

none with which, in the present state of society, it is so difficult to deal.

Those who regard marriage merely as a social contract which may, at any time, be set aside in order to suit the inclination or convenience of the parties, are troubled with no scruples on the subject, and feel no difficulty as to the method of dealing with it. Happily, however, such is not the view taken by the people of this country generally. In practice, at any rate, the religious character of the contract is recognized, and the sanctity of the marriage tie accepted as something which admits of no question.

The extreme view of the indissoluble nature of the marriage contract is, however, not held by all of those who still regard it as of a religious character. Adultery proved against either party would by them be held as good ground for divorce, having also the sanction of Scripture. For instance, when a Divorce Act was sent to the House of Commons from the Senate, the Roman Catholic members voted against it, no matter what the merits of the case might be, while the Protestant members supported it if the action was based upon proved acts of adultery, and there was no evidence of collusion.

The difficult question is, how can any change be made in the present system without causing a gradual loosening of the marriage tie. There can be no doubt, as all enquiry has shewn, that the greater the facilities there are for obtaining divorce, the more numerous will be the demands for it. On the other hand the difficulty of getting a divorce will give time for reflection, it may be for repentance, and thus prevent a separation which would otherwise be inevitable.

But, it will be said, if there are cases when a divorce should be granted the way to obtain it should be open to all—rich and poor alike. In this country, wherever no provincial courts exist, the only proceedings by which a divorce can be obtained are so costly as to be beyond the reach of a poor man—which is a manifest injustice. Considering, however, the frightful results which have elsewhere followed the plan of easy divorces, one might be tempted to say—better submit to the injustice than give