

If such be the law, is it not reasonable that, so far as it can be, it shall be made accessible to those whose conduct it is intended to regulate, instead of being hidden away in volumes altogether inaccessible to the public generally?

Under the B.N.A. Act the legislative jurisdiction in respect of marriage is divided, while to the Dominion is relegated the power of dealing with the subject so far as the status and right to contract and dissolve marriage is concerned, to the Provinces is committed the power of regulating the persons who may solemnize marriage and matters connected with its solemnization. For the purposes of guarding against improper marriages the Ontario Marriage Act provides (s. 19) that the party applying for a license shall make affidavit that the parties desiring to be married are not related within the prohibited degrees, and on the back of the affidavit is required to be indorsed a table of the prohibited degrees. Hitherto the terms of this table have been practically left to the issuer of the license. The Bill now before the Legislative Assembly proposes to prescribe how this table is to be framed, and it also adds a schedule in which is contained the prohibited degrees as set forth in 28 Hen. 8, c. 7, s. 7. The table set forth in the Bill as the one to be indorsed on affidavits substantially agrees with that which has been actually in use for some time past. It is somewhat more full in its terms than that set forth in 28 Hen. 8, c. 7, but only explicitly states what is by necessary implication included in that statute: see *Buller v. Gastrill* (1722), Gilb. Ch. 156, 158.

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Apropos of "kissing the Book" an amusing story is told in the *London Times*. It appears that the late Lord Iddesleigh, then Mr. Stafford Northcote, having been appointed a magistrate, attended at the Castle of Exeter to be sworn in, and was handed a book which had been of, what the late Mr. Dickens called, the "underdone pie crust" colour. It was tied round with what had been, many years before, red tape. Mr. Northcote did not like the look of it, so he cut the tape, and on opening the book it proved to be a ready reckoner, on which for about thirty years the magistrates had been sworn. Who will say when such a thing is possible that the Scotch form of oath is not preferable?