

ter, discussing this point, said: "It was well there were such differences of opinion, for, if everyone had been of my opinion, they would all have wanted my wife," while his deacon replied, that "if everyone had been of his opinion, no one would have wanted her." These differences of opinion are wise and natural. Let us have Free Trade in these things, coupled with just Protection to the weaker. Let us not interfere where our interference will be evil, or we may find ourselves tripped up at every step. The transgression of Eve seems to be ever before the minds of certain high dignitaries in all ages, and for this alleged sin of our dear old inquisitive grandmother, they would put her daughters into leading-strings for evermore, and say what they should do, or not do, in matters in which they have no concern. A later dispensation has elevated woman to her proper position. It is only under the benign influence of Christianity that woman is accorded her true place. Here she is no longer in the same degree as formerly—the slave of man's wants and of his passions. She is now the equal in, and the helper of, his home; often his guide, always his best counsellor in times of difficulty; his stay in trouble, as I know. In that great trial which came upon so many of us in our burning city, when men's hearts failed them for fear, woman only was equal to the emergency, and bore us up with her strong faith and loving sympathy. Whenever a man is drawn toward such an one, and she reciprocates his love, let not mere sentiment frame a law to prevent their union, for "whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing." There are plenty of *women* in the world, but a *wife* is not so easily to be had. This principle of love, we can talk about it, but who can estimate its strength, its influence for good, when rightly exercised; its influence for evil, when improperly obstructed? George Stephenson, once asked by a lady, What is the most powerful force in all nature? replied: "Madam, it is the eye of a woman for the man she loves. If he go to the uttermost ends of the earth, that eye will bring him back. There is no other force in all nature that will do that." No one may stand between a woman and the man she loves. "Neither life nor death; things present or to come."

Nothing more inexplicable, wonderful, beautiful than this love exists, a grand example of which we have in the character of Evadne, as drawn by Shiel, portrayed by one of the most accomplished of her sex, and witnessed by hundreds in Ottawa last evening—an example which ought to melt the most obdurate woman-hater or woman-enslaver in Parliament. And where such devotion exists, and it only does exist when allied with purity and truth; and where no violation of God's law can be shewn in permitting it to declare itself, then, hon. gentlemen, I believe we would be unjust to our kith and kin, untrue to our own nature, and unfair to those who have entered into the bonds of matrimony, or who desire thus to do, under the relationship contemplated by the framers of this Bill, if we did not at once ordain a law which has only the opposition of mere sentiment, and against which there has not been advanced one argument that I have heard, that can stand the test of reason or the light of Scripture. For these reasons, then, I shall vote for this Bill. I do trust that this House will shew itself abreast of public sentiment by sustaining it heartily; and for myself, I am glad to vote for a Bill that has been introduced by one whom, for the last thirty years, I have known for his good works, and whom, with so many who know him throughout this Dominion, I am delighted to honor and respect.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE—I desire to offer a very few remarks in explanation of the course that I intend to pursue on this occasion. I intend to support the amendment that has been moved by the hon. Senator from Amherst. One hon. gentleman says that the Christian world has had this question before them for 1880 years, and surely the Senate did not want another year after all that time to make up their minds. I shall answer that by saying that it is not to make up my own mind, but to permit those I represent to express their opinion at another meeting of Parliament upon a measure which they certainly did not contemplate would be submitted in the Legislature this session. It is not because I hesitate in my own opinion upon this Bill, but because this question was not before the people of the Province that I represent when I