

have too fine an edge to allow them to indulge in so hollow a compromise. Then they have religious (1) scruples against taking out a marriage license, and paying the incidental fee therefor. This objection is alleged to inhere in the view that no ceremony of any kind is necessary to constitute marriage—in other words, they endorse the (to us) very shocking sentiment of the poet who cried: "A curse on all laws but those which love has made." When marriage is so informal a proceeding, we are not surprised to find that divorce may be compassed among them with equal facility. Then, they have other abnormal usages, all nicely justified on religious grounds, which, combined with the facts we have mentioned, constitute these people as a wholly undesirable and impossible graft upon Canadian nationality. It would seem to us to be far better to allow the fertile fields of our great North-West to lie utterly fallow, than to colonize them with the sort of people which Old World countries find unmanageable and are glad to be rid of.

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The rejection by the Boers of the terms of peace offered them by the British Government through General Lord Kitchener seems to have had the effect of destroying the sympathy of one section of their whilom well-wishers in England. The anti-bellum class consisted of two sections or divisions: those who opposed the government in the prosecution of the war for political reasons; and, those who deprecated the conflict from humanitarian considerations—although it would be a mistake to regard the latter as being entirely composed of "peace-at-any-price" men. It is the latter section that has been disaffected by General Botha's rejection of the peace proposals. Even Sir Edward Clarke, who retired from the government because he dissented from the war policy of his colleagues, is reported as declaring that the Boers, in rejecting fair terms of peace, have no right now to expect anything but complete subjugation. The British proposals were substantially as follows: The replacing of the military rule immediately upon the cessation of hostilities by a Crown Colony Administration, consisting of a nominated executive and elected assembly, this to be followed after a period by a representative government. The Boers were to be licensed to have rifles to protect themselves against the natives; the Dutch and English languages were to have equal rights; Kaffirs were not to have the