

greater facilities for remedying it. It says much indeed, for the moral character of our people, and their respect for the institution of marriage, that there is not, and never has been, such a demand for the relief which a divorce court would give as to compel public attention, and demand legislative action. Till such a demand does arise it may be the part of wisdom to submit to evils of which we know the existence, rather than hasten to apply remedies which we know will not effect a perfect cure.

This may seem a very lame and impotent conclusion, but let us in our defence recapitulate the conditions before us, and the difficulties by which the subject is surrounded: (1) The very strong view of the indissoluble nature of the marriage tie held by all our Roman Catholic fellow subjects, and by many Anglicans and other Protestants, a view entirely opposed to any relaxation of the existing law. (2) The respect for the religious character of the marriage ceremony held by people generally, and their aversion to anything that would lessen the respect in which it is held. (3) The injustice of a system which gives to the rich what it refuses to the poor, for that is the practical result of the present condition of things. (4) The admitted danger to the morals of the community, to the purity of domestic life, to the happiness of the home and welfare of the children; certain to follow from giving undue facilities for divorce. (5) The object lesson in the results, which can only be described as revolting, of the system now prevailing in the country to the south of us.

With all these considerations before us should not our maxim be, *Quieta non movere*.

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Whilst the proud boast of British justice is that it has the same law for the poor as for the rich, there are some cases where the boast becomes a farce. This was well put by Mr. Justice Maule when passing sentence on a prisoner convicted of bigamy. When asked why judgment should not be passed upon him he excused himself by saying that his wife had run away with a hawker five years before, and he had never heard from her since, and that he had only recently married his so-called second wife.