

Country for facilitating the dissolution of the marriage tie. The true remedy for matrimonial unhappiness is the teaching more widely and effectively the sacred and indissoluble character of marriage, and its true sacramental character, and the necessity of entering into it with a serious and due realization of the nature of the obligations it involves, and of their lasting character, and the necessity of exercising mutual tolerance and forbearance and of maintaining that love and affection for each other which should mark matrimonial intercourse not merely during the first weeks of married life but all future time. Perhaps the abandonment of the foolish horseplay which too often follows a marriage might well be dispensed with by all who would exalt and reverence the holy estate of matrimony. The Protestant persuasion that marriage is not a sacrament has helped to rob the marriage tie, in the estimation of many, of its sacred character; and it has come to be regarded even by some who call themselves Christians as merely a contract for sexual cohabitation which ought to be made capable of termination, if not at pleasure, at all events whenever the parties have ceased to have pleasure in each other's society; and the agitation now going on in England is the work of men and women who have lost or perhaps never had any true conception of, or who do not believe in Christian marriage, but who regard marriage from a purely heathen standpoint.

Of course it is useless to hide our eyes from the fact that, although England is still a Christian country and largely governed by Christian ideals, it has, as have all parts of the Empire, a very considerable number of people within its borders who are not Christians and have not Christian ideals, and who not unnaturally agitate from time to time for a legal sanction for their heathen or anti-Christian ideals. But if their demand were acceded to we might have to witness polygamy or polyandry receive the sanction of law. But even admitting that Christianity is not a part of the law of England as the House of Lords has recently determined, and that it is not unlawful to establish societies to controvert its fundamental principles, even on the bare ground of public utility, and a fair consideration of what is best for the moral well-being of society, the State should steadfastly refuse to be a party to