

form of marriage were at the time Roman Catholics. He therefore, as a preliminary step to applying for a decree of a secular tribunal to declare the alleged marriage null and void, instituted proceedings before a Roman Catholic Archbishop to enquire into the validity of the alleged marriage, and by sentence pronounced by the Archbishop's Vicar General the marriage was declared null and void according to the laws of their church. Mrs. Delpit was cited before this ecclesiastical tribunal and appeared, and objected that it had no jurisdiction, and defended herself subject to that objection. Having thus fortified himself with an ecclesiastical sentence in favour of the invalidity of the marriage, Mr. Delpit commenced proceedings in the Superior Court of Quebec to have it declared that the marriage was null and void.

No reference, therefore, it will be seen, has been made by any provincial court to an ecclesiastical tribunal, as to the validity of the marriage, and as we have on a former occasion said, no such reference could be made in our opinion by a Provincial judge consistently with his duty. Neither does it by any means follow that any Provincial Court will conceive itself bound to adopt the view of the ecclesiastical tribunal as to the invalidity of the marriage. It may well be that even if the ecclesiastical tribunal has correctly interpreted the laws of their Church, (as to which we refrain from offering any opinion) the marriage though void according to the ecclesiastical law is perfectly valid and binding upon the parties according to the law of the land. And while the parties, if Roman Catholics, may have subjected themselves to the spiritual censure of the Church, yet so far as the legal obligations and status both of themselves and children are concerned the marriage may be absolutely valid and binding on all concerned. For many obvious reasons one might well hope that this may prove to be the case. Here, however, we are content to leave the matter for the present, not doubting for a moment that the judiciary of Quebec will deal with it according to law, being swayed neither by ecclesiastical prejudice or popular clamour.

UNLICENSED CONVEYANCERS.

We have received from Mr. Peter McDonald, Barrister Woodstock, a communication dealing at some length with the subject of unlicensed conveyancers. He calls attention, as we have done times without number, to the fact that practitioners are deprived