. 68.

25 & 26 Vict. c. 68.

An Act for amending the Law relating to Copyright in Works of the Fine Arts, and for repressing the Commission of Fraud in the Production and Sale of such Works.—[*29th July*, 1862.]

Whereas by law, as now established, the authors of paintings, drawings, and photographs have no copyright in such their works, and it is expedient that the law should in that respect be amended: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Copyright in works hereafter made or sold to vest in the author for his life and for seven years after his death.

1. The author, being a British subject or resident within the dominions of the Crown, of every original painting, drawing, and photograph which shall be or shall have been made either in the British dominions or elsewhere, and which shall not have been sold or disposed of before the commencement of this Act, and his assigns,

shall have the sole and exclusive right of copying, engraving, reproducing, and multiplying such painting or drawing, and the design thereof, or such photograph, and the negative thereof, by any means and of any size, for the term of the natural life of such author, and seven years after his death; provided that when any painting or drawing, or the negative of any photograph, shall for the first time after the passing of this Act be sold or disposed of, or shall be made or executed for or on behalf of any other person for a good or a valuable consideration, the person so selling or disposing of or making or executing the same shall not retain the copyright thereof, unless it be expressly reserved to him by agreement in writing, signed, at or before the time of such sale or disposition, by the vendee or assignee of such painting or drawing, or of such negative of a photograph, or by the person for or on whose behalf the same shall be so made or executed, but the copyright shall belong to the vendee or assignee of such painting or drawing, or of such negative of a photograph, or to the person for or on whose behalf the same shall have been made or executed; nor shall the vendee or assignee thereof be entitled to any such copyright, unless, at or before the time of such sale or disposition, an agreement in writing, signed by the person so selling or disposing of the same, or by his agent duly authorised, shall have been made to that effect. 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68

Copyright not to prevent the representation of the same subjects in other works.

2. Nothing herein contained shall prejudice the right of any person to copy or use any work in which there shall be no copyright, or to represent any scene or object, notwithstanding that there may be copyright in some representation of such scene or object.

Assignments, licences, &c. to be in writing.

3. All copyright under this Act shall be deemed personal or moveable estate, and shall be assignable at law, and every assignment thereof, and every licence to use or copy by any means or process the design or work which shall be the subject of such copyright, shall be made by some note or memorandum in writing, to be signed by the proprietor of the copyright, or by his agent appointed for that purpose in writing.

Register of proprietors of copyright in paintings, drawings, and photographs to be kept at Stationers Hall as in 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45.

4. There shall be kept at the Hall of the Stationers Company, by the officer appointed by the said company for the purposes of the Act passed in the sixth year of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Law of Copyright," a book or books, entitled "The Register of Proprietors of Copyright in Paintings, Drawings, and Photographs," wherein shall be entered a memorandum of every copyright to which any person shall be entitled under this Act, and also of every subsequent assignment of any such copyright; and such memorandum shall contain a statement of the date of such agreement or assignment, and of the names of the parties thereto, and of the name and place of abode of the person in whom such copyright shall be vested by virtue thereof, and of the name and place of abode of the author of the work in which there shall be such copyright, together with a short description of the nature and subject of such work, and in addition thereto, if the person registering shall so desire, a sketch, outline, or photograph of the said work, and no proprietor of any such copyright shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act until such registration, and no action shall be sustainable nor any penalty be recoverable in respect of anything done before registration.

Certain enactments of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, to apply to the books to be kept under this Act.

5. The several enactments in the said Act of the sixth year of Her present Majesty contained, with relation to keeping the register book thereby required, and the inspection thereof, the searches therein, and the delivery of certified and stamped copies thereof, the reception of such copies in evidence, the making of false entries in

25 & 26 Vict. c. 68.

the said book, and the production in evidence of papers falsely purporting to be copies of entries in the said book, the application to the courts and judges by persons aggrieved by entries in the said book, and the expunging and varying such entries, shall apply to the book or books to be kept by virtue of this Act, and to the entries and assignments of copyright and proprietorship therein under this Act, in such and the same manner as if such enactments were here expressly enacted in relation thereto, save and except that the forms of entry prescribed by the said Act of the sixth year of Her present Majesty may be varied to meet the circumstances of the case, and that the sum to be demanded by the officer of the said Company of Stationers for making any entry required by this Act shall be one shilling only.

Penalties on infringement of copyright.

6. If the author of any painting, drawing, or photograph in which there shall be subsisting copyright, after having sold or disposed of such copyright, or if any other person, not being the proprietor for the time being of copyright in any painting, drawing, or photograph, shall, without the consent of such proprietor, repeat, copy, colourably imitate, or otherwise multiply for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, or cause or procure to be repeated, copied, colourably imitated, or otherwise multiplied for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, any such work or the design thereof, or, knowing that any such repetition, copy, or other imitation has been unlawfully made, shall import into any part of the United Kingdom, or sell, publish, let to hire, exhibit, or distribute, or offer for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, or cause or procure to be imported, sold, published, let to hire, distributed, or offered for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, any repetition, copy, or imitation of the said work, or of the design thereof, made without such consent as aforesaid, such person for every such offence shall forfeit to the proprietor of the copyright for the time being a sum not exceeding ten pounds; and all such repetitions, copies, and imitations made without such consent as aforesaid, and all negatives of photographs made for the purpose of obtaining such copies, shall be forfeited to the proprietor of the copyright.

Penalties on fraudulent productions and sales.

7. No person shall do or cause to be done any or either of the following acts; that is to say,

First, no person shall fraudulently sign or otherwise affix, or fraudulently cause to be signed or otherwise affixed, to or upon any painting, drawing, or photograph, or the negative thereof, any name, initials, or monogram:

Secondly, no person shall fraudulently sell, publish, exhibit, or dispose of, or offer for sale, exhibition, or distribution, any painting, drawing, or photograph, or negative of a photograph, having thereon the name, initials, or monogram of a person who did not execute or make such work:

Thirdly, no person shall fraudulently utter, dispose of, or put off, or cause to be uttered or disposed of, any copy or colourable imitation of any painting, drawing, or photograph, or negative of a photograph, whether there shall be subsisting copyright therein or not, as having been made or executed by the author or maker of the original work from which such copy or imitation shall have been taken:

Fourthly, where the author or maker of any painting, drawing, or photograph, or negative of a photograph, made either before or after the passing of this Act, shall have sold or otherwise parted with the possession of such work, if any alteration shall afterwards be made therein by any other person, by addition or other-

wise, no person shall be at liberty, during the life of the author or maker of such work, without his consent, to make or knowingly to sell or publish, or offer for sale, such work or any copies of such work so altered as aforesaid, or of any part thereof, as or for the unaltered work of such author or maker. 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68.

Every offender under this section shall, upon conviction, forfeit to the person aggrieved a sum not exceeding ten pounds, or not exceeding double the full price, if any, at which all such copies, engravings, imitations, or altered works shall have been sold or offered for sale; and all such copies, engravings, imitations, or altered works shall be forfeited to the person, or the assigns or legal representatives of the person, whose name, initials, or monogram shall be so fraudulently signed or affixed thereto, or to whom such spurious or altered work shall be so fraudulently or falsely ascribed as aforesaid: Provided always, that the penalties imposed by this section shall not be incurred unless the person whose name, initials, or monogram shall be so fraudulently signed or affixed, or to whom such spurious or altered work shall be so fraudulently or falsely ascribed as aforesaid, shall have been living at or within twenty years next before the time when the offence may have been committed. Penalties.

8. All pecuniary penalties which shall be incurred, and all such unlawful copies, imitations, and all other effects and things as shall have been forfeited by offenders, pursuant to this Act, and pursuant to any Act for the protection of copyright engravings, may be recovered by the person hereinbefore and in any such Act as aforesaid empowered to recover the same respectively, and hereinafter called the complainant or the complainer, as follows: Recovery of pecuniary penalties.

In England and Ireland, either by action against the party offending, or by summary proceeding before any two justices having jurisdiction where the party offending resides: In England and Ireland.

In Scotland by action before the Court of Session in ordinary form, or by summary action before the sheriff of the county where the offence may be committed or the offender resides, who, upon proof of the offence or offences, either by confession of the party offending, or by the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, shall convict the offender, and find him liable to the penalty or penalties aforesaid, as also in expenses, and it shall be lawful for the sheriff, in pronouncing such judgment for the penalty or penalties and costs, to insert in such judgment a warrant, in the event of such penalty or penalties and costs not being paid, to levy and recover the amount of the same by poinding: Provided always, that it shall be lawful to the sheriff, in the event of his dismissing the action and assoilzieing the defender, to find the complainer liable in expenses, and any judgment so to be pronounced by the sheriff in such summary application shall be final and conclusive, and not subject to review by advocation, suspension, reduction, or otherwise. In Scotland.

9. In any action in any of Her Majesty's superior courts of record at Westminster and in Dublin, for the infringement of any such copyright as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the court in which such action is pending, if the court be then sitting, or if the court be not sitting, then for a judge of such court, on the application of the plaintiff or defendant respectively, to make such order for an injunction, inspection, and account, and to give such directions respecting such action, injunction, inspection, and account and the proceedings therein respectively, as to such court or judge may seem fit. Superior courts of record in which any action is pending may make an order for an injunction, inspection, or account.

25 & 26 Vict. c. 68.

Importation of pirated works prohibited.

10. All repetitions, copies, or imitations of paintings, drawings, or photographs, wherein or in the design whereof there shall be subsisting copyright under this Act, and all repetitions, copies, and imitations of the design of any such painting or drawing, or of the negative of any such photograph, which, contrary to the provisions of this Act, shall have been made in any foreign State, or in any part of the British dominions, are hereby absolutely prohibited to be imported into any part of the United Kingdom, except by or with the consent of the proprietor of the copyright thereof, or his agent authorised in writing; and if the proprietor of any such copyright, or his agent, shall declare that any goods imported are repetitions, copies, or imitations of any such painting, drawing, or photograph, or of the negative of any such photograph, and so prohibited as aforesaid, then such goods may be detained by the officers of Her Majesty's customs.

Application in such cases of Customs Acts.

Saving of right to bring action for damages.

11. If the author of any painting, drawing, or photograph, in which there shall be subsisting copyright, after having sold or otherwise disposed of such copyright, or if any other person, not being the proprietor for the time being of such copyright, shall, without the consent of such proprietor, repeat, copy, colourably imitate, or otherwise multiply, or cause or procure to be repeated, copied, colourably imitated, or otherwise multiplied, for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, any such work or the design thereof, or the negative of any such photograph, or shall import or cause to be imported into any part of the United Kingdom, or sell, publish, let to hire, exhibit, or distribute, or offer for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, or cause or procure to be sold, published, let to hire, exhibited, or distributed, or offered for sale, hire, exhibition, or distribution, any repetition, copy, or imitation of such work, or the design thereof, or the negative of any such photograph, made without such consent as aforesaid, then every such proprietor, in addition to the remedies hereby given for the recovery of any such penalties, and forfeiture of any such things as aforesaid, may recover damages by and in a special action on the case, to be brought against the person so offending, and may in such action recover and enforce the delivery to him of all unlawful repetitions, copies, and imitations, and negatives of photographs, or may recover damages for the retention or conversion thereof: Provided that nothing herein contained, nor any proceeding, conviction, or judgment, for any act hereby forbidden, shall affect any remedy which any person aggrieved by such act may be entitled to either at law or in equity.

Provisions of 7 & 8 Vict. c. 12, to be considered as included in this Act.

12. This Act shall be considered as including the provisions of the Act passed in the session of Parliament held in the seventh and eighth years of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to international Copyright," in the same manner as if such provisions were part of this Act.

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32 & 33 Vict. cap. 24.

32 & 33 Vict. c. 24.

An Act to repeal certain Enactments relating to Newspapers, Pamphlets, and other Publications, and to Printers, Typefounders, and Reading Rooms.—[12*th July*, 1869.]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. The Acts and parts of Acts described in the first schedule to this Act are hereby repealed, but the provisions of the said Acts which are set out in the second schedule to this Act shall continue in force in the same manner as if they were enacted in the body of this Act; and this Act shall not affect the validity or invalidity of anything already done or suffered, or any right or title already acquired or accrued, or any remedy or proceeding in respect thereof, and all such remedies and proceedings may be had and continued in the same manner as if this Act had not passed. 32 & 33 Vict. c. 24. Acts and parts of Acts in first schedule repealed except as in second schedule.

2. This Act may be cited as the Newspapers, Printers, and Reading Rooms Repeal Act, 1869. Short title.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

Date of Act.	Title of Act, and part repealed.
36 Geo. 3, c. 8.	An Act for the more effectually preventing seditious meetings and assemblies.
39 Geo. 3, c. 79, in part.	An Act for the more effectual suppression of societies established for seditious and treasonable purposes, and for better preventing treasonable and seditious practices ... ... } In part; namely,— Sections fifteen to thirty-three, both inclusive, and so much of sections thirty-four to thirty-nine as relates to the above-mentioned sections.
51 Geo. 3, c. 65.	An Act to explain and amend an Act passed in the thirty-ninth year of his Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act for the more effectual suppression of societies established for seditious and treasonable purposes, and for better preventing treasonable and seditious practices," so far as respects certain penalties on printers and publishers.
55 Geo. 3, c. 101, in part.	An Act to regulate the collection of stamp duties and matters in respect of which licences may be granted by the commissioner of stamps in Ireland } In part; namely,— Section thirteen.
60 Geo. 3 & 1 Geo. 4, c. 9.	An Act to subject certain publications to the duties of stamps upon newspapers, and to make other regulations for restraining the abuses arising from the publication of blasphemous and seditious libels.
11 Geo. 4 & 1 Will. 4, c. 73.	An Act to repeal so much of an Act of the sixtieth year of his late Majesty King George the Third, for the more effectual prevention and punishment of blasphemous and seditious libels, as relates to the sentence of banishment for the second offence, and to provide some further remedy against the abuse of publishing libels.
6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, in part.	An Act to reduce the duties on newspapers, and to amend the laws relating to the duties on newspapers and advertisements ... ... } In part; namely,— Except sections one to four (both inclusive), sections thirty-four and thirty-five, and the schedule.
2 & 3 Vict. c. 12.	An Act to amend an Act of the thirty-ninth year of King George the Third, for the more effectual suppression of societies established for seditious and treasonable purposes, and for preventing treasonable and seditious practices, and to put an end to certain proceedings now pending under the said Act.
5 & 6 Vict. c. 82, in part.	An Act to assimilate the stamp duties in Great Britain and Ireland, and to make regulations for collecting and managing the same until the tenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and forty-five ... ... } In part; namely— The following words in section twenty "and also licence to any person to keep any printing presses and types for printing in Ireland,"

32 & 33 Vict. c. 24.	Date of Act.	Title of Act, and part repealed.
	9 & 10 Vict. c. 33, in part.	An Act to amend the laws relating to corresponding societies and the licensing of lecture rooms ... In part; namely,— So far as it relates to any proceedings under the enactments repealed by this schedule.
	16 & 17 Vict. c. 59, in part.	An Act to repeal certain stamp duties and to grant others in lieu thereof, to amend the laws relating to stamp duties, and to make perpetual certain stamp duties in Ireland ... ... In part; namely,— So much of section twenty as makes perpetual the provisions of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 82, repealed by this Act.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

The enactments in this schedule, with the exception of sect. 19 of 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, do not apply to Ireland.

39 Geo. 3, c. 79.

Section twenty-eight.

Not to extend to papers printed by authority of Parliament.

Nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to any papers printed by the authority and for the use of either House of Parliament.

Section twenty-nine.

Printers to keep a copy of every paper they print, and write thereon the name and abode of their employer.

Penalty of 20*l.* for neglect or refusing to produce the copy within six months.

Every person who shall print any paper for hire, reward, gain, or profit, shall carefully preserve and keep one copy (at least) of every paper so printed by him or her, on which he or she shall write, or cause to be written or printed, in fair and legible characters, the name and place of abode of the person or persons by whom he or she shall be employed to print the same; and every person printing any paper for hire, reward, gain, or profit who shall omit or neglect to write or cause to be written or printed as aforesaid, the name and place of his or her employer on one of such printed papers, or to keep or preserve the same for the space of six calendar months next after the printing thereof, or to produce and show the same to any justice of the peace who within the said space of six calendar months shall require to see the same, shall for every such omission, neglect, or refusal forfeit and lose the sum of twenty pounds.

Section thirty-one.

Not to extend to impressions of engravings or the printing names and addresses.

Nothing herein contained shall extend to the impression of any engraving, or to the printing by letterpress of the name, or the name and address, or business or profession, of any person, and the articles in which he deals, or to any papers for the sale of estates or goods by auction or otherwise.

Section thirty-four.

Prosecutions to be commenced within three months after penalty is incurred.

No person shall be prosecuted or sued for any penalty imposed by this Act, unless such prosecution shall be commenced, or such action shall be brought, within three calendar months next after such penalty shall have been incurred.

Part of section thirty-five.

Recovery of penalties.

And any pecuniary penalty imposed by this Act, and not exceeding the sum of twenty pounds, shall and may be recovered before any justice or justices of the peace for the county, stewartry, riding, division, city, town, or place, in which the same shall be incurred, or the person having incurred the same shall happen to be, in a summary way.

Section thirty-six.

Application of penalties.

All pecuniary penalties hereinbefore imposed by this Act shall, when recovered in a summary way before any justice, be applied and disposed of in manner hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, one moiety thereof to the informer before any justice, and the other moiety thereof to his Majesty, his heirs and successors.

51 Geo. 3, c. 65.

Section three.

Name and residence of printers not required to be put to bank

Nothing in the said Act of the thirty-ninth year of King George the Third, chapter seventy-nine, or in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to require the name and residence of the printer to be printed upon any

bank note, or bank post bill of the governor and company of the Bank of England, upon any bill of exchange, or promissory note, or upon any bond or other security for payment of money, or upon any bill of lading, policy of insurance, letter of attorney, deed, or agreement, or upon any transfer or assignment of any public stocks, funds, or other securities, or upon any transfer or assignment of the stocks of any public corporation or company authorised or sanctioned by Act of Parliament, or upon any dividend warrant of or for any such public or other stocks, funds, or securities, or upon any receipt for money or goods, or upon any proceeding in any court of law or equity, or in any inferior court, warrant, order, or other papers printed by the authority of any public board or public officer in the execution of the duties of their respective offices, notwithstanding the whole or any part of the said several securities, instruments, proceedings, matters, and things aforesaid shall have been or shall be printed.

32 & 33 Vict. c. 24.

notes, bills, &c. or to any paper printed by authority of any public board or public office.

6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76.

Section nineteen.

If any person shall file any bill in any court for the discovery of the name of any person concerned as printer, publisher, or proprietor of any newspaper, or of any matters relative to the printing or publishing of any newspaper, in order the more effectually to bring or carry on any suit or action for damages alleged to have been sustained by reason of any slanderous or libellous matter contained in any such newspaper respecting such person, it shall not be lawful for the defendant to plead or demur to such bill, but such defendant shall be compellable to make the discovery required; provided always, that such discovery shall not be made use of as evidence or otherwise in any proceeding against the defendant, save only in that proceeding for which the discovery is made.

Discovery of proprietors, printers, or publishers of newspapers may be enforced by bill, &c.

2 & 3 Vict. c. 12.

Section two.

Every person who shall print any paper or book whatsoever which shall be meant to be published or dispersed, and who shall not print upon the front of every such paper, if the same shall be printed on one side only, or upon the first or last leaf of every paper or book which shall consist of more than one leaf, in legible characters, his or her name and usual place of abode or business, and every person who shall publish or disperse, or assist in publishing or dispersing, any printed paper or book on which the name and place of abode of the person printing the same shall not be printed as aforesaid, shall for every copy of such paper so printed by him or her forfeit a sum not more than five pounds: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to impose any penalty upon any person for printing any paper excepted out of the operation of the said Act of the thirty-ninth year of King George the Third, chapter seventy-nine, either in the said Act or by any Act made for the amendment thereof.

Penalty upon printers for not printing their name and residence on every paper or book, and on persons publishing the same.

Section three.

In the case of books or papers printed at the University Press of Oxford or the Pit Press of Cambridge, the printer, instead of printing his name thereon, shall print the following words, "Printed at the University Press, Oxford," or "The Pitt Press, Cambridge," as the case may be.

As to books or papers printed at the University presses.

Section four.

Provided always, that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whatsoever to commence, prosecute, enter, or file, or cause or procure to be commenced, prosecuted, entered, or filed, any action, bill, plaint, or information in any of Her Majesty's courts, or before any justice or justices of the peace, against any person or persons for the recovery of any fine, penalty, or forfeiture made or incurred or which may hereafter be incurred under the provisions of this Act, unless the same be commenced, prosecuted, entered, or filed in the name of Her Majesty's Attorney-General or Solicitor-General in that part of Great Britain called England, or Her Majesty's Advocate for Scotland (as the case may be respectively); and if any action, bill, plaint, or information shall be commenced, prosecuted, or filed in the name or names of any other person or persons than is or are in that behalf before mentioned, the same and every proceeding thereupon had are hereby declared and the same shall be null and void to all intents and purposes.

No actions for penalties to be commenced except in the name of the Attorney or Solicitor General in England or the Queen's Advocate in Scotland.

32 & 33 Vict. c. 24.

9 & 10 Vict. c. 33.

Section one.

Proceedings shall not be commenced unless in the name of the law officers of the Crown.

It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to commence, prosecute, enter, or file, or cause or procure to be commenced, prosecuted, entered, or filed, any action, bill, plaint, or information in any of Her Majesty's courts, or before any justice or justices of the peace, against any person or persons for the recovery of any fine which may hereafter be incurred under the provisions of the Act of the thirty-ninth year of King George the Third, chapter seventy-nine, set out in this Act unless the same be commenced, prosecuted, entered, or filed in the name of Her Majesty's Attorney-General or Solicitor-General in England or Her Majesty's Advocate in Scotland, and every action, bill, plaint, or information which shall be commenced, prosecuted, entered or filed in the name or names of any other person or persons than is in that behalf before mentioned, and every proceeding thereupon had, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes.

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33 & 34 Vict. cap. 79.

33 & 34 Vict. c. 79.

An Act for further Regulation of Duties of Postage, and for other Purposes relating to the Post Office.—[*9th August*, 1870.]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as "The Post Office Act, 1870."

Interpretation of terms.

2. In this Act—

"The Treasury" means the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury or two of them:

"Treasury warrant" means a warrant under the hands of the Treasury:

"The Postmaster-General" means Her Majesty's Postmaster-General:

"Post Office regulations" means regulations made by the Postmaster-General.

Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

3. For the purposes of this Act, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man shall be deemed parts of the United Kingdom.

Repeal and limitation of enactments.

4. The enactments described in the first schedule to this Act shall, from and immediately after the thirtieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventy, be repealed; but that repeal shall not affect the past operation of any of those enactments, or the force or operation of any Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations made, or the validity or invalidity of anything done or suffered, or any right, title, obligation, or liability accrued, before that repeal takes effect; nor shall this Act interfere with the prosecution or institution of any proceeding in respect of any right, title, obligation, or liability accrued under, or any offence committed against, or any penalty or forfeiture incurred under, any of those enactments before that repeal takes effect; and section four of and schedule (A.) to the Act first described in the first schedule to this Act, or either of them, shall not be deemed to contain or affect the definition of a newspaper for the purposes of this Act or of any other enactment regulating the sending of newspapers by post.

Allowance for newspaper stamps on hand.

5. Where any person is possessed of any newspaper stamps made useless by this Act, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, on application within six months after the thirtieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventy, may cancel and make allowance for the same as in case of spoiled stamps.

33 & 34 Vict. c. 79.

Certain publications to be deemed newspapers.

6. Any publication coming within the following description shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed a newspaper, (that is to say,) any publication consisting v holly or in great part of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto, or to other current topics, with or without advertisements; subject to these conditions—

That it be printed and published in the United Kingdom;
That it be published in numbers at intervals of not more than seven days;
That it be printed on a sheet or sheets unstitched;
That it have the full title and date of publication printed at the top of the first page, and the whole or part of the title and the date of publication printed at the top of every subsequent page.

And the following shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed a supplement to a newspaper, (that is to say,) a publication consisting wholly or in great part of matter like that of a newspaper, or of advertisements, printed on a sheet or sheets or a piece or pieces of paper, unstitched, or consisting wholly or in part of engravings, prints, or lithographs illustrative of articles in the newspaper; such publication in every case being published with the newspaper, and having the title and date of publication of the newspaper printed at the top of every page or at the top of every sheet or side on which any such engraving, print, or lithograph appears.

Registration of newspapers at Post Office.

7. The proprietor or printer of any newspaper within the description aforesaid, and the proprietor or printer of any publication which, regard being had to the proportion of advertisements to other matter therein, is not within the description aforesaid, but which was stamped as a newspaper before the passing of the Act lastly mentioned in the first schedule to this Act, may register it at the General Post Office in London, at such time in each year and in such form and with such particulars as the Postmaster-General from time to time directs, paying on each registration such fee not exceeding five shillings as the Postmaster-General, with the approval of the Treasury, from time to time directs.

The Postmaster-General may from time to time revise the register and remove therefrom any publication not being a newspaper.

The decision of the Postmaster-General on the admission to or removal from the register of a publication shall be final, save that the Treasury may, if they think fit, on the application of any person interested, reverse or modify the decision, and order accordingly.

Any publication for the time being on the register shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed a registered newspaper.

Postage on newspapers, book and pattern or sample packets and cards.

8. From and after the thirtieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventy, registered newspapers, book packets, pattern or sample packets, and post cards, may be sent by post between places in the United Kingdom, at the following rates of postage:—

On a registered newspaper, with or without a supplement or supplements	One halfpenny.
On each registered newspaper in a packet of two or more, with or without a supplement or supplements	One halfpenny.
On a book packet or pattern or sample packet:—	
If not exceeding two ounces in weight ...	One halfpenny.
If exceeding two ounces in weight, for the first	

33 & 34 Vict. c. 79.

two ounces and for every additional two ounces or fractional part of two ounces ... One halfpenny.

On a post card ... ... One halfpenny.

Provided that a packet of two or more registered newspapers with or without a supplement or supplements shall not be liable under this section to a higher rate of postage than the rate chargeable on a book packet of the same weight.

Post Office regulations.

9. The Postmaster-General may from time to time, with the approval of the Treasury, make, in relation respectively to registered newspapers, book packets, pattern or sample packets, and post cards, sent by post, such regulations as he thinks fit, for all or any of the following purposes:—

For prescribing and regulating the times and modes of posting and delivery:

For prescribing prepayment and regulating the mode thereof:

For regulating the affixing of postage stamps:

For prescribing and regulating the payment again of postage in case of re-direction:

For regulating dimensions and maximum weight of packets:

For regulating the nature and form of covers:

For prohibiting or restricting the printing or writing of marks or communications or words:

For prohibiting inclosures;

and such other regulations as from time to time seem expedient for the better execution of this Act.

Saving for Parliamentary proceedings.

10. Nothing in this Act or in any Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations shall repeal or alter any provision of section 13, 16, or 17 of the Act secondly described in the first schedule to this Act as far as those sections relate to printed votes or proceedings of Parliament addressed to places in the United Kingdom.

Newspapers under arrangement or convention.

11. A registered newspaper shall be deemed a newspaper for the purposes of any arrangement or convention between Her Majesty's Government and any colonial or foreign government for securing advantages for newspapers sent by post.

Colonial and foreign postage of newspapers.

12. The Treasury may from time to time, by Treasury warrant, allow any newspapers, British, colonial, or foreign, to be sent by post between the United Kingdom and places out of the United Kingdom, or between places out of the United Kingdom, whether through the United Kingdom or not, at such rates of postage, not exceeding threepence for each newspaper irrespectively of any colonial or foreign postage, and on such conditions, as they think fit, and according to Post Office regulations to be from time to time made in that behalf.

Any Treasury warrant and Post Office regulations made in that behalf before the passing of this Act are hereby confirmed; and the same shall continue in force unless and until altered by Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations (as the case may be).

Colonial and foreign book, &c. post.

13. The Treasury from time to time, by Treasury warrant, may regulate the sending of book packets and pattern or sample packets by post, between the United Kingdom and places out of the United Kingdom, or between places out of the United Kingdom, whether through the United Kingdom or not, and in relation thereto may prescribe rates of postage, weights, and other matters.

Any Treasury warrant and Post Office regulations made in that behalf before the passing of this Act are hereby confirmed; and the same shall continue in force unless and until altered by Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations (as the case may be).

14. If a question arises whether any publication, not being a registered newspaper, is a newspaper or a supplement, or whether any packet is a book packet or pattern or sample packet, within this Act or any Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations, the decision thereon of the Postmaster-General shall be final, save that the Treasury may, if they think fit, on the application of any person interested, reverse or modify the decision, and order accordingly.

33 & 34 Vict. c. 79.

Decision as to newspapers, packets, &c.

15. If any registered or other newspaper, supplement, publication, book packet, pattern or sample packet, or post card, is sent by post otherwise than in conformity with this Act or any Treasury warrant or Post Office regulations, it shall be either returned to the sender thereof or forwarded to its destination, in either case charged with such rate of postage not exceeding the letter rate of postage, or without any additional charge, as the Postmaster-General, with the approval of the Treasury, from time to time directs, having been, if necessary, detained and opened in the Post Office.

Newspapers, &c. sent not in conformity with Act, &c.

16. A book packet, pattern or sample packet, or post card sent by post shall be deemed a post letter, within the Act described in the second schedule to this Act.

Application to book packets, &c. of enactments as to post letters.

17. Where the despatch or delivery from a post-office of letters would be delayed by the despatch or delivery therefrom at the same time of book packets, pattern or sample packets, and post cards, or any of them, the same or any of them may, subject and according to Post Office regulations, be detained in the Post Office until the despatch or delivery next following that by which they would ordinarily be despatched or delivered.

Despatch and delivery of book packets, &c.

18. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue shall from time to time provide proper dies and other implements for denoting by adhesive or embossed or impressed stamps or otherwise the duties of postage payable in the United Kingdom under this Act or any Treasury warrant thereunder.

Provision for stamps, &c.

Those duties shall be deemed stamp duties, and shall be under the management of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

So much of the Act secondly described in the first schedule to this Act as relates to stamp duties under that Act shall apply to the stamp duties under this Act.

A newspaper or packet sent by post and the cover thereof (if any) shall be deemed a letter or cover (as the case may be) within section twenty-three of the Act secondly described in the first schedule to this Act; and a post card shall be deemed a letter within that section, and the duties under this Act shall be deemed to be comprised in the duties in that section referred to.

19. It shall not be lawful for any person to affix to a letter, newspaper, supplement, publication, packet, or card sent by post, or to the cover thereof (if any), by way of prepayment of postage thereon, an embossed or impressed stamp cut out or otherwise separated from the cover or other paper, card, or thing on which such stamp was embossed or impressed, although such stamp has not been before sent by post or used.

Prohibition of user of embossed or impressed stamps removed from paper, &c.

If any letter, newspaper, supplement, publication, packet, or card is sent by post with a stamp affixed thereto or to the cover thereof (if any) that has been so cut out or separated, the postage thereof as far as it purports to be prepaid by that stamp shall be deemed to be not prepaid.

20. The Postmaster-General may from time to time with the approval of the Treasury make such regulations as he thinks fit for preventing the sending or delivery by post of indecent or obscene

Prohibition of sending indecent articles, &c. by post.

33 & 34 Vict. c. 79.

prints, paintings, photographs, lithographs, engravings, books, or cards, or of other indecent or obscene articles, or of letters, newspapers, supplements, publications, packets, or post cards, having thereon, or on the covers thereof, any words, marks, or designs of an indecent, obscene, libellous, or grossly offensive character.

Proof of Post Office regulations, &c.

21. The Documentary Evidence Act, 1868, shall have effect as if the Postmaster-General were mentioned in the first column, and any secretary or assistant-secretary of the Post Office were mentioned in the second column, of the schedule to that Act; and any approval of the Treasury under this Act shall be deemed an order within that Act.

SCHEDULES.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE.

Enactments Repealed.

6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76, in part.	An Act to reduce the duties on newspapers, and to amend the laws relating to the duties on newspapers and advertisements... ... ... Sections one to three (both inclusive), and sections thirty-four and thirty-five.	in part; namely,—
3 & 4 Vict. c. 96, in part.	An Act for the regulation of the duties of postage ... ... Section eleven; sections thirteen, sixteen, and seventeen, as far as those three sections relate to printed votes or proceedings of Parliament, addressed to places out of the United Kingdom, or to newspapers; section forty-two; sections forty-four, forty-five, and forty-six, as far as those three sections relate to newspapers; and sections forty-seven to fifty-one (both inclusive).	in part; namely,—
11 & 12 Vict. c. 117.	An Act for rendering certain newspapers published in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man liable to postage.	
16 & 17 Vict. c. 63, in part.	An Act to repeal certain stamp duties, and to grant others in lieu thereof, to give relief with respect to the stamp duties on newspapers and supplements thereto, to repeal the duty on advertisements, and otherwise to amend the laws relating to stamp duties ... ... Sections three and four.	in part; namely,—
18 & 19 Vict. c. 27.	An Act to amend the laws relating to the stamp duties on newspapers, and to provide for the transmission by post of printed periodical publications.	

THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

Act Referred to.

7 Will. 4, & 1 Vict. c. 36.—An Act for consolidating the laws relative to offences against the Post Office of the United Kingdom, and for regulating the judicial administration the Post Office laws, and for explaining certain terms and expressions employed in those laws.

COPYRIGHT OF DESIGNS.

DIRECTIONS ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF TRADE.

ORNAMENTAL DESIGNS.

Directions for Registering and Searching.

Persons proposing to register a design for ornamenting an article of manufacture, must bring or send to the Designs Office:

1. Two exactly similar copies, drawings (or tracings), not in pencil, photographs, or prints thereof, with the proper fees.
2. The name and address of the proprietor or proprietors, or the title of the firm under which he or they may be trading, together with their place of abode, or place of carrying on business, distinctly written or printed.
3. The number of the class in respect of which such registration is intended to be made, except it be for sculpture.

The aforesaid copies may consist of portions of the manufactured articles (except carpets, oil-cloths, and woollen shawls), when such can conveniently be done (as in the case of paper hangings, calico prints, &c.), which, as well as the drawings or tracings (which must be fixed), or prints of the design, to be furnished when the article is of such a nature as not to admit of being pasted in a book, must, whether coloured or not, be facsimiles of each other.

Should paper hangings or furnitures exceed forty-two inches in length, by twenty-three inches in breadth, drawings will be required, but they must not exceed these dimensions.

Applications for registering may be made in the following form:

APPLICATION TO REGISTER.

(Blank Forms may be obtained at the Office.)

C. D. Works, , 187 .

You are hereby requested to register, provisionally*, the accompanying ornamental designs (*in class* 1, [2, 3, 4, &c.,]) (*or for sculpture*)† in the name of (‡*A. B of* , *of* ,) or, (*A. B. of* , *and C. D. of* , &c., *trading under the style or firm of B D. & Co., of* , *of* , *of* ,) who claim to be the proprietors thereof, and to return the same (*if sent by post*), directed to , (*if brought by hand*) to the bearer of the official acknowledgment for the same.

To the Registrar of Designs, (Signed) *B. D. & Co.*,
Designs Office, London. by *J. F.*

The person bringing a design must take an acknowledgment for it, which will be delivered to him on payment of the proper fees. This acknowledgment must be produced on application for the certified copy, which will be returned in exchange for the same.

* If not provisionally, strike out the word "provisionally."

† Here insert "for sculpture," if for sculpture, or the class or classes.

‡ Insert here the name and address of the proprietor, in the form in which it is to be entered on the certificate.

A design may be registered in respect of one or more of the above classes, *according as it is intended to* be employed in one or more species of manufacture, but a separate fee must be paid, and two exactly similar copies supplied, on account of each separate class, and all such registrations must be made at the same time.

After the design has been registered, one of the two copies, drawings (or tracings), or prints, will be filed at the office, and the other returned to the proprietor, with a certificate annexed, on which will appear the mark to be placed on each article of manufacture to which the design shall have been applied.

If the design is for an article registered under Class 10, no mark is required, but there must be printed on such article, at each end of the original piece thereof, the name and address of the proprietor, and the word "registered," together with the years for which the design is registered.

If the design is for sculpture, no mark is required to be placed thereon after registration, but merely the word "registered" and the date of registration.

If the design is for provisional registration, no mark is required to be placed thereon after registration, but merely the words "provisionally registered" and the date of registration.

Any person who shall put the registration mark on any design not registered, or after the copyright thereof has expired, *is liable to forfeit for every such offence 5l.*

Transfers.

In case of the transfer of a design, registered, whether provisionally or completely, the certified copy thereof must be transmitted to the registrar, together with the fee and forms of application (which may be procured at the office), properly filled up and signed. The transfer will then be registered and the certified copy returned.

Extension of Copyright.

The copyright may be extended in certain cases in provisional registration, for a term not exceeding the additional term of six months, and in complete registration for a term not exceeding the additional term of three years, as the Board of Trade may think fit.

In case of extension, the certified copy, together with the proper fee, should be delivered at the Designs Office for registration, *prior to the expiration of the existing copyright.*

Searches.

All designs of which the copyright has expired may be inspected at the Designs Office, on the payment of the proper fee; but no design, the copyright of which is existing, is in general open to inspection. Any person, however, may, by application at the office, and on production of the registration mark, except in Class 10, of any particular design, be furnished with a certificate of search, stating whether the copyright be in existence, and in respect to what particular article of manufacture it exists: also, the term of such copyright and the date of registration, and the name and address of the registered proprietor thereof.

Any party may also, on the production of a piece of the manufactured article with the pattern thereon, together with the registration mark, be informed whether such pattern, supposed to be registered, *is really so or not.*

As this mark is not applied to a provisionally registered design, or

to articles registered under Class 10, certificates of search for such designs will be given on production of the design, or a copy or drawing thereof, with the number and date of registration.

Persons bringing designs to be registered, on delivering them, must compare such designs together, count them, and see that the name and address and number of class is correctly given, and examine their certificates previous to leaving the office, to see that the name, &c., is correctly entered, as no error can afterwards be rectified.

An acknowledgment of its receipt will be delivered, on payment of the fees, to the person bringing a design, and no certified copy of a design will be returned, except to the bearer of this acknowledgment, which must be produced on application at the office for the certified copy, and given in exchange for the same.

All communications for the registration of designs may be made either through the General Post Office, directed to "The Registrar of Designs, Designs Office, London, S.W.," or by any other mode of conveyance; and provided the carriage be paid, and the proper fees, or a post-office order for the amount, payable at the post-office, Charing-cross, to J. H. Bowen, Esq., be inclosed, the designs will be duly registered, and the certified copies returned to the proprietors free of expense.

Postage stamps, orders upon bankers or other persons, country and Scotch bank notes, and light gold, cannot be received in payment of fees.

The Designs Office, No. 1, Whitehall, S.W., is open every day, between the hours of ten in the morning and four in the afternoon, during which time inquiries and searches may be made. Designs and transfers are registered from eleven until three.

Directions for registering designs for articles of utility may be procured at the office.

By order of the Registrar.

ORNAMENTAL.

COPYRIGHT OF DESIGNS FOR ORNAMENTING ARTICLES OF MANUFACTURE.

By provisional registration under the Designs Act, 1850 (13 & 14 Vict. c. 104), a copyright of one year (which may be further extended for six months by order of the Board of Trade) is given to the author or proprietor of original designs for ornamenting any article of manufacture or substance. During such terms the proprietor of the designs may sell the right to apply the same to an article of manufacture, but must not, under the penalty of nullifying the copyright, sell any article with the design applied thereto until after complete registration, which must be effected prior to the expiration of the provisional registration.

By complete registration under the Designs Act, 1842 (5 & 6 Vict. c. 100), a copyright or property is given to the author or proprietor of any new or original design for ornamenting any article of manufacture or substance for the various terms specified in the following classes, which terms may be extended under special circumstances.

Under the Designs Act, 1858 (21 & 22 Vict. c. 70), a copyright is given for articles in Class 10, for a term of three years, subject to the proviso therein contained.

Class.	Article	Copyright.	Registration Fees. £	s.
1.	Articles composed wholly or chiefly of metal ...	5 years ...	1	0
2.	Articles do. do. do. wood ...	3 „ ...	1	0
3.	Articles do. do. do. glass ...	3 „ ...	1	0
4.	Articles do. do. do. earthenware, bone, papier maché, or other solid substances not comprised in Classes 1, 2, & 3	3 „ ...	1	0
5.	Paper hangings	3 „ ...	0	10
6.	Carpets, floor cloths, and oil cloths	3 „ ...	1	0
7.	Shawls (patterns printed, &c., &c.)	9 months ...	0	1
	Do. do. do. extended term of ...	9 „ ...	0	6
	Do. do. do. for the whole term of	18 „ ...	0	7
8.	Shawls (not comprised in Class 7)	3 years ...	1	0
9.	Yarn, thread or warp (printed, &c., &c.)	9 months ...	0	1
10.	Woven fabrics (patterns printed, &c., &c.), except those included in Class 11	3 years ...	0	1
11.	Woven fabrics, technically called furnitures, (patterns printed, &c., &c.), the repeat of the pattern, exceeding 12 inches by 8 inches	3 „ ...	0	5
12.	Woven fabrics (not comprised in any preceding class)	12 months ...	0	5
	Do. do. do. do. extended term of	1 year ...	0	8
	Do. do. do. do. extended term of	2 years ...	0	16
	Do. do. do. do. whole term of	3 „ ...	1	0
13.	Lace and other articles (not comprised in any preceding class	12 months ...	0	5

TABLE OF FEES.

Provisional Registration.

Registration in all classes, one year	1s. each design.
Transfer	5 „
Certifying former registration (*to proprietor of design*) ...	1 „
Cancellation or substitution (*according to decree or Order in Chancery*)	5 „

Complete Registration.

Registering Designs.	Copyright.	Fee. £	s.
Class 1	5 years each design	1	0
„ 2	3 ditto „	1	0
„ 3	ditto „	1	0
„ 4	ditto „	1	0
„ 5	ditto „	0	10
„ 6	ditto „	1	0
„ 7	9 months „	0	1
„ „ extended term of	ditto „	0	6
„ „ whole term of	18 months „	0	7
„ 8	3 years „	1	0
„ 9	9 months „	0	1
„ 10	3 years „	0	1
„ 11	ditto „	0	5
„ 12	12 months „	0	5
„ „ extended term of	1 year „	0	8
„ „ do. do.	2 years „	0	16
„ „ whole term of	3 years „	1	0
„ 13	12 months „	0	5
In all the 13 Classes (Copyright not extended)	„	7	0
In Classes 1, 2, 3, and 4 inclusive, do. ...	„	5	0
In Classes 5 to 13, inclusive, do. ...	„	3	0

Registration of Sculpture.

Each design	5 0

Complete Registration and Registration of Sculpture.

		Fee. £	s
Transfer	Same as Registration Fee, but for Sculpture, each Design.	1	0
Certifying former Registration (*to Proprietor*)			
Cancellation or Substitution (*according to decree, or order in Chancery*)			

Inspections, &c., of Provisional and Complete Registrations and Sculpture.

	£	s
Search	0	2
Inspections of all the designs of which the copyright has expired, each quarter or part of quarter of an hour, each class... ...	1	0
Taking copies of expired designs, each hour or part of an hour each copy	0	1
Taking copies of unexpired designs (*according to Judge's order*) for each hour or part of an hour, each copy...	0	2

Office copies of a design will be charged for according to the nature of the design.

By the Designs Act of 1850, a protection of a nature similar to that granted for designs for ornamenting articles of manufacture by the Act of 1842, is granted to sculptures, models, copies, or casts of the whole or part of the human figure, or of animals, for the term or unexpired part of the term, during which copyright in such sculpture, models, copies, or casts may or shall exist under the Sculpture Copyright Acts, and the fee for registering the same is 5*l*.

To obtain this protection it is necessary:—

1st. That the design should not have been published, either within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or elsewhere, previous to its registration.

2nd. That after provisional registration, every copy of the design should have thereon, or attached thereto, the words "Provisionally Registered," and the date of registration.

3rd. That after complete registration, every article of manufacture published by the proprietor thereof, to which such design shall have been applied, should have thereon, or attached thereto, a particular mark, which will be exhibited on the certificate of registration.

4th. That after registration of sculpture every copy thereof should have thereon, or attached thereto, the word "Registered," and the date of registration.

These conditions being observed, the right of the proprietor is protected from piracy by a penalty of from 5*l*. to 30*l*. for each offence, each individual illegal publication or sale of a design constituting a separate offence. This penalty may be recovered by the aggrieved party either by action in the superior or county courts, or by a summary proceeding before two magistrates.

If a design be executed by the author on behalf of another person, for a valuable consideration, the latter is entitled to be registered as the proprietor thereof; and any person purchasing either the exclusive or partial right to use the design, is in the same way equally entitled to be registered; and for the purpose of facilitating the transfer thereof a short form (copies of which may be procured at the Designs Office) is given in the Act.

USEFUL.

Copyright of Designs for Articles of Utility.

By provisional registration under the Designs Act, 1850 (13 & 14 Vict. c. 104), a copyright for one year (which may be further extended for six months by order of the Board of Trade), is given to the author or proprietor of any new or original design for the shape or configuration either of the whole or of part of any article of manufacture, such shape or configuration having reference to some purpose of utility, whether such article be made in metal or any other substance. During such terms the proprietor of the design may sell the right to apply the same to an article of manufacture, but must not, under the penalty of nullifying the copyright, sell any article with the design applied thereto, until after complete registration, which must be effected prior to the expiration of the provisional registration.

By complete registration under the Designs Act, 1843 (6 & 7 Vict. c. 65, a copyright of three years is given to the author or proprietor of any new or original design for the shape or configuration either of the whole or of part of any article of manufacture, such shape or configuration having reference to some purpose of utility, whether such article be made in metal or any other substance.

To obtain this protection it is necessary—

1st. That the design should not have been published either within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or elsewhere, previous to its registration.

2nd. That after registration, or provisional registration, every article of manufacture made according to such design, or to which such design is applied, should have upon it the word "registered," or "provisionally registered," with the date of registration.

In case of piracy of a design so registered, the same remedies are given, and the same penalties imposed (from 5*l.* to 30*l.* for each offence), as under the Ornamental Designs Act, 1842 (5 & 6 Vict. c. 100), and all the provisions contained in the latter Act relating to the transfer of ornamental designs, in case of purchase or devolution of a copyright, are made applicable to those useful designs registered under these acts.

In addition to this, a penalty of not more than 5*l.* nor less than 1*l.* is imposed upon all persons marking, selling, or advertising for sale any article as "registered," unless the design for such article has been registered under one of the above mentioned Acts.

Directions for Registering.

Persons proposing to register a design for purposes of utility, must bring or send to the Designs Office two exactly similar drawings or prints thereof, made on a proper geometric scale, marked with letters, figures or colours, to be referred to as hereinafter mentioned, together with the following

Particulars.

1st. The title of the design.

2nd. The name and address of the proprietor or proprietors, or the title of the firm under which he or they may be trading,

together with their place of abode, or place of carrying on business, distinctly written or printed.

3rd. A statement in the following form, viz.: "The purpose of utility to which the shape or configuration of the new parts of) this design has reference is," &c., &c.

4th. A description to render the same intelligible, distinguishing the several parts of the design by reference to letters, figures, or colours.

NOTE.—No description of the parts of the drawings which are old will be admitted, except such as may be absolutely necessary to render the purpose of utility or the shape of the new parts intelligible.

5th. A short and distinct statement of such part or parts (if any) as shall not be new or original, as regards the shape or configuration thereof which must be in the following form, viz.: —(if the whole design is new state)—"The whole of this design is new in so far as regards the shape or configuration thereof." (If there are any old parts state)—"The parts of this design which are not new or original, as regards the shape or configuration thereof, are those marked (A B C, &c.), or coloured (blue, green, &c.)."

NOTE.—The above particulars must be given in the aforesaid order under their several heads, and in distinct and separate paragraphs, which must be strictly confined to what is here required to be contained in each.

Specimen Form.

(Title of the Design.)

.....

(Name of the Proprietor.)

.....

(Address of the Proprietor.)

.....

(The Drawing to be inserted here.)

(Statement of Utility.)

The purpose of Utility to which the Shape or Configuration of (the New Parts of) this Design has reference is.....

(Description.)

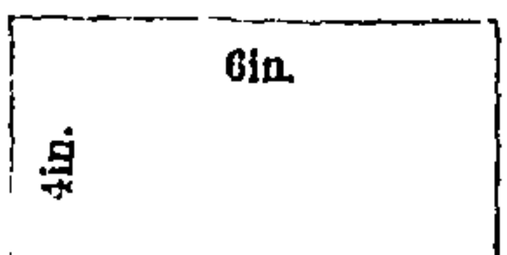
(If the whole Design is New state—)

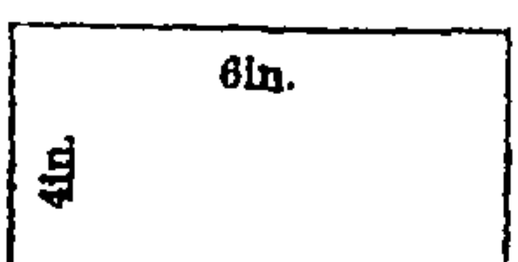
The whole of this Design is New in so far as regards the Shape or Configuration thereof.

(If there are any Old Parts state—)

The parts of this Design which are not New or Original as regards the Shape or Configuration thereof, are those marked, &c., &c.

24 inches.





15 inches.

Each drawing or print, together with the whole of the above particulars, must be drawn, written, or printed on one side of a sheet of paper or parchment, not exceeding in size 24 inches by 15 inches; and on one of the said sheets, on the same side on which are the said drawings and particulars there must be left two blank spaces, each of the size of 6 inches by 4 inches, for the certificates of registration.

The above regulations, which have been made by the Board of Trade, must be strictly complied with.

NOTICE.—Parties are strongly recommended to read the Act before determining to register their designs, in order that they may be satisfied as to the nature, extent, and comprehensiveness of the protection afforded by it; and further, that they come within the meaning and scope of the Acts, of which facts the registration will not constitute any guarantee.

TABLES OF FEES.

Provisional Registration.

	Fee.
Registering design	10*s.*
Certifying former registration (*to proprietor of design*)	5
Registering and certifying transfer	10
Cancellation or substitution (*according to decree or order in Chancery*)	5
Extension of copyright	10

Complete Registration.

	Stamp.	Fee.	Total.
Registering design	£5	... £5	... £10
Certifying former registration (*to proprietor of design*)	5	... 1	... 6
Registering and certifying transfer	5	... 1	... 6
Cancellation or substitution (*according to decree or order in Chancery*)		... 1	... 1

Inspections, &c., of Provisional and Complete Registrations.

Inspecting register, index of titles and names, for each quarter or part of quarter of an hour	1*s.*
Inspecting designs, unexpired copyright, each design, for each quarter or part of quarter of an hour	2
Inspecting designs, expired copyright, each volume, for each quarter or part of quarter of an hour	1
Inspecting the register of inventions, under the "Protection of Inventions Act, 1851," for each quarter or part of quarter of an hour	1
Taking copies of designs unexpired copyright (*according to judge's order*), for each hour or part of an hour, each copy	2
Taking copies of designs, expired copyright, for each hour or part of an hour, each copy	1

Office copies of a design will be charged for according to the nature of the design.

As the Designs Acts, 1843 (6 & 7 Vict. c. 65), and 1850 (13 & 14 Vict. c. 104), give protection only to the shape or configuration of articles of utility (and not to any mechanical action, principle, contrivance, application, or adaptation (except in so far as these may be dependent upon, and inseparable from, the shape or configuration), or to the material of which the article may be composed), no design will be registered, the description of, or statement respecting which, shall contain any wording suggestive of the registration being for any such mechanical action, principle, contrivance, application, or adaptation, or for the material of which the article may be composed.

With this exception and those mentioned in the Act, 1843, clause ix., all designs, the drawings and descriptions of which are properly prepared and made out, will, on payment of the proper fee, be registered, without reference to the nature or extent of the copyright

sought to be thereby acquired; as proprietors of designs must use their own discretion in judging whether or not the design proposed for registration be for the shape or configuration of an article of utility coming within the meaning and scope of the Acts above mentioned.

After the design has been registered, one of the drawings will be filed at the office, and the other returned to the proprietor duly stamped and certified.

Parties bringing designs to this office before half-past 12 o'clock, will be informed after 3 o'clock the same day, whether they are approved of; and if so, they will be registered the following day; and provided the fee has been paid before half-past 1 o'clock on such day, the certified copies will be ready for delivery after 3 o'clock on that subsequent.

An acknowledgment of its receipt will be delivered, on payment of the fees, to the person bringing a design, and no certified copy of a design will be returned, except to the bearer of this acknowledgment, which must be produced on application at the office for the certified copy, and given in exchange for the same.

TRANSFERS.

In case of the transfer of a completely registered design, a copy thereof [or the certified copy, provided there is space sufficient thereon for the certificate,] made on one sheet of paper, with a blank space left for the certificate, must be transmitted to the registrar, together with the forms of application (which may be procured at the office), properly filled up and signed; the transfer will then be registered, and a certified copy returned.

For the transfer of a design provisionally registered, a new copy will not be required, but the certified copy must be transmitted to the registrar with the above-mentioned forms.

EXTENSION OF COPYRIGHT.

The copyright may be extended in certain cases in provisional registration, for a term not exceeding the additional term of six months, as the Board of Trade may think fit.

In case of extension, the certified copy, together with the proper fee, should be transmited to the Designs Office for registration, prior to the expiration of the existing copyright.

Persons bringing designs to be registered, on delivering their designs, and on examining their certificates, previous to leaving the office, must see that the titles, names, &c., are correct, as no error can afterwards be rectified.

SEARCHES.

An index of the titles and names of the proprietors of all the registered designs for articles of utility is kept at the Designs Office, and may be inspected by any person, and extracts made from it.

Designs, the copyright of which is expired, may be inspected, and copied at the office.

Designs, the copyright of which is unexpired, may also be inspected, but not copied, except according to a judge's order.

All communications for the registration of designs, either for ornamental or useful purposes, may be made either through the General Post, directed to "The Registrar of Designs, Designs Office, London, S.W.," or by any other mode of conveyance; and provided the carriage be paid, and the proper fees, or a post-office order for the amount, payable at the Post-Office, Charing-Cross, to J. H. Bowen, Esq., be inclosed, the designs will be duly registered, and the certified copies returned to the proprietor, free of expense.

Postage stamps, orders upon bankers or other persons, Scotch and country bank notes, and light gold, cannot be received in payment of fees.

The Designs Office, No. 1, Whitehall, S.W., is open every day, between the hours of ten in the morning and four in the afternoon, during which time inquiries and searches may be made. Designs and transfers are registered from eleven until three.

Directions for registering ornamental designs may also be procured at the office.

By order of the Registrar.

FORMS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, &c.

Agreement for publishing on Terms of Division of Profits, Publisher undertaking all Expenses of Publication.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between *A. B.*, of , and *C. D.* and *E. F.*, booksellers and publishers, of , dated .

The said *A. B.* agrees to prepare for publication and superintend through the press It is hereby agreed between the said parties that the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall procure such work to be printed, and shall publish the edition of the said work, to consist of not exceeding copies, and shall defray the expenses of paper, printing, and advertising, and account to the said *A. B.* for all copies sold or delivered out of the same, giving credit only for the trade sale price they the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall charge to the booksellers, and being allowed a commission of per cent. on the amount of all copies sold or delivered out of the said work, and a warehouse room charge of per annum. The copies of the work sold or delivered out by the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall be accounted for to the said *A. B.*, at the rate of [twenty-five copies as twenty-four]. In consideration of which the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* agree to take the risk arising from bad debts and otherwise attending the sales, upon themselves, and after the said charges are refunded by the sales of the said work, the profits shall be divided in equal moieties between the said *A. B.* and the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* The accounts shall be made up at the end of every year, and the moiety of profits, if any, that may be due to the said *A. B.* shall be paid to him by the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* in the month of following. It is hereby also agreed between the said parties, that, should a further edition or editions of the said work be required, the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall have the option of agreeing with the said *A. B.* for the printing and publishing the same upon such terms as may be hereafter agreed upon. It is also further agreed between the said parties, that, in case all the copies of the above-named edition of the said work shall not be sold off at the end of years after publication, the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall be at liberty, but shall not be compellable, to dispose of the remaining copies unsold by public or private sale, or in such manner as they the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall deem most advisable, and shall account for the said unsold copies at such price or prices only as they shall actually be sold for, so that the account with reference to the said work may be finally settled and closed. The said *A. B.* shall be entitled to copies of the said work free of any charge. In witness whereof the said parties have subscribed their names the day and year above written.

Another Form.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made this day of one thousand eight hundred and seventy , between *A. B.*, of , , of the one part, and *C. D.* and *E. F.*, of , publishers, of the other part.

The said *A. B.* being the author of a certain book intituled , doth hereby agree with the said *C. D.* and *E. F.*, that they shall print, reprint, and publish the same on the following conditions, to which they also agree.

I. That the said *A. B.* shall fully prepare the whole of the said book for the press on or before the day of , 18 , and that he will correct the proof sheets, and superintend the printing thereof.

II. That the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall direct the mode of printing the said book, and shall bear and pay all the charges thereof, and of publishing the same, and shall take all the risk of the publication on themselves.

III. That the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall, out of the produce of the sale of the said book in the first instance be refunded all the charges and expenses which they shall have incurred respecting the said book, after which the profits shall be divided in equal moieties between the said *A. B.* and the said *C. D.* and *E. F.*

IV. That the accounts shall be made up at the end of every year, and the profits, if any, be then divided.

V. That the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall account for all the copies which they shall sell of the said book at the wholesale bookseller's price, deducting therefrom a commission of per cent., they taking the risk of all credits which they shall give on the same.

VI. That in case all the copies of the said book shall have been sold off, and a second or any subsequent edition of the said book be required by the public, the said *A. B.* shall make all necessary alterations and additions thereto, and the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall print and publish the said second and every subsequent edition of the said book on the above conditions.

VII. That in case all the copies of any edition of the said work shall not be sold off within five years after the time of publication, the said *C. D.* and *E. F.* shall be at full liberty to dispose of the remaining copies so unsold, either by public auction or private sale, or in such manner as they may deem most advisable, so that the account may be finally settled and closed.

Witness our hands,

License to Print one Edition of a Work.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made the day of A.D. between *A. B.*, of , of the one part, and *C. D.*, of , of the other part.

The said *A. B.*, being the author of a certain book, entitled doth hereby agree with the said *C. D.* that the said *C. D.*, for the consideration hereinafter expressed, shall print, publish, and sell one edition of copies of the said work, the said *A. B.* reserving to himself the general copyright ir the said work.

The said *A. B.*, in consideration of the payments hereinafter agreed to be made by the said *C. D.*, doth hereby agree with the said *C. D.* that he will furnish to the printer to be employed by him, fair copy of the said work, and will superintend the printing and correct the proofs thereof in the usual manner, and that he will duly register his title as proprietor of the copyright of the said work, and will not print, publish, or sell, and will not authorise any other person to print, publish, or sell, any and other copies until the whole of the said copies have been disposed of by the said *C. D.*, provided the said copies are sold within years from the date hereof.

The said *C. D.*, in consideration of the aforesaid agreement on the part of the said *A. B.*, doth hereby agree with the said *A. B.* that he will pay him, the said *A. B.*, the sum of for each and every copy of the said copies, payable [quarterly, half-yearly, &c.], as fast as the said copies shall be sold or otherwise disposed of; he, the said *C. D.*, rendering to the said *A. B.* an account of sales of the said work, at the expiration of months from the day of the first publication, until the whole shall be sold. The said *C. D.* also agrees to give to the said *A. B.* copies of the said work, well bound and free of charge, as soon as conveniently may be done, after the manuscript copy has been furnished by the said *A. B.*

And the said *C. D.*, in consideration of the aforesaid agreement on the part of the said *A. B.*, doth hereby further agree with the said *A. B.* that he, the said *C. D.*, will not print, publish, or sell, any more than the said copies, until authorised by the said *A. B.* or his legal representatives in writing; it being understood that the licence herein contained extends only to one edition of the number of copies above specified. In witness whereof, &c.

Agreement to enlarge a Second Edition of a Book, and correct Proof of the same.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made the day of A.D., between *A. B.* of of the one part, and *C. D.* of of the other part.

The said *A. B.*, for and in consideration of and other consideration herein named, hereby agrees with the said *C. D.* to examine, correct, and enlarge the work known as , to furnish additional manuscript matter for the edition of the work, and to enlarge the index and make it full and complete.

It is understood and agreed that the new edition of the work shall be of the same sized page as the present work, and contain an equal amount of matter on each page, and that the additional matter furnished shall enlarge the work not less than pages, and shall be furnished to the said *C. D.*, commencing on the .

The said *A. B.* is to examine and to correct the proof sheets as fast as they shall be furnished, and to complete the index as soon as may be after the whole signatures of the text shall be ready for him for that purpose.

The said *C. D.*, on his part, agrees to print the said work as the matter shall be furnished, to furnish the said *A. B.* with a copy of the work by signatures, as each signature shall be worked off, for the purpose of arranging the index; to furnish the said *A. B.* with copies of the work, as soon as they can be conveniently finished, and to pay the said *A. B.* the sum of on the day the last proof sheet is corrected for the press. In witness whereof, &c.

Reservation by Artist of Copyright in a Painting, Drawing, or Photograph, to be taken from Vendee, or Assignee, or Person for whom the Work is executed (under 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, s. 1).

IT is hereby agreed between *A. B.*, residing at in the United Kingdom, and *C. D.*, of , that the copyright (Registered No.) of the [painting, &c.], entitled representing

made by the said *A. B.*, and now [sold, assigned, and disposed of] for the first time, to me [or now executed on my behalf] is reserved to the said *A. B.*

Date (Signed) *C. D.*

Agreement to Assign Copyright to Vendee or Assignee of Painting, Drawing, or Photograph (under 25 & 26 Vict. c. 68, s. 1).

It is hereby agreed between *A. B.*, residing at in the United Kingdom [artist, photographer, &c.], and *C. D.*, of , in consideration of the sum of over and above the price of the work hereinafter described, paid by the said *C. D.* to the said *A. B.*, that the said *C. D.* is entitled to the copyright in the [painting, drawing, or photograph] made by the said *A. B.*, entitled and representing , now first sold and disposed of to the said *C. D.*

Date. (Signed) *A. B.*
[*or*]
E. F., agent of the said *A. B.*

For forms of transfer of copyright in designs, and authority to register, *vide ante*, p. 622.

For forms of request to register copyright in designs, *vide ante*, p. 623.

FORMS OF PLEADINGS (COPYRIGHT).

Declarations.

For Infringement of Copyright in a Book by printing Copies.

In the Queen's Bench [*or* Common Pleas, *or* Exchequer of Pleas.]
The day of , A.D.

(*Venue*).—*A. B.* by *C. D.*, his attorney [*or* in person, *as the case may be*,] sues *E. F.*, for that the plaintiff was the proprietor of a subsisting copyright in a book entitled , and the defendant, after the passing of the Act of Parliament passed in the sixth year of the reign of Queen Victoria, to amend the law of copyright, did, without the consent in writing of the plaintiff, so then being such proprietor as aforesaid, and contrary to the said statute, print and cause to be printed for sale [and for exportation] divers copies of the said book; whereby the plaintiff has been prevented from selling divers copies of the said book, and his profits in the said copyright have been diminished; and the plaintiff claims £

(From Bullen and Leake's Precedents, p. 297).

For a similar count see *Boosey* v. *Davidson* (4 D. & L. 147) (an action for infringing the copyright in a song, by printing and selling copies).

If the plaintiff wishes also to get an injunction, add (after the words "and the plaintiff claims £ "),

"And the plaintiff also claims a writ of injunction to restrain the defendant from the continuance and repetition of the injuries above complained of, and the committal of other injuries of a like kind relating to the same right."

Count for Infringement of Copyright in a Periodical Work by printing Portions of it in another.

That the plaintiff was the proprietor of a periodical work called "The ," and of the copyright therein, and of and in all the articles therein, of which periodical work an entry had, before this suit, been by the plaintiff duly made in the registry-book of the Stationers Company, as required by the statute in that behalf; yet the defendant wrongfully, and without the consent in writing of the plaintiff, printed for sale, and sold in a periodical work called "The ," divers portions of the said articles contained in the plaintiff's said periodical, and in which the plaintiff had such copyright as aforesaid, and thereby pirated the said articles, and injured the plaintiff in his said copyright, and diminished his profits of and in the same; and the plaintiff claims £

See *Sweet* v. *Benning* (16 C. B. 159).

Count for Infringement of Copyright in a Musical Composition by Printing it for Sale.

That at the time of the committing by the defendant of the grievances hereinafter mentioned, and after the passing of a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the sixth year of the reign of our Lady the now Queen, intituled, "An Act to Amend the Law of Copyright," the plaintiff was, and from thence has been and is, the proprietor of the copyright in a certain book, to wit, a musical composition called , under and according to the provisions of the said statute in such case made and provided, yet the defendant did, without the consent in writing of the plaintiff, so then being the proprietor of such copyright as aforesaid, print, and cause to be printed, for sale, divers copies of the said book, contrary to the form of the said statute in such case made, whereby the plaintiff was and is greatly damnified; and the plaintiff claims £ .

See *Jeffreys* v. *Boosey* (4 Ho. Lords Cas. 815; 24 L. J. 81, Ex.); *Cocks* v. *Purday* (5 C. B. 860); *Boosey* v. *Purday* (4 Ex. 145); *Clementi* v. *Walker* (2 B. & C. 861); *Novello* v. *Sudlow* (12 C. B. 177); *Chappell* v. *Davidson* (18 C. B. 197).

For examples of counts for infringement of copyright in a song, having the singer's likeness on the outside, by printing and selling imitations, see *Chappell* v. *Davidson* (18 C. B. 194; 25 L. J. 22, C. P.)

For Infringing the Copyright in a Book by selling Copies unlawfully printed.

That the plaintiff was the proprietor of a subsisting copyright in a book entitled , and after the passing of the Act of Parliament, passed in the sixth year of the reign of Queen Victoria, to amend the law of copyright, divers copies of the said book had, without the consent in writing of the plaintiff, so then being such proprietor as aforesaid, and contrary to the said statute, been printed by one *A. B.* for sale; and the defendant, well-knowing the premises, afterwards, without the consent in writing of the plaintiff, so being such proprietor as aforesaid, and contrary to the said statute, sold [and published and exposed to sale and hire] divers copies of the said book which had been so printed as aforesaid; whereby the plaintiff was prevented from selling divers copies of the said book, and his profits in the said copyright have been diminished.

(From Bullen and Leake's Precedents, p. 297.)

For Infringement of the Copyright in a Print by means of Photography.

That before and at the time of the committing by the defendants of the respective grievances hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff was, and from thence hitherto has been and still is, the proprietor of a certain print called , which said print the plaintiff had, before the committing of the said grievances, caused to be engraved from a picture by , and which said print had been and was so engraved and taken from the said picture in that part of Great Britain called England, and such print had been and was printed and first published within that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called England, and such print had been and was so first published on the day of , A.D. and within twenty-eight years before the committing of the said grievances, or any or either of them, and which said day of the said first publishing

of the said print, together with the name of the plaintiff (who then was, and from thence hitherto has been and still is the proprietor of the said print), was before and at the time the said print was so first published as aforesaid, and from thence continually hitherto, truly engraved upon each plate upon which the said engraving was made, and from which the said prints are printed, and which said day of the said first publishing of the said print, together with the name of the plaintiffs, was truly printed upon every print taken or printed from such plates, or any or either of them, and at the several times of the committing by the defendants of the respective grievances hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff was entitled under the Acts of Parliament in that behalf to the sole right and liberty of printing and reprinting the said print, yet the defendants, well knowing the premises, but contriving, and wrongfully and fraudulently intending to injure the plaintiff, and to deprive him of the profits and advantages which he might and otherwise would have derived from the said print, and also to deprive him of his copyright therein, heretofore and after the passing of an Act of Parliament passed in the seventeenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled, "An Act for more effectually securing the Property of Prints to Inventors and Engravers, by enabling them to sue for and recover Penalties in certain cases," and within six calendar months next before the commencement of this suit, and within twenty-eight years from the said first publishing of the said print, wrongfully, and without the consent in writing of the plaintiff, signed by him, or any other consent of the plaintiff, did on divers days and times before the commencement of this suit in England aforesaid, copy *in the whole* the said print contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided. [*If the defendants have also copied the print in part add*] And the defendants, further contriving and intending as aforesaid, and within six calendar months next before the commencement of this suit, and within twenty-eight years from the said first publishing of the said print, wrongfully and fraudulently, and without the consent in writing of the plaintiff, signed by him, or any other consent of or from the plaintiff, and in England aforesaid, did on divers days and times unlawfully copy *in part* the said print contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided. [*If the defendants have sold copies add*] And the defendants further contriving and intending as aforesaid, and within six calendar months next before the commencement of this suit, and within twenty-eight years after the said first publishing of the said print, wrongfully and fraudulently, and without the consent in writing of the plaintiff signed by him, or any other consent of or from the plaintiff, and in England aforesaid, did on divers days and times unlawfully publish and sell, or otherwise dispose of, and procure to be published, sold, and otherwise disposed of, divers, to wit, copies of the said print, contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.

See *Graves* v. *Ashford* (16 L. T. N. S. 98; L. Rep. 2 C. P. 410; 36 L. J. 139, C. P.).

For Infringement of Copyright in a Print by selling Copies from a spurious Plate.

Copy preceding precedent down to the end of the word "plaintiff," *on line* 26 *of p.* 725; *then proceed:* Did unlawfully publish and sell, and cause and procure to be published and sold divers base copies of the said print whereof the plaintiff so was the proprietor as aforesaid, which copies were engraved and made without the consent of the

plaintiff, and against his will, and did expose to sale divers other copies of the same print without the consent in writing and against the will of the plaintiff, and did engrave, etch, and work, and copy, and sell, and caused to be engraved, etched, and worked, and copied, and sold, in part by varying from the main design, divers other copies of the same prints, without the consent in writing and against the will of the plaintiff, by means whereof the plaintiff has been and is greatly injured in his property in the said print, and has lost and been deprived of divers great gains and profits which he would otherwise have derived and acquired by the printing and selling of the said print.

See *Gambart* v. *Lee* (29 L. J. 98, Ex.; 5 H. & N. 5).

For Penalties for Infringement of Right of Representing or Performing a Dramatic Piece.

That before and at the time of the committing of the grievances by the defendant hereinafter mentioned, and after the passing of a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, entitled an "Act to Amend the Laws relating to Dramatic Literary Property," the plaintiff was the proprietor of a certain dramatic piece [*or* of certain dramatic pieces] called , and had as such proprietor the sole liberty of representing or causing to be represented the said dramatic piece [*or* pieces] at any place or places of dramatic entertainment whatsoever in any part of the British dominions, and from thence hitherto has been and is the proprietor thereof and possessed of the sole right and liberty as aforesaid; yet, while the plaintiff was the proprietor thereof as aforesaid, and had the sole liberty of representing and causing to be represented the said dramatic piece [*or* pieces] as aforesaid, and after the passing of the said Act of Parliament, and within twelve calendar months next before the commencement of this suit, the defendant, without the consent in writing of the plaintiff first had and obtained, did represent and perform, and cause to be represented and performed, the said dramatic piece [*or* pieces, *or* divers parts of the said dramatic piece *or* pieces] at a certain place [*or* at divers places] of dramatic entertainment in Great Britain, to wit, at the Theatre, in the county of , times, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and contrary to the right of the plaintiff as such proprietor as aforesaid, by reason whereof, and by force of the statute in such case made and provided, the defendant has become and is liable to pay to the plaintiff, so being such proprietor as aforesaid, and having such sole liberty as aforesaid, an amount not less than forty shillings in respect of each and every such representation of the said dramatic piece [*or* of each of the said dramatic pieces], or the full amount of the benefit or advantage arising from each and every of such representations, or the injury or loss sustained by the plaintiff therefrom, whichever shall be the greater damages; and the plaintiff says that the sum of forty shillings is the greatest damages recoverable by him according to the form of the said statute, in respect of each representation of the said piece [*or* of each and every of the said pieces] by the defendant as above-mentioned, whereof the defendant had notice; whereby, and by force of the statute in such case made and provided, an action has accrued to the plaintiff to demand and have from the defendant several sums of forty shillings, yet the defendant has not paid the same or any part thereof.

See *Cumberland* v. *Copeland* (7 H. & N. 118; 31 L. J. 19, Ex.; 4 L. T. N. S. 803); *Reade* v. *Conquest* (9 C. B. N. S. 755; 30 L. J. 299, C. P.); *Shepherd* v. *Conquest* (17 C. B. 427; 25 L. J. 127, C. P.)

As the sole right of representing or performing may be enjoyed separately from the copyright in the dramatic or musical composition itself (*vide ante*, pp. 114, 116), it may sometimes be necessary to frame a count for the infringement of such separate right. The following is given as a precedent:—

That before and at, &c. [*as in preceding form*], the plaintiff had and from thence hitherto has had and has the sole liberty of representing or causing to be represented a certain dramatic piece called at any place, &c., yet the defendant whilst the plaintiff had such sole liberty as aforesaid and after, &c. [*as in preceding*].

For Infringement of Right of Performing a Musical Composition.

That before and at the time of the committing of the grievances hereinafter mentioned, and after the passing of certain Acts of Parliament made and passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, and in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of Queen Victoria, entitled respectively "An Act to Amend the Laws relating to Dramatic Literary Property," and "An Act to amend the Law of Copyright," the plaintiff was the proprietor of a certain musical composition called , and had as such proprietor the sole liberty of performing [*or* representing and performing] or causing to be performed the said musical composition at any place [*&c., as in preceding form; describing the work as a musical composition, and changing Act of Parliament to Acts of Parliament, and statute to statutes*].

See the preceding note and form.

For Infringement of Copyright in a Model, Cast, Copy, or Sculpture, by selling pirated Copies.

That before and at the time of the committing by the defendant of the grievances hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff was, and from thence hitherto has been and still is, the proprietor of a certain new and original model [*or* cast, &c.], to wit, a model [*or* cast, &c.] of [*describe the model, &c.*], and such new and original model was first published by the plaintiff within fourteen [*or* twenty-eight, see 54 Geo. 3, c. 56, s. 6] years before the committing of the said grievances or any of them; and the plaintiff, before the said model, &c., was put forth or published, did cause his name to be put thereon, with the date of publication thereof, and was, at the time of the committing of the said grievances, and from thence hitherto has been and is entitled under the Act of Parliament in that behalf to the sole right and property in the said model; yet the defendant, well knowing the premises, but contriving, and wrongfully and fraudulently intending to injure the plaintiff, and to deprive him of the profits and advantages which he might and otherwise would have derived from the said model, &c., and also to deprive him of his copyright therein heretofore, and after the passing of an Act of Parliament passed in the fifty-fourth year of his late Majesty King George the Third, entitled "An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act of his

present Majesty, for encouraging the Art of making new Models and Casts of Busts, and other things therein mentioned, and for giving further Encouragement to such Arts," and within six calendar months next before the commencement of this suit, and within fourteen [*or* twenty-eight] years from the said first publishing of the said model, &c., wrongfully and injuriously did, on divers days and times before the commencement of this suit, expose to sale and dispose of, and cause to be exposed to sale and disposed of, divers pirated copies [*or* pirated casts] of the aforesaid model, &c., contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, whereby the plaintiff was and is greatly damnified.

For Infringement of Copyright in a Design registered under 5 & 6 Vict. c. 100.

That before and at the time of the committing by the defendant of the grievances hereinafter mentioned, and after the passing of an Act of Parliament passed in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Copyright of Designs for ornamenting Articles of Manufacture," the plaintiff was, and from thence hitherto has been and is, the proprietor of a new and original design applicable to the ornamenting of comprised in class mentioned in the said Act, which said design had not before or at the time of the registration thereof, as hereinafter mentioned, been published within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or elsewhere, and the plaintiff, so being such proprietor as aforesaid, caused the said design to be and the same was duly registered in respect of the application of such design to ornamenting articles of manufacture, that is to say, to comprised in class mentioned in the said Act, by specifying the number of the class in respect of which such registration was made, and also caused his name to be, and his name was then duly registered according to the said Act as proprietor of the said design, and after and ever since the publication of the said design, every article of manufacture which had been made by the plaintiff according to the said design, and every article of manufacture and substance on or to which the said design had been used or applied by the plaintiff, had thereon the letters "Rd.," and also numbers and letters in a form corresponding with the date of the registration of the said design, and according to the provisions of the said Act, and, by reason of the premises, the plaintiff, before and at the time of the committing of the said grievances, and from thence hitherto, has had and has the sole right to apply the said design to any article of manufacture, or to any substance artificial or natural, or partly artificial and partly natural, and all conditions, matters, and things had been performed, and had happened and existed which were necessary to entitle the plaintiff to, and the plaintiff was entitled to the benefit of the said Act with regard to the said design in respect of the application thereof to ornamenting comprised in class within the United Kingdom, for the term of [*insert duration of copyright according to class*] to be computed from the day of A.D. , the date on which the said design was registered according to the provisions of the said Act, and all conditions, matters and things had been performed, and had happened and existed which were necessary to entitle the plaintiff to sue the defendant in this action, yet the defendant [on each of divers several occasions] wrongfully and

injuriously, and without the leave or consent in writing of the plaintiff as such registered proprietor as aforesaid, and within twelve calendar months next before the commencement of this suit, applied the said design [and divers fraudulent imitations thereof] for the purpose of sale to and to the ornamenting of each of divers then being articles of manufacture comprised in class , to which the plaintiff had such sole right of applying the said design, and also made and caused to be made divers of such according to the said design, in breach of and against the sole right of the plaintiff, and contrary to the form of the said statute.

McCrae v. *Holdsworth* (5 B. & S. 495; 13 L. T., N.S., 80; 33 L. J. 329, Q.B.)

For Infringement of Copyright in a Design registered under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 65.

That before and at the time of the committing by the defendant of the grievances hereinafter mentioned, and after the passing of an Act of Parliament, passed in the seventh year of the reign of Queen Victoria, intituled, "An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Copyright of Designs," the plaintiff was, and from thence hitherto has been and is, the proprietor of a new and original design for an article of manufacture, having reference to a purpose of utility so far as the said design was and is for the shape or configuration of such article, that is to say, of a new and original design for the shape or configuration of a , which said design had not before or at the time of the registration thereof, as hereinafter mentioned, been published within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or elsewhere, and the plaintiff so being such proprietor as aforesaid, caused the said design to be and the same was duly registered according to the said Act, and also caused his name to be and his name was then duly registered according to the said Act as proprietor of the said design, and after and ever since the publication of the said design every article of manufacture made by the plaintiff according to the said design, or on which the said design was used, had thereon the word "registered," with the date of registration, and by reason of the premises the plaintiff had before and at the time of the committing of the said grievances, and from thence hitherto has had and has the sole right to apply the said design to any article of manufacture, or to make or sell any article according to such design, and all conditions, matters, and things had been performed and had happened and existed which were necessary to entitle the plaintiff to, and the plaintiff was entitled to the benefit of the said Act with regard to the said design for the term of three years, to be computed from the day of , A.D. , the date on which the said design was registered according to the provisions of the said Act, and all conditions, matters, and things had been performed and had happened and existed which were necessary to entitle the plaintiff to sue the defendant in this action, yet the defendant [on each of several occasions] wrongfully and injuriously, and without the leave or consent in writing of the plaintiff as such registered proprietor as aforesaid, and within twelve calendar months next before the commencement of this suit, applied the said design [and divers fraudulent imitations thereof] for the purpose of sale to divers articles of manufacture to which the plaintiff had such sole right of applying the said design, and also made and caused to be made divers of such articles according to the said design, in breach of and against the sole right of the plaintiff and contrary to the form of the said Act.

PLEAS.

General Issue.

In the Queen's Bench [*or* Common Pleas, *or* Exchequer of Pleas].

B. } The day of A.D.
ats. } The defendant by *O. D.* his attorney [*or* in person, *as the*
A. } *case may be*] says that he is not guilty.

Plea denying the Copyright.

That the plaintiff was not the proprietor of the said copyright as alleged.

Plea denying that the Copyright was existing.

That the said copyright was not a subsisting copyright as alleged.

Plea denying first Publication in England.

That the said book in the declaration mentioned was not first printed and published in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called England.

That Prints had not Date of first Publication or Proprietor's Name thereon.

That the day of the first publishing of the said print was not, together with the name of the plaintiff as proprietor thereof, printed upon such print as in the declaration mentioned.

See *Graves* v. *Ashford* (16 L. T. N. S. 98; L. Rep. 2 C. P. 412).

That Prints were published without Date of first Publication or Proprietor's Name.

That before the committing of the alleged grievances in the declaration mentioned [*or any of them*] the plaintiff printed and published and sold, and caused and knowingly permitted to be printed and published and sold divers, to wit prints printed and taken from the said engraving in the declaration mentioned, without having the day of the first publishing thereof or the name of the proprietor thereof printed thereon.

See *Graves* v. *Ashford* (16 L. T. N. S. 98; L. Rep. 2 C. P. 412).

Denying Plaintiff's sole Right of Representing or Performing Dramatic or Musical Piece.

That the plaintiff was not the proprietor of, nor had he the sole liberty of representing [and performing] or causing to be represented [and performed] the said dramatic piece [*or* musical composition] as alleged.

That a Musical Composition was composed by Plaintiff for Defendant as accessory to Representation of a Dramatic Piece.

That the alleged musical composition was part of a dramatic piece, to wit , adapted to the stage by the defendant, with the aid of scenery, dresses, the alleged composition, and other music and accompaniments, the general design of which representation was formed by the defendant: and that the defendant employed the plaintiff, for reward paid to him by the defendant in that behalf, to compose the said musical composition as part of the said representation and dramatic piece, and as a mere accessory to the said dramatic piece, on the terms that in consideration of such reward, the said musical composition should become part of such dramatic piece as designed and adapted for representation by the defendant, and that the defendant should have the sole liberty of representing and performing, and causing and permitting to be represented and performed, the said musical composition with the said dramatic piece, and as an accessory thereto and as part thereof, and the alleged musical composition was composed by the plaintiff under and by virtue of the said employment, and upon the terms and for the purpose aforesaid, and the alleged representations and performances were representations and performances by the defendant of the said dramatic piece so designed and adapted as aforesaid, with the aid of the said scenery, dresses, and the said musical composition and other music and accompaniments.

See *Hatton* v. *Kean*, 29 L. J. 20, C. P.; 7 C. B. N. S. 268.

Form of Notice of Objections to be given with the Pleas in an Action for Infringement of Copyright, in pursuance of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 16.

In the

A. B., plaintiff,
against
E. F., defendant.

Take notice that the above named defendant means to rely, on the trial of this action, on the following objections:

1. That the defendant is not guilty of the alleged grievances.
2. That the plaintiff was not the proprietor of the said copyright.
3. That at the time of the alleged grievances there was no subsisting copyright in the said book.
4. That *J. K.*, and not the plaintiff, was the author of the said book.
5. That *L. M.*, and not the plaintiff, was the first publisher of the said book.
6. That *N. O.*, and not the plaintiff, is the proprietor of the said copyright.
7. That the said book was first published with the title [*specify the title of the book as first published*] on the day of , A.D. [*specify the date of first publication*] at [*specify the place of the first publication*].

[*State any other objections in the same manner.*]

Yours, &c.,
G. H., defendant's attorney, [*or* agent.]

To Mr. *C. D.*, plaintiff's attorney, [*or* agent.]

(From Bullen and Leakes' Precedents, p. 719.)

See examples of notices in *Boosey* v. *Davidson* (4 D. & L. 147); *Sweet* v. *Benning* (16 C. B. 459); *Leader* v. *Purday* (7 C. B. 4); *Hatton* v. *Kean* (29 L. J. 20, C. P.; 7 C. B. N. S. 268).

FORMS OF PLEADINGS IN PROCEEDINGS FOR LIBEL (CRIMINAL).

Ex officio Information by Attorney-General for a Seditious Libel.

Michaelmas Term in the year of Queen Victoria.

MIDDLESEX.—Be it remembered that Sir , Knt., Attorney-General of our present Sovereign Lady the Queen, who for our said Lady the Queen in this behalf prosecuteth in his proper person, cometh here into the court of our said Lady the Queen, before the Queen herself, at Westminster, in the county of Middlesex, on Monday next after the morrow of All Souls', in this same term, and for our said Lady the Queen giveth the court to understand and be informed that *J. L.*, late of , in the county of Middlesex, being a seditious, malicious, and ill-disposed person, and being greatly disaffected to our said present Sovereign Lady Victoria, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, and to her administration of the government of this kingdom, and most unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously, devising, designing, and intending as much as in him lay to bring our said Lady the Queen, and her administration of the government of this kingdom, and the persons employed by her in the administration of the government of this kingdom, into great and public hatred and contempt among all her liege subjects, and to alienate and withdraw from our said Lady the Queen the cordial love and affection, true and due obedience, fidelity, and allegiance of the subjects of our said Lady the Queen, on the day of , in the year of our said present Sovereign Lady the Queen, at the parish of , in the county of Middlesex, did unlawfully, seditiously and maliciously print and publish, and cause and procure to be printed and published, a certain scandalous, malicious, and seditious libel of and concerning our said Lady the Queen, and her administration of the government of this kingdom, to the tenor and effect following, that is to say: [*here state the libel*] in contempt of our said Lady the Queen and her laws, to the evil example of all others, and against the peace of our said Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

Second Count.—And the said Attorney-General of our said Lady the Queen, who prosecutes as aforesaid, further gives the court here to understand and be informed that the said *J. L.*, of his further malice against our said Lady the now Queen, and again unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously devising, designing and intending as aforesaid, afterwards, on the day of , in the year of our said present Lady the Queen at , aforesaid, did unlawfully, seditiously, and maliciously, print and publish, and cause and procure to be printed and published, a certain other scandalous, malicious, and seditious libel of and concerning our said Lady the Queen, and her administration of the government of this kingdom, to the tenor and effect following: [*Here state libel varying the innuendoes*

in the first count.] Whereupon the said Attorney-General of our said Lady the Queen, who for our said Lady the Queen in this behalf prosecutes, for our said Lady the Queen, prays the consideration of the court here in the premises, and that due process of law may be awarded against the said *J. L.* in this behalf, to make him answer to our said Lady the Queen touching and concerning the premises aforesaid.

See *Rex* v. *Lambert and Perry* (31 St. Tr. 336, and 2 Chitty Crim. L. 6 & 90). In the case of *Lambert and Perry* the libel did not require any prefatory averment. *Vide ante*, pp. 522, 523.

Information by Master of Crown Office.

Of Term, in the year of the reign of Queen Victoria.

——, to wit } Be it remembered that *A. B.*, Esq., coroner and attorney of our Lady the now Queen, in the court of our said Lady the Queen, before the Queen herself, who prosecutes for our said Lady the Queen in this behalf in his proper person, comes here into the court of our said Lady the Queen, before the Queen herself, at Westminster, on the in this same term, and for our said Lady the Queen gives the court here to understand and be informed that, &c. [*State the facts and circumstances constituting the offence. See example in next form*], to the great damage, scandal, and disgrace of him the said , to the evil example of all others in the like case offending, and against the peace of our said Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

Commence the second and other counts thus:

And the said coroner and attorney of our said Lady the Queen, who prosecutes as aforesaid, further gives the court here to understand and be informed that, &c.

Conclude thus:

And therefore the said coroner and attorney of our said Lady the Queen, prays the consideration of the court here in the premises, and that due process of law may be awarded against him the said in this behalf, to make him answer to our said Lady the Queen, touching and concerning the premises aforesaid.

Criminal Information by Master of Crown Office for a Libel charging the Scuttling of a Vessel.

(*Reg.* v. *Shimmin*, not reported).

Of Michaelmas Term, in the thirty-third year of the reign of Queen Victoria.

In the County of Lancaster, West Derby Division, to wit. } Be it remembered that Thomas Norton, Esq., coroner and attorney of our present sovereign Lady the Queen, in the court of our said Lady the Queen, before the Queen herself, who for our said Lady the Queen in this behalf prosecuteth in his own person, cometh here in the said court of our Lady the Queen, before the Queen herself at Westminster, to wit, on the twenty-fourth day of November, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, and in the said thirty-third year of the reign of our said Lady the Queen, and

for our said Lady the Queen giveth the court here to understand and be informed that, at and before the publishing of the libel hereinafter mentioned, a certain company called and duly registered as "The Merchants' Trading Company, Limited," carried on its business, to wit, at Liverpool, in the West Derby division of the county of Lancaster, and the said company owned and employed, in trading to divers places, divers ships and vessels, and amongst others, to wit, a certain steam ship or vessel called the "Golden Fleece," and at the time aforesaid one William James Fernie, of Liverpool aforesaid, was, and still is, and for some time previous to the publishing of the said libel had been, the managing director of the said company, and was and is otherwise largely interested therein; and at and before the time aforesaid it became and was and still is the duty of the said William James Fernie, as such managing director, to superintend generally the employment of the said ships or vessels of the said company, including the said steam ship or vessel the "Golden Fleece," and the effecting of insurances upon and in respect of such ships or vessels, and goods of the said company laden therein, and freight to become payable for the carriage by the said company of goods thereby; and before the printing and publishing of the said libel the said steam ship or vessel "Golden Fleece," then being a ship or vessel the property of the said company, had been altered and prepared for the carriage of a cargo of coal, and had been laden with such cargo of coals principally at Cardiff, in the United Kingdom, for a voyage to Alexandria, and the said vessel and her freight and cargo for the said voyage had been, by and under the direction of the said William James Fernie, as such managing director, insured in an amount not exceeding the fair value thereof respectively. And after the said "Golden Fleece" had been so laden with coals as aforesaid, and while the same was at anchor in the roads of the harbour at Cardiff aforesaid, the said "Golden Fleece" met with a disaster, to wit, by becoming filled with water through one of the coaling ports of the said "Golden Fleece;" and in order to prevent her sinking, the said "Golden Fleece" was necessarily driven towards the shore and stranded. And thereupon a certain inquiry was held by direction of the Board of Trade into the circumstances of the said disaster, which inquiry resulted in the exoneration of the master of the said vessel "Golden Fleece" from all blame in respect of the said disaster, and in the return to such master of his master's certificate. And thereupon the said Hugh Shimmin, of Liverpool aforesaid, being the printer and publisher of a certain newspaper called *The Porcupine*, unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously wrote, printed, and published, and so caused and procured to be written, printed, and published, of and concerning the said William James Fernie a certain false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory libel in the form of an article entitled "Marine Coal Scuttling," in the said newspaper, *The Porcupine*, published by the said Hugh Shimmin, to wit, on the twenty-third day of October, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, and in the said thirty-third year of our said Lady the Queen, to wit, at number fifty-eight Cable-street in Liverpool aforesaid, the words following: [*Here follows in full the newspaper article.*] And the said Hugh Shimmin so unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously wrote, printed, and published, and caused and procured to be written, printed, and published, the said libel, he, the said Hugh Shimmin, then well knowing the same to be false, thereby intending and contriving to injure, vilify, and prejudice the said William James Fernie and to lower him in the estimation of his fellows, to the great injury, scandal, and disgrace of

the said William James Fernie, to the evil example of all others in like case offending, and against the peace of our Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

And the said coroner and attorney of our said Lady the Queen, for our said Lady the Queen further giveth the court here to understand and be informed that, at and before the time of the publishing of the libel hereinafter mentioned, a certain company called and duly registered as "The Merchants' Trading Company, Limited," carried on its business, to wit, at Liverpool, in the West Derby division of the county of Lancaster, and the said company owned and employed, in trading to divers places, divers ships and vessels, and amongst others, to wit, a certain ship or vessel called the "Golden Fleece," and at the time aforesaid, one William James Fernie of Liverpool aforesaid, was, and still is, and for some time previous to the publishing of the said libel, had been the managing director of the said company, and was and is otherwise largely interested therein, and at and before the time aforesaid it became and was and still is the duty of the said William James Fernie, as such managing director, to superintend generally the employment of the said ships or vessels of the said company, including the said steam ship or vessel the "Golden Fleece," and the effecting of insurances upon and in respect of such ships or vessels, and goods of the said company laden therein and freight to become payable for the carriage by the said company of goods thereby. And before the printing and publishing of the said libel the said steam ship "Golden Fleece," then being a ship or vessel, the property of the said company, had been laden with a cargo of coals, principally at Cardiff, in the United Kingdom, for a voyage to Alexandria, and the said vessel and her freight and cargo for the said voyage had been by and under the direction of the said William James Fernie, as such managing director, insured in an amount not exceeding the fair value thereof, respectively; and after the said "Golden Fleece" had been so laden with coals as aforesaid, and while the same was at anchor in the roads of the harbour at Cardiff aforesaid, the said "Golden Fleece" met with a disaster, to wit, by becoming filled with water through one of the coaling ports of the said "Golden Fleece," and in order to prevent her sinking, the said "Golden Fleece" was necessarily driven towards the shore and stranded. And thereupon a certain inquiry was held by direction of the Board of Trade into the circumstances of the said disaster, which inquiry resulted in the exoneration of the master of the said vessel "Golden Fleece" from all blame in respect of the said disaster, and in the return to such master of his master's certificate. And thereupon the said Hugh Shimmin, of Liverpool aforesaid, being the printer and publisher of a certain newspaper called *The Porcupine*, unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously wrote, printed, and published, and so caused and procured to be written, printed, and published of and concerning the said William James Fernie, a certain false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory libel in the form of an article entitled "Marine Coal Scuttling," to wit, in the said newspaper, *The Porcupine*, published by the said Hugh Shimmin, to wit, in the twenty-third day of October, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, and in the thirty-third year of our said Lady the Queen, to wit, at number fifty-eight Cable-street, in Liverpool aforesaid, the words following: "You need not wait till she (meaning the ship or vessel in the said sentence referred to) gets out to sea. If you wish to close your accounts promptly, you can load her with coals until her ports are below the water line, and by leaving one of the side coaling ports insecurely

fastened, you can at any time command a supply of water which will sink the vessel in a few minutes. All these are acts which are not individually deemed criminal, but the true colour of which is at once revealed when it is known that the vessel and her freight are insured for double their value;" the said Hugh Shimmin, thereby meaning, referring, and intending to be understood as meaning and referring to the said ship or vessel "Golden Fleece," and thereby meaning to impute that the said loss of and damage to the said "Golden Fleece" had been caused and occasioned by the wicked and corrupt contrivance, and for the profit of the said William James Fernie, and others. And the said Hugh Shimmin, so unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously wrote, printed, and published, and caused and procured to be written, printed, and published, the said libel, he, the said Hugh Shimmin, then well knowing the same to be false, thereby intending and contriving to injure, vilify, and prejudice the said William James Fernie, and to lower him in the estimation of his fellows, to the great injury, scandal, and disgrace of the said William James Fernie, to the evil example of all others in like case offending, and against the peace of our Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

Whereupon the said coroner and attorney for our said Lady the Queen prayeth the consideration of the court here in the premises, and that due process of law may be awarded against him, the said Hugh Shimmin, in this behalf, to make him answer to our said Lady the Queen, and touching and concerning the premises aforesaid.

Indictment for Publishing a Libel knowing the same to be false.

—— } The jurors for our said Lady the Queen upon their oath
to wit. } present, that *C. D.*, contriving and unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously intending to injure, vilify, and prejudice one *A. B.*, and to deprive him of his good name, fame, credit, and reputation, and to bring him into public contempt, scandal, infamy, and disgrace, on the day of in the year of our Lord , unlawfully, wickedly, and maliciously did write and publish, and cause and procure to be written and published, a false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory libel, containing divers false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory matters and things of and concerning the said *A. B.*, according to the tenor and effect following, that is to say [*Here set out the libel, together with such inuendoes as may be necessary to render it intelligible. See example in next form*], he, the said *C. D.*, then well knowing the said defamatory libel to be false, to the great damage, scandal, and disgrace of the said *A. B.*, to the evil example of all others in the like case offending, and against the peace of our Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity.

Indictment of a Newspaper Proprietor for a Libel on the late Bishop of Exeter.

(*Reg.* v. *Latimer*, 3 Cox. Crim. Cas. Appx. xxxviii).

City and County of the City of Exeter, to wit. } The jurors for our Lady the Queen upon their oath present, that before and at the time of publishing the false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory libel hereinafter mentioned, Henry Phillpotts had become, and was, and still is, by Divine permission, Lord Bishop of Exeter, to wit, bishop of the diocese of Exeter, in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called England,

and that before the time of the publishing of the said false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory libel hereinafter mentioned, to wit, on the 1st day of May, in the year of our Lord, 1846, a certain petition of one James Shore, to the Lords spiritual and temporal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, had been and was presented by a certain peer of the realm, to wit, by Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, to the said Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, and that the said Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, did, to wit, on the day and year aforesaid, and on the occasion of the said presenting the said petition to the said Lords spiritual and temporal, address and make to the said Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, certain observations with reference to and concerning the said petition and the several matters and things in the said petition contained; and that the said Henry, Bishop of Exeter, then being one of the said Lords spiritual, did, on the day and year aforesaid, and on the occasion aforesaid, address and make to the said Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled certain observations and statements, in answer and with reference to the said observations of the said Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, and with reference to the said matters and things contained in the said petition of the said James Shore. And the jurors aforesaid, on their oath aforesaid, do further present that Thomas Latimer, of the parish of St. John, in the city and county of the city aforesaid, labourer,(*a*) well knowing the premises, but contriving, and wickedly, and maliciously, and unlawfully intending to aggrieve and vilify the said Henry, Bishop of Exeter, and to injure him in his good name, fame, and credit, and to bring him into public scandal, infamy, and disgrace, in his diocese and among the clergy of his said diocese, and the other clergy of this realm, and also among his neighbours and other good and worthy subjects of this realm, afterwards, to wit, on the 24th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1846 [with force and arms], at the parish aforesaid, in the city and county of the city aforesaid, in a certain newspaper called, to wit, *The Western Times*, falsely, wickedly, and maliciously, did write and publish, and cause and procure to be written and published, a certain false, wicked, and malicious, scandalous, and defamatory libel of and concerning the said Henry, Bishop of Exeter, and of and concerning him as such bishop as aforesaid, and of and concerning the matters and things aforesaid, in the words and figures following, that is to say, [*then follows the libel, concluding thus*] "unfortunately he (meaning thereby the said Henry, Bishop of Exeter) goes quite the other way, and his (meaning thereby the said Henry, Bishop of Exeter) reply is so directly the opposite of the truth that he (meaning thereby the said Henry, Bishop of Exeter) stands branded as a consecrated, careless perverter of facts, and one who does no credit to the mitre which he (meaning thereby the said Henry, Bishop of Exeter) is paid £200 a week or thereabouts, to wear," &c., knowing the same to be false, &c.

(*a*) The addition required by 1 Hen. 5, c. 5, of the "estate, degree, or mystery" of defendants in indictments may now be omitted altogether, as sect. 24 of 14 & 15 Vict. c. 100, enacts that no indictment for any offence shall be holden insufficient "for want of or imperfection in the addition of any defendant."

Pleas.

Plea to Information or Indictment, that Matters Charged are True, and that Publication was for Public Benefit.

In the Central Criminal Court, *or* At the Assizes of our lady the Queen, holden at , in and for the county of , *or* (*in case of Information*) In the Queen's Bench.

The day of , A.D. .

The Queen v. *A. B.* } And now the said *A. B.*, by *C. D.*, his attorney [*or*, in his own proper person], comes into court, and having heard the said indictment (*or* information) read, says that the alleged defamatory libel and matters charged against him, the said *A. B.*, in and by the said indictment (*or* information) as written and published by him, the said *A. B.*, of and concerning the said *E. F.*, are true in this, that, &c., [*stating concisely the facts relied on as justifying the libel on the ground of its truth*]. And the said *A. B.* further saith that it was for the public benefit that the said alleged defamatory libel, and matters charged in and by the said indictment (*or* information), as written and published of and concerning the said *E. F.*, should be written and published, because, &c. [*stating the fact or facts relied on as excusing the publication on the ground of the benefit to the public*], whereby and by reason whereof it was, and is, for the public benefit that all and every the said alleged defamatory libel and matters charged in and by the said indictment (*or* information), should be published.

Plea justifying Libel charged in Form next but one preceding (*ante, pp.* 736, 737).

And for a further plea in this behalf to so much of the first and fourth counts of the said indictment, as charged upon the said Thomas Latimer the writing and publishing, and causing and procuring to be written and published, so much of the said alleged libels in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned, as imputes to, or charges against Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, therein respectively also mentioned, that the reply of him, the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, to the observations of Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned, in reference to the petition of James Shore therein also respectively mentioned, was so directly opposite to the truth that the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, stands branded as a careless perverter of facts, the said Thomas Latimer, by virtue of the statute in such case made and provided, says that before the writing and publishing of, and causing and procuring to be written and published, so much of the said alleged libels respectively, as is in the introductory part of this plea mentioned, to wit, on the 12th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1832, the most noble Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, then and thenceforth, and until and at the time of the writing and publishing of, and causing and procuring to be written and published, so much of the said alleged libels as last aforesaid, and still being a peer of the realm of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to wit, Duke of Somerset and Baron Seymour, of Hacke, in the county of Somerset, had erected and built, at his own expense, a certain chapel, for the public worship of God, on certain lands of him, the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, situate in the hamlet of Bridgetown, in the parish of Berry Pomeroy, in the county of

Devon, and in the said diocese of Exeter, in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned, to wit, at the said parish in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned. And the said Thomas Latimer further saith that afterwards, and before the writing and publishing of, and causing and procuring to be written and published, so much of the said alleged libels as aforesaid, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid, the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, with the consent of the Rev. John Edwards, clerk, then being vicar of the said vicarage and parish church, applied to, and requested the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, then being Lord Bishop of the said diocese of Exeter, and the ordinary of the said vicarage and parish church, to grant his licence that the said chapel might be opened and used for the celebration of Divine service according to the rites and ceremonies of the United Church of England and Ireland by public authority established, to wit, at the said parish in the said first and fourth counts respectively in that behalf mentioned. And the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, then on such request of the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, being so made to him as aforesaid, stated to the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, that he the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, was willing to grant such licence as aforesaid, provided the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, would, previously to the granting thereof, engage and undertake with and to him, the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, that he the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, would, to the satisfaction of him the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, endow the said chapel with a permanent provision for the maintenance of a minister in Holy Orders to celebrate such Divine service as aforesaid, and would convey and assure the said land whereon the said chapel was built as aforesaid, and also the said chapel so and in such manner that the said chapel might be for ever devoted and set apart to and for such Divine service as last aforesaid; and that the said chapel should, in the meantime and until such endowment and conveyance and assurance as aforesaid, only be used for purposes connected with the ministry of the said United Church of England and Ireland, to wit, at the parish aforesaid. And the said Thomas Latimer further saith that afterwards and before the granting of the licence to the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, by the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, as hereinafter mentioned, to wit, on the 22nd day of September, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and thenceforth always until the granting of such licence, the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, declined to enter into or give any such engagement or undertaking with and to the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter as aforesaid. And the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, thereupon, then, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid, consented to grant such licence as aforesaid to the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, without requiring him to enter into or give any such engagement or undertaking as aforesaid, to wit, at the parish last aforesaid. And the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, afterwards, and before the writing and publishing of, and causing and procuring to be written and published, so much of the said alleged libels as aforesaid, to wit, on the 9th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, in accordance with the consent so given by him as aforesaid, the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, having declined and then declining to enter into and give, and not theretofore or then, or at any time since, having entered into or given any such

engagement or undertaking as aforesaid, did, by a certain licence there subscribed by him, the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, and sealed with his episcopal seal, bearing date a certain day and year in that behalf therein named, to wit, the day and year last aforesaid, give and grant his licence unto the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, that the said chapel might be forthwith opened and used for the celebration of Divine service, according to the rites and ceremonies of the said United Church of England and Ireland by a priest or minister in Holy Orders, to be for that purpose licensed by the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, to wit, at the parish last aforesaid. And the said Thomas Latimer further saith, that afterwards and before the writing and publishing of, and causing and procuring to be written and published, so much of the said alleged libels as aforesaid, to wit, on the said first day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned, the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, did, in reply to the said observations of the said Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned, in reference to the said petition of the said James Shore, and in the said observations and statements addressed and made by him the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, in answer to the said observations of the said Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, as therein respectively also mentioned, did speak and say to the said Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, of and concerning the said observations and statements of the said Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, and of and concerning the said Edward Adolphus, to the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, for such licence to open and use the same as aforesaid, and of and concerning such licence as last aforesaid, and of and concerning such engagement and undertaking so required by him the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, and declined to be entered into and given by the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, as aforesaid, and of and concerning the said petition of the said James Shore, and the matters therein contained, and of and concerning the premises, the words following, that is to say,—"I" (meaning the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter) "should wish to have been excused from entering into the circumstances of the present case," (meaning the said matters and things contained in the petition of the said James Shore, as aforesaid), "but my noble and learned friend" (meaning the said Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux) "has stated several matters" (meaning the said matters stated by the said Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, in his said observations in reference to the said petition of the said James Shore) "which cannot be left unanswered. It is certainly true the noble duke alluded to" (meaning the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset) "built the chapel in question" (meaning the said chapel hereinbefore mentioned) "at Bridgetown" (meaning the said hamlet of Bridgetown, in the parish of Borry Pomeroy, aforesaid), "and some years ago the noble duke" (meaning the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset) "applied to me" (meaning himself, the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter) "to consecrate it" (meaning the said chapel). "Several communications" (meaning the said request of the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, for the said licence to open and use the said chapel, and the said requisitions of him, the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, that the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset, should enter into and give such undertaking and engagement as aforesaid) "had passed between myself" (meaning himself the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter) "and the noble

duke" (meaning the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset), "and finally I" (meaning himself, the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter) "consented to license the chapel" (meaning the chapel aforesaid), "the duke" (meaning the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset) "undertaking to endow it" (meaning the said chapel), "in order to its being consecrated" (meaning in order to the said chapel being consecrated), "and that meanwhile it should only be used for purposes connected with the ministry of the Protestant Established Church" (meaning the said United Church of England and Ireland, by public authority established), "both of which engagements I" (meaning himself the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter) "regret to state have been violated by the noble duke" (meaning the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset) "for reasons which, doubtless, are satisfactory to his own mind" (meaning the mind of the said Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset), "though I" (meaning himself the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter) "cannot even guess what they are," to wit, at the parish last aforesaid.

And the said Thomas Latimer further saith, that it was for the public benefit that so much of the said alleged libels in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned, as in the introductory part of this plea mentioned, should be published, by reason that it is for the public benefit that when statements opposite of the truth and perversive of facts are made by a person filling a high public office, to wit, a bishop of the said United Church of England and Ireland, of and concerning the character and conduct, and to the prejudice and discredit of another person standing in a high and important public position, to wit, a peer of the realm of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, that the truth in respect of the matters stated should be published and made to appear, so that the liege subjects of our Lady the Queen may not thereby be misled, or be induced to form an erroneous or ill-founded opinion respecting the character and conduct of such person as last aforesaid, to wit, at the parish last aforesaid.

Wherefore he, the said Thomas Latimer, at the several times, &c., in the said first and fourth counts in that behalf respectively mentioned, at the said parish therein also in that behalf respectively mentioned, wrote and published, and caused and procured to be written and published so much of the said alleged libels in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned, as imputes to, or charges against the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, that the said reply of him the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, to the said observations of the said Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, in reference to the said petition of the said James Shore, was so directly opposite of the truth, that the said Henry, Lord Bishop of Exeter, stands branded as a careless perverter of facts, as he the said Thomas Latimer lawfully might, for the cause aforesaid, which are the same writing and publishing as are in the said first and fourth counts respectively, and in the introductory part of this plea mentioned. And this the said Thomas Latimer is ready to verify, &c. Wherefore he prays judgment if our said Lady the Queen will or ought further to impeach him of and concerning the premises in the introductory part of this plea mentioned, and that he the said Thomas Latimer may be dismissed and discharged of the court hereof and concerning the premises last aforesaid.

Replication to preceding Plea.

And as to the plea of the said Thomas Latimer, by him secondly above pleaded, the said coroner and attorney of our said Lady the Queen, in the court of our said Lady the Queen, before the Queen herself, who prosecuteth for our said Lady the Queen, in this behalf, being present here in court, having here the said plea of the said Thomas Latimer, by him secondly above pleaded in bar, for our said Lady the Queen, saith that for anything by the said Thomas Latimer, in his said second plea alleged, our said Lady the Queen ought not to be barred from prosecuting the said indictment against the said Thomas Latimer of and concerning the premises in the introductory part of the said second plea mentioned, because he says that the said Thomas Latimer, of his own wrong, and without the cause and matter of defence in his said second plea alleged, falsely, wickedly, and maliciously, wrote and published, and caused to be written and published, so much of the said alleged libels in the said first and fourth counts respectively mentioned, as is in the introductory part of the second plea mentioned, in manner and form as in the said first and fourth counts of the said indictment is alleged. And this the said coroner and attorney prays may be inquired of by the county, &c. And the said Thomas Latimer doth the like.

FORMS OF PLEADINGS IN PROCEEDINGS FOR LIBEL (CIVIL).

Declarations.

In the Queen's Bench [*or* Common Pleas, *or* Exchequer of Pleas].

The day of , A.D.

Middlesex, to wit,(a) } *A. B.*, by *C. B.*, his attorney [*or* in person, *if the plaintiff does not appear by attorney*] sues *E. F.*, for that the defendant falsely and maliciously printed and published of the plaintiff in a newspaper called "," the words following; that is to say, "he is a regular prover under bankruptcies," the defendant meaning thereby that the plaintiff had proved, and was in the habit of proving fictitious debts against the estates of bankrupts, with the knowledge that such debts were fictitious, and the plaintiff claims £ .(b)

Count for a Newspaper Libel on a Shipowner.

(*Inman* v. *Jenkins*, not reported.)(c)

For that at the time of the committing of the grievances hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiffs were, and still are the owners of a fleet of steamers, trading and plying as carriers of mails, of cargo, and of passengers, between, amongst other places, Liverpool and Halifax; and of the said then fleet of steamers one, to wit, the screw steamer "City of Boston," on the 28th of January, 1870, sailed from Halifax aforesaid, with mails, passengers, and cargo, bound for Liverpool, and thereupon the defendant, to wit, on the 12th of March, 1870, falsely and maliciously caused to be printed and published of the plaintiffs, and of the plaintiffs in the way of their trade and business of carriers by sea and shipowners then owning (amongst others) the said screw steamer, the "City of Washington," to wit, in a certain newspaper called the *Times*, and in the form of a letter to the editor of the said newspaper, and of an extract from a certain other letter, which letter and extract were in the words and figures following: "The City of Boston. To the editor of the *Times*. Sir, I beg to send to you an extract from a letter dated the 25th ult., just received from a Halifax merchant. I am, sir, your obedient servant, Z. March," and which said extract was printed and published next after the said letter, and was in the words and figures following: "The City of Boston (meaning thereby the plaintiff's said screw steamer, City of Boston), which sailed hence on the 28th January last, has not yet arrived in Liverpool. There is great anxiety felt here for her safety, more especially as there so many of our merchants on board, as you will see by the *Chronicle* of the 24th ult. *She was deeply laden with wheat in bags*, being eighteen inches or twenty inches deeper than the insurance

(a) As to the venue, *vide ante*, p. 540.
(b) Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, Schedule B., 33.
(c) This declaration was, after verdict for plaintiff, held good by the Court of Common Pleas.

allows (meaning thereby that the plaintiffs by themselves, and their agents and servants, had improperly caused the said ship to be sent to sea overladen, and in an unseaworthy condition). She sailed from here on a Friday noon, and we had a fearful snowstorm on the following Saturday night. If she encountered this, there is no hope whatever of her turning up. I believe she was in it, as the Orontes, which sailed from here two days before, was caught in it off Newfoundland, and nearly went down. Besides, the City of Boston had only a two-fan screw, having broken her own on her outward trip (meaning thereby that the plaintiffs, by themselves and their agents and servants, had improperly sent the said screw steamer, City of Boston, to sea in an unseaworthy and defective state). If she was not in the storm, and has lost her loose screw, she has been driven south, and the Azores will bring her up. In that case we may not hear of her for a month to come; and yet I cannot believe that she escaped the storm, but went down three weeks ago. I hope it may not be so; it will greatly interfere with business, as a great many of our merchants are aboard. Many of us are sending home buyers by this boat, having given up the City of Boston" (thereby meaning that the plaintiffs by themselves, and their agents and servants had been guilty of improper and negligent conduct in the way of their trade and business as shipowners and carriers by sea, and had negligently, wrongfully, and improperly caused the said screw steamer, City of Boston, to be sent to sea in an improper condition, and without proper equipments, and in an unseaworthy state). And by reason of the said libel, the plaintiffs have suffered in their character as shipowners and carriers by sea of mails, of cargo, and of passengers, and their said trade and business have been seriously injured.

Pleas.

Plea of the General Issue.

In the Queen's Bench [*or* Common Pleas, *or* Exchequer of Pleas].

E. F. ats. *A. B.* } The day of A.D.
The defendant by , his attorney [*or* in person] says that he is not guilty.

Vide ante, p. 556.

Plea of Justification that the Libel is true.

That before the alleged grievance *J. K.* was a trader subject to the statutes then in force concerning bankrupts, and had committed an act of bankruptcy, and became a bankrupt within the meaning of the said statutes, and a petition for adjudication of bankruptcy had been duly filed against him in the Court of Bankruptcy for the district, and he had been duly adjudged bankrupt by the said court; and thereupon the plaintiff falsely and fraudulently pretending to be a creditor of the said *J. K.* at the time of the said bankruptcy, then assumed to prove, and in due form of law proved, against the estate of the said *J. K.* as such bankrupt as aforesaid in the said court a debt of £ , but the same was a fictitious debt, as the plaintiff at the time of so proving the same well knew; and before the alleged grievance *L. M.* was a trader, &c. [*state in like manner all the instances of the plaintiff having proved fictitious debts.*]

(Bullen and Leake's Precedents, p. 723.)

Plea of Justification to Part of the Libel.

(*Inman* v. *Jenkins*: see Declaration, *ante*, p. 743.)

And for a second plea as to so much of the declaration as relates to the publishing by the defendant of the words that the defendants vessel was deeply laden with wheat in bags, being eighteen inches or twenty inches deeper than the insurance allows, the defendant says that the defamatory matter in that part of the declaration alleged is true in substance and fact.

As to pleas of justification generally, *vide ante*, pp. 558–565.

Plea denying that the Plaintiff carried on the Trade alleged.

That the plaintiff did not carry on the trade or business of a as alleged.

Vide ante, p. 584.

Plea of an Apology and Payment into Court under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96, s. 2.

That the alleged libel was contained in a public weekly newspaper [*or* periodical publication] ordinarily published at intervals not exceeding [*or* exceeding] one week, called the " ," and was inserted in such newspaper [*or* periodical publication] without actual malice and without gross negligence; and before [*or* at the earliest opportunity after] the commencement of this action the defendant inserted in such newspaper [*or* periodical publication] a full apology for the said libel [*or* offered to publish a full apology for the said libel in any newspaper or periodical publication to be selected by the plaintiff] according to the statute in such case made and provided; and the defendant brings into court the sum of £ by way of amends for the injury sustained by the plaintiff by the publication of the said libel, and says that the said sum is enough to satisfy the claim of the plaintiff in respect thereof.

(Bullen and Leake's Precedents, p. 726.)

See *Jones* v. *Mackie* (L. Rep. 3 Ex. 1). *Vide ante*, pp. 566–568 and 590.

Notice of Intention to give Evidence of an Apology in Mitigation of Damages under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 96., s. 1.

In the

Between *A. B.*, plaintiff, and *E. F.*, defendant.

Take notice that the defendant intends, on the trial of this cause, to give in evidence, in mitigation of damages, that he made [*or* offered] an apology to the plaintiff for the defamation complained of in the declaration herein, before the commencement of this action [*or*, as soon after the commencement of this action as there was an opportunity of making or offering such apology, the action having been commenced before there was an opportunity of making or offering such apology].

Yours, &c.
G. H., defendant's attorney,
[*or* agent.]

To Mr. *C. D.*, plaintiff's attorney,
[*or* agent.]

(Bullen and Leake's Precedents, p. 726.)

INDEX.

ABRIDGMENTS:
when *bonâ fide*, do not infringe copyright, 188–192
of work of fiction, 192–194

ACCORD AND SATISFACTION:
may be pleaded in action for libel, 568
evidence of, 590

ACCOUNT, *see* REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.

ACQUIESCENCE:
in infringement of copyright, disentitles to relief in equity, 102

ACTION FOR LIBEL:
who may bring action, 538
when libel is on married woman, *ib.*
on partners in trade, *ib.*
on joint-stock company or corporation, *ib.*
alien friend may sue, though domiciled abroad, 539
effect of joining too many plaintiffs, *ib.*
nonjoinder or misjoinder of plaintiffs may be amended, *ib.*
must be brought within six years, *ib.*
venue may be laid in any county, 540
may be changed, *ib.*
who are liable as defendants, *ib.*
where there is a joint publication by several, *ib.*
infant may be sued, 541
corporations and joint-stock companies may be sued, *ib.*
husband and wife must be joined in actions for libels by wife, *ib.*
except after divorce or judicial separation, *ib.*
introductory averments in declarations, 542, 548
forms of declaration, 543, 748
allegation of malice not necessary in declaration, 543
falsehood of libel should be alleged, *ib.*
declaration must show a publication, *ib.*
and state publication of and concerning plaintiff, 544
must set out libel, *ib.*
but not whole of libel, *ib.*
must not omit any part material to sense, 545
several libels in one publication may be declared on in same count, 547
but not several paragraphs in different numbers of a newspaper, *ib.*
libel in foreign language must be set out in original, with translation, *ib.*
when innuendoes are necessary, 547, 548, 549
to explain ambiguity in language, 549
where libel is ironical, 551
to connect libel with plaintiff, 552
innuendo may put any construction on words of libel, 554
consequence of jury's negativing meaning put by innuendo, 554, 555
how damages may be claimed, 555
various kinds of defence open to defendant, 556
effect of plea of not guilty, 556, 587
defence in case of publication of parliamentary reports, &c. 557

ACTION FOR LIBEL (*continued*)—
justification must be specially pleaded, 558
how pleaded, when charge is general, *ib.*
general plea of, allowed, on condition of particulars being furnished, 560
where charge in libel is specific, 561
may be pleaded to part of declaration, 562
of substance of libel is sufficient, 563
when defendant may plead or demur to part of libel, 564
defendant may justify words of libel with or without meaning innuendo, *ib.*
defendant not allowed to justify other imputations in libel not set out in declaration, 565
previous publication of libel by another, no justification, *ib.*
privilege sometimes specially pleaded, *ib.*
plea of apology and payment into court, 566
whether other pleas can be pleaded with, 567
evidence of apology may be given in mitigation of damages, 568, 595. (*See* DAMAGES.)
defendant may plead accord and satisfaction, 568
Statute of Limitations must be pleaded specially, *ib.*
on wife, plea that she was not wife of male plaintiff, 569
plea in abatement rarely available, *ib.*
defendant may demur to declaration, 570
plaintiff may reply specially to pleas, 571
or new assign, *ib.*
how discovery is to be obtained, 571, 572
plaintiff may administer interrogatories, 572
but defendant may refuse to answer where answer would tend to criminate him, 573
plaintiff may obtain inspection of documents, 574
and so may defendant, *ib.*
commission may be obtained to examine witnesses, *ib.*
plaintiff always entitled to begin at trial of, 575
libel must be put in, 577
court may amend variance, *ib.*
introductory averments need not be proved, 578
proof of innuendoes, *ib.*
express malice to rebut privilege, 579. (*See* MALICE.)
evidence of damage, *see* DAMAGES.
plaintiff may anticipate justification and rebut it, 585
defendant may prove omission by publisher of material portion of his manuscript, *ib.*
libel published by plaintiff's contrivance, how far a defence to action, *ib.*
defendant may prove that he was not author and published innocently 586
plea of justification, how proved, 587. (*See* JUSTIFICATION.)
record in a criminal case not admissible to prove or disprove truth of libel, 588
proof of apology and payment into court, 590
defendant may give evidence to negative actual malice and in mitigation of damages, 590
whether evidence can be given as to existence of rumours to same effect as libel, 591–594
proof of truth of imputations by defendant, 594
defendant cannot inquire into plaintiff's religious opinions, 594
evidence of plaintiff's conduct in provoking the libel may be given, *ib.*
judge is not bound to state his opinion to jury, 595
proper question for jury, *ib.*
bill of exceptions may be tendered, *ib.*
when plaintiff should have damages separately assessed on several counts, 595
costs of successful party, 596. (*See* COSTS.)

ACTION FOR LIBEL (*continued*)—
jury should not be told what damages will carry costs, 597
when new trial will be granted. (*See* NEW TRIAL.)
leave to move, advantage of, 600
when defendant should move in arrest of judgment, *ib.*

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT:
copyright in, 41

ADAPTATION:
to English stage of dramatic pieces published abroad, 140

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:
comments upon, *see* CONTEMPTS (LIBELLOUS) and COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

ADVERTISEMENTS:
in newspaper respecting stolen goods, prohibited under a penalty, 266, 267
on wrappers of magazines or reviews, payment of compositors for, 291, 292
of rewards for evidence, a contempt of court, 377
for information, how far privileged, 421
comments on, protected, 454, 455

AFFIDAVITS:
verifying certificate of publication of parliamentary papers being authorised, 497
in moving for criminal information for libel, 503, 507
of defendant in mitigation of punishment, 534
of prosecutor in aggravation of punishment, 535
practice on reading, when defendant brought up for judgment, 533

AGENT:
liability for libel published by, 518–521, 525, 526

AGGRAVATION OF PUNISHMENT:
for libel, affidavits in, 535

AGGRIEVED:
who is a person, within 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45, s. 14, 94, 123

ALIEN:
acquisition of copyright here by, 23
whether residence in British dominions at date of publication is necessary in order to acquisition of copyright by, 25–33
residence by, in any part of British dominions, at date of publication is sufficient, 33
copyright of, in unpublished works, 36
friend may sue for libel, though domiciled abroad, 539

ALMANACS:
copyright in, 39, 40

ALTERATION:
of author's work before publication, 59, 60, 281
of painting, drawing, or photograph, after sale by author, 209

AMENDMENT:
of registration of copyright in books, 92
designs, 618
of variance in proceedings for libel, 522, 577, 587

AMERICA:
law of copyright in, 242–249. (*See* COPYRIGHT.)

ANALYSIS *see* ABRIDGMENTS.

ANIMUS FURANDI:
whether essential to piracy, 181–184

APOLOGY:
with payment into court, plea of, in action for libel, 566

APOLOGY (*continued*)—
whether other pleas can be pleaded with, 567
evidence of, may be given in mitigation of damages, 568, 595
what evidence of, must prove, 590
how to be inserted in newspaper
form of plea of, 745
notice of intention to give evidence of, in mitigation of damages, 745

ARRANGEMENTS:
between authors and publishers, *see* CONTRACTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &C.

ARREST OF JUDGMENT:
in criminal prosecutions for libel, 531, 532. (*See* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.)
in action for libel, 600

ARTICLE:
for periodical publication, *see* PERIODICALS.

ARTIST:
criticisms on works of, 456
reservation by, of copyright in sold painting, drawing, or photograph, 119, 120
form of, 721
agreement by, to assign copyright to vendee of painting, drawing, or photograph, 120
form of, 722

ASSESSING DAMAGES:
in action for libel, 595, 596. (*See* DAMAGES.)

ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHT, *see* TRANSFER OF COPYRIGHT.

AUTHOR:
who may be considered, 78, 79
of book, whether, in order to copyright, there must be a known, 77
of operatic score, who is considered, 78, 134
right of, when contributor to a periodical, *see* PERIODICALS.
criticisms on works of, 450–454
false imputation of being, 454
remedy of, for inaccurate edition of his work, 281
proof of publication of libel against, 517
(*See* CONTRACTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &c.)

AVERMENTS:
when introductory, are necessary in indictment for libel, 523
of plaintiff's avocation, sometimes material in actions for libel, 584
in actions for libel, 542
need not be proved, 578

BAIL:
where person charged before justices with publication of libel, 512

BANKRUPTCY:
effect of, on ownership of copyright, 149
of newspaper, 150
whether penalties for piracy of paintings, &c. are provable under, 228

BASE COPY:
meaning of, 107

BIBLE:
copyright in English translation of the, 37, 38

BILL OF EXCEPTIONS:
may be tendered in action for libel, 595

BLACK LIST:
liability for publication in, 461, 462

BLASPHEMOUS CONTRACT:
cannot be enforced, 9

BLASPHEMOUS PUBLICATIONS:
grounds of legal interference, 297, 298
in what offence consists, 299
common law decisions as to, 299, 300
legislative enactments as to, 301, 302
what forms of religion may be attacked, 303
how far liberty of discussion is allowed, 303–307
definition of, in New York criminal code, 304, 305
prosecution for publication of Shelley's poems, 307–309
how punishable, 310. (*See* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.)
Scotch law as to, 310, 311
justification not allowed in prosecutions for, 528
copies of, may be seized after verdict or judgment by default, 536
and after final judgment disposed of, 537

BOARD OF GUARDIANS:
reports of meetings of, 490

BOARD OF TRADE:
may extend duration of copyright in designs, 609
may extend period for which designs may be provisionally registered, 620
directions for registering designs issued by, 709–718

BOOK:
meaning of, within Copyright Act, 75
duration of copyright in, 76, 77
whether, in order to copyright, there must be a known author, 77
who may be considered author of, 78
how far originality is required in order to confer copyright, 79, 80
copyright in, where subject is common, 81–84
copyright in engravings forming part of, 85
copyright may be of part of, 85
registration of copyright in, 86–93
delivery of copies of, to libraries, 94–96
consequence of non-delivery, 96
power of Privy Council to license publication of, 97
registration of copyright in, under International Copyright Act, 134
(*See* REGISTRATION, COPYRIGHT, and PIRACY.)

BRITISH MUSEUM:
delivery of copies of books to, 94–97
to, under international copyright, 136.

BUSTS:
copyright in, *see* SCULPTURE, MODELS, AND BUSTS.

CALENDAR:
piracy of, 178

CAMBRIDGE:
copyright of University of, *see* UNIVERSITIES.

CARICATURES:
libels by means of, 388

CERTIORARI:
removal of indictment for libel by, 516

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS:
comments on conduct of, 440–443

CHARTS:
copyright in, 109. (*See* ENGRAVINGS.)

CIRCULARS:
comments on protected, 454

COLLEGE COPYRIGHT:
in books, of Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and Scotch Universities, 47, 48
of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, 47
of Trinity College, Dublin, 48

COLONIAL COPYRIGHT, 126–130
power to suspend in certain cases prohibitions against importation into colonies of foreign reprints of books, 126. 127
colonies who have brought themselves within 10 & 11 Vict. c. 95; 127
(*See* INDIA, COPYRIGHT IN.)

COLONIES:
works published in are foreign works, 129, 130
power of courts of, to commit for contempt, 369
power of Legislative Assemblies of, to commit for contempt, 351–354

COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST:
publications protected as being, 433–457
not privileged in the strict sense of the term, 433, 438, 439
limits allowed to public criticism, 434
honest belief alone will not justify defamatory publication, 435
what degree of latitude is allowed in, 439, 440
examples of matters of public interest, 440, *et seq.*
debate in Parliament, 440
working of college, hospital, or other public institution, *ib.*
management of a parochial charity, 443
unpublished sermons, 444
judicial sentences and decisions, *ib.*
evidence of witnesses, 445
management of a church, *ib.*
advertised new medical cure, *ib.*
proceedings of archæological association, 446
appointment of member of Parliament to a recordership, *ib.*
publication in course of a public controversy between two clergymen, 447
report of committee of a Reform Union, *ib.*
the proprietor of Zadkiel's Almanac, 448
theatrical and musical performances, 449
floral exhibitions, 450
reviews of books, 450–454
false imputation of authorship, 454
advertisements, circulars, and handbills, 454–456
books privately circulated, 456
pictures publicly exhibited, *ib.*
architecture, 457

COMMONS, HOUSE OF:
libellous contempts of, *see* PARLIAMENT (LIBELS ON HOUSES OF).

COMPANY, JOINT-STOCK:
may sue for libel, 538
and be sued for libel, 541

COMPARISON:
of handwriting in proving publication of libel, 518

CONFIGURATION:
utility of design must be produced by shape or, 603

CONTEMPTS (LIBELLOUS):
of Houses of Parliament, 344–357. (*See* PARLIAMENT (LIBELS ON HOUSES OF.)
of courts of justice, 357–379
various kinds of, 357
how punishable, 357, 379

CONTEMPTS (LIBELLOUS) (*continued*)—
of courts of justice (*continued*)—
libelling judge at chambers, 360, 361
when court is not sitting, 363
whether proceedings must be pending, 378
temperate discussion of decisions not prohibited, 361, 362
by publication of party to a suit, 364–366
distinction between publication by party to suit and by newspaper reporter, 576
by publications which tend to prejudice hearing of cause, 370–373, 377
party supplying newspaper with information cannot complain of, 375
publication by one party does not justify publication by the other, *ib.*
liability of editor for insertion of anonymous letters, 374
by advertisement of rewards for evidence, 377
of colonial courts, 369
Scotch law as to, 367, 368

CONTINUATION:
of work, right of author to publish, 281

CONTRACTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &c. 268-295
foundation of, 268
agreement not to be performed within a year, 268
contract may be collected from a number of papers, 269
defective form of agreement, 270
duty of fixing price and choosing embellishments, 270
right to fix time and mode of publication, 270
how agreement for division of profits after payment of expenses may be regarded, 272
power to put an end to agreement, 272
meaning of "edition," 273, 274
licence to publish cannot be assigned, 275
representatives of deceased author entitled to payment for unfinished work, 277
for composition of a work, specific performance of not decreed, 277
but either party may be made liable in damages for breach of, 278
not to sell under a certain price, 279
to print within a specified time, *ib.*
for sale of copyright, specific performance of decreed, 280
warranty on sale of copyright, 280
contracts between joint owners of copyright, *ib.*
alteration of work by publisher, 281
injunction not granted to restrain publication on account of non-payment of author, *ib.*
right of author to publish continuation of his work, *ib.*
contract not to compose for any other than a particular theatre, 282
not to publish a work which would prejudice another work, *ib.*
agreement for use by one newspaper of matter and type of another, 286-288
contract to print is not within 17th section of Statute of Frauds, 289
printer's lien for general balance, 289, 290
customs of trade between printers and publishers, 290, 291
payment of compositors for advertisements on wrappers, 291, 292
contract by printer to insure against loss by fire, 293
of an illegal or immoral character, 293-295
forms of agreement between authors and publishers, 714–721

CONTRIBUTORS:
to periodicals, *see* PERIODICALS.

CONVENTIONS, *see* INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.
COPY.
meaning of in Copyright Acts, 66
COPYRIGHT:
of a twofold nature, 2
in what works it exists, 3
according to American law, 244
exists only in innocent works, 3–9
not in illegal, or immoral works, 4
or in work published in another's name with intent to deceive, 10
exists in letters, 11
whether private or of a literary character, 14
and whether written for profit or otherwise, 16
except in certain cases, 15–18
who may possess, 22
according to American law, 244
whether an alien must reside here at time of publication in order to acquire, 25–33
area of, 35
where British subject first publishes abroad, 35
crown and college, *see* CROWN COPYRIGHT; COLLEGE COPYRIGHT; and UNIVERSITIES.
in unpublished works, *see* UNPUBLISHED WORKS.
in published works, whether existing at common law, 63, 64
foundation of in published works, 65
who is entitled to, as author, 78, 79
in books, 75-97
definition of, 75, 244
duration of, 76, 77
according to American law, 242, 243
may be of part of a work, 86
whether there must be a known author, 77
how far originality is necessary to, 79, 80, 245
where subject is common, 81, *et seq.*
registration of proprietorship of, 86, 87
form of, 88
effect of non-registration on, 89, 90
effect of inaccurate registration on, 90, 92
in periodicals, 97–106. (*See* PERIODICALS.)
in engravings and prints, 106–114. (*See* ENGRAVINGS.)
in dramatic and musical compositions, 114–118. (*See* DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL REPRESENTATION, AND PERFORMANCE.)
in paintings, drawings, and photographs, 119–123. (*See* PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS.)
in sculpture, models, and busts, 124–126. (*See* SCULPTURE, MODELS, AND BUSTS.)
in designs, 602–628. (*See* DESIGNS.)
colonial, 126–130. (*See* COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.)
Indian, 127–130
international, 130–148. (*See* INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.)
assignment of, 150–168. (*See* TRANSFER OF COPYRIGHT.)
specific performance of, contract for sale of, 280
warranty, on sale of, *ib.*
how far divisible, 150, 151
for limited period, purchaser of, may sell copies after expiration of period, 275
infringement of, 168–216. (*See* PIRACY.)
remedies for infringement of, 216–241. (*See* REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.)
American law of, 242–249
(*See* BOOK; REGISTRATION.)

CORPORATION:
may sue for a libel on it, 538
and be sued for libel, 541

COSTS:
of proceedings for infringement of copyright in designs, 627
of prosecutor for libel, when payable, 587
defendant on acquittal entitled to, from private prosecutor for libel, *ib.*
of action for libel, where jury award a sum not exceeding 10*l.*, 596
where action is brought in local court of record, *ib.*
where in superior court, verdict is under 40*s.*, 597
jury should not be told what damages will carry, *ib.*
where several issues, *ib.*
what, embraced under general costs of cause, 598

COUNTY COURT:
jurisdiction in actions for libel, 596, 597
in case of piracy of designs, 627, 628

COURTS OF JUSTICE:
libellous contempts of, *see* CONTEMPTS (LIBELLOUS.)

CRIMINAL INFORMATION:
for libel, *see* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.

CRIMINAL WORK:
no copyright in, 3–5
jurisdiction of equity, in case of, 5–7

CRITICISMS, *see* COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

CROWN COPYRIGHT:
in English translation of Bible, 37, 38
in Prayer-book, 38
in Lilly's Latin Grammar, 39
in almanacs, 39, 40
in Acts of Parliament, and other State documents, 41
in reports of judicial proceedings, 42–44

CUSTOMS:
of trade between printers and publishers, 290, 291

DAMAGES:
action for, in case of infringement of copyright in unpublished works, 216
in case of infringement of published works, 218
how claimed in action for libel, 555
amount of, is matter for jury, 582
plaintiff may offer evidence in aggravation, 583
jury not to take into account actions pending against other parties for same libel, *ib.*
defendant's conduct may influence amount of, *ib.*
gross negligence in inserting libel, may be considered by jury in assessing, *ib.*
actually sustained, plaintiff may give evidence of, where libel is published of him in the way of his trade, 583, 584
plaintiff not allowed to give evidence of special, not stated in declaration, 585
defendant may give evidence in mitigation of, 590
plaintiff's conduct in provoking libel, may be given in mitigation of, 594
when plaintiff should have, separately assessed on several counts, 595
new trial not granted merely on account of inadequacy of, 600

DEAD:
libel on the, 419, 420
intent must be proved in prosecution for, 523

DEBATES (PARLIAMENTARY), *see* REPORTS (NEWSPAPER).

DECLARATION:
forms of in actions for infringement of copyright, 723–729. (*See* FORMS.)
in action for libel, 543, 743
(*See* ACTION FOR LIBEL, and FORMS.)

DEFENCE:
to action for libel, *see* ACTION FOR LIBEL.

DEFENDANTS:
in action for libel, who are liable as, 540, 541

DEMURRER:
not often found in actions for libel, 570

DEPOSIT:
of copies of books at Stationers' Hall, 94, 95
under International Copyright Act, 135

DESIGNS, COPYRIGHT IN, 602–628:
of twofold character, 602
for ornament, *ib.*
for purposes of utility, 603
must depend on shape or configuration, *ib.*
exists in new combination of old patterns, 605
where combination constitutes one design, 606
duration of in designs for ornament, 608, 609
in designs for purposes of utility, 609
may be extended by Board of Trade, 609, 717
order for extension of term must be registered, 609
consequence of registering under wrong class, *ib.*
who is proprietor of copyright, 609, 610
two requisites to, 610
effect of sale without mark of registration, 611–613
appointment of registrar of, 613
duties of registrar of, 614
certificate of registration to be given, 615
what certificate, proves, 615, 616
where drawings may be dispensed with, 616
discretionary power vested in registrar, subject to appeal, *ib.*
pattern may be registered, 617
registered designs may be inspected, 617, 618
fees on registration, 712, 713, 716
penalty for wrongfully using mark denoting registered design, 618
may be provisionally registered, 619
form of application for provisional registration, 709
certificate of provisional registration to be given, 620
protection afforded by provisional registration, *ib.*
exhibition of provisionally registered designs in certain places, not to defeat copyright, *ib.*
defeated by sale of articles provisionally registered, 621
books, &c. not to be removed for evidence without judge's order, *ib.*
judge may order copies of documents to be given for evidence, *ib.*
all documents signed and sealed by the registrar to be evidence, 622
may be transferred by writing, 622, 710, 717
form of transfer and authority to register, 622
form of request to register, 623
form of particulars to be given in case of designs for useful purposes, 715
infringement of, 623, 624
remedies for infringement of, 625–628
declaration for infringement of copyright in designs for ornamental purposes, 728
declaration for infringement of copyright in designs for useful purposes, 729
directions issued by Board of Trade as to registration of, 709–718

DEVOLUTION:
of copyright, 148, 149
DICTIONARY:
piracy of, 178, 179
DIGESTS:
when *bonâ fide*, do not infringe copyright, 194–196
DIRECTORY:
piracy of, 174–178
DISCOVERY:
of proprietors, printers, or publishers of newspapers, 257–259, 571, 572
DIVISIBILITY OF COPYRIGHT, 150, 151
DRAMATIC COMPOSITION:
copyright in, 60, 114
not lost by previous representation, 57
definition of dramatic piece, 116
introduction to a pantomime is a dramatic piece, 117
assignment of copyright in, does not convey right to represent, 116
copyright in musical composition accessory to, 117
registration of, under International Copyright Act, 134
transfer of copyright in, 163
remedy for infringement of copyright in, 226
DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL REPRESENTATION AND PERFORMANCE (RIGHT OF), 114–118:
what is a first publication abroad, 56
is not a publication of play itself, 57
statutory right of sole, 114, 115
duration of sole, 115
registration of copyright in, *ib.*
remedies for infringement of copyright in, 116
not conveyed by assignment of copyright in piece, *ib.*
under International Copyright Act, 189
convention with France, 146
transfer of, 163–165
in what infringement of consists, 211
how consent to performance may be given, *ib.*
onus of proving consent, 227
written introduction to a pantomime, is within protection of Act, 212
ignorance does not excuse infringement of, *ib.*
what is a place of dramatic entertainment within Act, 213
no person liable to action, who does not take part in representation, 213–215
what is a representation is a question for jury, 215
remedies for infringement of, 226, 227. (*See* REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.)
within what time proceedings for infringement of, must be commenced, 227
comments on, protected, 449
declarations for infringement of, 726, 727
DRAWINGS:
copyright in, 119–123. (*See* PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS.)
no copyright in libellous, immoral, or irreligious, 11
transfer of copyright in, 166, 167
piracy of, 208–210
DUBLIN:
copyright of University of, *see* UNIVERSITIES.
ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS:
jurisdiction of, in suits for defamation abolished, 319

EDITION:
meaning of, 273, 274

EMBELLISHMENT:
of work, right to choose, 270

ENCYCLOPÆDIAS:
copyright in, *see* PERIODICALS.

ENGRAVINGS OR PRINTS:
forming part of a book, copyright in, 85
copyright in, 106–114
date of publishing, and proprietor's name to be affixed to each, 107, 110, 111
what is sufficient disclosure of proprietorship, 112
original copyright in, 106, 107
extension of original copyright in, 107, 108
duration of copyright in, 108
copyright in, extended to case of lithographs, *ib.*
maps, charts, and plans, 109
accompanying letterpress, copyright in, 108
where subject of is common, 109
requisites to copyright in, 110–112
sufficiency of publication line, 112, 113
registration not necessary in case of, 113, 226
made and struck off abroad, but published here, 114
registration of under International Copyright Act, 135
copyright in, under International Copyright Act, *see* INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.
transfer of copyright in, 165, 166
piracy of, 204–207
how piratical copy may be taken, 205
what is a copy of, 206
public exhibition of a copy of, is not piracy, *ib.*
sale of prints unlawfully struck off from original plate, is not piracy, 207
remedies for piracy of, 223–226. (*See* REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.)
limitation of time for bringing actions for piracy of, 68

ETON:
copyright of College of, *see* COLLEGE COPYRIGHT.

EVIDENCE:
in proceedings for libel, *see* PROCEEDINGS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL; ACTION FOR LIBEL; PUBLICATION; DAMAGES.

EXCEPTIONS:
bill of, may be tendered in action for libel, 595

EXECUTION:
in case of copyright, 149

EXTRACTS:
piracy by means of, 184

FALSEHOOD:
necessary to a libel, 391, *et seq.* (*See* LIBEL ON INDIVIDUALS.
should be alleged in declaration, 543
need not be shown on indictment or information, 524

FALSE NEWS:
publication of, 382

FEES:
on registering designs, 712, 713, 716

FIRE:
effect of loss by, on contract of printer, 293

FOREIGNER:
acquisition of copyright by, *see* ALIEN and INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

FORM:
of work cannot be copied by another so as to mislead, 101

FORMS:
of requiring entry of proprietorship, 88
of entry of proprietorship at Stationers' Hall, *ib.*
of concurrence of party assigning copyright in a registered book, 156
of entry of assignment of copyright in registry, *ib.*
of transfer and authority to register copyright in designs, 622
of request to register copyright in designs, 623
of application to register provisionally ornamental designs, 709
of particulars on application to register designs for purposes of utility, 714
of agreement between authors, publishers, &c. 719–722
for publication of book on half-profit terms, 718, 719
for licence to print one edition of a work, 720
of agreement to enlarge a second edition of a work, 721
for reserving to artist copyright in sold painting, drawing, or photograph, *ib.*
for assigning copyright to vendee of painting, drawing, or photograph, 722
of declarations for infringement of copyright, 723–729
in a book, by printing copies, 723
in a periodical, by printing portions of it in another, *ib.*
in a musical composition, by printing it for sale, 724
in a book, by selling copies unlawfully printed, *ib.*
in a print, by means of photography, *ib.*
by selling copies from a spurious plate, 725
for infringement of right of representing or performing a dramatic piece, 726
for infringement of right of performing a musical composition, 727
for infringement of copyright in a model, cast, copy, or sculpture, *ib.*
for infringement of copyright in a design for ornamental purposes, 728
for infringement of copyright in a design for useful purposes, 729
of pleas in actions for infringement of copyright, 730, 731
general issue, 730
plea denying copyright, *ib.*
first publication in England, *ib.*
that prints had not date of first publication or proprietor's name thereon, *ib.*
that prints were first published without date of first publication or proprietor's name, *ib.*
denying plaintiff's sole right of representing or performing dramatic or musical piece, *ib.*
that musical composition was composed by plaintiff for defendant as accessory to representation of a dramatic piece, 731
of notice of objections to be given with pleas in action for infringement of copyright, *ib.*
of pleadings in criminal proceedings for libel, 732–742
ex officio information by Attorney-General for a seditious libel, 732
information by Master of Crown Office, 733–736
indictment for publishing a libel knowing it to be false, 736, 737
plea to information or indictment, that the libel is true, and its publication for public benefit, 737–741

FORMS (*continued*)—
of pleadings in civil proceedings for libel, 743–745
declarations, 743, 744
pleas, 744, 745
of general issue, 744
of justification that libel is true, *ib.*
of justification to part of libel, 745
denying that plaintiff carried on trade alleged, *ib.*
of apology and payment into court, *ib.*
of notice of intention to give evidence of apology in mitigation of damages, *ib.*

FOX'S LIBEL ACT, 635:
effect of, 529, 595

FRANCE:
copyright convention with, 146

GENERAL ISSUE, *see* NOT GUILTY.

GOVERNMENT:
publications which attack, *see* SEDITIOUS PUBLICATIONS.

HANDBILLS:
comments on, protected, 454

HANDWRITING:
proof of, in proceedings for libel, 518, 576

IDEAS:
without material clothing, no copyright in, 2

ILLEGAL:
work, no copyright in, 3, 4
contract, action cannot be maintained on, 293–295

IMMORAL:
work, no copyright in, 8–9, 11
contract action cannot be maintained on, 293–295
publications, *see* OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS.

IMPORTATION:
of pirated copies of books, prohibited, 199
list of prohibited books to be kept, 200
remedy for wrongful entry in list of prohibited books, *ib.*
of pirated copies, prohibited by International Copyright Act, 144

INACCURACY OF REGISTRATION:
effect of, *see* REGISTRATION.

INACCURATE EDITION:
of author's work, remedy of author for, 281

INDECENT:
publications, how punishable, *see* OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS.
publications sent by post, 261

INDIA, COPYRIGHT IN, 127–130

INDICTABLE OFFENCE:
imputation of, 384, 399

INDICTMENT:
for libel, *see* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.
form of, 736, 737

INFANT:
may be sued for libel, 541

INFORMATION (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL, *see* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.
form of, 732–736

INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT, *see* PIRACY.
INITIALS:
libel expressed by, 388
INJUNCTION, *see* REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.
obtainable at common law to restrain piracy, form of claim for, 723
INNOCENCE:
necessary in a work in order to copyright, 3, 11
test of, when interposition of equity is sought to restrain piracy, 3
what works lack, at common law, 3, 4
INNUENDO:
meaning of, 515, 516
when unnecessary, 516
when bad or repugnant to words of libel, may be rejected, *ib.*
when necessary in action for libel, 547
proof of, 578
(*See* ACTION FOR LIBEL.)
INSPECTION:
of documents, plaintiff in action of libel may obtain, 574
and so may defendant, *ib.*
(*See* REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.)
INTENTION:
not necessary to piracy, 181, *et seq.*
of publisher of immoral publications immaterial, 316
of writer of libel, immaterial, 390
except in case of libel on dead, 420
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT, 130–148
reciprocal protection must be secured to British authors, 130
in what works, 131
duration of, *ib.*
how to be granted, *ib.*
terms of enjoyment and time for registration may vary in the case of different countries, *ib.*
no other than, in any works first published abroad by British subject, 132
particulars to be observed as to registration and delivery of copies, 133, 134
mode of registering books, dramatic and musical compositions, 134
where book is published anonymously, *ib.*
dramatic and musical compositions in manuscript, *ib.*
prints, 135
sculpture and other works of art, *ib.*
deposit of copies at Stationers' Hall, *ib.*
delivery of copies to British Museum or libraries not necessary, 136
same law applicable to books, as if published here, 136–138
right to prevent unauthorised translations, 136, 139
except in certain cases, 137, 138
right of representing and performing dramatic and musical pieces, 139
requisites to be observed in order to prevent translation of dramatic pieces, 140, 141
authorised translation must be of whole work, 141
remedy for entry on register, grounded on wrongful first publication, 144
importation of pirated copies of books prohibited, *ib.*
unless with consent of registered proprietor or his agent, 145
extension of prohibition to works of art and unauthorised translations, *ib.*
with France, subjects, duration and conditions of, 146
registration necessary, 147
registration in case of a newspaper, *ib.*
countries with which conventions have been made, *ib.*

INTERROGATORIES:
allowed in action for infringement of copyright, 222
for libel, 572
what defendant may refuse to answer, 573, 574

IRONICAL LANGUAGE:
libel may be conveyed by, 387

IRRELIGIOUS WORK:
no copyright in, 4–11

JOINT OWNERS OF COPYRIGHT:
contracts between, 280

JUDGMENT:
on conviction for libel, practice as to, 533
arrest of, *see* ARREST OF JUDGMENT.

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS:
reports of, *see* REPORTS (NEWSPAPER).
comments on, *see* COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

JURY:
function of in prosecutions for libel, 529, 530
question for in action for libel, 595

JUSTICES:
jurisdiction of, in prosecutions for libel, 510–514. (*See* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.)

JUSTIFICATION:
not allowed in prosecutions for blasphemous, obscene, or seditious libels, 528
in actions of libel, how to be pleaded, 558, *et seq.* (*See* ACTION FOR LIBEL.)
what may be justified, 564, 565
plea of, must be proved in every material part, 587
evidence of, where libel charges commission of a crime, *ib.*
if proved, where libel charges commission of a crime, plaintiff may be put on trial without intervention of a grand jury, 587
cannot be proved by record in a criminal case, 588
evidence must justify sting of libel, 588, 589
truth of imputations may be proved, 594
forms of plea of, in actions for libel, 744, 745
form of plea of, in criminal proceedings for libel, 738-741

LABEL:
not a book within Copyright Act, 76

LACHES:
of owner of copyright, effect of, 235

LATIN GRAMMAR:
copyright in Lilly's, 39

LAW REPORTS:
copyright in, 42–44

LEAVE TO MOVE:
in action for libel, 600

LECTURES:
copyright in, 19–22
exceptions to copyright in, 22

LETTERS:
copyright exists in, 11
whether private or of a literary character, 14
and whether written for profit or otherwise, 16
limitation of property in, 15-18
publication of, not restrained on considerations of wounded feelings, 17
summary of law of copyright as to, 18, 19

LIBELLOUS WORKS:
no copyright in, 4, 11

LIBEL:
definitions of, 296, 297
various kinds of, 297
how it may be expressed, 297, 321, 384
meaning of malice, 389, 390, 523, 524
blasphemous, 297–311. (*See* BLASPHEMOUS PUBLICATIONS.)
obscene, 311–319. (*See* OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS.)
seditious, 319–344. (*See* SEDITIOUS PUBLICATIONS.)
on Houses of Parliament, 344–357. (*See* PARLIAMENT, LIBELS ON HOUSES OF.)
on Courts of Justices, 357–379. (*See* CONTEMPTS (LIBELLOUS) OF COURTS OF JUSTICE.)
on foreign rulers or ambassadors, 379–381
on a body of persons, 381, 389
on individuals, 382–426
definition of, 384
various kinds of, *ib.*
may be conveyed by any kind of language, 385
to be understood in popular sense of words, 385, 401
where badly spelt, 386
imputation is only insinuated, 386, 400
general language is used, 386
expressed in ironical language, 387
disguised in hieroglyphics, rebus, or anagram, *ib.*
where initials only are used, 388
by pictures or caricatures, *ib.*
intention of writer is immaterial, 389, 390
whole publication is to be looked at, 391
must be false, *ib.*
falsehood need not be shown on indictment or information, 524
not excused by *bonâ fide* belief in its truth, 392
if any material part is not true, 392–395
if substantial imputation be true every expression need not be justified, 395–398
and slight inaccuracy is immaterial, 398
imputing commission of criminal offences, 399, 400
in vulgar language, 401
imputing possession of infectious or contagious disease, *ib.*
affecting office, profession, trade, or calling, 401–410
to be distinguished from criticisms on works appealing to public, 410. (*See* COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.)
and from publications disparaging commodities of rival tradesmen, *ib.*
by holding up to scorn, contempt, or ridicule, 411–418
by imputing unchastity to a woman, 413, 414
by unauthorised publication of a story told by plaintiff of himself, 417
by a general charge of ingratitude, 418
by reference or comparison, *ib.*
on the dead, 419, 420, 523
published by a person at request of another, 421, 518
liability for, by requesting reporters to notice a speech of defendant, 422–425, 518
received from another, liability for publication of, disclosing author's name, 425
publications protected as privileged, *see* PRIVILEGED PUBLICATIONS.
publications protected as comments on matters of public interest, *see* COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.
publications protected as fair reports of judicial and parliamentary proceedings, *see* REPORTS (NEWSPAPER.)

LIBEL (*continued*)—
publications protected as authorised publications of parliamentary papers, *see* PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.
criminal prosecutions for, *see* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.
civil remedy for, *see* ACTION FOR LIBEL.
defence to action for, *see* ACTION FOR LIBEL.
proof of publication by comparison of handwriting, 518, 575. (*See* PUBLICATION.)
if lost, secondary evidence may be given, 576
addressed to state officer or department, *ib.*
damages to be recovered for, *see* DAMAGES.
publication of, brought about by plaintiff's contrivance, how far a defence to action for, 585
justification of, 587, 588. (*See* JUSTIFICATION.)
whether evidence of rumours to effect same as, is admissible, 591–594
evidence may be given of plaintiff's conduct in provoking, 594
offence of maliciously publishing, knowing it to be false, 524

LIBRARIES:
to which copies of books must be delivered, 95

LICENCE:
to publish, cannot be assigned, 275

LIEN:
of printer for general balance, 289, 290

LIMITATION:
of time for bringing actions, &c. for infringement of copyright in books, 222
for infringement of copyright in engravings, 68
of time for bringing actions, &c. for infringement of right of dramatic or musical representation, 227
of time for bringing actions for infringement of copyright in sculpture, models, or busts, 637
of time for bringing actions, &c. for infringement of copyright in designs, 627
of time of bringing actions for libel, 539, 568

LITERARY PROPERTY:
foundation of, 1
what is involved in, *ib.*

LITHOGRAPHS (COPYRIGHT IN), 108. (*See* ENGRAVINGS.)
registration not necessary in case of, 113
piracy of, 204–207

MAGAZINE:
effect of registration of title of, 99, 100
copyright in articles, *see* PERIODICALS.

MAGISTRATES, *see* JUSTICES.

MALICE:
meaning of, in actions for libel, 389, 390
Scotch law, as to, 391
allegation of, not necessary in declaration for libel, 543
proof of express, to rebut privilege, 579
from language of libel itself, *ib.*
by proof that libel is false in part, *ib.*
that plaintiff and defendant lived on bad terms, *ib.*
of acts of defendant subsequent to publication, 579
of letters from defendant to plaintiff, 580
of other defamatory publications or statements of defendant, *ib.*, 583
by reference to defendant's pleas, 580
when question of express, should be left to jury, 582
defendant may give evidence to negative actual, 590
offence of maliciously publishing a libel knowing it to be false, 524

MANUSCRIPTS, *see* UNPUBLISHED WORKS.
production of, sometimes important on charge of piracy, 241
MAPS:
copyright in, 109. (*See* ENGRAVINGS.)
MEDICAL:
advertisements, criticisms on, 445
MEETINGS (PUBLIC):
reports of, not privileged, 489, *et seq.*
MITIGATION OF DAMAGES, *see* ACTION for LIBEL; APOLOGY; DAMAGES.
evidence of plaintiff's conduct in provoking libel in, 594
evidence of apology in, 595
MITIGATION OF PUNISHMENT:
for libel, affidavits in, 584
MODELS:
copyright in, *see* SCULPTURE, MODELS, AND BUSTS.
MORALITY:
publications against, *see* OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS.
MORTGAGE:
of share in newspaper, 283–286
MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS:
copyright in, 114–118
of a twofold nature, 114
adaptation of words, &c. to old air, 85
assignment of copyright in, does not convey right to perform, 116
accessory to a dramatic piece, copyright in, 117
pianoforte score of an opera, who is to be registered as composer of, 118
registration of under International Copyright Act, 134
piracy of, 202–204
MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, RIGHT OF, *see* DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL REPRESENTATION AND PERFORMANCE (RIGHT OF.)
NAME:
copyright in work published in another's, 10, 11
copyright in a, 99, 100
of proprietor of engraving to be affixed to it, 107, 110, 111
of a book, newspapers, song, &c. piracy of, 196–199
fraudulently affixing to a painting, drawing, or photograph, 208, 209
of newspaper, right to prevent adoption of, 255
of employer of printer, to be on one copy of every newspaper, 257
and address of printer to be on every paper or book for publication, 258
of newspaper, effect of registration of, at Stationers' Hall, 283
NEW ASSIGNMENT:
in action for libel, 571
NEWSPAPER:
whether a book within Copyright Act, 76
registration at Stationers' Hall not necessary in case of, 90
under convention with France, 147
how proprietorship in, is affected by bankruptcy, 150, 255
whether there is copyright in, 250–255
nature of property in, 255
proprietor may prevent adoption of name of, for a similar publication *ib.*
right of publishing, cannot be seized under an execution, *ib.*
repealed enactments as to, 256
printer must keep a copy of, with name of employer thereon, 257
recovery of penalties for not doing so, 258
printer must print his name and address upon, *ib.*
bill in equity for discovery of proprietors, printers, or publishers of, 259, 572

stamp duty on, abolished, *ib.*
registration of, at Post Office, 259, 260
postage of, 260–264
what is a supplement to, 262
stamps for postage of, 263, 264
fraudulent removal of stamps on, 265
impressed stamp removed from another paper not to be used on, *ib.*
prohibition of advertisements in, respecting stolen goods, 266, 267
mortgage of a share in, 283–286
agreement for use by one, of matter and type of another, 286–288
reporting defamatory speech at request of speaker, 422–425
reports of judicial and parliamentary proceedings protected, 457–488. (*See* REPORTS (NEWSPAPER.)
reports of public meetings not protected, 489–492. (*See* REPORTS, (NEWSPAPER.)
proof of publication of, 505, 506
proprietor of, cannot recover from editor damages sustained by prosecution for libel, 537
discovery of printers, &c. of, 257, 259, 571, 572

NEW TRIAL:
in criminal prosecutions for libel, 530, 531, 532. (*See* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.)
in action for libel, when granted, 598, 599
not granted merely on account of inadequacy of damages, 600
or because jury have expressed opinion inconsistent with verdict, *ib.*

NON OBSTANTE VEREDICTO:
when motion for, open to plaintiff in action for libel, 601

NOT GUILTY:
publication by mistake may be proved under plea of, in prosecutions for libel, 524
effect of plea of, in action for libel, 556, 587
form of plea of, 730, 745

NOTICE:
sufficiency of, under Copyright of Designs Act, 624
of objections to be given with pleas, in action for infringement of copyright, form of, 731
of intention to give evidence, in action for libel, of apology in mitigation of damages, 745

NOVELTY:
of designs, 605, 606

OBJECTIONS:
to be given with pleas in an action for infringement of copyright, form of notice of, 731

OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS:
jurisdiction of courts to punish, 311, 312
test of obscenity, 312
having possession of, for purpose of selling not indictable, 313
punishment for selling, *ib.*
power of magistrates to search for, seize, and destroy, 314, 315
magistrates must be satisfied of three things, 315
appeal from act of magistrates, 317
intention of publisher is immaterial, 316
proceedings for wrongful acts done in execution of 20 & 21 Vict. c. 83; 318
justification not allowed in prosecutions for, 528
(*See* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.)

OBSCENE WORKS:
no copyright in, 11
no action lies to recover value of, *ib.*
sent by post, 261

OCCASION OF PUBLICATION:
when publication is privileged by, *see* PRIVILEGED PUBLICATIONS.

OFFICE, PROFESSION, OR TRADE:
publications defamatory of a person in, 401, *et seq.*

OPERA:
whether pianoforte score is infringement of copyright in, 119

ORIGINALITY:
how far essential to copyright, 79, 80
test of, 80, 84

ORNAMENT:
copyright in designs for, *see* DESIGNS (COPYRIGHT IN).

OXFORD:
copyright of University of, *see* UNIVERSITIES.

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS:
copyright in, 119-123
nature and duration of copyright in, 119
when sold to, or made for another, copyright in, 119, 120
form of reservation of copyright in, by artist, 721
of assignment of copyright in, to vendee of, 722
registration of copyright in, 120, 121
sufficiency of description on registration of, 121, 122
copyright in, is personal property, and assignable as such, 123
transfer of copyright in, 166, 167
piracy of, 208-210
fraudulently affixing name to, 208, 209
fraudulently selling with name so affixed, *ib.*
fraudulently selling copies or imitations of, as having been made by author of original, 209
alteration of, after sale by author, *ib.*
photograph of engraving of a picture is a photograph of picture itself, 210
mode of recovering penalties, in case of, 227
injunction, inspection, or account at law, in action for infringement of, 329

PAMPHLET:
is a book within Copyright Acts, 76

PANTOMIME:
introduction to, is a dramatic piece within Copyright Act, 117

PARLIAMENT, LIBELS ON HOUSES OF:
libellous contempts of, 344
resolutions of House of Commons against, 347
power of commitment for, 347, 348
Speaker's warrant to arrest for, 349, 350
courts will not examine into propriety of commitment, 351
duration of commitment, 355
power of Colonial Legislative Assemblies to commit, 351-354
prosecution for, instead of commitment, 355-357

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES:
newspaper reports of, *see* REPORTS (NEWSPAPER).

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS:
liability for publication of, 492-499
authorised publication of, protected, 496
proceedings to be stayed on production of certificate and affidavit, *ib.*

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (*continued*)—
publication of copies of, 497
of extracts from, or abstracts of, *ib.*
notice of intention to produce certificate of authorisation, *ib.*

PARTIES:
to sue and be sued in actions for libel, *see* ACTION FOR LIBEL.

PARTNERS:
may sue for libel on them, 538

PATTERN:
registration of in case of designs, 617

PAYMENT:
of contributors to periodicals, necessity of, 105
of author cannot be enforced by injunction, 281
into court, with plea of apology, in action for libel, 566

PENALTIES:
what is necessary to recovery of in case of engraving, 112
in case of fraudulent dealings with paintings, drawings, or photographs, 209
separate for all pirated copies of pictures, drawings, or photographs, sold, 210
separate, for distinct acts of selling on same day pirated copies of books imported, 219
for wrongfully using mark denoting a registered design, 618
for piracy of copyright in designs, 625
for piracy of engravings, 223, 224
in case of paintings, drawings, and photographs, mode of recovering, 227
effect of bankruptcy upon, 228
in case of sculptures, models, and busts, 230
on printers of newspapers for non-observance of statutory requirements, 257, 258
for advertisements in newspapers respecting stolen goods, 266, 267

PERFORMANCE:
of musical composition, *see* DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL REPRESENTATION AND PERFORMANCE (RIGHT OF).

PERIODICALS:
separate article for, does not require registration, 89
nature of copyright in, 97, 98
duration of copyright in, 98
limitation of copyright in, *ib.*
reservation by authors of right of publishing contributions in a separate form, 99
registration of copyright in, *ib.*
effect of registration of title of, *ib.*
rights of contributors to, 103
right of contributor to prevent separate publication does not require registration, *ib.*
meaning of publishing "separately," 104
contributions to, must be paid for in order to vest copyright, 105
copyright in contributions may be vested by implied contract, 106
infringement of copyright in, 202
according to American law, 247, 248
form of declaration for infringement of copyright in, 723

PHOTOGRAPHS:
copyright in, 119–123. (*See* PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS.)
no copyright in libellous, immoral, or irreligious, 11
of engravings are within Copyright Acts, 119
assignment of copyright in, 166, 167
piracy of, 208–210
of engravings of pictures are photographs of pictures themselves, 210

PICTURES:
no copyright in libellous, immoral, or irreligious, 11
whether public exhibition is a publication of, 56
publication of engravings of, in a magazine, *ib.*
libels by means of, 384, 388
publicly exhibited, comments on, protected, 456

PIRACY:
in what it consists, 168, 169
only by multiplication of copies, 169
not by recitation from memory, 169, 170
may be by gratuitous distribution of copies, 170
how far an author may use another's work, 171
tests of, given by various judges, 171–173
where subject is common, 173, 174
of directory, 174–178
how far compiler of directory may use previous directory, 177, 178
of lists of hounds published in a newspaper, 178
of dictionaries, calendars, &c. 178, 179.
of translations, 180, 181
by re-translation, 181
whether *animus furandi* is essential to, 181-184
cases in which *animus furandi* test is appropriate, 183
by quotation, 184–186
publication of another's work, with *bonâ fide* notes, not, 186–188
not prevented by adding plates to letterpress, 188
none in case of *bonâ fide* abridgments, 188–192
by abridgment of work of fiction, 192, 193
by digests, 194, 195
of prints in a book, 196
of name of a work, 196–199
by importation of pirated copies, 199, 200
sale of pirated copies without guilty knowledge does not render liable to action, 201
sale of copies printed before assignment of copyright is not, 202
in case of periodical publications, 202
of books belonging to universities or colleges, 48
of musical compositions, 202, 203
whether pianoforte score infringes copyright in an opera, 118
of engravings and lithographs, 204–207
how piratical copy may be taken, 205
what is a copy, 206
publicly exhibiting a copy is not, 206, 207
sale of prints unlawfully struck off from original plate, is not, 207
of paintings, drawings, and photographs, 208–210. (*See* PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS.)
of sculpture, models, and busts, 210
infringement of right of dramatic and musical representation, 210–216. (*See* DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL REPRESENTATION AND PERFORMANCE, RIGHT OF.)
remedies for, 216-241. (*See* REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT.)
of designs, 623, 624
remedies for, 625–628
forms of declaration in actions for, 723–729. (*See* FORMS.)
where stereotype plates are sold, 241

PLACARD:
contempt of court by means of, 366

PLANS:
copyright in, 76, 109. (*See* ENGRAVINGS.)

PLAY:
adaptation of foreign, to English stage, 140
PLEADING:
in action for infringement of copyright, forms of, 723–731. (*See* FORMS.)
in action for libel, *see* ACTION FOR LIBEL.
forms of, *see* FORMS.
POSTAGE, *see* NEWSPAPER.
PRAYER-BOOK:
copyright in, 38
PRECEDENTS, *see* FORMS.
PREFATORY AVERMENTS, *see* AVERMENTS.
PRESS:
summary of history of freedom of, 319
in what liberty of, consists, 320
PRINTER:
of newspaper to keep a copy with name of employer thereon, 257
to print his name and address on papers, &c. for publication, 258
documents falsely purporting to be printed by Government, 266
lien of, for unpaid balance, 289, 290
(*See* CONTRACTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &c.)
PRINTS:
copyright in, *see* ENGRAVINGS.
no copyright in libellous, immoral, or obscene, 22
in a book, piracy of, 196
piracy of, 204–207
libel by means of, 388
PRIVILEGED PUBLICATIONS:
justified by the occasion of publication, 427
privilege absolute or qualified, *ib.*
what publications are absolutely privileged, *ib.*
in what cases privilege is qualified, 428
general rule as to, 429
examples of, 430
advertisement for information, 431
to vindicate character of writer, 431, 432
what are not, 432
privilege may be lost by exaggerated language, 433
how privilege may be pleaded, 565
proof of express malice to rebut privilege, 579
proof of privilege, 587
PRIVY COUNCIL:
power of, to license publication in certain cases, 97
PROFANE PUBLICATIONS, *see* BLASPHEMOUS LIBELS.
PROFESSION:
libels affecting a person's, 404–407
PROPRIETOR:
of copyright in designs, who is, 609, 610
PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION:
of copyright in designs, mode of obtaining, 619
time of, may be extended by Board of Trade, 620
protection given by, *ib.*
exhibition of provisionally registered designs in certain places not to defeat copyright, *ib.*
sale of articles provisionally registered to defeat copyright, 621
form of application for, 709
fees to be paid on, 712, 716

PROVOCATION:
of libel by plaintiff's conduct, 594

PUBLIC:
men, institutions, and matters, comments on, *see* COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.
meetings, reports of not privileged, 489, *et seq.*

PUBLICATION:
must take place in United Kingdom, in order to copyright, 34
abroad by British subject, effect of, on copyright, 35, 126, 132
what is a previous, 55
in case of dramatic representation, 56
here and abroad contemporaneously, *ib.*
private circulation of copies is not, 54, 56, 57
of pictures by public exhibition, 56
in magazine of engraving of a picture, *ib.*
of abridgment of work before work itself, 57
performance of a play is not, *ib.*
what conduct on author's part is deemed to authorise, 58
sale of copies in manuscript does not authorise, *ib.*
nor permission to take a copy, 58, 59
registration before, ineffectual, 87
registration of time of first, 89
meaning of separate, in case of contributions to periodicals, 104
power of Privy Council to license, 97
line, in engravings, 112, 113
priviloged, *see* PRIVILEGED PUBLICATIONS.
of libel how proved, 517, 575, 576
where libel is lost, 576
may be proved by admission of defendant, *ib.*
proof of, where several defendants, 577
See PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.

PUBLISHER, *see* CONTRACTS BETWEEN AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &c.
of a libel, who is liable as, 517

PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL:
what libels criminally punishable, 499
I. *By criminal information*, 500–510
power of Attorney-General to file *ex officio*, 500
in what cases *ex officio* information employed, *ib.*
Attorney-General may enter a *nolle prosequi*, 501
power of defendant to bring on trial of, *ib.*
delivery of copy of, to defendant, *ib.*
mode of trial of, *ib.*, 510
right of Attorney-General to reply, 501, 502
passing sentence after conviction, 502
filed by order of Queen's Bench, *ib.*
motion for must be made by counsel, 503
rule for will not be enlarged where affidavit improperly sworn, *ib.*
to get rule for, prosecutor must swear to his innocence, *ib.*
exculpatory affidavit necessary where libel is on a body of men, 504
within what time application for, must be made, 505
other proceedings must not have been instituted, *ib.*
not granted in trivial cases, *ib.*
nor where defendant in very poor, *ib.*
primâ facie evidence of publication by defendant not sufficient to obtain; *ib.*
proof of publication of newspapers, 505, 506
by purchase of copy in defendant's shop, 506
by affidavit of accomplice, *ib.*
where rule for, has been granted on insufficient evidence of publication, 507

PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL *(continued)*—
affidavits in moving for, must not contain improper or irrelevant matter, *ib.*
drawing up rule for, *ib.*
service of rule for, 508
showing cause against rule for, *ib.*
new rule for, not in general granted where former rule has been discharged, *ib.*
costs where rule for, has been discharged, 509
recognizance on rule for, being made absolute, *ib.*
form of information, 509, 732, 733
issue of subpœna, 510
time to appear, *ib.*
consequence of non-appearance, *ib.*
rule to plead, *ib.*
sending down record for trial, *ib.*
II. *Justices of peace, jurisdiction of*, 510–514
may grant summons or warrant, 511
defendant may call witnesses before justices, *ib.*
advantage of defendant's calling witnesses, 512
defendant has a right to be bailed, *ib.*
power of, to require sureties for good behaviour, *ib.*, 513
in case of obscene publications, 314–318, 514
III. *Indictment for*
libeller may be arrested before preferring, 514
may be preferred before grand jury direct, *ib.*
cannot be tried at quarter sessions, *ib.*
where venue must be laid, *ib.*
must charge publication by defendant, 515
must set out libel in foreign language with correct translation, *ib.*
must charge publication of and concerning person libelled, *ib.*
must contain averments to connect libel with subject of it, *ib.*
innuendo must not extend sense of expressions beyond their meaning, 516
where innuendo is unnecessary, *ib.*
innuendo bad or repugnant to words of libel may be rejected, *ib.*
removal of by *certiorari*, *ib.*
who is liable as publisher of libel, 517
how publication may be proved against publisher, *ib.*
author, *ib.*
proof of handwriting, 518
liability for procuring or requesting another to write libel, 518, 519
distinction between civil and criminal responsibility for act of agent, 521
witness not bound to name person who wrote libel, 521
publication must be proved at venue laid, *ib.*
libel to be put in, *ib.*
what variance between libel and indictment is fatal, 521, 522
what variance may be amended, 522
proof of introductory averments, *ib.*
when introductory averments are necessary, 523
intent must be proved in case of libel on the dead, *ib.*
how application of libel to prosecutor may be proved, *ib.*
malice presumed from act of publication, *ib.*
express malice may be proved by other publications of defendant, 524
falsehood of libel need not be shown, *ib.*
offence of maliciously publishing a libel knowing it to be false, *ib.*
threatening to publish or abstain from publishing with intent to extort money, *ib.*
under not guilty publication by mistake may be proved, *ib.*
presumption of publication may be rebutted by proof of publication without defendant's authority or knowledge, 525, 526

PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL (*continued*)—
defendant may show that libel is privileged, 527
or rely on other grounds of defence, *ib.*
other passages from publication may be read to show defendant's intention, *ib.*
plea, allowed by statute, justifying libel, *ib.*
only in case of personal libels, 528
all material allegations of plea must be proved, *ib.*
defendant cannot show previous publication of imputation without proceedings taken, 529
jury may give a general verdict on whole matter, *ib.*
judge may give his opinion to jury, 530
jury may find a special verdict, *ib.*
commitment of defendant after conviction on information, *ib.*
if defendant acquitted, no new trial, *ib.*
defendant may move in arrest of judgment or for new trial, 531
grounds of motion, *ib.*
when motion in arrest of judgment must be made, 532
court will itself sometimes arrest judgment, *ib.*
effect of arrest of judgment, *ib.*
when motion for new trial must be made, *ib.*
defendants must be in court at time of motion, *ib.*
grounds on which new trial granted, *ib.*
when *venire de novo* awarded, 533
procedure on passing judgment, *ib.*
defendant may use affidavits in mitigation of punishment, 534
prosecutor may produce affidavits in aggravation of punishment, 535
punishment on conviction, 536
court may exact security for good behaviour, *ib.*
copies of blasphemous or seditious libels may be seized, *ib.*
and after final judgment disposed of, 537
costs of prosecutor, when fine imposed, *ib.*
defendant on acquittal, entitled to costs from private prosecutor, *ib.*
prosecutor entitled to costs of special plea when issue on it is found for him, *ib.*
damages from conviction cannot be recovered by proprietor of newspaper from editor, *ib.*

PUBLIC INTEREST:
publications protected as comments on, *see* COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

PUNISHMENT:
on conviction for libel, 536
affidavits in mitigation of, 534
in aggravation of, 535

QUANTITY:
as a test of piracy, 173

QUARTER SESSIONS:
have no jurisdiction to try indictment for libel, 514

QUEEN:
libels against, *see* SEDITIOUS LIBELS.

QUEEN'S PRINTER:
copyright enjoyed by, 37, *et seq.*

QUOTATION:
may amount to piracy, 184–186

RECITATION:
not an infringement of copyright, 170

RECORD:
in criminal case, not admissible to prove or disprove truth of libel, 588

REGISTRATION :
of books belonging to universities or colleges, 47
of books, 86, 87
form of, requiring entry, 88
form of entry, *ib.*
person making false, guilty of misdemeanor, 87
before actual publication, ineffectual, *ib.*
of time of first publication, what it must contain, 89
consequence of non, 89, 90
consequence of inaccurate, 90, 91
not required in case of separate article for periodical, 89
or newspaper, 90
defence of non, must be specially pleaded, 91
of editions after first, 91, 92
consequence of neglect at Stationers' Hall, 92
remedy to persons aggrieved by, 92–94
of copyright in periodicals, 99
of title of magazine, effect of, *ib.*
not necessary to enable contributor to periodical to prevent separate publication, 103
not necessary in case of engravings, prints, or lithographs, 113
of copyright in dramatic and musical compositions, 115
who should be registered as composer of pianoforte score of an opera, 118, 134
of copyright in paintings, drawings, and photographs, 120
who is a person "aggrieved" by, 123
of copyright in sculpture, models, and busts, 125, 613
in cases of international copyright, 131, 133, 134, 135. (*See* INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.)
whether necessary on part of assignee of copyright, before suing, 157, 158, 167
of former assignments, or of copyright of original author not necessary in case of assignee of drawings, paintings, or photographs, 167
of newspapers at post-office, 259, 260
of order for extension of copyright in designs, 609
of copyright in designs, 610–622
effect of sale without mark of, 611
certificate of, to be given, 615
what certificate of, proves, 615, 616
by registering pattern, 617
amending or cancelling, 618.
provisional, of copyright in designs, 619–621. (*See* PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION.)

RELIGION :
publications against, *see* BLASPHEMOUS LIBELS.

REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT, 216–241
of twofold character, 216
in case of unpublished works, 216, 217
according to American law, 248, 249
I. *At law*
in published works, 217–231
in books, by action, 218
defendant in action, to give notice of objections to plaintiff's title, 219, 221
general objection not sufficient, 220
effect of plea of not guilty, *ib.*
declaration need not aver that defendant published plaintiff's book, 221, 222
interrogatories allowed in action, 222
limitation of time for actions, &c. *ib.*
in engravings or prints, 223–226

REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT (*continued*)—
I. *At law* (*continued*)—
in engravings or prints (*continued*)—
by action, 110–113, 223–225
by penalties, 223, 224
in dramatic and musical compositions, 223, 227
limitation of time for actions, &c. 227
in paintings, drawings, and photographs, 227
injunction, inspection, or account at law, 229
importation of pirated copies prohibited, 230
in sculpture, models, and busts, *ib.*
in designs, 625–628
by action for damages, 625
by recovery of penalties, *ib.*
by proceedings in county court, 627
forms of declarations and pleas, *see* FORMS.
(*See* PENALTIES.)
II. *In equity*
by injunction, 231, 628
form of, 234
proceedure to obtain injunction, 232
injunction not granted where plaintiff's title is doubtful, *ib.*
damages may be awarded in addition to or substitution for, injunction, 233, 237
injunction sometimes not proper remedy, 233, 234, 239, 240
person having legal title should be made party to suit, 234
joint owners may sue, *ib.*
where infringements are distinct, offenders cannot be joined as defendants, *ib.*
plaintiff must not have been guilty of laches, or have misled by acquiescence, 235, 236
right to an account, 237
granting of injunction where value of property infringed is small, 238
injunction where only part of work is pirated, 238, 239
not necessary to state in bill or affidavit parts pirated, 240
sale of pirated copies after expiration of term restrained, 238
publication disparaging a rival work will not be restrained, 241
REMEDIES FOR LIBEL, *see* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL, and ACTION FOR LIBEL.
REPLICATION:
in action for libel, 571
REPORTS (NEWSPAPER)
of defamatory speech at request of speaker, liability for, 422–425
of trials and judicial investigations protected, 457
grounds for extending immunity to them, 458
sometimes prohibited. 459
of proceedings not *ex parte*, 460–462
in gaol before registrar in bankruptcy, 461
of *ex parte* proceedings and preliminary investigations, 462–470
ending in discharge of accused, 462–464
committal or holding to bail, 464, *et seq.*
of proceedings before magistrate in matter over which he has no jurisdiction, 470
of irrelevant matter, 472
must not contain injurious comments, *ib.*
should not give merely effect of evidence, 473
must not charge perjury, 474
must be accurate, 476
though condensed, may be protected, *ib.*
should not set out the facts as stated by counsel for one party, 477
slight errors in, excusable, 478

REPORTS (NEWSPAPER) (*continued*)—
of action for libel setting out libel, 479
heading to may be libellous, 481
of Parliamentary proceedings, 481–488
effect of standing orders as to publication of, 485, 486
must not be partial or garbled, 486
publication of a single speech by a member, 487, 488
of public meetings, 489–492
not privileged, 489
called to petition Parliament, 489
of boards of guardians, 490
of report made to vestry by officer of health, *ib.*

REPRESENTATION:
of dramatic piece, *see* DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL REPRESENTATION and PERFORMANCE (RIGHT OF).

RE-TRANSLATION:
piracy by means of, 181

RIDICULE:
publications holding up to, 411, *et seq.*

REVIEWS:
quotations in, not piracy, 184
publications protected as being, *see* COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

RUMOURS:
to same effect as libel, whether evidence of, is admissible, 591–594

SCORE (PIANOFORTE) OF OPERA:
who should be registered as author of, 78, 118
whether an infringement of copyright in opera, 118

SCOTCH LAW:
as to malice in libel, 391
as to privileged publications, 428, 429

SCULPTURE, MODELS, AND BUSTS:
copyright in, 124–126
subjects in which copyright exists, 124
duration of copyright in, 125
proprietor's name to be put on every copy, 124
registration of copyright in, 125
copies to be marked "registered," and with date of registration, 126
copyright in, when first published abroad, *ib.*
copyright in, under International Copyright Act, *see* INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.
registration of copyright in, under International Copyright Act, 135
transfer of copyright in, 167
infringement of copyright in, 210
remedies for infringement of copyright in, at law, 230
form of declaration for infringement of copyright in, 727

SEDITIOUS PUBLICATIONS:
growth of freedom of press, 319, 320
in what liberty of press consists, 320
jury sole judges of libellous nature of, 321
criminal intention, gist of offence, 322
which attack the sovereign personally, 322–331
legislative enactments as to, 322
what attacks on sovereign are, 324, 325
liability of printers for, 327, 328
what are treason felony, 329, 330
indictment for, 331

SEDITIOUS PUBLICATIONS (*continued*)—
which attack the Administration, 331–338
what criticisms on Government are allowed, 331–332
concerning the constitution generally, 333–344
state of country and public mind to be regarded in judging of, 339, 340
whole publication to be regarded, 340
considerable latitude allowed to political writers, *ib.*
copied from foreign newspapers, *ib.*
copies of may be seized after verdict or judgment by default, 536
and disposed of after final judgment, 537
prosecutions for, *see* PROSECUTIONS (CRIMINAL) FOR LIBEL.
form of *ex officio* information for, 732

SHEET:
of letterpress is a book within 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45; 76

SOVEREIGN:
publications which attack, *see* SEDITIOUS PUBLICATIONS.

SPECIAL DAMAGE, *see* DAMAGES.

SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE:
of contracts by author for composition of a work, not decreed, 277
of contract for sale of copyright, decreed, 280

STAMP DUTIES, *see* NEWSPAPERS.

STATE DOCUMENTS:
copyright in, 41

STATIONERS' HALL, *see* REGISTRATION.

STATUTES:
copyright in, 41
relating to copyright, historical summary of, 65–75
8 Anne, c. 19; 65, 66
8 Geo. 2, c. 13; 67
7 Geo. 3, c. 38; 67, 68
17 Geo. 3, c. 57; 68
38 Geo. 3, c. 71; *ib.*
41 Geo. 3, c. 107; 68, 69
54 Geo. 3, c. 15; 69
3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 15; 70
5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65; 71
6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59; *ib.*
1 & 2 Vict. c. 59; *ib.*
5 & 6 Vict. c. 45; 71–73
7 Vict. c. 12; 73
10 & 11 Vict. c. 95; *ib.*
15 & 16 Vict. c. 12; 74
25 & 26 Vict. c. 68; 75
relating to copyright, libel, newspapers, &c. printed in full, 629–708
8 Geo. 2, c. 13 (Copyright in Prints), 629, 630
15 Geo. 3, c. 53 (College Copyright), 630–633
17 Geo. 3, c. 57 (Copyright in Prints), 634
32 Geo. 3, c. 60 (Fox's Libel Act), 635
54 Geo. 3, c. 56 (Copyright in Models, &c.), 635–637
60 Geo. 3, c. 8 (Blasphemous and Seditious Libels), 637–640
3 Will. 4, c. 15 (Dramatic Literary Property), 641, 642
5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 65 (Lectures), 642, 643
6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 59 (Copyright in Prints, Ireland), 643, 644
6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 76 (Newspapers), 644–647
3 Vict. c. 9 (Parliamentary Papers), 647, 648
5 & 6 Vict. c. 45 (Copyright Act, 1842), 649–658
5 & 6 Vict. c. 100 (Copyright of Designs Act, 1842), 658–667
6 & 7 Vict. c. 65 (Copyright of Designs Act Amendment), 668–670

STATUTES (*continued*,—
relating to copyright, libel, newspapers, &c. printed in full (*continued*)—
6 & 7 Vict. c. 96 (Defamatory Words and Libels), 670–673
7 Vict. c. 12 (International Copyright), 673–680
8 & 9 Vict. c. 75 (Defamatory Words and Libel), 680, 681
10 & 11 Vict. c. 95 (Colonial Copyright), 681, 682
13 & 14 Vict. c. 104 (Copyright of Designs Act Amendment), 682–687
15 Vict. c. 12 (Copyright Acts, Amendment), 687–691
18 & 19 Vict. c. 41 (Jurisdiction of Ecclesiastical Courts in Defamation), 691
20 & 21 Vict. c. 83 (Obscene Books, &c.), 692, 693
21 & 22 Vict. c. 70 (Copyright of Designs, Amendment), 694, 695
24 & 25 Vict. c. 73 (Copyright of Designs, Amendment), 696
25 & 26 Vict. c. 68 (Copyright in Paintings, &c.), 696–700
32 & 33 Vict. c. 24 (Newspapers, &c.), 700–704
33 & 34 Vict. c. 79 (Postage, &c.), 704–708

SUPPLEMENT:
to a newspaper, what is a, 262

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES:
comments on, protected, 449. (*See* DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL REPRESENTATION AND PERFORMANCE (RIGHT OF.)

TRADE:
libels affecting a person's, 407, 408

TRANSFER OF COPYRIGHT:
devolution of copyright in case of intestacy, 149
by bequest, 149
on marriage of female owner, 149
on bankruptcy, 149
meaning of "assign," 150
not divisible as to locality, *ib.*
but divisible as to time, 151
in books may be made in two ways, 151, 152
cannot be by parol, 152
deed not necessary, 152, 153
attestation not necessary, 153–155
by entry in registry at Stationers' Hall, 156, 157
whether assignee must register before he can sue, 157, 158
sale of copies printed before assignment, 158
equitable assignment, 158, 159
agreements not amounting to an assignment of copyright, 160–162
mere licence to publish cannot be assigned, 275
in paintings, drawings, and photographs, 166, 167
no equitable assignment of, 163, 167
to vendee, form of agreement, 722
assignee of, must register before suing, 167
but previous assignments need not be registered, nor copyright of original author, *ib.*
in dramatic and musical compositions, 163
with right of representation or performance, 163, 164
assignment of right of representation or performance separately, 164, 165
registration not necessary in case of, 165
consent to representation may be given by agent, 165
in published engravings, 165, 166
in sculpture, models, and busts, 167
under International Copyright Act, 167, 168
according to American law, 249
in designs, 622

TRANSLATIONS:
right to prevent unauthorised, under International Copyright Act, 136, 137, 139, 140
authorised translation of dramatic piece, under International Copyright Act, must be of whole work, 141
piracy of, 180, 181

TREASON-FELONY:
what publications are, 329, 330

TRIAL:
of indictment for libel, 517, *et seq.*
of action for libel, 575, *et seq.*

TRUTH:
of libel, a defence to action, 391, 587, 588
proof of, 594

UNCHASTITY:
imputation of, to a woman, 413

UNIVERSITIES:
copyright of English and Scotch, 47
of Dublin, 48
piracy of copyright of, 48

UNPUBLISHED WORKS:
copyright in, 48, 54
according to American law, 243, 244,
right of alien to restrain publication of, 36
copyright in, is independent of statute, 50
what conduct on author's part is deemed to authorise publication of, 58, 59
alteration of, by publisher, 59, 60
dramatic compositions, 60
musical compositions, 60
engravings, maps, and charts, 61
(*See* also LECTURES, and LETTERS.)
remedies for infringement of copyright in, 216, 217

UTILITY:
copyright in designs for purposes of, *see* DESIGNS (COPYRIGHT IN).

VARIANCE:
between libel and indictment, power to amend, 522
effect of, 521, 522
between libel and declaration, power to amend, 577

VENIRE DE NOVO:
when awarded in prosecutions for libel, 533

VENUE:
in action of libel, may be laid in any county, 540
may be changed, *ib.*

VERDICT:
on criminal trial for libel, may be general or special, 529, 530
proceedings after, in action for libel, 598, *et seq.*

VOLUME:
is a book within 5 & 6 Vict. c. 45; 76
and so is part or division of, *ib.*

WARRANTY:
on sale of copyright, 280

WESTMINSTER:
copyright of college of, 47

WIFE:
who must sue in case of libel on, 538
husband must be joined as defendant in action for libel by, 541

WINCHESTER:
copyright of college of, 47

WRAPPERS:
of magazines or reviews, payment of compositors for advertisements on, 291, 293.

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