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DIVORCE IN CANADA.

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I. *Introductory.*

In considering the question of divorce it must always be remembered that marriage is the basis of the social life of the community. It has for long ages past had both a religious and civil aspect, and it has created a status involving both religious and civil obligations. The State, of course, is only competent to deal with marriage in its civil aspect, but in doing so it cannot properly ignore the moral and religious side of the question. It is its duty, in any laws it may enact respecting marriage, to have regard to what is best for the community from a moral standpoint. It may safely be said that any real and substantial improvement which has taken place in the social life of professedly Christian countries over that of pagan times has been principally due to the fact of the general acceptance of the view that marriage creates a sacred bond which ought not lightly to be cut asunder. This has had an important bearing on the home and family life of the people, and most beneficially so, wherever it has been most strictly observed.

The clamour which is nowadays raised for divorce for all sorts of trivial causes does not, we believe, come from those who have the welfare of the human race at heart, or who seek that which is for the best and highest interest of the nation from a moral standpoint, and which is best for its character and stability.