

at large is to consider what is for the best moral interests of the people for whom it legislates; and when from that point of view it comes to consider what is the best kind of marriage to stamp with the sanction of its temporal authority, the question naturally arises, can it frame for itself any better or truer ideal of the marriage relation than that sanctioned by the strictest rule of the Christian religion?

*VI. Present condition, and what is best for the State.*

We have before us the result in England, and in the United States, and in France, of the temporal authorization of the granting of divorce for other causes than adultery. Can it honestly be said that such laws have tended to improve the morals of the people? In the United States it has come to pass that it is computed in that country, one in every thirteen marriages is dissolved by divorce, and in some States, as we have already said, the average of divorces is very much higher. Can this state of things, from any point of view, be said to be desirable? In England the long list of divorce cases before the Divorce Court tells an almost equally ominous tale. One can easily imagine that this multitude of wrecked homes is really a dire injury to the State whose undeniable duty it is to guard, as far as it can, the sanctity of the home and the family. For this reason and quite apart from any religious considerations, it must determine what is for the best interest of the home and family. For those who believe in the sacramental character and indissolubility of marriage, no law of divorce is needed, and even if enacted, for then it would be a dead letter; but for those who do not entertain those opinions, and who think marriage should be made dissoluble, what should be done?

Christian marriage, as we think most people in Canada would be inclined to admit, is even from a purely temporal point of view, the best for the welfare of mankind. Knowing that the marriage tie is indissoluble, it is less likely to be rashly entered upon, self-restraint on the part of husband and wife are more likely to be learnt, the separation of children from one or other of their parents is less likely to take place. The respect of children, for their parents, and the love of parents for their children are less likely to