

CARDINAL GIBBONS ON DIVORCE.

Every intelligent Catholic knows what the attitude of the Church towards divorce has always been. But sometimes cases occur which bring the subject anew amongst the topics of the day; and it is meet that the Church's teaching on this point should be re-stated authoritatively. The question having been brought into painful prominence by a recent "marriage scandal," in New York—the Sloane divorce, which was followed by the re-marriage of one of the parties the very same day that a civil judge dissolved the first marriage—The New York World asked Cardinal Gibbons for statement of the Church's position on the subject. His Eminence in reply wrote an article dealing exhaustively with the matter in the plain and luminous style of which his books are admirable samples.

Cardinal Gibbons starts out by asserting that marriage, in the view of the Church, is the most inviolable and irrevocable of all contracts that were ever formed. Every human compact may be lawfully dissolved but this. Nations may be justified in abrogating treaties with each other; merchants may dissolve partnership; brothers will eventually leave the parental roof and, like Jacob and Esau, separate from each other; friends like Abraham and Lot may be obliged to part company; but by the law of God the bond of uniting husband and wife can be dissolved only by death. No earthly sword can sever the nuptial knot which the Lord has tied; for "what God hath joined together let no man put asunder." This teaching of the Church is founded on the teaching of Christ himself, of two of the Evangelists, and of the Apostle to the Gentiles. Our Saviour's teaching regarding divorce was laid down in this well-known passage from Scripture:—

"The Pharisees came to Jesus, tempting him and saying:

"Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? Who, answering, said to them: Have ye not read that he who made man from the beginning, made them male and female? And he said: For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. What therefore that God joined together, let no man put asunder. They say to him: Why then did Moses command to give a bill of divorce and to put away? He said to them: Because Moses by reason of the hardness of your heart, permitted you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and he that shall marry her that is put away committeth adultery."

It is to be noted that Our Lord replied that Moses did not command, but simply permitted, the separation; and then affirmed that such a privilege would not be permitted in the new dispensation; for He added: whosoever shall put away his wife, and shall marry another, committed adultery."

"Protestant commentators erroneously assert that the text justifies an injured husband in separating from his adulterous wife and in marrying again. But the Catholic Church explains the Gospel in the sense that, while the offended consort may obtain a divorce from bed and board from his unfaithful wife, he is not allowed a divorce a vinculo matrimonii so as to have the privilege of marrying another. And the Catholic Church's interpretation is confirmed by the concurrent testimony of the Evangelists St. Mark and St. Luke, and of St. Paul, in his Epistle to the Corinthians. St. Mark says:—

"Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if the wife shall put away her husband and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

The same unqualified declaration is made by St. Luke, who says:—

"Every one that putteth away his wife and marryeth another, committeth adultery; and he that marryeth her that is put away from her husband, committeth adultery."

And St. Paul wrote:—

"To them that are married, not I, but the Lord commandeth that the wife depart not from her husband. And that if she depart, that she remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband. And let not the husband put away his wife."

Clearly, if the case of adultery authorized the aggressive husband to marry another woman, these inspired writers would not have failed to mention that qualifying circumstance.

Alluding to the case of Henry VIII., the learned head of the Church in the United States remarks:—

"Henry VIII. of England, once an obedient son and defender of the Church, conceived, in an evil hour, a criminal attachment for Anne Boleyn, a lady of the Queen's household, whom he desired to marry after being divorced from his lawful consort Catherine of Aragon. But Pope Clement VII., whose sanction he solicited, sternly refused to ratify the separation, though the Pontiff could have easily foreseen that his determined action would involve the Church in persecution, and a whole nation in the unhappy schism of its ruler. Had the pope acquiesced in the repudiation of Catherine, and in the marriage of Anne Boleyn, England would indeed have been spared to the Church, but the Church herself would have surrendered her peerless title of Mistress of Truth."

After pointing out the evils produced by divorce in Ancient Greece and Rome, and in modern countries where divorce is legalized; dwelling upon its terrible effects upon the family life; and describing what glorious work the Church has done by uplifting and dignifying womanhood, His Eminence gives the following statistics regarding the number of divorces granted in the United States from 1867 to 1886, taken from the official report made to Congress in 1889:—

1867.....	9,937
1868.....	10,150
1869.....	10,939
1870.....	10,962
1871.....	11,586
1872.....	12,300
1873.....	13,156
1874.....	13,980
1875.....	14,212
1876.....	14,800
1877.....	15,687
1878.....	16,089
1879.....	17,083
1880.....	19,663
1881.....	20,763
1882.....	22,112
1883.....	23,198
1884.....	22,994
1885.....	23,472
1886.....	25,535

Total..... 206,595

The reckless facility with which divorce is procured in the United States is an evil scarcely less deplorable than Mormonism; indeed it is in some respects more dangerous than the latter, for divorce has the sanction of the civil law, which Mormonism has not. And is not the law of divorce a virtual toleration of Mormonism in a modified form. Mormonism consists in simultaneous polygamy, while the law of divorce practically leads to successive polygamy.

Police Committee Vagaries.

In summing up the peculiar action of the Police Committee in regard to the purchase of uniforms, a daily contemporary makes this statement: Chief Hughes must have a new uniform whether he wants it or not, and whether he wears it or not. This was the decision of the Police Committee yesterday. The Chief sought to persuade the committee not to vote him money for a uniform, and he was not at all pleased when the members of the committee, with the exception of Ald. Jacques, refused to vote as he wanted them to.

It appears there was some difficulty in discovering exactly how many new uniforms were needed. Fifty-six had been ordered; it was then found that only fifty-five were required. On second consideration the discovery was made that fifty-seven was the number; and on third consideration it was found that fifty-eight was more correct. Then Chief Hughes objected to

having a new uniform for himself, and the members of the committee, led by economical Alderman Ames, decided that he must have a new one, whether he wanted it or not, and whether he wore it or not.

Here is a rare example of disinterestedness and generosity combined. The poverty-stricken committee insists on spending one hundred dollars to add a superfluous suit to the Chief's already over-burdened wardrobe; and the Chief grows angry and insists that he has no need of the amount, nor of the uniform, and that he does not desire to accept the favor. It certainly is not because he has any objection to wearing a uniform that he has so declined a new one; nor can it be because an additional suit of clothes would take up too much room; it must necessarily be that he wished to save the city an expenditure that he did not deem timely. We can understand the Chief's ec-

onomic motive—we mean his motive of public economy; but we fail to comprehend the sudden impulse of wanton generosity—with public funds—that seized upon the members of the committee. Possibly they only wished to adhere to precedent, and felt that any such innovation would savor of an infringement upon the rights, or claims, or privileges, or whatever they may be called, of somebody or other.

In fact we have been twisting and turning the problem in our head until we have nearly become distracted, but we cannot reach any satisfactory solution. It is a rare phenomenon to find members of the city Council insisting upon the acceptance of favors or gifts. As a rule they find it difficult to meet the ordinary salaries of employees and the wages of men who have worked hard to earn the few dollars due them. We have never read nor heard of an alderman seeking to force an extra dollar upon a poor day laborer; nor would he likely have to insist very long, as far as the laborer's acceptance of the dollar goes.

It may be that many of the aldermen would like to see the city force from the chief to the last recruit—dressed in a uniform that would reflect credit on the city fathers. This may have had something to do with that peculiar action. In any case we would like to discover some sane and plausible reason for the course pursued by the Committee, and for the Chief's off-handed refusal to be favored. Not being able to find any such by our own lights, we would be thankful to any citizen who could suggest some rational explanation of such wonderfully patriotic conduct.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY AN INVETERATE SMOKER.

The newspapers have already told of President McKinley's trip to Hot Springs, Va., to recover from the effects of excessive cigar smoking. Mr. McKinley's habits as a smoker are interesting.

No man of prominence in American life since General Grant has been so industrious a cigar smoker as McKinley.

He smoked all day long, whether he was disposing of the fate of nations or recreating himself.

The nicotine at last got on his nerves and began to bother him. He used to write with a cigar in his mouth, one side of his face cocked up and one eye closed to avoid the smoke. This trick did not help him. His hand trembled and his signature lost its firmness. His skin became hot and dry and then ran with cold sweat. He danced from nervousness. Sleep deserted him.

At this time a cigar was either between his lips or between his fingers during eight hours out of every twenty-four. He smoked after breakfast until the lunch hour arrived. He smoked after luncheon until dinner-time, and smoked after dinner until he prepared for bed.

The President often smoked eighteen cigars a day. He was tempted to further excesses by the fact that his admirers and flatterers in our new colonies, knowing him to be a great smoker, sent him quantities of cigars.

It is to get rid of tobacco nerves that President McKinley has gone to Hot Springs. His physicians have cut him down to four cigars a day, one after breakfast, one after luncheon, and two after dinner.

Before Secretary Long took him down the Potomac on the Sylph last Fall, when his illness began, the President smoked on an average fourteen cigars a day. He never kept count of them, but a keen observer by watching a newly opened box of cigars disappear was able to estimate after a stated period that the President's consumption of cigars ranged from ten to eighteen.

The President smokes domestic cigars. They would be spurned by some

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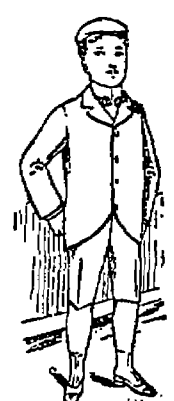
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smokers. They get dry quickly, and bits of tobacco are drawn into the mouth by the smoker, but they are not really as nerve-racking as Havanas, and they let you live longer.

The President discovered this brand when in the House of Representatives. They were sold at a hotel cigar stand, and the taste of this brand has always remained. They come in three sizes, ten cents straight, three for a quarter, two for a quarter.

The enterprising proprietor of this store was so pleased at the popularity of this brand that several years ago he published flaming posters containing a beautiful picture of a delightful-looking cigar, the picture of the then Governor of Ohio, and a legend something like this "Tariff bill" McKinley smoked 100,000 of these when in the House of Representatives."

The President uses the same cigars but the posters have been withdrawn from public view, owing to the indisposition of Mr. McKinley to be used as a cigar store sign.

To the curious it may be explained that the President holds his cigar between his first and second fingers in quite the usual way, and when smoking permits the cigar to seek the corner of his mouth. He is not what would be termed a "chimney." He does not smoke at his cigar furiously for three minutes at a time like General Grant did, but after a puff or two removes it from his mouth. That the President smokes his cigar close to the end is undoubtedly due to the fact that he has no mustache. He dislikes all holders and abominates cigarettes.

The President's fondness for smoking is known among his friends, and as many went to the front and are scattered in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, he has received from them and from entire strangers a never ending stream of cigars. General Wood, formerly his physician, sent a sample of Santiago's produce. One enthusiastic tobacco planter in Porto Rico had five hundred specially large and choice cigars made up with a neat band around each, the band ornamented with the President's picture on the band, the portrait surrounded with the words "America's First Citizen."

General Alger and other friends who have been travelling in our new tobacco growing colonies have sent him great packages of choice but strong cigars.

But the President has not revelled in these presents. He has occasionally smoked a gift cigar, an Egan or an Alger that he felt he could rely on, but his regular smoke is the domestic one sold by the hotel standkeeper. The foreign ones from his friends were usually too strong, while those from strangers were let alone for prudential reasons.

The cigar giver from the colonies has been a source of some expense to the President. There is a duty on cigars, and cigars for the President are not exempt from the operation of the law. As the President was the author of a tariff which put a stiff duty on foreign cigars, he has laughed when the custom house has collected the duty on the presents.

Some of the friends of the President aware of the law have arranged with acquaintances and friends in the port of entry to pay the duty. There is a room full of imported cigars in the White House and most of them will go either to the President's friends or callers or to the Soldiers' Home. The treatment which the President

is undergoing is daily hot baths in the medicinal springs, massage, a light, simple diet and rest.

He takes his bath at 11 a.m. He has the choice of a tub, spout, pack, Turkish, Aix douche, needle, shower, salt, medico-gymnastic, and various other baths. By his physician's advice he takes a simple tub.

He remains in the water for ten minutes. The temperature is gradually raised from 104 to 109. After the bath he spends a quarter of an hour in the sweating room, and then gets weighed.

Carl Hillman, an accomplished masseur and medico-gymnast, later visits the President's rooms in the hotel, and there gives him a course of "needle massage." He treats the President daily.

Mr. McKinley goes to bed at 10 o'clock, and is supposed neither to work or think of politics.

The illness caused by the excessive cigar smoking is aggravated by a slight attack of sciatica. Both these disorders have their seat in the nerves and therefore each tends to make the other worse.

Hot butis and massage will carry off the poisonous substances which have been inflaming his nerves and undermining his health. The rest and quiet will strengthen him and enable him to resist what might be the weakening effects of the other part of the treatment.

He has become so attached to tobacco that it would make him seriously ill to cut off his allowance altogether. Four cigars will do him no harm. He will smoke most of them in the open air and they will not produce nearly as much effect as if they were smoked while he was at work in a closed room.

It will be interesting to know the exact chemical causes of the President's illness. All tobacco contains a liquid, volatile, poisonous alkaloid known as nicotine.

True nicotine, fortunately, is only found in the laboratory of the chemist, but some of the drug is contained in every cigar and every ounce of tobacco that is smoked. One drop of pure nicotine will kill a cat, and many fatal cases have shown that tobacco juice, as expressed or distilled by the heat developed during smoking, is very poisonous. Sonnen-schian relates the case of a German student to whom his friends for a joke gave him a little whiskey in which one of them had dipped a

straw with which he had cleaned his pipe. The victim of the joke died in ten minutes.

Even when it is applied to the skin tobacco will often exhibit its poisonous effects. Hildebrand records the serious illness of a whole regiment of hussars who had attempted to smuggle tobacco, while another writer tells of the fate of a chemist who tested nicotine upon himself. He says that the man touched the stopper of the bottle to his lips, stared wildly, fell to the floor, heaved a deep sigh and died.

Nicotine cannot be regarded as a cumulative poison, but many tarry products which are distilled with it can undoubtedly remain some time in the human body. The process of treatment which the president is now undergoing is intended to remove this poisonous matter by stimulating absorption.

The symptoms of tobacco poisoning are familiar to most people. But the vomiting caused by the smoking of a first cigar is often looked upon as the worst effect. That is not so. The actual physical protest which the poison at first causes soon passes away, but there follow nervous symptoms which persist. Nicotine is a nerve poison. Its effect is to greatly impair the heart's action and the respiratory function. By its action on the cerebrum it causes spasms which sometimes amount to muscular paralysis. The hand of a person who smokes to excess will shake so that his writing will be seriously impaired. He may even be unable to light his own cigar or in any way to guide his hand with certainty.—New York Journal.

There is no joy in this world equal to the happiness of motherhood. A woman's health is her dearest possession. Good looks, good times, happiness, love and its continuance, depend on her health. Almost all of the sickness of women is traceable directly or indirectly to some derangement of the organs distinctly feminine. Troubles of this kind are often neglected because a very natural and proper modesty keeps women away from physicians, whose assistance upon examination and local treatment is generally as useless as it is common. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will do more for them than 99 doctors in 100. It will do more than the hundredth doctor can unless he prescribes it. It is a prescription of Dr. R. V. Pierce, who for thirty years has been chief consulting physician of the World's Dispensary and Invalids' Hotel, at Buffalo, N. Y.

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NEW IDEAS.

A plant support for flowers—especially potted plants—was patented January 25 by Peter Dolph, of Marquette, Mich. Perforated spring ears are attached to the sides of the pot, and into the perforations are inserted the stems of the wire or slat supports.

A machine that weaves a continuous wire fence as it moves alongside is the invention of John W. Allen, of Sipe Springs, Tex. The value of this invention will be appreciated in sections of the country where the fencing of large tracts of land is an important element. Patented January 25.

A grain-shocking machine in which the sheaves are received, as cut, into a tilting trough or frame which is semi-circular in shape so that the bundles are held compactly in the form of a shock. When a sufficient number of sheaves have accumulated the frame is tilted outward depositing the entire shock erect and in regular rows. Patented January 25, by George S. Bingham, Hamilton, Can. (Communication from Messrs. Marion & Maron, Solicitors of patents and experts, New York Life Building, Montreal.)

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