

A new rule of U. S. Treasury Department requires importers to file at custom-house, within 90 days of entry, receipts for all books imported free of duty. In spite of protests a decision has just confirmed this regulation. Renewed protests are now in order from all librarians. They may be based upon the following facts: (1) The receipt is no further preventive of fraud than the affidavit already furnished by the librarian and the importer. (2) The new regulation makes extra work for the importer as well as for the librarian and for the liquidating division of the custom-house. Importers are hinting that this may make necessary an increase of rates to libraries. (3) This new regulation if insisted upon will tend to discourage importation and correspondingly cripple the libraries in their work.

About a month after the regulation came into force, the Secretary of the Treasury sent out a Department letter to all Collectors asking them to construe liberally the law regarding free importation for public institutions. This may mean that the head of the Department will be inclined to act favorably on requests that the regulation be rescinded. Address protests to him or to any member of Congress.

The total cost of a book is represented by first cost plus cost of preserving and caring for it during its life. At the end of its life it must be replaced. Counting the expense of mending, re-binding and replacement, the total cost of a so-called "cheap" edition to the library for a period of years will exceed that of a better book with a stronger binding. A recent experiment with extra-stout bindings showed that a well bound popular book may circulate once a week for two years without re-binding, while ordinary bindings may wear out twice in this time, necessitating, besides the expense of re-binding, the withdrawal of the book from circulation for several weeks or even months. In such cases it will pay to have a stout binding to start with.

On the other hand, a book that circulates only twice a year and then among people who will give it careful usage, does not need to be so strongly bound. Money spent on mere strength in this case might be wasted. Doubleday, Page & Co. furnish their books in extra strong bindings if desired, charging a small advance in price for them. Doubtless other publishers would do the same if there should be sufficient demand. Cedric Chivers of Bath, England, procures sheets of standard and current works direct from publishers and binds them with very exceptional strength. Send for his catalogue. Mr. Chivers is about to start a branch bindery in New York, which he expects to open in November. Several binders in this country offer special forms of strong library binding.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any member of the Committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, *Chairman*, N. Y. P. L., 226 West 42nd St.; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) F. P. L.; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt F. L., Baltimore, Md.