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THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

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I. INTRODUCTORY.

Ecce iterum Crispinus! The revolving seasons bring round once more this annual subject of discussion. The poet tells us:—"In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love."

This might well be read in view of the persistent agitation on the above subject: "In the Spring a Briton's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of marriage with a deceased wife's sister."

Just now the newspaper agitation is warm, and frequent paragraphs of late have told us of Lord Strathcona's renewed efforts—doughty champion that he is—to remove this injustice to certain colonials. Moreover the daily papers have recently given editorial expression to their sense of the imperial importance of the subject. One of them says:—"The people of Canada, and perhaps of some of the other self-governing colonies also, have a very practical grievance under the law as it stands at present. In 1882 the Dominion Parliament, at the instance of the present Mr. Justice Girouard of the Supreme Court, expressly sanctioned marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and, therefore, for over twenty years all such marriages have been perfectly lawful and valid. The legitimacy of children born under these marriages cannot be questioned in this country, but they would be regarded