

Mark and St. Luke, which is supposed by some to introduce an exception to the indissoluble character of marriage in the event of the commission of adultery by the wife, is really an interpolation, in St. Matthew's gospel, made with the possible intention of making its meaning clearer, but which really had the effect of introducing an exception for which there was no authority in any primitive document, and which creates a variance between it and the other two gospels.

In this country, although, in the main, Christian principles are the foundation of social order, it is necessary for Parliament to take into account the fact that all citizens are not Christians, and many who call themselves Christians are not willing to submit themselves in all respects to what may in fact be the Church's law; and again, many Christians are not agreed as to what the Church's law or the Divine law really is regarding questions relating to marriage and divorce, and therefore Parliament, though desirous of supporting by temporal law in the main the principles of the Christian religion where Christians are in general accord, may, and does, in some cases find itself unable in the circumstances to give its coercive support to all prohibitions of the Christian Church, whether viewed as an aggregate of many differing sects, or as being more or less authoritatively represented by one or more of such sects. Thus, with regard to the question of marriage and divorce, the law of the State in many cases fails to impose any penalty either civil or criminal for breach of what is probably the Church's law, or even, to put it higher, the law of God, leaving the observance or non-observance of that law to the conscience of each individual, rather than compel its observance by the compulsion of temporal law. To take a familiar instance, the marriage with a deceased wife's sister was formerly forbidden both by the law of the Church and by the law of the State, but Parliament has now withdrawn its interdict, but that does not impose on any person any duty or obligation to violate the Church's law, it merely exonerates him from any temporal penalty if he does so. So in the case of divorces granted by Parliament with power to