

granted under the laws of the United States to the author or proprietor of any dramatic composition, designed or suited for public representation, shall be deemed and taken to confer upon the said author or proprietor, his heirs or assigns, along with the sole right to print and publish the said composition, the sole right also to act, perform, or represent the same, or cause it to be acted, performed, or represented, on any stage or public place during the whole period for which the copyright is obtained; and any manager, actor, or other person acting, performing, or representing the said composition, without or against the consent of the said author or proprietor, his heirs or assigns, shall be liable for damages to be sued for and recovered by action on the case or other equivalent remedy, with costs of suit in any court of the United States, such damages in all cases to be rated and assessed at such sum not less than one hundred dollars for the first, and fifty dollars for every subsequent performance, as to the court having cognizance thereof shall appear to be just: *Provided, nevertheless,* That nothing herein enacted shall impair any right to act, perform, or represent a dramatic composition as aforesaid, which right may have been acquired, or shall in future be acquired by any manager, actor, or other person previous to the securing of the copyright for the said composition, or to restrict in any way the right of such author to process in equity in any court of the United States for the better and further enforcement of his rights.

Copyright of Dramatic compositions shall extend to prevent unauthorized performances thereof.

Penalty for violation.

Proviso as to rights acquired before copyright is taken out.

APPROVED, August 18, 1856.

CHAP. CLXX.—*An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act requiring Foreign Regulations of Commerce to be laid annually before Congress," approved August sixteenth, eighteen hundred and forty-two, and for other Purposes.*

Aug. 18, 1856.  
1842, ch. 181.  
Vol. v. p. 507.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in addition to the changes and modifications in the commercial systems of other nations, now required by said act, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to lay before Congress annually, within sixty days after the commencement of each ordinary session, as a part of said report, all other commercial information communicated to the State Department by consular and diplomatic agents of this government abroad, or contained in the official publications of other governments, which he shall deem sufficiently important.

Commercial information communicated by consuls, &c., to be reported to Congress.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That to enable the Secretary of State to make said report, it is hereby declared to be the duty of consuls and commercial agents of the United States in foreign countries, to procure and transmit to the Department of State authentic commercial information respecting said countries, of such character, and in such manner and form, and at such times, as said department may, from time to time prescribe; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State in said annual report, to specify the names of any of said officers who may have been remiss in their duty enjoined by this act.

Consuls, &c., bound to procure such information.  
1856, ch. 127,  
§ 22.  
*Ante*, p. 60.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of State be and is hereby authorized and required to appoint one clerk, who shall have charge of statistics in said department, and shall be called "Superintendent of Statistics," and shall receive a salary of two thousand dollars per annum, and shall be allowed as an assistant, one clerk of the third class, which the Secretary of State is hereby authorized and required to appoint.

Superintendent of Statistics.

Assistant.

APPROVED, August 18, 1856.

CHAP. CLXXI.—*An Act making an Appropriation for the Survey of the Southern Boundary Line of Kansas Territory.*

Aug. 18, 1856.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That to enable the President

Appropriation for survey of