

An Act to amend the law relating to Adultery and Seduction.

WHEREAS it would be highly conducive to morality and justice to amend the law relating to adultery and seduction, by making those offences criminal misdemeanors, and taking away the right to recover damages therefor in actions at law; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:

Preamble.

I. From and after the passing of this Act, no action at law shall be prosecuted or brought, nor shall any damages be recoverable for any criminal intercourse or connection with, or any seduction of, any married or unmarried female.

No civil action to lie for adultery or seduction.

10 II. Criminal intercourse or connection with any married woman with her consent shall be and is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, and the persons having such criminal intercourse or connection together shall, on conviction before any Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, which shall alone have jurisdiction over such offence, be

15 liable to imprisonment in any common gaol or prison in the County or Union of Counties where such offence was committed or is tried, with or without hard labor, for any period not less than one year, nor more than three years, and to fine in the discretion of the court before which such offence is tried.

Criminal connection with a married woman to be a misdemeanor.

How punishable.

20 III. The seduction of any unmarried female shall be and is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, and any person who shall seduce any unmarried female shall, on conviction before any Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, which shall alone have jurisdiction over any such offence, be liable to imprisonment in any common gaol or prison in

25 the County or Union of Counties where such offence was committed, or is tried, with or without hard labor, for any period not less than one year nor more than three years, and to fine in the discretion of the court before which such offence is tried.

Seduction of an unmarried woman to be a misdemeanor.

How punishable.

30 IV. Notwithstanding anything herein contained the father of any illegitimate child shall be liable for the maintenance and support of such child in the same manner as if this Act had not been passed.

Fathers of bastards to remain liable for their support.