

and divorce, nor has jurisdiction in divorce been specifically conferred on any court. The provinces, however, have all legislated upon that branch of the subject exclusively assigned to them. At the last session of Parliament a bill was introduced looking to the establishment of the right to judicial divorce, and the provision of courts, law and equipment necessary for the purpose. This Act passed its second reading with a substantial majority, but for some reason was dropped before reaching the final stage.

Until recently, it had been supposed that four only of our provinces had jurisdiction in such causes, namely, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, and these by reason either of this right being specifically reserved to them in the British North America Act of 1867, or by reason of the terms and conditions under which they were admitted to Confederation, whereby certain then existing laws applicable to these provinces were continued. The case of *Watts v. Watts*, decided in 1908 by the Privy Council on appeal from the courts of British Columbia, was the first instance in which the right of the courts of that province to grant a decree of divorce was challenged, and in which the validity of such decree was conclusively upheld.

The Province of Prince Edward Island, since its admission to the Union, has been in the enviable and unique position of having power to grant a judicial decree for dissolution of marriage without having, in fact, granted any, as no decree absolute has yet been pronounced in its courts. This may be taken as evidence as well of the high tone of morality prevailing among its people and the felicity of their domestic relations, as also in refutation of the argument that the very existence of such tribunals tends to promote laxity in morals and multiplicity of suits for freedom from the bond of matrimony. Apart from these four provinces, no others were generally supposed to have the right to adjudicate in their courts on the question of divorce and for lesser matrimonial matters.

Two decisions of the Privy Council last year, namely, *Walker v. Walker* and *Board v. Board*, being appeals from the Superior Courts of Manitoba and Alberta, respectively, finally confirmed the authority of these two provinces and, incidentally, of Saskatchewan,