

BULLETIN OF THE A. L. A. COMMITTEE ON BOOK BUYING

In the No. Amer. Rev., Jan., '05, Mark Twain advocates the abolition of the "crime" of the 42-year limit to copyright. To insure the issue of cheap editions of books, which he says is the object of the limit, he proposes that the copyrightee be obliged to issue such an edition during the 42nd year of his copyright and to keep it thereafter on sale, under penalty of losing the copyright. This is of interest to book-buyers on account of the price at which Mr. Clemens would require the cheap edition to be sold, namely, "25 cents for each 100,000 words or less." At this price he asserts that the publisher and the author's orphans would "live on canvasback duck and Cape Cod oysters," and he says he speaks from knowledge and experience, and is amply able to prove his thesis. He adds, "I know what it costs to make a book and what it costs to sell it." This being the case, the following table is of interest. It can easily be extended by anyone. The books have been selected quite at random.

Author	Title	No. words	M. Twain's price	Pres. net price
Conway—	Autobiography	....335,000	\$1.00	\$6.00
James—	Golden Bowl	.....245,000	.75	2.50
Kelly—	Little Citizens	..... 88,000	.25	1.50
Howells—	Son of Royal Langbrith	.....118,000	.50	2.00
Rogers—	True Henry Clay	..132,000	.50	2.00
Frazer—	Letters from Japan	..234,000	.75	3.00

The law requiring libs. to get consent of owner of Amer. copyright before importing would if passed, in some cases, make it impossible to buy a book at all for months or years after pub'n in England. For the Amer. pub'r sometimes gets his copyright by serial pub'n only and then defers book pub'n for months.

Send to this com. titles of books wanted and now o. p.; also titles of books wanted and not yet written.

The Wilson Co., Minneapolis, plan to pub. a Cumulative Book Review Digest. Send for circular. The Digest will reprint parts of reviews of books from 40 journals. The A. L. A. Pub. Board's Book List will print original criticisms furnished by co-operating librarians.

Recent interesting second hand catalogs:

McLean & Co., 430 6th Ave., N. Y. City. (Clearance List No. 19, Dec., '04; 50 per cent. discount).

Edwards, 83 High St., Marylebone, London, W. (No. 275).
Cadby, 64 Hamilton St., Albany, N. Y. (No. 88, Americana).

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