

lowering the ideal of Christian marriage. Can it fairly be said that the widespread facilities for divorce which prevail in the United States have improved the morality of its people? Is it not rapidly reducing the marriage tie there to mere licensed concubinage and lowering the stately dignity of wife to that of a concubine, and of husband to that of a paramour? Is it not sapping the morality of the people and teaching them to hold a degraded view of marriage? Is it not endangering the family, the very foundation of a well ordered State? We think it is. So great indeed has the scandal become that there the necessity of retracing their steps is becoming manifest.

MUNICIPAL LAW IN CANADA.

Of the many branches into which the law divides itself none is more important than the one which comes under the general head of "Municipal Law."

In the old days there was some little common law on the subject, together with isolated Acts of Parliament regulating various matters connected with Borough, Parish and Sherrif law in England, and there was occasionally legislation of a somewhat similar character in this country and in the Provinces which finally entered Confederation. Notably in the Province of Upper Canada was the Act of 1 Victoria ch. 21, containing 49 sections, passed March 6, 1838, entitled "An Act to alter and amend sundry Acts regulating the appointing and duties of township officers," which Act is referred to in the Index of the Revised Statutes of Upper Canada, 1843, under the heading, "Parish Officers." The same volume contains Acts as to roads, bridges, highways, etc. Also the Act of July 12, 1819, "to repeal civil laws now in force relative to levying and collecting rates and assessments in this Province (U. C.) and further to provide for the more equal and general assessment of lands and other rateable property throughout this Province."

The first Municipal Act in Upper Canada came into force in 1849, and appeared subsequently in the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada as chapter 54. Some of its enactments were ex-