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## *COURTS FOR THE TRIAL OF MATRIMONIAL CAUSES.*

At the recent meeting of the Ontario Bar Association, a paper was read by Mr. E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., advocating the establishment of a Divorce Court in this Province. There are not a few who appear to be rather adverse to this proposal, on the ground that the establishment of a Divorce Court would have a tendency to increase divorces, and gradually lead to a weakening of the marriage tie, a result not to be desired.

Mr. Johnston, however, dealt with the subject altogether from the standpoint of the desirability of changing the forum and simplifying procedure in divorce cases, in order to give the public greater facilities for procuring divorces. The application to the Dominion Parliament, now the only mode of obtaining the dissolution of marriage in some of the Provinces, is undoubtedly a remedy of which only the comparatively rich can avail themselves.

It would be well to remember, in considering the question of a Divorce Court for Canada, that there are other matrimonial causes besides divorce cases which need a proper tribunal for their disposition; and it is a question deserving of consideration as to whether, altogether apart from the question of divorce, duly constituted matrimonial courts are not now needed in each province of the Dominion.

That such a court has not been established before this in Ontario is due to the fact, that at the time of the first establishment of the Courts of Justice in that Province, matrimonial jurisdiction was, in England, administered in and by the Ecclesiastical Courts; and while the jurisdiction of the English Courts of law and equity was confined on the Provincial