

Private

Ottawa, 22nd May, 1888.

Dear Mr Dawson,

I have received your letter of the 20th inst. and I am obliged to you for the statement of opinion it contains. I think it well to say to you that your view coincides with mine, but the Minister of Justice seems to think that copyright without printing is the essence of the Berne Convention. I, on the contrary, think that the fact of copyright itself is the essence, and that the printing in Canada might fairly be held to be one of the things which ~~will~~ be reserved. This point must, of course, be the subject of correspondence, and it seems to me that determining it now is really the only thing we have to do, as the Government of Canada has by formal act declared its adhesion to the Berne Convention. I am strengthened in this view by the careful reading of these documents contained in that publisher's circular which you sent to me containing the declarations of opinions of the several leading American authors and publishers, as well as by your

Believe me, &c.

Dawson

Ottawa, 18th June, 1882.

Dear Miss Ryer-

I have read Mrs Goldwin's Smith's letter which
I return to you in the circumstances stated in your
letter. The remark which I have to make is that now
one can scarcely be surprised at anything. I do not
attach any importance to the indifference of
Mr Goldwin Smith.

Believe me, &c.

Yours truly

Miss Maria Ryer,

Our Western Home,

Miss Ryer.

Ottawa, 18th July, 1878.

Dear Sir:-

I write to you this letter after consultation with Dr Taché in order to ask you for an opinion or an information in relation to Canadian Copyright and the Berne Convention. I may explain that Dr Taché would have written to you, except that he has been continuously unwell and has in consequence asked for his retirement from the post of Deputy Minister. It is therefore as his successor that I write to you this letter.

I may explain that by the act of the Canadian Government, Canada agreed to enter into the Berne Convention, and the Canadian Act of 1878, which was drawn by Dr Taché, upon consultation with you, does, as you know, at present allow Canadian copyright to the authors in a country which has a treaty with the United Kingdom or with authors in the United Kingdom, on the condition of printing in Canada.

It happened, that during the last session the

the Government thought it advisable to give effect to the Berne Convention by a short Bill, which simply proposed to eliminate the printing clauses from the present act, thereby giving simple copyright to all authors resident in countries having treaty relations with the mother country; but when this bill was introduced, it caused a great deal of out-cry among the publishers and demanded that the printing clauses (in Canada) should be retained. This outcry was so persistent that the Government thought it better to withdraw the Bill for the session.

The out-cry was the more pointed as the Bill before the United States Congress, which we are informed, will pass, is similar to the present Canadian law. It gives copyright but exacts the condition of printing in the United States. There is also, I may say to you, a very strong impression in Canada that if this Bill is passed, it will place the United States substantially among the countries which are parties to the Berne Convention. I do not, however, give you this statement as anything more than an outside prevailing impression.

I come now to the main object of my letter, nam-

