

study of this subject in its various aspects, and in gathering statistics bearing upon it; and in the March number of *The Princeton Review* he discusses "Some Aspects of the Divorce Question" in a highly interesting and instructive manner. From this, and other sources equally reliable, we present to our readers some facts and statistics which may well startle the virtuous and religious part of the community, and stimulate the friends of the family to united and earnest effort to secure such legislation as the needs of the case require:

CONNECTICUT granted 91 divorces in 1849—about one for each 35 marriages of the year. In 1878 the annual average for 15 years had become 445, or one to every 10.4 marriages. Vermont granted 94 divorces in 1869, or one to every 23 marriages; and 197 in 1878, with a ratio to marriages of one to 14. Massachusetts 243 in 1860, or one to 51 marriages; and 600 in 1878, or one to 21.4. In New Hampshire there were 107 in 1860, and 314 in 1882. This latter year the ratio was one to 19.3; in the former it must have been about one to 31. Rhode Island recorded 162 in 1869, or one in 14 marriages; and 271 in 1882, the ratio becoming one to 11. There were 587 in Maine in 1880, probably one to at most 10, or possibly even 9, marriages. From such reports as other states give, a similar condition of things is found. The ratio of divorces to marriages in Ohio was one to 26 in 1865, while 1,806 divorces were granted in 1882, or one to 16.8 marriages. In the two most populous counties of Minnesota the ratio of divorce suits to marriages rose in ten years in the one county from one to 29.3 to one in 22.9, and in the other from one to 19 to one in 12. For six years the ratio of divorce suits begun in Cook County, Ill. (Chicago), to marriage licenses issued was one to 9.5. In 1882 the ratio of divorces actually granted was found to be one to 13.4, which is almost exactly the ratio for the year before in Louisville. St. Louis granted "about 205 divorces" one year, and in the next 430 suits were entered. San Francisco divorced 333 married pairs in 1880, and 364 the next year. Making the estimate of 9 marriages to 1,000 inhabitants, there were granted in that city in the latter year a divorce to each 5.78 marriages! According to an article in *The New Englander* for January, on "Easy Divorce: its Causes and Evils," by Rev. J. E. Dwinell, of California, the statistics of 29 counties, out of 52 in that state, show that 5,849 marriage licenses were issued and 789 divorces granted, or one divorce to 7.41 licenses. Yet counties in other states than California make as bad or a worse showing. Philadelphia, it is said, granted 101 divorces in 1862, 215 in 1872, and 477 in 1882. There were 212 in New York City in 1870, and 316 in 1882. Complete returns show that New England granted

2,113 divorces in 1878, and probably the number last year was still greater, notwithstanding important legislation which has reduced the number in some of these states. It is safe to say that divorces have doubled in proportion to marriages or population in most of the Northern states within thirty years. No reports as yet have been received from the Southern states.

From a recent report of the "Italian Bureau of Statistics," covering a period of ten years, we learn that the increase for each 1,000 marriages between '71 and '79 in France, was from 4.46 to 9.14; in England and Wales from .98 to 2.17; in Denmark from 36.27 to 40.29. Between 1871 and 1880 Italy remained stationary; Belgium increased from 2.85 to 7.40; Holland from 5.29 to 7.35; Scotland from .11 to .29; Sweden from 4.36 to 7.59; and Roumania from 9.05 to 10.86. Switzerland has the highest figures in Europe, but the increase began earlier, and does not appear in these tables. Her rate is about 46, but in some cantons it is far higher. Other countries report for shorter periods. In Wurtemberg the increase is from 5.67 in 1876, to 12.25 in 1879; in Saxony from 21 in 1875 to 31.42 in 1878; in Thuringia from 14.33 to 17.43 in eight years; and in Baden from 4.53 to 7.31 in seven years; in Alsace-Lorraine from 4.46 in 1874 to 7.85 in 1880; in Hungary from 6.74 in 1876 to 10 in 1880; and in Russia from 1.33 in 1871 to 2.05 in 1877. Other statistics for England and Wales, France and Belgium, cover 40 years, and fragmentary returns from parts of Germany go back about as far, while we have those of Sweden for 50 years. From these facts, as reported both from the Old World and the New, it is apparent that there is a rapidly rising tide of divorce among the progressive nations, though the main swell and crest of this dark tidal wave is in America; and this is nowhere higher than where it breaks into the Pacific.

The divorce question lies in the very centre of the problem of Christian civilization. "Sociology," says an eminent scholar, "is the coming science;" and in its sphere may lie no small part of the next battle ground between Christianity and unbelief. The Family is its fundamental element, and the divorce question is the vital point in the problem of the Family.

The remedy for this alarming evil is: (a) stringent divorce laws, (b) uniform laws in all the states, (c) prohibiting the guilty party from re-marrying, (d) a higher moral sentiment as to the nature and sanctity of marriage, (e) a firm and vigorous administration of the laws in our courts, and of discipline in the church.