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THE DIVORCE QUESTION IN ENGLAND

The question of the marriage of divorced persons has been keenly discussed in Church of England circles in England itself as well as in Canada and in the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.

We have more than once shown in our columns that the only correct position for Christians to take on this matter is that laid down by Our Lord, that marriage once completed is indissoluble except by the death of the husband or wife; for Christ lays it down as the Christian law that what God hath joined together may no man put asunder. It is not within the authority of any legislators, civil or ecclesiastical, therefore, to change this law, though, indeed, Parliaments and Legislative bodies under various names in different countries have presumed to make laws differing from the law of God on this point.

In the Diocese of London, England, at the annual conference, the question was brought up for discussion on May 17th, and after a keen debate it was resolved that no clergyman of the Church should marry any divorced person during the life of the other party.

This resolution is to be adhered to whether the party desiring re-marriage be the innocent or guilty party. This brings the Church of England in London diocese precisely to the position of the Catholic Church; but it is a position in conflict with the British law. The law, however, does not compel a clergyman to marry the person who has been adjudged guilty in a divorce suit, but it provides that he cannot refuse the use of his Church if another clergyman is willing to perform the ceremony. Also, he must perform the ceremony in the case when the so-called innocent divorced party presents himself or herself to be married to a third person.

The resolution as passed was very keenly debated, but was finally carried by the large majority of 169 to 71.

It is said that should the clergy act upon the resolution as passed by refusing to marry the so-called innocent party to the divorcee, they will incur severe penalties under the law, including criminal prosecution for breaking the law. This will follow naturally from the absolute dependence of the Church of England upon the laws of the State. It will be somewhat strange to see the Church as by law established in this position. On one side, it will be endeavoring to follow the law of God as the Catholic Church teaches it, but on the other side the clergy will be harassed by the law of men which obliges them to disobey God. "It is better to obey God than man;" but will they choose their side under this principle of morality? We are strongly of opinion that the law of men will prevail upon most of the clergy in this case, especially as the ecclesiastical resolution which has been passed appears to have no binding force, and will not be backed up by any strong ecclesiastical authority. How can a single diocese of the Church lay down a stringent rule, while all the other dioceses will follow the rule already acted upon, which is to do what the State commands? Further, the clergymen who voted in the minority will not feel themselves bound by an unauthorized decision of the majority. For a while it will probably happen that the minority clergymen will have a large increase in the number of marriages that they will be asked to celebrate but soon, when the majority perceive that they are losing the profits, as well as incurring severe penalties, the resolution so boldly passed will be quietly set aside, and matters will commence to go on pretty much as before, the marriages being celebrated without any disagreeable questions being asked regarding the divorcees.

It is chiefly among the High Church party that the strict law of marriage is

observed, and we may therefore judge from the vote how widespread have the principles of the High Church party become in London. These principles must have spread even more widely than the vote would indicate, for they are favored to a greater extent among the clergy than the laity. If, therefore, the lay vote be left out of the figures given, the proportion of High to Low Church clergy in the diocese of London will probably be considerably greater than the ratio of 169 to 71.

May we expect that the collision which must ensue on the question of a divine law will precipitate a movement on the part of the High Church party toward the Catholic Church which has always maintained the sanctity of marriage?

This is surely among the not improbable possibilities.—Catholic Record.

Regina Notes.

One who visited Regina two years ago and would now come to the city could scarcely believe the very great strides that have been made. Last year the building seemed mostly confined to the southern part of the city. This year, however, the erection of fine houses seems to be in all directions. Smith street has grown very much as well as Dewdney street situated north of the track.

The new Catholic church situated on Searth street is being built, the foundations being already laid. Near the church in the property formerly owned by Mr. Peters, the Sisters of the Mission from Qu'Appelle have opened a convent where day scholars are received. After the holidays the Sisters will be prepared to receive boarders.

From all the surrounding districts come reports saying that the crops never looked better. Warm rains followed by sunshine have made the outlook most encouraging.

The immigration rate for 1905 up to date has been far ahead of preceding years. This year more English speaking people seem to be among the number. The sewers are being placed in the different streets and the amount of men at that work is simply astonishing. No part of the city has grown to such an extent as German town, where most of these foreigners, the laboring class, have built for themselves small but comfortable looking dwelling houses, in almost every case, surrounded by a well kept garden.

The feast of St. Anthony, June 13, was not forgotten by Regina Catholics. Masses at half-past six and eight were well attended in spite of heavy rain.

GENA MACFARLANE

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(Written for the Northwest Review)

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A FEW POINTERS

On arrival at Winnipeg the wisest policy for any new settler to adopt is to remain in Winnipeg for a few days and learn for himself all about the lands offered for sale and to homestead.

There are districts that have been settled for many years in which land can be purchased. Some of this may be unbroken prairie which still possesses all the richness and productive powers of our virgin prairies. Other lands, cultivated and having comfortable farm buildings, are ready for immediate possession.

There are Provincial Government lands, Dominion Government homesteads, and railway lands to be secured.

The price of land varies from \$3 to \$40 per acre. Location with respect to railways, towns, timber and water determines the price of land.

For information regarding homesteads apply at the Dominion Land Office.

For purchase of Provincial lands apply at the Provincial Land Office in the Parliament Buildings.

For C. P. R. or C. N. R. lands apply at the land offices of said railway companies.

For lands owned by private individuals apply to the various real estate agents in the city.

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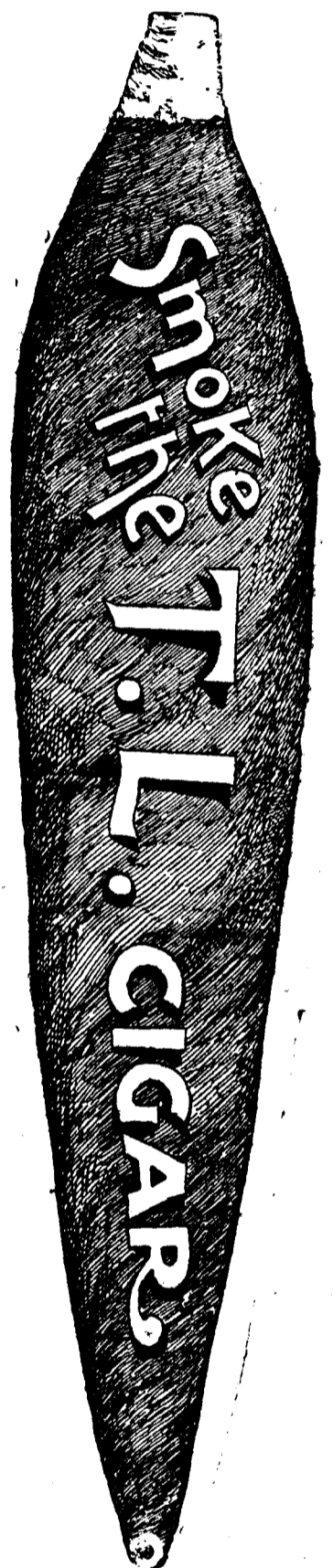
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