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Stereotype laws United States.

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STEREOTYPE LAWS UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 16, 1829.

Mr. STRONG, from the Select Committee to which the subject had been referred, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee to which was referred the resolution of the 8th day of December, 1828, to ascertain the probable cost, economy, and advantages of publishing a stereotype impression of the Laws of the United States, submit the following report :

The citizens of the United States are blessed with a free government, with good institutions, and generally with good laws. To possess these laws is their peculiar privilege ; and to understand that they may obey them, is a republican duty, the performance of which should admit of no excuse. The publication and distribution of the laws, their multiplicity and cheapness, are subjects obviously of deep interest. To enlightened men, who have at heart the purity and preservation of our republican institutions, it surely cannot be necessary to urge the importance of a general distribution and knowledge of the constitution and laws of our common country. To deny this necessity will be to affirm that the unlettered and ignorant are capable of self-government, and of appreciating and obeying laws they have never seen, and do not understand.

The signal advantages of stereotype plates are the accuracy and cheapness of subsequent editions of the work. In cases where the first edition pays for the plates, or where the price of the plates is not charged, the actual expense of every new edition, whether small or large, is the cost of the paper and press-work only. The Bible is now afforded at a price so low, that almost every citizen, however poor, may find the means of buying it ; although we have reason to believe that, in all cases, the cost of the plates, and, in many, the profits of the trade, are charged to the purchaser. The laws may be afforded at comparatively the same rate. In truth, they can be given to the public at a cheaper rate than any other book in the market.

The Federal Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the ordinance of 1787, the deeds of cession from the several States, the acts of Congress complete, whether public or private, and all the treaties, conventions, and contracts with foreign powers and with the Indian tribes, may, if done in brier type, be put into about twenty-five hundred pages ; and if the treaties, conventions, and annual appropriation acts be in brier, and all the rest in small pica type, then less than four thousand pages would contain the whole. The cost of a complete set of stereotype plates, whether in brier or pica, will not vary much from \$10,000 ; and a duplicate set, half that sum. In this way, the Government, by keeping possession of the plates, may, at all times, be prepared to supply the current demand with a uniform and

cheap edition of the laws; and if the Government will charge itself with the cost of the plates, and a small commission for procuring the materials and executing the work, a complete copy of the laws may be afforded to the purchaser at the rate of *ten to sixteen cents the hundred pages*. A copy in brier letter, making three volumes, would cost from *three to five dollars*; and a copy in pica letter, &c. making four volumes, would cost from four to seven dollars. Although, ordinarily, the price of a book is no test of its quality, yet, in this case, the price of each copy would vary as the kind and quality of the paper and binding varied, because the manner of executing the work would free it from the tricks of the trade.

In 1815, Congress appropriated and paid \$18,750 for a thousand copies (including the 5th volume) of Bioren & Duane's edition of the laws. In 1828, 550 copies of the 6th volume of the laws were taken of Davis & Force, for which \$2,200 were paid; and 550 copies of the 7th volume in 1828, for which Congress paid \$2,200. At this rate, a thousand complete copies of the present edition of the laws would have cost the Government

One complete set of stereotype plates for the laws,	\$ 10,000	
4,000 copies, of 3 vols., at \$ 1 25 per vol.	15 00	
	\$ 25,000	
4,000 copies, of 4 vols., at \$ 1 00 per vol.	\$ 16,000	
Add the cost of the plates	10,000	
	\$ 26,000	

Thus, it appears that the Government, by stereotyping the laws, may have, besides paying for the plates, 4,000 copies for something less than is now paid for 1,000 copies, and, the plates being already paid for, more than 6,000 copies of every subsequent edition, after allowing a liberal commission for superintending and executing the work.

By the existing law, 11,000 copies of the acts of each session of Congress, including treaties, &c. are published in pamphlet form, the average annual cost of which is about \$2,300. The average annual expense also of publishing the acts and treaties in the newspapers, as required by the same law, is about \$7,000. The amount varies from year to year, as the number of octavo pages is greater or less. Thus the annual expense of publishing the laws in pamphlets and newspapers is about

The laws of each session may be conveniently contained		
in 150 pages, and the plates could not cost more than	\$ 300	
As each page of the pamphlet will not cost to exceed <i>one mill.</i> or 10 cents the 100 pages, hence 60,000 copies,		
at 15 cents each, will be	9,000	
	\$ 9,300	

Upon the policy and utility of publishing the treaties and acts of Congress in the newspapers, as required by law, the committee mean to express no opinion. Probably twice or three times the amount which is now annually expended for this purpose would be deemed of little consequence, compared with the advantages which would result from a general distribution and knowledge of the laws among the people. As it cannot be expected that the Government will distribute, gratuitously, copies of the laws to all the citizens, cheapness becomes an indispensable requisite.

They must be made so cheap that every one can buy. This may be done, and done effectually too, and for less money in the coming twenty years than was expended for promulgating the laws in the last twenty. The great and obvious defect in the present mode is this: while the Government is annually furnishing, gratuitously, a few of the federal and State officers with copies of the laws, the great mass of professional men, of farmers, mechanics, tradesmen—in a word, all others than the favored few are left to find and buy them when and where they can, and at enormous prices.

The bookstore price of a copy of the laws (containing seven volumes,) varies from \$35 to \$40. This is a price which but few men can afford to pay. It is too much for most professional men, and altogether beyond the means of the great body of our citizens.

The high price of these law books is no cause of surprise. Small editions necessarily impose high prices: hence there are few buyers; and this limited sale acts upon the publishers: hence, probably, it is that there are few or no publishers, who will risk a large edition of a voluminous, costly work, in order to reduce the price, by reducing the average of the cost, and of the profits of trade—because the expense would be too great, and often ruinous, should the edition remain unsold for any considerable time. At all events, the fact is incontestible, be the cause what it may, that a complete set of the laws now costs, according to the bookstore price, from \$35 to \$40.

The following general estimates are derived from professional men. The estimate in the first column, it will be perceived, differs from Mr. Howe's letter. He includes the cost of the plates in the cost of the volume.

Cost of the Plates per page.	J. Howe.	A. Chandler.	S. Converse.	N. Hale.	J. Conner.
Brevier letter - - - -	\$ 2 27	2 88	2 62	3 08	2 75
Small Pica letter - - - -	1 55	1 98	1 80	2 06	1 75
Cost per vol. of 800 pp. exclusive of the cost of the plates.					
1st. Bound in calf - - - -	1 38	1 17	1 10	1 27	
2d. Half bound in calf - - - -	1 15	97	97	95	
3d. In sheep binding - - - -	1 15	97	90	95	
4th. Linen backs - - - -	94	81	75	74	

Session laws, 150 pages, done up in the usual form, will be less in proportion than the above work; and we have no doubt may be delivered to the purchaser for 25 cents or less, including a reasonable commission.

The price of the paper upon which the above estimates are founded, varies from \$4 to \$5 50 a ream. To this difference, together with that in the price of the binding, we presume the difference in the estimated prices of the volume is chiefly to be attributed.

A stereotype-plate, of good materials, will give about 200,000 fair impressions. Some say more. The economy of duplicate plates is, to keep the editions uniform, to supply the place of defective or worn out plates, and to save the expense of resetting and casting the text.

The time required to prepare and take an impression from stereotype plates is very little more than it is from moveable types. And, as there will be neither difficulty nor inconvenience in continuing the paging of the text of the laws from one session of Congress to another, until the volume is sufficiently large, much will be saved; because the plates will then be ready, and the demand for the new volume can be immediately supplied, at the cost only of paper, press-work, and binding.

After the plates are prepared, and in possession of the Government, and the price fixed at which the work will be delivered, the number of copies required may be easily ascertained, and the money received and remitted by the postmasters, through the post office. Through the same channel, and under the direction of the Postmaster General, the work may be delivered.

There is much matter in the first volume of Bioren and Duane's edition of the laws which is mere history—increases the size and price of the work—has, or ought to have, no influence in expounding the law, and which, the committee believe, may be omitted, as well on the ground of convenience as of economy. The marginal references may be greatly improved. The indices are voluminous and perplexing. They are made upon wrong principles. An index should be brief and simple: indicating only, rather than repeating, what the text of the law contains.

There is one master principle, lying at the foundation of this Republic, which ought never to be overlooked. It is this: whatever has, at any time, acquired the authority of law, by the action of any Department of the Government, should be given to the People in an official, cheap, and permanent form, that they may know what the law has been and is. We know of but one way in which this can be accomplished, and that is, by publishing, from stereotype plates, a complete body of the law, in chronological order, and without note or comment. We have been brought to this conclusion from the following brief considerations:

First. The classification of the statutes is extremely difficult. Omissions of the law relating to any particular subject are frequent. Few or no works of the kind are perfect. They are never free from uncertainty, and sometimes lead to error.

Second. No part of the law should be hid from the People. To exclude the private, and print the public acts only, is in effect to hide a part of the law from the People. Besides, private acts are not alone interesting to the individuals relieved. They often settle principles, and establish rules, which are exceedingly important to others, and which all ought to have the means of knowing. Moreover, in the wants that existed, and in the kind of relief afforded, it exhibits, in a manner peculiarly its own, no small portion of our domestic history. And, especially, when, by the proposed method of publishing the laws, all of them, complete, to the end of the present Congress, may be given to the public, in an official, convenient, and permanent form, for about § 5 or § 6, it seems difficult to assign a good reason why any of them should be omitted.

Third. The history of our legislation is important to every citizen, whether in public or in private life. A knowledge of this history must be

obtained from the statute books : it can be had no where else ; nor from these books, without great perplexity and labor, unless all the acts are found in them, and arranged in the order in which they were passed. This order is natural. It is the order of time, and leads to certainty.

Fourth. Brief marginal references to the text of the law are allowable, because they are harmless. But historical comments, explanatory notes, and extrinsic matters of any kind, which have never had the authority of law, should be excluded, if for no other cause, simply for the reason that they never were law.

The committee therefore propose the following arrangement of the matter for the work, namely :

- I. The Constitution of the United States.
- II. The Declaration of Independence.
- III. The Articles of Confederation.
- IV. All the acts of peculiar interest, (and which had the force of law,) done by, or under the authority of, the Confederation.
- V. All the acts and resolutions of Congress, (which have had the authority of law,) in chronological order.
- VI. All Treaties, Contracts, and Conventions—
 1. With foreign powers,
 2. With the Indian tribes ;

each class in the like order, but with a title page to each, and each double pagged, so that, when needed, either may be bound separately.

As before indicated, if the treaties, the annual appropriation acts, and perhaps some others, as, for example, the pension and post office acts, be done in brevier letter, and the residue in small pica, the committee believe the whole, to the close of the present Congress, may be contained in *four volumes* of convenient size: In diminishing the bulk of the work, considerable would also be gained by omitting the enacting words subsequent to the first section of every act ; and no good objection occurs why this may not be done.

We have already intimated that the Government should have the possession and control of these plates ; and should, through some honest, competent agent, direct the printing, the price, and the delivery of the work. Some farther elucidation of this part of the subject may be useful.

1st. Of the actual saving to the Government. Suppose it had again become necessary for Congress to procure 1,000 copies of the laws ; and the question should be put, whether they should be procured as heretofore, or be stereotyped and printed under the direction of Congress ? If the 7 vols. were to be purchased at the bookstore price, it is apparent they would cost at least \$ 35,000. But suppose Congress should be able to procure them at \$ 4 a vol. ; then 1000 copies of 7 volumes, at \$ 4, would be

\$ 28,000 00

These 7 vols. (including their voluminous indices) contain 5191 pages, which (according to the estimate of Mr.

Converse of New York) would cost, in stereotype plates,

at \$ 1 80 a page, the sum of

9,343 80

Leaving a balance, after deducting the cost of the plates, of \$ 18,656 20

This balance, therefore, (still taking Mr. Converse's estimate,) would

procure 20,727 volumes, or 2,961 copies, which, at 90 cents the volume; (being \$ 6 30 a copy or set,) would be \$ 18,654 30.

Hence, by stereotyping the laws in the form they now are, the clear gain to the Government would be, 1st, a complete set of the plates; and 2dly, the difference between 1,000 and 2,961 copies, or (allowing the most liberal commission for publishing the work) 1,600 or more complete sets of the laws.

Again: 1000 copies of the present edition of the laws would cost the Government	-	-	-	-	\$ 28,000 00
Now, if they be put into 4, say 5 volumes, and the plates cost, say	-	-	-	\$ 10,000	
And 1000 copies, at \$1 a vol., which is allowing a commission of 50 cents on each copy or set				5,000	
				<hr/>	15,000 00
					<hr/> <hr/>
					\$ 13,000 00

This shows that the Government would get the 1000 copies; get, also, a complete set of plates, and still save \$ 13,000, to be expended in commissions for executing the work; and which, in this way, would supply the public, for years to come, with the laws, at the cost of paper, press-work, and binding.

2dly. The public may be thus supplied without any additional expense, embarrassment, or hazard to the Government; because not a copy need be printed beyond what Congress should want for its own purposes, unless ordered, and the money secured, or even paid in advance.

As the Government, by its agent, will have the possession of the plates, this great end may be easily accomplished, viz: supplying the public demand with the laws.

1st. Through the Post Office. Let the postmasters throughout the United States make it known at their respective offices that a copy of the laws, complete to the end of this Congress, may be had for 5 or \$6, as the fact may be; take a list of the names of those who want them, receive the money, and transmit both to the Postmaster General. The demand in this way would be annually known, as well for the body of the law to this time, as for the laws of each session of Congress hereafter; and thus the printing always limited to the demand. The distribution may be made under the direction of the Postmaster General, by water, to most of the principal towns in the Atlantic States, and by land to the Ohio River, and thence, by water, to the principal towns in the Western States, and from these various points by mail.

And, secondly, By orders from booksellers. The large towns, perhaps, and probably most of the country, would be supplied through these channels. Nor even in this way could high prices be very easily imposed upon the public. The cheapness of the work, the facility of multiplying copies of it, the natural competition of the trade, and especially the fixed and known price of each volume and pamphlet, would interpose strong, and, it is believed, effectual checks against any increase of price beyond a fair and reasonable commission.

But, leaving the manner of distribution to future consideration, the committee, having clearly shown that Congress will save some thousands of dol-

fars by stereotyping the laws, copies of which it may want for its own use and disposal, earnestly recommend that stereotype plates, of the best materials and workmanship, be procured, for a new impression of the Laws of the United States to the end of this Congress, and, also, of the laws of each succeeding session of Congress, the page of like size and type, and so as to be bound into volumes corresponding with the preceding volumes of the series. The page to be the full size of that in which the laws are now published.

The committee are aware that the preparation of a work of this sort for the press requires experience, care, and fidelity. Much of its value will depend upon its arrangement and correctness. No intrinsic difficulties, however, are perceived to lie in the way of its successful execution.

Believing, therefore, that the measure proposed is required, as well on the ground of economy, as of affording, if not the best, at least the certain means of placing within every man's reach, and in an official, permanent form, a full, yet cheap edition of the laws, so that he who has the disposition will have the ability to buy, the committee submit herewith, to the consideration of the House, the accompanying joint resolution.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general
 description of the country and its resources. It
 is followed by a detailed account of the
 various industries and occupations of the
 population. The report then proceeds to
 a description of the climate and the
 various diseases which are prevalent in
 the country. It concludes with a
 summary of the principal facts and
 observations which have been made
 during the course of the expedition.

[To be annexed to Report No. 47.—Stereotyping the Laws.]

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1828.

SIR: The Select Committee on stereotyping the Laws are desirous of ascertaining the following facts:

First. The number of newspapers in which the Laws of the United States have been published officially in the years 1802, 1812, 1822, and 1827, and the gross amount paid therefor for each year?

Secondly. The number of copies of the Laws of each session in the aforesaid years, and their cost.

Thirdly. The number of copies, and the cost thereof, of Bioren and Duane's edition of the Laws of the United States, and also the continuation by Davis and Force.

You will oblige the committee by furnishing them with the above facts, and such other information upon the subject of the inquiry as you may be disposed to give.

Yours, &c.

JAMES STRONG, *Chairman.*

Hon. H. CLAY, *Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1828.

SIR: The Select Committee "on stereotyping the Laws of the United States," respectfully request you to give them such information as you may possess in relation to the following inquiries:

First. What will be the cost of a stereotype plate, *brevier letter*, large octavo page, of the measurement of the page of Bioren and Duane's edition (1815) of the Laws of the United States?

Secondly. The cost of duplicate plates?

Thirdly. How many fair impressions will a plate make?

Fourthly. The cost of a plate, *small pica* letter, and page of the same measurement?

Fifthly. How many pages of small pica would one hundred pages of *brevier* make?

Sixthly. What would be nearly the *actual cost* of a volume of about *eight hundred* of these pages, done in *brevier*, or in *small pica*, on good paper, supposing an edition of from fifty to one hundred thousand copies?

1st. In boards, with strong linen backs.

2dly. In calf binding.

3dly. Half bound in calf, with marbled sides.

4thly. In sheep binding.

Seventhly. What will be the comparative cost between a copy, as above, of two hundred and fifty pages, and one of eight hundred pages? This is intended to have reference to the publication of the Laws of the session of Congress from year to year.

Eighthly. Can the margin for reference be cast separate, so that new marginal references may be put to the old text plates? The probable cost of doing this?

An early answer to these inquiries will oblige the committee, as will also any suggestions upon the subject you may be pleased to make.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES STRONG, *Chairman, &c.*

To ———, &c.

Philadelphia, New York, &c.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

24th December, 1828.

JAMES STRONG, Esq.

Chairman Select Committee H. R.

SIR: I have the honor, in compliance with the request in your letter of the 12th instant, to transmit to you, for the information of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives on stereotyping the Laws, the subjoined statement, which contains answers to the several inquiries proposed by that committee.

1st. That the number of newspapers, in which the Laws of the United States were published, in the year 1802, cannot be ascertained by any data at this or the Treasury Department.

That, in the year 1812, they were published in forty-seven newspapers, at the price of one hundred and fifty dollars for each of the papers; making the aggregate for promulgation of the Laws through the newspapers, in that year, seven thousand four hundred and seventy-three dollars and seventy-three cents.

That, in 1822, they were published in seventy-three newspapers, at ninety-two dollars for each paper; making the aggregate cost for promulgation through the newspapers, in that year, six thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars: and,

In 1827, in seventy-nine newspapers, at ninety-five dollars fifty cents; making the aggregate cost for promulgation through the newspapers, in that year, seven thousand five hundred and forty-four dollars and fifty cents; constituting altogether, for the promulgation of the Laws of the U. States through the newspapers, in the three years referred to, the gross sum of twenty-one thousand seven hundred and thirty-three dollars and fifty cents.

2dly. That, in the year 1802, ten thousand copies of the Laws of the United States were published in pamphlets, which cost eleven hundred and ninety-six dollars.

In 1812, the same number were published in the same way, which cost two thousand one hundred and fifty dollars.

In 1822, eleven thousand copies were published in the same way, which cost two thousand two hundred and sixty dollars; and,

In 1827, the same number, in the same way, which cost two thousand three hundred and ninety-five dollars.

3dly. That, of Bioren and Duane's edition of the Laws, there were published, by authority, one thousand copies, in four volumes, which cost, exclusively of the index, making the fifth, and paid for separately, fifteen thousand dollars; and,

Of the continuation, by Davis and Force, five hundred and fifty copies, which cost two thousand two hundred dollars.

Very respectfully, your most obed't serv't,

H. CLAY.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18, 1828.

In answer to the inquiries in the Hon. Mr. Strong's letter, respecting the expense of stereotyping, &c. I will answer the questions in the order they are asked.

First. The cost of a stereotype plate, in brevier letter, the size of the page of Bioren & Duane's edition of 1815 of the Laws of the United States, would be \$ 2 27.

Secondly. The cost of a duplicate set would be one-half the amount of the first.

Thirdly. As to "how many fair impressions a stereotype plate would make?" Answer, With careful usage and good paper, 500,000 at least.

Fourthly. The cost of a stereotype plate, in small pica letter, size as above, would be \$ 1 55.

Fifthly. "How many pages of small pica would 100 pages of brevier," of the size in question, make? Answer, About 170 pages small pica.

Sixthly. The cost per volume of 800 pages, brevier, would be nearly 106 cts., and of small pica, about 100 cts., supposing the expense of stereotyping, printing, and paper, be laid on an edition of 10,000 copies, allowing the paper to cost \$ 5 50 per ream, royal size. This would be the cost in sheets. It might be enhanced a little by the customary charge for manuscript or foreign languages, (if any,) or side-notes, but this would be trifling.

The cost of binding would be—

1st. In boards, with strong linen backs, 12 cts. per volume.

2d. { Plain calf, edge rolled with gold, two titles, loose backs, 60 cts.
per volume.
{ Plain calf, not edge rolled, nor loose backs, 2 titles, 56 cts. do.

3d. Half bound, in calf, and corners, fine marble paper sides, in the neatest manner of that kind of binding, 33½ cts.—2 titles.

4th. Plain sheep, best American leather, 33½ cts.—two titles, as is the custom for law books.

Seventhly. The comparative cost between a volume of 800 pages and one of 250 pages (same sized type) would be about one-third; that is, the volume of 250 pages would cost, for paper and printing, about one-third as much as one of 800 pages. The binding about the same.

Eighthly. The marginal notes or references cannot be cast separately from the page; but they can be altered or removed altogether, or others substituted, at a small expense, say about 50 cts. to each page that should require such alteration.

Printing and binding being added—

1st.	800 p. brevier type, in boards	-	-	\$ 1 18 per vol.
2d.	do. do.	plain calf	\$ 1 60 and	1 66 do.
3d.	do. do.	calf half, bound		1 40 do.
4th.	do. do.	plain sheep	-	1 40 do.

Volume, same size, small pica, would be about 6 cts. less in each kind of binding.

The foregoing prices are considered as low as they could be done, and done well, for cash.

Very respectfully,

J. HOWE.

NEW YORK, December 19, 1828.

SIR: Your note of the 12th inst. is received, requesting information relative to the inquiries therein contained, on the subject of stereotyping, printing, and binding the Laws of the United States. I answer the same in detail; adding such suggestions and remarks on the subject as occur to me, and which you were pleased to request that I would communicate.

First. What will be the cost of a stereotype plate, *brevier letter*, large octavo page, of the measurement of the page of Bioren & Duane's edition (1815) of the Laws of the United States?

Ans. \$2 88 per page, including the marginal references, which are in nonpareil letter.

Secondly. The cost of duplicate plates?

Ans. Brevier, \$1 44 per page; small pica, 99 cents per page.

Thirdly. How many fair impressions will a plate make?

Ans. It is my opinion that 100,000 impressions may always be calculated upon with certainty: if the plates are used with care, they will sustain more. The American Bible Society has printed 200,000 copies from plates, but they underwent many repairs.

Fourthly. The cost of a plate, *small pica* letter, and page of the same measurement?

Ans. \$1 98 per page.

Fifthly. How many pages of small pica would a hundred pages of *brevier* make?

Ans. One hundred pages of *brevier* would make 186 pages of small pica. There is no standard for the sizes of type: *brevier* of one man's make differs a little in size from that of another's; but the above estimate is about the average.

Sixthly. What would be nearly the actual cost of a volume of about 800 of these pages, done in *brevier* or in small pica, on good paper, supposing an edition of from 50 to 100,000 copies?

Ans. The cost of stereotyping 800 pages on *brevier* letter will be \$2,304; the same on small pica letter will be \$1,584. After which, the books can be produced, from 1,000 to 100,000 copies, on paper at \$4 per ream, as follows:

1st. In boards, with strong linen or cotton backs, at 81 cents per volume.

2d. In calf binding, at \$1 17 per volume.

3d. Half bound, in calf, with marble sides, at 97 cents per volume.

4th. In sheep binding, at 97 cents per volume.

Seventhly. What will be the comparative cost between a copy, as above, of 250 pages, and one of 800 pages, &c.?

Ans. A volume of 250 pages on *brevier* will cost \$720; the same on small pica will cost \$495, for stereotyping. After which, the book can be produced, from 1,000 to 100,000 copies, on paper at \$4 per ream, as follows:

1st. In boards, (as above,) at 35 cents per volume.

2d. In calf binding, at 71 cents per volume.

3d. Half bound, in calf, at 51 cents per volume.

4th. In sheep binding, at 51 cents per volume.

Eighthly. The marginal references cannot be worked separate from the text. New marginal references could be added to the text at any time.

at a cost of about 70 cents per page : it would be necessary to cast them, and solder them permanently to the text in place of the old ones.

Should it be eventually determined on to stereotype and print the Laws of the United States, I beg leave to solicit that your honorable committee would allow me permission to revise this estimate. My present impression is, that it is as low as it can be done ; but reflection on the subject may enable me to alter this proposition, so as more fully to meet the approbation of your honorable committee.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

ADONIRAM CHANDLER.

JAMES STRONG, Esq.

NEW YORK, December 20, 1828.

SIR : Your favor of the 12th was received on the 18th ; and I hasten to answer your several queries, in the best manner in my power.

First. What will be the cost of a stereotype plate, *brevier letter*, large octavo page, of the measurement of the page of Bioren & Duane's edition (1815) of the Laws of the United States ?

Ans. \$ 2 62, or \$ 2 96. The number of ems in the text of a *brevier* page is 2,736 ; to which add the number of ems contained in the notes of the same page, and we have in a page complete 3,488 ems ; which, at 75 cents per 1,000 ems, would make the cost of a single page, on *brevier*, \$ 2 62 ; at 85 cents per 1,000, \$ 2 96.

Secondly. The cost of duplicate plates ?

Ans. Exactly half price.

Thirdly. How many fair impressions will a plate make ?

Ans. This, of course, depends on the quality of the metal, the care and skill with which the plate is manufactured, and with which it is used in obtaining the impressions. A plate may be so manufactured as to give 200,000 impressions, with careful usage ; and yet, if imperfectly manufactured, and carelessly used, it might not afford 50,000.

Fourthly. The cost of a plate, *small pica* letter, and page of the same measurement ?

Ans. \$ 1 80 per page ; reckoning the text (1,456 ems) at 85 cents per 1,000, and the notes, 752, the same as in a *brevier* page, at 75 cents per 1,000 ems. At 95 cents per 1,000 for the text, and 85 cents per 1,000 ems for the notes, the page would cost \$ 2 00.

Fifthly. How many pages of *small pica* would a hundred pages of *brevier* make ?

Ans. Without reference to the notes, 100 pages of *brevier* will make 188 pages of *small pica*. This is the proportion between *brevier* and *small pica*, into a fraction ; and I suppose the *notes*, in *this* case, would not vary the estimate or proportion. It ought to be here remarked, that the *body* of every description of letter varies in size, in different foundries, and in the same foundry. The difference, however, is trifling, and is of no moment, except in nice calculations.

Sixthly. What would be nearly the actual cost of a volume of 800 pages, done on *brevier* or on *small pica*, on good paper, supposing an edition of from 50 to 100,000 copies ?

Ans. The cost of 800 pages, at § 2 62, is § 2,096 ; or, at § 2 96, is § 2,368. The same on small pica is § 1,440, at 85 cents ; or § 1,600, at 95 cents. The press-work, paper, and binding of a volume of 800 pages will be the same done on small pica as on brevier. Making no allowance for the use of plates, the cost per volume of an edition of 1000 copies, done on paper at § 4 50 per ream, would be,

1st. In boards, with linen or cotton backs, 75 cents.

2d. In calf binding, § 1 10.

3d. Half bound, calf, 97 cents.

4th. In sheep binding 90 cents.

Seventhly. What will be the comparative cost between a copy, as above, of 250 pages, and one of 800 pages ?

Ans. The cost of stereotyping will be, of course, as 250 to 800 ; or, at § 2 62 per page § 655 ; or on small pica, § 450. The book can then be manufactured, by the 1000 copies, at, per copy, in boards, 31 cents ; calf, 81 ; half calf, 57 ; sheep, 50.

Eighthly. Old marginal references can be cut from a plate, and new ones cast separately, and then soldered to the plate in place of the old ones, at an expense of 70 or 80 cents per page, *probably*.

I have named two prices for stereotyping, because stereotyping, as well as printing and binding, is done at various prices ; and I should be willing to contract, not only at either price that I have named, but at almost any price, provided that I should only be held responsible for an execution of the work correspondent to the price. I have estimated the price of paper at § 4 50 the ream, and the Laws ought to be printed on paper worth that sum ; but the only safe mode of managing that part of a contract will be to specify a sample. *Prices* are no criterion of *quality*. I should be glad to do the work entire ; that is, to stereotype, print, and publish the Laws, on the most favorable terms, and to execute a contract promptly and faithfully. Permit me to refer you to the Hon. R. J. Ingersoll, Mr. Wirt, Mr. Willey, and Mr. P. Thompson, for any information you may wish concerning me ; and, should the subject be pursued, to ask from you an early communication, stating such information as I should need to enable me to take the requisite steps to procure the contract.

I am, sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

S. CONVERSE.

Hon. JAMES STRONG,

Chairman of the Committee on

Stereotyping the Laws of the U. S.

BOSTON, December 23, 1828.

Hon. JAMES STRONG :

SIR : The following answers to your inquiries are founded, so far as they relate to stereotyping, on information given me by the Agent of the Boston Type and Stereotype Foundry ; as far as they relate to binding, on information received from one of our best bookbinders ; and those which relate to printing, on the usual prices charged on large editions for printing on the power presses in which I am concerned.

First. Cost of stereotype plates, per page of the size of Bioren and Duane's edition of the Laws, in brevier type, with marginal notes in nonpareil, \$3 08.

Second. Duplicate plates, per page, \$1 56.

Third. Cost, per page, of the same size, in small pica type, with marginal notes in nonpareil, \$2 06. Duplicates of do. \$1 08.

Fourth. From one set of plates, in the opinion of the Agent, with good usage. 200,000 copies might be printed. I am not sufficiently informed to judge of the accuracy of this opinion, but I have observed impressions from plates on which some thousands had been printed, and very little change in their appearance, compared with those from new plates, was perceptible.

Fifth. A hundred pages, in brevier type, will take in one hundred and fifty-five pages of small pica, the marginal notes being in type of the same size in each. The brevier type on which these computations are made, I believe is rather smaller than most type of the same denomination.

Sixth. The cost of a volume of 800 pages, in addition to the cost of the plates, supposing a large edition to be printed, including paper at \$4 a ream, (which would be considerably better than that of Bioren and Duane's edition of the Laws,) printing, and pressing between pasteboards, would be 60 cents. To this must be added, for binding in boards, with linen backs, 14 cents.

In calf binding, 67 cents.

In half binding, calf backs and marbled sides, 33 cents.

In full sheep binding, 35 cents.

For stitching in pamphlets of 250 pages, with paper covers, and waste-leaves pasted in, each 2½ cents.

Seventh. The cost of the plates would average, on an edition of 50,000 copies, about 5 cents per volume of 800 pages, and for an edition of 100,000, 2½ cents. Taking the first number, the cost per volume, ready for delivery, would be, bound in boards, with cloth backs, 79 cents;

Bound in calf, \$1 32;

Bound in sheep, or half binding, calf backs, \$1 00;

Pamphlets of 250 pages, stitched, each 23 cents.

These estimates are on the cost of brevier plates. The difference in the cost of plates makes but a small difference per page in so large an edition. A brevier type I should think too small for so large a page.

Eighth. The marginal notes must be cast on the same plates with the text. Alterations can be made only by cutting out the old and soldering in the new, either in type, if the addition is small, or in a piece of plate, if of sufficient magnitude to make it worth the trouble. Alterations of this sort would be charged by the time occupied; and it is difficult to say exactly how much they would cost. To insert a single word would cost, perhaps, 37½ cents; and the average of small alterations, perhaps, 12½ cents per word. The cost would probably be considerably reduced, in case a number of alterations were required, by setting them up in the form required, casting them in one plate, and then cutting the plate into pieces, to be inserted, by soldering, in the places where they are required. The cost in this way would be much less than that of casting new plates. Defective plates are often repaired in this way, though it has not been usual, as far as I am acquainted, to make material alterations for new editions once

stereotyped. For the prices above stated, I believe, the work might be done in the best manner.

Respectfully,

Your very ob't servant,

NATHAN HALL.

NEW YORK, January 7, 1829.

SIR: In answer to your inquiries of the 12th December, which were handed to me on the 5th instant, I would observe,

First. I will stereotype a page of the size you mention, from brevier type for text, and pearl type for notes, at \$2 75 per page.

Secondly. I will stereotype duplicate plates at \$1 23 per page.

Thirdly. From good plates, in the hands of a careful printer, and on good paper, 200,000 fair impressions may be obtained. The American Bible Society have printed upwards of 200,000 copies from some of their plates, and frequently used bad paper.

Fourthly. I will stereotype the same sized page you refer to, from small pica type for text, and pearl type for notes, at \$1 75 per page.

Fifthly. A hundred pages of brevier will make one hundred and seventy pages of small pica.

Sixthly. The cost of stereotyping a volume of 800 pages, from brevier type for text, and pearl for the notes, will be \$2,200 00. From small pica for text, and pearl for notes, \$1,400 00.

The printing of 800 pages will cost \$180 for every 1000 copies.

The paper for 1000 copies, at \$5 50 per ream, will be \$660 00. A sample of the paper spoken of can be seen in Chancellor Kent's Law Lectures, lately published in New York.

The binding in boards, with linen backs, will cost \$187 50 per 1000 copies.

Full calf, law binding, \$750 per 1000 copies.

Half calf, marble backs, \$500 per 1000 copies.

Full sheep, law binding, \$625 per 1000 copies.

Seventhly. I will stereotype, from either brevier or small pica, the 250 pages, from year to year, at the same rates offered in the first and fourth answers.

The printing will cost \$55 80 for 248 pages.

The paper for the same will cost about \$198 00.

The binding for the above will be, in the various kinds of binding enumerated above, \$20 less per 1000 copies.

Eighthly. New marginal references can be cast, and put on the plates, in place of the old, at the rate of \$1 per page. I will take off the old marginal references, and put new ones on, at any time required, at the above price.

Type will be got up of such a kind as will suit the committee, and every part of the work shall be executed in a neat and workmanlike manner.

January 10th. Since writing the above, a bookbinder of the first respectability has offered to bind the work on the following terms.

In boards, with linen backs, for 1000 volumes of 800 pages, \$180.

Full calf, law binding, \$600, do do.

Half calf, marble backs, \$400, do do.

Full sheep, law binding, \$400, do do.

And will make a deduction of 4 cents per volume from the above prices when the volume does not exceed 250 pages.

The advantages derived from stereotyping are, that an edition of 500 copies can be printed on as favorable terms as one of 50,000; thus saving the interest of money otherwise invested in dead stock. According to calculations made, it is cheaper to stereotype a work that will bear an edition of 3000 copies, than to print it from letter-press. In the event of the Laws being stereotyped, and the contract given to me, I should expect cash on the completion of every volume.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES CONNER,

Hon. JAMES STRONG, *Chairman, &c.*