

# THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER QUESTION.

No. 1.

*TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE:*

SIR,—Your esteemed correspondent from Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Rev. H. Roe, D.D., evidently thinks that the abrogation of the law prohibiting a man from marrying his deceased wife's sister would result in the ruin of all that is sweet and pure and free in happy English homes. That is strange!

How many persons would find it necessary and desirable to take advantage of the changed law? Certainly, not more than one in every one thousand. I think this quite as high an estimate as any one can reasonably make. That leaves nine hundred and ninety-nine homes precisely as they were before. The English home does not, therefore, appear to be in such terrible danger, after all, from the change about to be made, for the change will be made. The majority of the "sovereign people" in both England and Canada, as evinced especially by the votes of their representatives in Parliament, feel that it is wrong for the statute book to prevent even one man in one thousand from doing that of which his enlightened conscience freely approves, that which, as in some cases, he feels would be the very best thing for him to do for his motherless, helpless children, and that of which God's Word does not disapprove, but which it has in past ages really enjoined, as I shall endeavor to show. How such a law ever was enacted in England, especially claiming to be founded on Bible teaching, is a mystery. Perhaps your correspondent can explain.

I am very sorry that he should have been so uncomplimentary to so many ladies. I certainly understand him to assume that the sister of the wife is only prevented by the law as it now exists from actually taking steps to supplant her. Surely he does not mean to say that. Yet he does say it, all the same. If he does actually mean it, then, in the name of all unmarried sisters of married women I will not hesitate to say that his words