

This council also forbade tapers to be lighted in cemeteries in the daytime, that the spirits of the Saints might not be disturbed, and required bishops, priests, and deacons to live apart from their wives.

Fact 7. The Church of England nowhere claims authority to prohibit any marriage not contrary to Holy Scripture.

Fact 8. The Roman Catholic Church does not regard this marriage as forbidden in Scripture.

Fact 9. Protestant Dissenters regard the prohibition of this marriage as unscriptural and inexpedient, the deputies of the three denominations having repeatedly petitioned Parliament for its removal.

Fact 10. This marriage may be lawfully celebrated in every country in the world except England and Ireland and one canton of Switzerland.

Fact 11. Neither in this nor in any other country has it been shown that the permission of this marriage has been attended with injurious consequences.

Fact 12. Neither the common nor the statute law of the realm prohibits any marriage of kindred or affinity on any other principle than that of its alleged contrariety to the law of God.

Fact 13. This marriage was virtually permitted in this country before 1835, the absolute prohibition of this marriage in England being a recent innovation, dating only from that year.

Fact 14. No complaint was made of the operation of the law as it stood before 1835.

Fact 15. The Act of 1835 was an unjustifiable compromise, the majority of the House of Commons reluctantly consenting to the future prohibition of marriage with a deceased wife's sister as the means of procuring the legalization of all past marriages of the kind.

Fact 16. The Bench of Bishops on that occasion consented to legalize marriages with a deceased wife's sister