

bed and board, and did not entitle either spouse to marry again in the lifetime of the other.

This view of the indissoluble character of marriage was based on two grounds; (1) the express declaration of our Saviour Himself, that they whom God had joined no man should put asunder, and (2) on the sacramental character of the marriage contract, as held by some bodies of Christians.

At the great upheaval of the Reformation, marriage, with every other religious question, came into controversy, and the sacramental character of marriage was contested. Those who professed to base themselves on scripture being the advocates, in this particular, for disregarding the words of scripture and the teaching of Christ Himself, and being foremost advocates for granting divorces for causes even more frivolous than any American legislature has as yet favoured. This lax view regarding matrimony which has come down to us from the Puritans of the 17th century still largely prevails among those who have inherited their religious principles.

The difference of opinion as to the sacramental character of matrimony, if the truth were known, was probably largely due to the fact that neither party to the controversy understood how it came to pass that matrimony had come to be called a "sacrament," or in what the sacrament of matrimony really consisted.

The word "sacrament" as everyone knows is not a scriptural term. None of the ordinances of religion are called "sacraments" in the New Testament. How, then, did it come to pass that the word "sacrament" was applied to matrimony, etc.? The word from which sacrament is derived seems to furnish a very plain and easy solution, *sacramentum* was the Roman soldiers' oath of fidelity, and it is easy to see that in the mutual promises of fidelity which the marriage contract expressly or impliedly involves we have the *sacramentum*: Now, this promise according to the word of Christ Himself involved a lifelong obligation, and was irrevocable. To violate it was not to violate an ordin-