

will be lowered. The result in the United States is pointed to as evidence of this, and it is said that in that country marriage has lost its significance, and the ideals of home life have been shattered.

In this connection, I would like to deal with the statements so frequently made regarding the divorce laws and methods of the United States. One of the most common arguments used by those opposed to a Canadian Divorce Court is the one I have just mentioned,—namely, that marriage is not only a failure in the United States, but is practically disregarded by a large proportion of the people, and that this condition has been brought about by loose divorce laws and procedure.

Is this allegation correct? If so, it is entitled to great weight. What do the facts and statistics shew? We can arrive at no reasonable conclusion as to the proportion of divorces to marriages. It is assumed by some writers to be as one to fifteen. As to this, it is clear on examining the facts that no such proportion exists, having regard to the method of calculation adopted by such writers. In the first place, there is no record of marriages kept in at least one-half of the States, and no means of finding out the correct figures. There are hundreds of thousands of immigrants to that country every year, mostly married, of whose marriages there is no record, except in Europe, or some other continent. Under what is known as Census Reports all judicial separations, conditional decrees, and all cases in which the marriage is declared a nullity from the beginning are included under the heading "Divorce." And I venture to say from facts which have come before me in the course of my practice, that the number of Canadians who acquire irregular and fraudulent divorce in the United States is ten times greater than the total number of divorces granted in Canada. We should consider the important fact that the comparison is not sound, because in many of the States, divorces may be granted on very trivial grounds, which are not contemplated or advocated in this country. Even with this fact to aid us, it is a singular circumstance that in some States where the causes are