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A DIVORCE COURT IN CANADA.

*An Address given before The Ontario Bar Association, by
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To deal properly with the question, whether we should have a Divorce Court in Canada or remain under present conditions, requires great consideration, and involves discussion of a very difficult subject. It is, perhaps, needless to state that what I shall say to you on the matter is entirely my own personal view, and does not in any sense pretend to be the opinion of the Bar Association of Ontario.

I have been requested to give an address on the subject from an independent standpoint, and having devoted much thought to the many difficulties in the way of a satisfactory solution of the question, I shall endeavour to place before you in a concise and logical form the reasons which have led me to the conclusions which I propose to present to you.

Involving, as it does, issues of various kinds—moral, religious, national and individual—the subject will be more intelligently dealt with by eliminating some phases which have their origin in the minds of certain classes, but which do not extend to the general public. The exigencies of modern social life and the conditions of a highly artificial and complex system of human relationship have practically changed in later days the relative positions of men and women. What may have once been cogent arguments in favour of a law preventing divorce under any or all circumstances, may not be at all applicable to our present conditions.

We find instances by way of illustration in other branches of the law. Combinations which at one time were altogether contrary to law are now, with certain limitations, quite lawful. Acts which