

in a house of ill-fame? Show that the girl was generally loose in her habits, that she consorted with immoral men and women, that she was actually found in a house of ill-fame, that all her neighbours and acquaintances are morally satisfied that she is not a woman of chastity, and yet we are far from the proof that she has been guilty of unlawful sexual intercourse. If this fact can be shown by reputation evidence, then the amendment is useless, for it means nothing more than the present law. If the amendment means direct proof of the fact, it will be quite unnecessary to provide want of chastity as a defence, for the section will, in practice, repeal itself. Surely this important matter has not been considered in the light of experience, in the drafting of the new section. If a girl under sixteen has borne a good character, her life up to that period is short and simple, and it is an easy thing to prove chastity, if proof to the contrary be attempted, whereas it is always difficult to prove unchastity in any case, except the most notorious. Juries believe the honest girl, and disbelieve her traducers. Only the strongest kind of evidence will satisfy either a judge or jury that a girl of the limited age has been leading an impure life, and if we add to this the fact, that a finding for the accused is necessary within the meaning of the word "chaste," the loose woman and the prostitute may reasonably hope for better harvests under prosecutions than heretofore. The Crown may show prostitution by repute and so convict. The subject is denied the same right, and so the unequal combat goes on.

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Again, the proposed new section, 182, abolishing corroboration, must strike one as unfair and dangerous. When it is considered how little corroboration is required, the law might properly be left as it is. And when we go further and find that no woman can recover in a civil action for breach of promise of marriage, unless there is corroboration, but shall be entitled to destroy a man's life and reputation and take away his liberty, without any particle of evidence being required in support of her story, the anomaly becomes very apparent. Judges of vast experience and a keen insight into things human, sharpened by constant judicial touch with everyday life, have laid down the practice which is now almost a principle of law, that in rape, some degree of corroboration is necessary in the interest of justice. The legislator