

"Dead!"

"Yes, our poor Christie is gone—but his child is here—the image of him. Do not forget the mother. Have pity on his child and yours."

"Take it out of my sight!" she screamed. "Away with it, or I shall murder it, as I have murdered its father. My dear Christie, before all that live! I have killed him. I shall die for him. I shall go to him." She raved and tore her hair. Servants rushed in. Rosa was carried to her bed, screaming and raving, and her black hair all down on both sides, a piteous sight.

Swoon followed swoon, and that very night brain-fever set in with all its sad accompaniments. A poor bereaved creature, tossing and moaning; pale, anxious, but resolute faces of the nurse and the kitchen-maid watching—on one table a pail of ice, and on another, alas! the long, thick raven hair of our poor Simpleton, lying on clean silver paper. Dr. Philip had cut it all off with his own hand, and he was now folding it up, and crying over it; for he thought to himself, "Perhaps in a few days more only this will be left of her on earth."

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

THE Hon. LOT M. MORRILL, United States Senator from Maine, submitted, February 7, 1873, the following unanimous Report of the joint Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the resolution directing them to inquire into the practicability of securing to authors the benefit of International Copyright:

That, after attentive consideration of the subject-matter, they have found the question of international copyright attended with grave practical difficulties, and of doubtful expediency, not to say of questionable authority.

At the outset of the examination much contrariety of opinion between those who demand the measure as a just recognition of the rights of authors to their works and those representing the manifold interests, occupations, and domestic industries involved in the contemplated legislation became conspicuous; in the prominence and fervor of which the primary motive of any and all contemplated constitutional action, namely, the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts, seemed—unconsciously, of course—likely to be overcast.

On behalf of authors and artists it is insisted that Congress owes it to universal authorship to grant protection to literary and scientific productions, irrespective of nationality, as a matter of justice and right; that the Constitution in this respect, as in the case of domestic authors, is mandatory in its character; that the mode and manner of such protection are prescribed, in terms,

in its provisions; and that none other than the mode prescribed is at all allowable, leaving Congress no discretion in the premises; and that not to legislate in this behalf is to refuse the performance of an obvious duty; and that, having by the law of copyright secured to domestic authors exclusive rights to their works, thereby recognizing the obligation of protection to authorship, Congress stands derelict in the performance of its whole duty in that it has not provided equal protection to universal authorship.

Upon the soundness and cogency of this proposition both American and foreign authors are understood generally to be agreed.

A portion of the American publishers (and they are among the most important) are willing to accede to the demand of the authors, upon the condition of satisfactory stipulations as to the medium of communication with the American public through their publishing houses; while the authors divide on the question of publication, a portion, not illogically, insisting upon the supposed duty of absolute protection without stint, limit, or condition, and a part are disposed to yield to the terms of the publishers; and this adjustment of the matter, it is supposed, would redound to the progress of science and the arts.

A portion, and much the larger number, of domestic publishers are understood to be either hostile to the whole subject of international copyright, or consider all action in regard to it at least of questionable utility to the world of letters, and especially to the progress of science and the arts in this country and among our own people.

The printers, type-founders, binders, paper-makers, and others engaged in the manufacture of books, in large numbers remonstrate against the measure as calculated to diminish the popular sale and circulation of books by raising the price thereof, and thus prejudicial to this branch of industry.

These classes, interests, and industries have been ably represented before the committee, and it may be observed that from these the measure is invested with its special interest, as we are not aware of any popular representation or demand, by memorial or remonstrance, or otherwise, on behalf of either book buyers or readers or the mass of the people.

The protection in his works that the author demands, it will be noticed, is an absolute and exclusive right of property therein. To all such appeals to Congress (without entering into the consideration of such a pretension as an abstract proposition) it is deemed sufficient to reply that the framers of the Constitution did not seem to have apprehended the justice of a claim so extensive on the part of authors, nor to have contemplated the promotion of the progress of science by legislation so partial and engross-

ing as that proposed; but, on the contrary, in the interests of *science*, and altogether subservient to its ends, and as an incentive to authorship to enter into its service, did provide for the enjoyment in their works of an especial privilege for a limited period.

The nature of the prerogative conferred, its use, and limitation are each and all alike inconsistent with the assumed rights; and whatever abstract rights of property the author may be supposed to have in his production, it is clear that his appeal to Congress for protection can be recognized only within the express limitations of the Constitution.

It became important, in the outset, to bring to the examination of the subject a just appreciation of the provision of the Constitution in relation to it. That provision is as follows: Congress shall have power "to promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries."

All opinions, interests, policies, and economies must be brought to the test of this clause of the Constitution, in which the objects and manner of legislation are clearly expressed, and must constitute the rule of action upon the subject.

It may be proper to remark that the policy of national copyright does not necessarily enter into the discussion. It may be assumed that the Constitution not only contemplated such legislation, but that such action is supposed to be consistent with and in the interest of science, and tends to its progress. Nor is it supposed that a question properly arises as to the abstract rights of the author in his writings; neither is it important to consider whether any such rights had been recognized in England or in the American States anterior to the Constitution, as these rights do not constitute the object nor form the basis of that legislative action contemplated in the Constitution.

The constitutional provision is primarily in the interest of science, to which the rights and interests of authors are subordinated, and with which they are not necessarily, in all respects, identical. The very terms of the instrument are a limitation on the power of Congress against the recognition of such absolute right—thus, "by securing for limited times to authors exclusive right to their writings."

The precise question is, Are the terms of the Constitution equally applicable to international copyright, and would their application "promote the progress of science?"

The language is sufficiently comprehensive, doubtless, to include all authorship. But in construing the Constitution reference should be had to the condition of affairs at the period of its adoption, the obvious in-

terest of the framers, as gathered from contemporaneous history, and must receive such construction as will carry out the object in view.

It was, it should be observed, to constitute, in a qualified sense, a government in the interests of the people of the United States. Its framers would not, *therefore*, be expected to be solicitous for the protection of individual rights of those alien to its jurisdiction, nor were the circumstances of their national position such as were calculated to invite to the consideration of topics so eminently international in their operations and relations.

Besides, it must be borne in mind that the Constitution of the United States antedates all legislation upon international copyright in any country; that no thought of such a law was suggested to the convention that framed that instrument. Nor are there to be found in the history of the times such sentiments and opinions upon the subject as to justify a reasonable supposition that such a proposition could have been present in the minds of those who proposed the particular provision. It may be safe, therefore, to assume that international copyright was not within the contemplation of the Constitution, whatever interpretation the language may be thought to be susceptible of. To the argument as to the mandatory character of the provision in the interests of universal authorship, it may be replied that none but citizens could properly lay claim to protection of individual rights, and that, under the Constitution, these were all subordinated to the interests of science, and that whoever invokes the protection of the one must show that his demand is at least compatible with the other.

Whether the Constitution, in what it provides, is to be regarded as mandatory or permissive, confined to American or domestic authors, or extended to foreign or alien, in spirit and intent, it demands, as a primary, essential, and paramount consideration, that whatever is done in its name shall be in the interest of, and for the promotion of, the progress of science. In the presence of this paramount object, all rights of authors, publishers, booksellers, and book-makers must needs take a secondary place in legislative consideration. Nor is it less certain that herein lies the true interest of all genuine authorship. A demand for copyright, national or international, as a measure of protection to a property right simply, necessarily tends to sink the question of science to the level of a commercial transaction, and subjects it to the odium of an indefensible monopoly. It is only when considered as a tribute to genius, the quality and beneficence of whose productions are of universal recognition in the world of letters, that science and authorship become identical. It can not

be doubted that if, under undue stimulus of national copyright, the quality of literary productions should become inferior, commonplace, and baneful, Congress, in the interest of science, could apply the remedy, by limiting the privilege or denying it altogether.

It has even been said that a tendency in this direction already exists; that authors who write for fame are growing fewer, and that writers who write merely for money are multiplying; that, in short, the relations between writers on one side and publishers and the public on the other are growing more mercenary; but this may be said to arise from the fact that the men of true genius who are really entitled to the honorable name of American authors are confounded with men who have no just claim to such a distinction. A question fairly arises and presents itself at the threshold of any proposition of copyright, whether this commercial spirit is identical with and friendly to the progress of science. Considering the undeniable fact that a larger portion of authors are now writing for gain than formerly, and that publishers have come to estimate their writings by the profits likely to accrue from their publications, can it be inferred that from such a union of literature and commerce the highest interests of science are likely to be promoted? Under the influence of this union, can it be denied that a class of books are put upon the market which, in literary quality, bear slight resemblance to the productions of genius, and others, where the attribute of authorship could not well be discovered? and yet these all seek shelter under the law of copyright, and enjoy that exclusive privilege designed alone for genius and the votaries of science.

While, doubtless, the constitutional provision had its origin in the belief in the identity of the interests of authorship and science, it is true that the law of copyright, as it lies in the Constitution, is not the protection of authors as an object—not as the reward of genius independent of science, but as an incentive to the former in the interests of the latter.

Is the question of authorship, in its relations to science, so simple and of such universal application as to be productive of equally beneficial results when subjected to the method of the Constitution as a rule for the different nations and different conditions of letters therein?

Authorship, standing by itself, although the essential element, still it is not all the world of letters, and can not in any measure having at heart the interests of literature be considered as standing independent and by itself. If it be conceded to be the soul of science, it is essential that its productions should be embodied in books, and these involve the varied skill, industries,

and cunning workmanship of many hands, and at last, and not the least important agency, the enterprise, capital, and address of the publisher through whom these books are to be introduced to the reading public.

These interests press upon the legislator at the very threshold of any measure of international copyright, demanding consideration and protection. The right conferred upon the foreign author, a variety of questions of labor, art, skill, and the like, enter into the practical question, and force upon consideration the chances of ruinous monopolies at the world's great book-centres, when competition and a provident share in opportunities would seem to be our necessity.

The question before us is not national copyright, but whether the monopoly of the foreigner in his work, enjoyed in his land, can, in the interests of science, fairly be claimed for him in every land where his work may be printed. The English author has the exclusive privilege secured to him as an incentive to his genius. Does it need the further stimulus of privilege in other lands? And if so, can such privilege be considered as demanded in the interests of literature, or would the fruits of such encouragement compensate for the natural repression of the diffusion of knowledge? Assuming now that the measure can not be commended or rightfully demanded in the interests of authors alone, nor in that of authors and publishers combined, it remains to be seen whether the facts justify the conclusion that the measure can be granted in the interests of science.

It will doubtless be conceded that international copyright would have the effect to enhance the price of books of foreign authorship in the American market, and a tendency and the probable effect to increase the price of the American copyrighted book in our own market.

While it may be conceded that the tendency of the law of copyright is to stimulate the production of literary and scientific works, it is believed to be equally true that one of its effects is to repress the popular circulation of such works. Such, it is apparent, must be its natural tendency, and such is understood to be the fact in this country and in England, especially the latter. As a general proposition, during the existence of copyright, the interests of both publisher and author are best consulted by a small edition and consequent limited circulation, as a larger profit may be realized from a small edition at high rates than the reverse. Notable instances may be given in proof of this general proposition in England and our own country. The average price of seventy-five English books, as given in the table on page 909, is \$5 60, and the average price of the American reprints of the same books is only \$2 40.

THE LOWEST PRICES OF SOME ENGLISH BOOKS REPRINTED IN AMERICA. (THE AMERICAN PRICES ARE GENERALLY TAKEN FROM BIBLIOTHECA AMERICANA, 1820 TO 1866, OR AMERICAN CATALOGUE, KELLY, 1866 TO 1871.)

Name of Author and Title of Work.	English Price.		Price of American Reprint.
	In Sterling.	In Gold.	
Alison, Life of Marlborough	s. d. 30 0	\$7 50	\$1 75
Aytoun, Scottish Cavaliers	7 6	1 87	1 50
Ballads and Fermilian	13 6	3 37	1 50
Browning, Mrs., Poems	30 0	7 50	1 50
Belcher's Mutineers of the Bounty	12 0	3 00	1 50
Burton's Lake Regions of Africa	31 6	8 00	3 50
Bulwer, Athens—its Rise and Fall	31 6	8 00	1 50
Caxtoniana	21 0	5 25	1 75
Novels	2 6	62	50
Lady, Budget, etc.	31 6	8 00	2 50
Braddon, Miss, Girls' Book	4 6	1 25	90
Lovels of Arden	31 6	8 00	75
Conybeare and Howson, Life of St. Paul (complete)	48 0	12 00	3 00
Collins, Poor Miss Finch	31 6	8 00	50c., 1 00
Darwin, Variation of Plants, etc.	28 0	7 00	6 00
Dixon, Free Russia	32 0	8 00	2 00
Fair France	16 0	4 00	1 50
Dickens's Works	132 0	33 00	10 50
Dilke's Greater Britain	28 0	7 00	1 00
Desert of the Exodus	28 0	7 00	3 00
Forster's Life of Landon	28 0	7 00	3 50
Life of Dickens	12 0	3 00	2 00
Guizot's Meditations	10 0	2 50	1 75
Grote's Greece, per volume	8 0	2 00	2 00
Gould's Origin of Religious Belief	15 0	3 75	2 00
Goulbonn's Sermons	6 6	1 62	1 00
Huxley's Lay Sermons	7 6	1 88	1 75
Holland's Recollections	10 6	2 62	2 00
Hemans's Poems	12 6	3 12	75
Hughes, Tom Brown at Oxford	.....	1 75	50
Tom Brown's School-Days at Rugby	.....	1 75	75
Haweis, Music and Morals	12 0	3 00	1 75
Jowett's Plato	120 0	30 00	12 00
Kinglake's Crimea	32 0	8 00	2 00
Kingsley's At Last	20 0	5 00	1 50
Ravenshoe	31 6	8 00	1 75
G. Hamlyn	6 0	1 50	1 25
Layard's Nineveh	36 0	9 00	1 75
Lever, Lord Kilgobbin	31 6	8 00	75
Lockhart, Fair to See	31 6	8 00	75
Munlock, Hannah	21 0	5 25	50
Girls' Book	4 6	1 25	90
Morley's Voltaire	14 0	3 50	.....
Macgregor, Rob Roy on the Jordan	12 0	3 00	2 50
Oliphant's China	21 0	5 25	3 50
Pressense, Early Years of Christianity	12 0	3 00	1 75
Russell's American Diary	21 0	5 25	1 00
Robinson's Diary	36 0	9 00	4 00
Reclus, The Earth	24 0	6 50	5 00
Scheller's, Spectrum Analysis	28 0	7 00	6 00
Speke's Africa	21 0	5 25	4 00
Sacristan's Household	6 0	1 50	75
Stanley's Jewish Church	24 0	6 00	5 00
Eastern Church	12 0	3 00	2 50
Sinat and Palestine	14 0	3 50	2 50
Trollope, Harry Hotspur	9 0	2 25	50
Can you Forgive Her?	12 0	3 00	1 50
Orley Farm	12 0	3 00	1 50
Thackeray's Novels	7 0	1 75	50 to 75c.
Tyndall, Heat	10 6	2 62	2 00
Sound	9 0	2 25	2 00
Tennyson's Works, incomplete	9 0	2 25	*75
The Speaker's Commentary	30 0	7 50	5 00
Vambery's Asia	21 0	5 25	4 50
White's St. Bartholomew	16 0	4 00	2 50
Wilfred Cumbermede (George Macdonald)	31 6	8 00	1 75
Wood's Homes without Hands	21 0	5 25	4 50
Bible Animals	21 0	5 25	4 50
Whympers's Alaska	16 0	4 00	2 50
Wallace's Malay Archipelago	24 0	6 00	3 00
Warren's Ten Thousand a Year	9 0	2 25	1 50
Spencer's Psychology	18 0	4 50	1 50
Essays	16 0	4 00	2 50
Biology	34 0	8 50	5 50
Total	.....	\$409 72	\$176 80

The same general fact may be further illustrated by comparing the prices of English books reprinted here with the prices here of American copyrighted books of a similar character. (See table on next page.)

And a similar effect will be observed by

comparing the home prices of American copyrighted books with their prices when reprinted in England.

The English prices are generally taken from the English catalogue by Sampson Low, 1835-1862. (See table on next page.)

English Reprinted.		American Copyrighted.	
Dixon's Free Russia.....	\$2 00	Bush's Reindeer Dogs, etc.....	\$3 50
Kingsley's At Last.....	1 50	Cox's Winter Sunbeams.....	3 00
Kinglake's Crimea.....	2 00	Motley's Histories.....	3 50
Macaulay's Histories.....	1 50	Bancroft.....	3 00
Hallam.....	2 00	Kirke's Charles the Bold.....	3 00
Dilke's Greater Britain.....	1 00	Prime's Around the World.....	3 00
Dickens's Novels.....	50-75	Hawthorne.....	2 00
George Eliot's Novels.....	75	Mrs. Stowe.....	2 00
Charles Reade's Novels.....	25-75	Bayard Taylor.....	1 50
Robertson's Sermons.....	1 50	Beecher's Sermons.....	2 50
Tennyson's Poems.....	75	Longfellow.....	1 50
Grote's Greece.....	1 50	Draper's Civil War.....	3 50
Hume's England.....	1 50	Hildreth's United States.....	3 00
Muller's Science of Religion.....	2 00	Hodges's Anthropology.....	4 50
Palmer's Desert of the Exodus.....	3 00	Thomson's The Land and the Book.....	5 00
Wallace's Malay Archipelago.....	3 50	Agassiz's Brazil.....	5 00
Froude's Short Studies.....	1 50	Bancroft's Miscellanies.....	3 00
Barrow's Arctic Voyage.....	1 00	Hayes's Arctic Boat Journey.....	2 50
Layard's Nineveh.....	1 75	Stephens's Egypt.....	3 00
Burton's Regions of Central Africa.....	3 50	Stephens's Central America.....	6 00
English Common Law Reports.....	4 00	Wallace's Reports.....	6 00
Exchequer Reports.....	4 00	Blatchford's Reports.....	7 50
Bulwer's Queen's Bench.....	6 00	Abbott's Reports.....	7 50
Bulwer's Common Pleas.....	6 00	Lansing's United States.....	8 00
Equity Cases, M. Rolls.....	6 00	Chancery, S. C't. of New York.....	7 50
Daniel's Chancery Practice, 3 vols.....	15 00	Fisher's Patent Cases, 3 vols.....	75 00
De Witt's Surgery.....	4 00	Ashurst's Surgery.....	6 50
Total.....	\$78 75	Total.....	\$182 00

Name of Author and Title of Work.	American Price.	English Price.	
		In Sterling.	In Gold.
Abbott, Franconia Stories.....	\$0 90	1 0	\$0 25
Learning to Read.....	90	1 6	37
Young Christian.....	1 75	1 0	25
Child at Home.....	1 00	1 0	25
Barnes, Four Gospels.....	3 00	5 0	1 25
Acts.....	1 50	2 6	62
Beecher, H. W., Eyes and Ears.....	1 75	3 6	87
Lectures to Young Men.....	1 50	1 6	37
Royal Truths.....	1 75	3 6	87
Cooper, Novels, per copy.....	75	1 0	25
Curtis, G. W., Lotus-Eating.....	1 50	3 6	87
Nile Notes.....	1 50	1 0	25
Du Chaillu, Country of the Dwarfs.....	1 75	1 6	37
Greenwood, Grace, Forest Tragedy.....	1 25	1 0	25
History of my Pets.....	1 00	1 0	25
Hawthorne, House of Seven Gables.....	2 00	1 0	25
Twice-told Tales.....	4 00	2 0	50
Scarlet Letter.....	2 00	1 0	25
Holmes, O. W., Autocrat of Breakfast-Table.....	1 50	2 6	62
Professor at Breakfast-Table.....	1 75	3 6	87
Elsie Venner.....	3 00	2 0	50
Irving, W., Life of Goldsmith.....	1 50	1 0	25
Life of Columbus.....	1 75	2 6	62
Knickerbocker.....	1 75	1 0	25
Jarves, J. J., Parisian Sights.....	1 50	1 0	25
Longfellow, Miles Standish.....	1 25	1 0	25
Outre Mer.....	1 50	2 0	50
Hiawatha.....	1 50	1 0	25
Poems, complete.....	1 50	2 0	50
Lowell, Bigelow Papers.....	1 50	2 6	62
Vision of Sir Launfal.....	75	2 0	50
Melville, Omoo.....	1 50	1 0	25
Typee.....	1 50	1 0	25
Parton, Life of Greeley.....	2 50	7 6	1 87
Phelps, Rev. A., Still Hours.....	1 00	1 0	25
Prescott, Philip II.....	4 50	5 0	1 25
Mexico.....	6 00	5 0	1 25
Ferdinand and Isabella.....	6 00	5 0	1 25
Robinson, Greek Lexicon.....	6 00	8 6	2 12
Stowe, Mrs., Pearl of Orr's Island.....	2 00	5 0	1 25
Uncle Tom's Cabin.....	2 00	2 6	62
Minister's Wooing.....	2 00	2 6	62
Sedgwick, Miss, Hope Leslie.....	3 00	1 0	25
Linwoods.....	3 00	2 8	66
Married or Single.....	3 00	2 0	50
Sigourney, Mrs., Letters to Mothers.....	1 50	2 0	50
Letters to Young Ladies.....	1 50	1 6	37
Squier, Waikna.....	1 50	1 0	25
Thomson, The Land and the Book.....	5 00	7 6	1 87
Taylor, B., El Dorado.....	2 25	2 0	50
At Home and Abroad.....	2 25	3 6	87
Thoreau, Walden.....	2 00	6 0	1 50
Upham, Professor, Madame Guyon.....	3 00	7 6	1 87
Interior Life.....	1 50	3 6	87
Emerson, R. W., Conduct of Life.....	2 00	1 0	25
Representative Men.....	2 00	1 0	25
English Traits.....	2 00	1 0	25
Total.....	\$121 05	.....	\$36 06

From the foregoing exhibits it would seem clear that the law of copyright, as existing in England and this country, in its practical operations in the two countries, tends unmistakably to check the popular diffusion of literary production by largely increasing the price. This fact could be further illustrated by recurrence to the vast disproportion in the sale of the cheaper reprints and the copyrighted editions in both countries.

England is the great book making and producing nation with which this country has to do, and consequently our interests would be most affected by the proposed measure; and that such measure would not promote the progress of science and the useful arts among the American people is believed to be obvious and to admit of little doubt.

The policy of the different states of Europe as to the protection of literary property varies as to the period of time for which it is granted. In England and in this country the protection is ample. The prevailing policy among the nations seems to be to grant such protection to literary property as is deemed a proper incentive to production.

It is questionable whether any system of international copyright could be proposed which would be equally beneficial and just, owing to the different languages prevailing among them.

In view of the whole case, your committee are satisfied that no form of international copyright can fairly be urged upon Congress upon reasons of general equity or of constitutional law; that the adoption of any plan for the purpose which has been laid before us would be of very doubtful advantage to American authors as a class, and would be not only an unquestionable and permanent injury to the manufacturing interests concerned in producing books, but a hindrance to the diffusion of knowledge among the people and to the cause of universal education; that no plan for the protection of foreign authors has yet been devised which can unite the support of all or nearly all who profess to be favorable to the general object in view; and that, in the opinion of your committee, any project for an international copyright will be found upon mature deliberation to be inexpedient.

GENEVA AND ITS BISHOP.

AMIDST the loveliest of European scenery, over the placid waters of Lake Lemán, arises the solitary castle of Chillon, an emblem of medieval barbarism and crime. It is a mass of stone-work founded upon a rock, and connected by a draw-bridge with the shore. Its irregular towers have neither grace nor beauty; but the most carefully wrought portions of the castle are its dun-

geons. Deep down below the bosom of the lake, arched with massive stones and sustained by huge pillars, in each of which is an iron ring to which its unhappy inmates were chained, these memorable cells held several of the first martyrs of the Swiss reformation. Bonnivard, the victim of the last Bishop of Geneva, here bore his unmerited captivity, and the towers and dungeons of Chillon may still instruct the people of Geneva and Lausanne to oppose the aggressions of the papacy, and defy their ancient tyrants. It was to a traitorous bishop that Geneva once owed a long succession of calamities.

The recent attempt of the Jesuitical faction of the Papal Church to impose a bishop upon the city of Calvin calls up anew the memory of the heroic courage with which its people drove out the last of their papal prelates and won their religious and civil freedom. In the year 1518 Pierre de la Baume was Bishop of Geneva, the last of an unworthy line. The Roman Catholic clergy of Switzerland were noted even above those of all other countries for their moral and mental degradation, and Pierre de la Baume seems to have surpassed the crimes of his fellows. Geneva was then a small yet prosperous town, seated on the extremity of its beautiful lake, fortified by a wall and ditch, and protected only by the valor of its people. It was nominally free. Its bishop was its chief magistrate, and it had not yet joined itself to the league of the Swiss cantons, of which Bern and Fribourg were its nearest neighbors. But its people were already stirred by the general impulse of reform. The crimes of their bishop and his retainers had already awakened their intense rage. The episcopal palace was a scene of revelry and the refuge of the vicious. History relates that the bishop had snatched a young girl from her parents, who were among the most respectable of the citizens, had concealed her in his house, and only released her when an enraged throng of the people threatened to break in the gates. Without shame or remorse, he still exercised his episcopal office, and at last completed his guilt by endeavoring to betray the city into the power of Charles III., Duke of Savoy.

Such was the last Bishop of Geneva, the predecessor of Mermillod. Yet among the courageous and virtuous portion of the citizens were many who had already resolved to expel the infamous prelate, throw off the papal rule, and unite their city to the national league. The nobles and the Roman Catholics opposed the reformers, and defended Pierre de la Baume. The city was torn by civil dissensions. The Duke of Savoy prepared to aid the bishop with a powerful army, and the hopes of the patriots must have sunk low as they beheld the great resources of their enemies, and saw