

## No. 2.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE:

SIR,—The shortest, best and most effectual way of meeting an unwarranted assertion is to deny it point blank. Our marriage laws claim to rest for their foundation upon the Bible. That was the noble aim of those who originally framed them, all honor to them. Through a misapprehension, however, one clause lacked conformity to Scriptural teaching. I deny that the Bible anywhere, either under new or old dispensations, either now or ever did prohibit a man from marrying the unmarried sister of his deceased wife. Let those who think otherwise bring forth their strong reasons, if they can.

It is thought that the annulling of this part of our marriage laws will at once open the door for all sorts of evils. That is a very weak argument. Does it make right safer to fortify it (or to attempt to do so) by continuing the existence of the wrong? It is a strange way to defend that which may be just and scriptural, by building about it a fence that is unjust and unscriptural, and then to assert that if that fence be thrown down all that is right and reasonable and scriptural must follow. Truth is not very highly complimented by such a course of reasoning. I allow that those who look upon the step apparently about to be taken as throwing the door open to immeasurable evils think that this part of our marriage law is perfectly scriptural and right, but this is the very point under dispute. Until this is settled, all argument on this basis goes for nothing.

Yours,

D. V. LUCAS.