

both slight and numerous, the increase of divorces is not marked, and that in New York State, where adultery is the only cause, the increase is greater and steadily growing. The causes vary in the States from adultery to "causes deemed sufficient by the court" as in Washington State, and we find the same want of uniformity in practice as we do in Canada. That is accounted for, to some extent, by the fact that each State deals independently with the subject.

But I think there is a broader ground than mere statistics on which the question can be put. We have not as yet the dense commercial centres we find south of our boundary. There is not that restless and changing spirit which actuates so many American citizens. The substitution of business rush for home ideals, the desire to make money quickly, the mode of living in hotels and rooms, the growing tendency towards travel and variety, impatience of restraint, and perhaps more than we are aware of, the absolute, individual independence of the man and woman, and the freedom of both married and unmarried life, —all these must be important factors in considering the present state of divorce laws and their effect in the United States. Except in the case of very large cities, and looking at the country as a whole, there is no ground for saying that the general morality of the American citizen, farmer, artisan or business man is lower than it is in any other country. We have only to look at such places as Italy or Spain where no divorces are permitted, and where morality is at any rate no higher than it is in America, to realize that divorces are not the cause of the low moral tone of any country.

The want of uniformity in Canadian divorce law is one of the strangest features in an otherwise reasonable Constitution. In British Columbia there is a Divorce Court based somewhat on the principles of the English law, under the Act of 1857. Courts for granting absolute divorces were established in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island before Confederation, and these were continued by sec. 129 of the B.N.A. Act, 1867. Ontario, Quebec and the remaining provinces of the Dom-