

is bound by a promise made in ignorance of the other's want of personal chastity, and either is released therefrom by the unchaste conduct of the other, unless both parties participated therein.

In many of the Western States matrimony is defined to be a civil contract. In Kansas the age of consent for marriage is only fifteen for males and twelve for females; in Iowa, North Dakota and Utah it is sixteen for males, and in North Dakota thirteen for girls.

Because many of the Western States have not thought it necessary to continue the solemn farce of specifically interdicting wedlock with a grandparent or a grandchild, it does not follow by any means that such alliances can be made. Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington forbid marriage with a step-parent or a step-parent-in-law, and all the Middle and Western States expressly, or by implication, prohibit unions between aunts and nephews, uncles and nieces. Indiana, Ohio, Nevada, Washington, Illinois, Kansas, Wyoming, the Dakotas, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Colorado, forbid first cousins intermarrying. In Alaska marriages are prohibited within the fourth degree of the whole or the half blood.

The children of unions contracted between members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints born on or before January 4th, 1896, were all made legitimate.

As in the South so in the West the legislators try to check miscegenation by statute, forbidding the marriage of whites with negroes, Mongolians or Indians; the Acts vary in different places.

Delaware forbids the marriage of paupers under a penalty; Michigan enacts severe punishment pecuniary and otherwise upon those who marry when afflicted with certain venereal diseases. Minnesota and Kansas follow Connecticut in prohibiting the marriage of any one who is epileptic, feeble-minded, imbecile or afflicted with insanity, if the bride is under forty-five; but no attempts seem to be made to punish those citizens who evade these salutary laws by marrying outside their state. In many states the age for marriage is twenty-one in males and eighteen for females, but generally all that an uxorious school boy has to do to enable him to wed a school girl friend is to induce her to lay aside her skipping rope for a while and fly with him across the border to a more complaisant State.

(Howard, in his splendid *History of Matrimonial Institutions*, cites all the statutes above referred to.)