

Section 9, however, prevents one class of these questions from being raised, by providing that a husband shall not be liable to account for his wife's income and personally received by him with her sanction; although we can conceive a good many nice questions being raised as to what amounts to such sanction on her part.

Section 10 contains a saving of existing settlements, and power to make future settlements, and does away with the doctrine of restraint on anticipation as a bar to the claims of the creditors of the wife, where such restraint is contained in any future settlement.

Section 11 extends the principle of the Infants Settlement Act, 18 & 19 Vic., c. 43, enabling a girl (even if under seventeen apparently) to make binding settlements with the consent of her parents or guardian, and of her intended husband, and saves the husband's covenant for settlement of wife's after-acquired property made before the Act comes into operation.

We have thus endeavoured to give a short sketch of the principal features of this Act, which, however it may be amended, must, if it passes, modify to a great extent, if not revolutionise, the position of married women in England as regards property.—*Solicitors Journal*.

CONFESSION.

A controversy is raging, whether, if the ministers of religion in a gaol receive a confession from a convict, they are bound to communicate it to the public. We cannot understand the affirmative argument. Where lies the moral obligation to divulge any secret, much less a secret revealed in the confidence that it will never pass beyond the ear that receives it? No public interest whatever is to be served by it. A confession has no other advantage than that it relieves certain restless minds from an uncomfortable feeling of doubt. A confession does not strengthen the verdict, nor does unconfession weaken it. It is desirable that a criminal should confess, not for the benefit of the public, but for his own sake, because it is the first step to repentance; but for this purpose the confession is the same, whether made to one or many. As being a question wholly between the criminal and his God, we have no hesitation in asserting that all confessions made to ministers of religion in the performance of their duties should be privileged, like those made to an attorney. It is for the temporal advantage of the criminal, that he is allowed to make a clean breast of it to his solicitor, and it is for his spiritual and eternal advantage that he should do the like to his minister, and it would be humane, right, and politic to encourage him to save his soul by the assurance that he will not thereby destroy his body.—*Law Times*.

AUCTIONEERS AND THEIR CATALOGUES.

A decision, with which auctioneers would do well to make themselves acquainted, has been delivered by Mr. Serjeant Wheeler in the Ormskirk County Court. Mr. Platt an auctioneer of Southport, sued Mr. Bently, of Wigan, for the sum of 13*l.* 10*s.*, the price at which a cask of claret had been 'knocked down' to the defendant's wife at a sale conducted by the plaintiff. It was stated in the catalogue of the sale that 'a hogshead of wine containing 50 dozens' would be put up for auction. The auctioneer said that he would not guarantee quantities, though it could not be shown that this statement was made in the presence of Mrs. Bently; but who is to determine the truth of that extraordinary piece of evidence? unless it was answered by that which followed. Immediately after Mrs. Bently had made an additional bid of 10*s.*, a Dr. Lang offered a higher price for the wine, if the plaintiff would guarantee that there were only 30 dozens in the cask, but this the latter refused to do, and Mrs. Bently was declared the purchaser. Mr. Platt also swore that she did not repudiate the bargain on the day of the sale. However, Mr. Serjeant Wheeler, in giving his judgment, said there was no doubt that the statement in the printed catalogue was *prima facie* the basis of the contract between the parties. That contract admitted of variation, but the variation must be clear and distinct, and so made as to be within the knowledge of the parties at the time the lot was sold. Auctioneers should be exceedingly particular in their printed catalogues, and although it would be hard to hold them to the letter of them, it would be still harder to the public if there were not some degree of faith to be attached to them. It was quite clear an auctioneer must be held responsible for his catalogue, and if he sought to fix a purchaser upon terms different from the catalogue, the evidence must be clear that the difference was brought home to the mind of the purchaser when he made his bid. As it was not proved that that had been done in this case, the verdict must be for the defendant, with costs.—*Law Times*.

SALE OF LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

The select committee to whom the sale of Liquors on Sunday Bill was referred, have taken evidence upon the subject, and have agreed to the following special report:—

"Your committee are agreed that in certain parts of the country, and especially in some of the large towns in the north of England, a considerable feeling exists in favour of further restriction upon the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sundays; that such feeling has been fostered and stimulated by the organisation of temperance societies and by constant efforts on the part of the advocates of further restriction; that the existence of such feeling has been proved to your committee by the evi-