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## Marriage

### and Divorce.

The growing increase of divorce in the United States and the evil effects of this disregard of the sanctity of the marriage tie upon the social and moral life of this country are patent and lamentable facts which have naturally called forth expressions upon the subject from the religious bodies at their annual gatherings. In the Presbyterian General Assembly of the North there was a recommendation from a special committee on the subject of Marriage and Divorce to the effect that Presbyterian ministers be advised to refuse the marriage ceremony, to any person to whom it is refused by the church to which he or she belongs. This recommendation was opposed by prominent members of the Assembly on the ground that it committed the Assembly to the extreme ground of those who recognized no sufficient cause for divorce and thus modify the rule given by Christ. The views of those who opposed the recommendation prevailed and at a subsequent session of the Assembly the recommendation upon the subject was amended so that, while advising each minister under the authority of the Assembly to refuse to unite in marriage any member of any church where marriage is known by such minister to be prohibited by the laws of the church in which such person holds membership, exception to this rule is made if the minister believes that in the peculiar circumstances of a given case, his refusal would do injustice to an innocent person who has been divorced for Scriptural reasons. The question of marriage and divorce has also been discussed by the Baptists and Methodists. The Baptists at Cleveland adopted a resolution in favor of a uniform divorce law based on Scriptural teaching, and the strict adherence of the ministers and churches to that teaching. The Methodist Protestants also, meeting in Washington, endorsed the movement for uniform laws on marriage and divorce. The Methodist Conference at Los Angeles declared adultery the only valid ground for divorce.

## The Budget

### Speech.

The budget speech of Hon. Mr. Fielding, the Finance Minister, delivered in the House of Commons on Tuesday last indicated a prosperous condition of the trade and industries of the country and a full treasury. Mr. Fielding showed that the surplus of income over ordinary expenditure for the year ending with June 1903 was \$14,000,000. For the current year the estimated revenue is \$71,000,000; the ordinary expenditure, inclusive of sinking-fund payments, \$54,500,000, leaving a surplus of \$16,500,000. Capital expenditure for the year is placed at \$11,500,000, leaving a surplus over all current and capital expenditures of \$7,500,000, inclusive of \$2,500,000 added to the sinking-fund. . . . The speech also showed that several changes in the tariff have been decided upon, but most of them not of a very important character. The most important are a reduction of the duty on refined petroleum and on English woollen goods. The duty on oil, which was 5 cents per gallon, is reduced by one half, making it 2½ cents per gallon. Crude petroleum is placed on the free list, and a duty of 1½ cents per gallon is to be given to the producers of crude petroleum in Canada. There are also slight reductions on paraffine and paraffine wax candles, illuminating oils other than petroleum, vaseline and lubricating oils. Mr. Fielding reckons that the reduction of the duty on coal oil will mean a saving to the people at large of \$643,886, while the bounty will involve an expenditure of \$225,789. The difference between these sums represents what is supposed to be saved to the people through the readjustment of the oil duties. . . . The woollen manufacturers of Canada receive additional protection by diminishing the preference on a certain class of British woollens, which has the effect of raising the tariff on these goods from 23½ to 30 per cent. The duty on twine and cordage, under the preference, is also raised from 16½ to 20 per cent. On china and porcelain, under the preference, there is a reduction from 20 to 15 per cent, and on certain kinds of window glass from 13½ to 7½ per cent. The duty on plate glass, not beveled, in sheets or panes not exceeding seven square feet each, is lowered to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. The duty on silk fabrics imported by manufacturers of men's neckware for use exclusively in their own factories is reduced to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. The importation of buggies of less value than \$40, or with tops \$50, also the importation of stallions and mares of less value than \$50 each, is prohibited. Molasses from the West Indies is placed on the free list. The free list is also

extended to include printing presses not made in Canada and a number of other articles, principally articles used as raw materials or in connection with manufacturing processes. With a view to preventing the "dumping" of goods in Canada by foreign manufacturers a special duty will be imposed upon such goods, being the difference between the sacrifice price and the fair market value of the goods. It is provided, however, that on certain articles of iron and steel on which bounties are paid, this special duty is not to exceed 15 per cent *ad valorem*, and in other cases the limit of the special duty is fixed at 50 per cent of the present duty.

## Bonusing

### a College.

There is in the city of St. Thomas, Ontario, a Methodist Ladies' College which it has been proposed shall receive assistance in the form of a bonus from the civic treasury. This proposal has called forth protests from certain quarters outside the denomination, and from action taken the other day at the Montreal Conference it would appear that it is not endorsed by the Methodist denomination as a whole. Those who object to the proposed bonus do so on the ground that it is contrary to the principle, generally received by Protestants, of the separation of Church and State. On the other hand it is said that the action of the St. Thomas city council in offering this bonus to the school is entirely voluntary and is supported by rate-payers of all shades of opinion—even Roman Catholics, on the ground that the presence of the school in St. Thomas is of considerable advantage, financial and otherwise, to the community. Many members of the Montreal Conference, however, took the view that, granting the general willingness of the St. Thomas tax-payers to be assessed for the support of a denominational school, still to accept the bonus would be establishing a precedent which might be embarrassing, and the principle involved could not well be distinguished from that of State aid by which citizens are taxed for the support of religious institutions of which they do not approve. The following motion was submitted to the Conference and carried, at least two-thirds of the delegates supporting it: "That this Conference has learned with regret that in the city of St. Thomas an institution owned and controlled by the Methodist church has been apparently willing to receive a grant of public funds. While not expressing any opinion as to the action of the college authorities in the matter, the Conference places itself on record as deprecating any recognition of the principle of the diversion of public funds contributed under compulsion by members of all religious faiths to the accomplishment of denominational purposes."

## The British

### Licensing Bill

The licensing bill which the British Government has submitted to Parliament is very far from meeting the ideas of temperance reformers, and is accordingly meeting with strenuous opposition. The bill appears indeed to have been drawn much more in the interests of the liquor business than in those of temperance reform. The principal provisions of the bill are as follows:—

1. Licenses are to have security of tenure except when misconduct is proved.
2. Compensation is to be paid when licenses are refused on public grounds apart from misconduct.
3. The compensation fund is to be provided by a tax on the trade, by which the Government expects to raise a million pounds a year. Generally the measure of the compensation will be the difference between the value of the premises with a license and their value without one.
4. The control of licensing matters is taken out of the hands of the local magistrates and placed in the hands of the Quarter Sessions. The former have now the power to refuse the renewal of a license if they consider it 'unnecessary,' under the proposed law they would merely have the power to report to Quarter Sessions, which will decide the matter.
5. Quarter Sessions will also have the sole power to grant new licenses.

Commenting on these provisions the *Montreal Witness* remarks:

"The bill thus aims a single heavy stroke at two principles cherished by English reformers, namely, the reduc-

tion of licenses and local option. It is pointed out that the proposed compensation fund is a very small one. The licenses in the country are worth about £300,000,000 even now their tenure is uncertain. If the bill passes their value will be £600,000,000. This means that the reduction of licenses could only proceed at the rate of one six hundredth each year, which would practically give the trade a right to perpetual existence. Another evil is that a very large proportion of the public houses in England are 'tied houses,' that is to say, they are owned by the brewers or distillers, and are merely 'managed' by their occupants. In the case of a refused license the compensation would go to the already swollen coffers of the rich company, although it would have suffered no injury, as the value of its other houses would have really been enhanced by a reduction in the total numbers."

## Thibet

The trouble with the Thibetans continues to grow more serious. A recent dispatch from the British camp at Chungking, near Gyantse, to the London Times gives the information that Colonel Younghusband's letter demanding that the Amban come to Gyantse with qualified Thibetan representatives, to settle the outstanding difficulties before June 25, has been returned unopened and without comment. This is interpreted to mean that the Thibetans have deliberately chosen war rather than accede to the British demand for a council with a view to settling difficulties. The military situation is said to have undergone considerable change. The plain of Gyantse has been abandoned and the garrisons of the villages attempting to cut the British communications in the neighborhood of Naimi have been entirely withdrawn. The Thibetans are concentrating in the monastery and the town of Gyantse and at other points. Their present intention is said to be to prevent Brigadier-General Macdonald arriving at Gyantse, and possibly their experiences have taught them how to make his advance a matter of greater difficulty than it was the first time. Two small canons were found concealed in Palla village, representing the heaviest ordnance yet found to be used by the Thibetans. The report that they have ever employed leather cannon is entirely incorrect. Their equipment at present ranges from seven centimetre guns to old matchlocks. The latter are rapidly being discarded for Lhasa and Russian rifles. It is reported that 1,000 Russian rifles recently reached Dorjjeft.

## The War

There have been no startling developments in connection with the war in the Far East during the past week. An engagement of some importance took place at Siu Yen on June 7th. The place, which appears to have been taken by the Japanese after some sharp fighting, is described as being of considerable strategic importance, being situated about forty miles northeast of Kaiping and forty miles southeast of Hai Cheng, and commanding the roads to Liao Yang and Mukden. By following this pass, it is said, the Mao Tien Ling pass, a strongly fortified and almost impregnable Russian stronghold will be avoided on the advance of the Japanese army northward. The Russians admit a loss of one hundred killed and wounded in the battle of Siu Yen, and report that the losses of the Japanese were probably greater. The Japanese are reported to have lost two battalions by falling into an ambush on June 9. It appears that they were attempting a flanking movement, and were moving along the Feng Wang Cheng and Hai Cheng road. The Russians had a force strongly posted in a ravine thirty miles south of Hai Cheng. Two battalions of the Japanese advance guard walked into the ambush and were received with such a murderous rifle and artillery fire that only one or two escaped. The Russians then drew off and retired before the superior Japanese force. Rumors are reported from St. Petersburg of a naval battle having taken place off Port Arthur, in which two Russian and four Japanese battle ships were sunk. It is improbable that this report has any solid basis. The Japanese report having buried 704 Russians who fell in the battle of Nan Shan Hill on May 26. From Che Foo it is reported that Chinese arriving from Port Arthur state that a battle was fought June 9th, within seven miles of the inner forts of Port Arthur. The Japanese are said to be building a railroad from Feng Wang Cheng to a point near the mouth of the Yalu river—a distance of thirty miles.