

which the Roman part of the Christian Church in Canada conceives itself to be bound. They are simply like the laws of any other voluntary society, only binding on its own members, as private and domestic laws, not in any way enforceable by temporal penalties of any kind, and not in any way affecting or prejudicing anyone who is not a member of the Roman part of the Church, or in any way bound to conform to its regulations.

The grant of powers of self-government to the Province of Quebec, in common with other Provinces of the Dominion, has excluded from the Provincial sphere, the topic of marriage; but it has power to make laws regarding the solemnization of marriage, and it conceivably might make the decrees of the Council of Trent as to the solemnization of marriage the law of that Province, but having regard to that equity and justice which has usually characterized the Legislature of that Province, it is extremely unlikely that it would ever attempt to coerce the Protestant minority to accept or be governed by the decrees of a part of the Church whose authority they deny.

And though the Legislature has power to regulate the solemnization of marriage, it has no power to give jurisdiction to any Provincial Court to grant divorces or annul *de facto* marriages. Where any Quebec Courts got such jurisdiction it is hard to say. The Code Civil expressly declares marriage is indissoluble s. 185 says "Marriage can only be dissolved by the natural death of one of the parties; while both live it is indissoluble"; and yet we have Quebec Courts assuming to dissolve *de facto* marriages.