

what affects the *Status* of any citizen, especially of such a large number as the membership of the Roman Church, vitally concerns the whole country. "No man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself." The Mormons have permitted plurality of wives. It is a tenet I believe of their Church, and taught in their sacred books, that a man may have a number of wives. Does anyone imagine that it does not concern us, because these laws only govern the members of the Mormon Church? It affects the *Civil Status* of the citizens, therefore it affects and becomes the concern of every citizen. The Roman Church is free, as we are, to make laws to govern its members; as long as those laws do not injuriously affect the *Civil Status* of the people or their morality, it is no concern of ours. When they, however, do not content themselves with disciplining the offending members, even to the extreme penalty of excommunication, but go so far as to *annul the marriage*, then it becomes very much our concern, especially when our Courts ratify the annulment.

No State can long permit the *Civil Status* of marriage to be interfered with for ecclesiastical offences of whatever kind. It is a hard thing to think that pure and highminded young women, who think themselves lawful wives, and their children honourably born in wedlock, may suddenly awake to find themselves dishonoured, and their children illegitimatized, because of an ecclesiastical offence, about which they may, or may not, have been cognizant. It is the duty of the State, it is the duty of every man, irrespective of his religious convictions, to defend them from what is the most poignant grief and shame that any right minded person could suffer. What we must work for is a *one-marriage law for this Dominion*. It is right enough to find out beyond peradventure where the authority and responsibility rest and to what parliament we are to look for redress. Let it be clearly understood, that when that is ascertained, we shall expect that Parliament to act, which the Privy Council shall declare has the power to act. There must be no trifling with this question. Whether the *Ne temere* decree is withdrawn for Canada or not, the authority of the State over marriage must be maintained throughout this whole Dominion beyond dispute, so that, in future, no decree of any foreign power, ecclesiastical or political, shall question the *Civil Status* of those marriages which our State recognizes. Churches and religious communities must be free, of course, to make laws to govern their own members. They must be free to punish by their discipline, and to expel the members who violate those laws; but no Church or religious community can be permitted to question the *Civil Status* of any citizen in this Dominion. Whatever legal steps may be necessary to attain this end must be taken, it matters not what they are so long as the desired end is reached, that is, *one Marriage Law for the whole country*.