

other without any regard or consideration; actuated by the coarsest and most vicious feelings, and every day of life treating one or the other of them as entitled to less kindness or sympathy than a person would shew towards his dog or horse; given this not uncommon state of affairs, and then consider that such relationship may and likely will continue through many years until a tribunal beyond the courts of law cuts the tie and gives relief to one of the parties, and perhaps to both. I do not exaggerate the circumstances to which I have referred. Judges and lawyers know the unfortunate condition in which married life sometimes finds itself. The average citizen knows but little of these matters. What comes to him is only the scandal. The suffering and inner life are not revealed until laid bare in the witness box. And knowing what we do, does it not appear to us as mere words when we hear people argue strenuously that the sanctity of the marriage tie must be maintained at all costs, notwithstanding the fact that the parties bound together by it have so degraded it as to make it the symbol of physical bondage instead of the badge of purity and the emblem of happiness?

A strong argument in favour of divorce is, in my judgment, the danger resulting from legal or other separations without dissolution. The parties to such arrangements are practically neither married nor single. The man who leaves his wife under any circumstances goes back to the world under a cloud, justly or unjustly, according to the facts. His future conduct in time becomes a matter of no great consequence. In many instances, he leaves his country, goes elsewhere, gets an irregular divorce and marries again. So with the wife, who, neglected and forsaken, meets with so little sympathy or assistance even from her own sex, that she too degenerates owing to the want of a sustaining moral force. She may fall into straitened circumstances, temptation may become too strong, and the result is what might naturally be expected. One family legitimate, but deserted and handicapped through no fault of theirs, and two human derelicts, living irregular lives, and perhaps responsible for children who have neither name nor heritage is the story told