

SHOULD MORAL AND CIVIL LAW AGREE?

EVERY civilized land is governed by law.

Law has been defined as : "A rule of action established by recognized authority to enforce justice and direct duty." Wharton in his Law Lexicon puts it thus : "Laws ; between God and man and between man and man. The former is natural or revealed, the latter national or municipal and international. The national or municipal is divided into constitutional, canon or ecclesiastical, common law and equity. And common law into public or criminal and private or civil." Efforts are continually being made by parliaments to improve their laws. Laws are enacted, which the very next session of parliament repeals or amends. I have seen the statement that the British Parliament during the last three hundred years has passed over four hundred acts concerning the liquor traffic. Most parliaments are weak in their enactments of laws in which morals are concerned. God's laws are right and therefore do not have to be amended. But men legislating on moral questions are so apt to try to compromise ; so to speak, to split the difference between right and wrong. They do not want to give the evil side all the benefit of the law's power, but they say : "We must not go too fast—we must not get ahead of public sentiment." So they withhold the law's strength and power from the side of right-