

“As regards the passage from Leviticus, the weight of authority most certainly takes it away from the lists of your opponents, and when the question comes to be determined by an enlightened expediency, the voice of experience is altogether in favour of the repeal of the present law.”—Rev. Thomas Nolan, Incumbent of Regent Square, London.

“I do not remember any passages in the records of the early Church which bear on this subject previously to the positive enactment condemning it, but not annulling it in the Council of Eliberis or Elvira in Spain, the most probable date of which is A.D. 306. I am aware that an appeal to that Council was made, not many years ago, in the House of Lords, but I am convinced that too much stress has been laid on the canon of that Council, and that its enactment cannot be regarded as any groundwork on which the Legislature of this country can safely build its own laws on the subject of marriage. If this canon on the subject of marriage be binding on us, the others, as such, must be equally binding; but some there are which are utterly at variance with our views of social duty, and could never find a response in the sentiments of our Church and nation.”—Rev. James Endell Tyler.

“From various considerations, such marriages here have become very common. So far are such marriages from being contrary to public opinion, that people are, on the contrary, inclined to consider them both natural and desirable. We express our conviction that there ought to exist perfect liberty between widowers and the sisters of their late wives to contract such marriage.”—Ducal Saxe-Coburg, Ministry in Council.

“It is my decided conviction, after careful investigation and consideration, that there is no direct scriptural prohibition declaring such marriages unlawful. I do not stop to consider how the repeal of the present law may affect the intercourse between a husband and his wife's sister.