

cruelty as without adultery would have entitled her to a divorce *a mensa et thoro*, or adultery coupled with desertion, without reasonable excuse, for two years or upwards. There are four additional crimes named in the Act, each being of a grosser type of the same class, any one of which entitles the wife to an absolute divorce. But although the English Parliament has provided a certain degree of relief, it has been found that only people of means can avail themselves of the remedy, and the poor are still in the same hopeless condition as they were before the Act of 1857 was passed. As a result of public agitation, a Royal Commission was appointed in November, 1909, composed of very eminent men, who have made a thorough enquiry into the whole matter, and who have just lately presented their report, a copy of which I have read with the greatest care. The remedies and provisions suggested are of a very drastic and perhaps far-reaching character. I do not think all of them would be favourably received in this country, so I shall not deal with them in detail. Apart from various grounds on which a separation is recommended, the Commissioners find that in their opinion the law should be amended so as to permit of divorces being obtained on the following grounds: (1) Adultery; (2) Desertion for three years and upwards; (3) Cruelty; (4) Incurable insanity after five years' confinement; (5) Habitual drunkenness found incurable after three years from first order of separation; (6) Imprisonment under commuted death sentence. A number of grounds of a less serious character are named as being sufficient to support a judicial separation. A minority report was made, which I understand has received approval from a very high quarter in England. The minority report is that of the Archbishop of York, Sir William P. Anson, and Sir Lewis T. Dibdin, which differing on several grounds from the majority, agrees with some of the radical changes recommended by a large body of the Commissioners.

Looking at the character of these various grounds suggested for divorce, I am unable to see that any one is much less serious than the others. Adultery on the part of a married woman has