...S PUTS AN ...ONG DISPUTE

...sentiment with which the unions ...regarded is not the same.

AN OLD DISPUTE.

...he matter which is thus settled has ...n in dispute ever since the reign ...Henry VIII, the defender of the ...h having banned these marriages. ...e law passed at the instance of ...ary was understood to mean that ...union of a man with the sister of ...deceased wife might be invalidated; ...d it was not until 1835 that the unions ...re void in fact. Lord Lyndhurst's ...was not retroactive, and recognized ...rriages made previously while it ...scribed them for the future. It is said that at this time the understanding was that the law should be repealed the next year, but these expectations were not realized.

In 1841 Lord Chorncliffe endeavored to have the lords repeal the act, and the next year the commons defeated a similar bill by a narrow margin. In 1847 a royal commission was appointed to examine the marriage laws, and the result was another bill, introduced in the commons in 1848 by Stuart Wortley. This bill passed its second reading, but did not reach its final stages. Next year it was passed. In 1851 Lord St. Germans introduced the bill in the lords, but it was again defeated. In 1855 the commons again assented to the bill, but the lords remained obdurate. Since then the measure has been pressed, in varied form, a score of times, but always the lords has thrown it out. Sometimes, too, the commons dissented, but usually approved. There was no change in the lords, even in 1879, when King Edward, then Prince of Wales, introduced the bill. On that historic occasion the vote was 191 against to 81 for.

THE DEBATE IN CANADA.

Until 1882 the law in Canada was as the law in England previous to the act of 1835, but in 1880 Desire Girouard (now Mr. Justice and father of Sir Percy Girouard) introduced a measure to make marriage legal with the deceased wife's sister. It was seconded by Mr. Cameron of North Victoria and eloquently argued by them both. The opposition to the measure was based primarily on scriptural grounds, it being held that Leviticus xviii: 18 and xx: 21 forbade the marriage. The very best authority, however, declared the interpretation put upon these passages to be far fetched and unreasonable. The fact that the Church of England prayer book forbade the marriage was held to be due to an imperfect translation from the original Hebrew. It was shown that the Jews never construed the verses to prohibit the marriages. In short, the case was made contemptible on the grounds of scriptural interpretations.

The objections founded on social grounds appear to have been more formidable, if less concrete. Nobody was able to arise and plainly state them, but there were many vague and mournful allusions to the deplorable social conditions that would result in families where a man's sister-in-law was domiciled and his wife living. After all, the chief difficulty was found in the fact that the Roman Catholic church disapproved of the marriages, and that the Church of England forbade them. The house hesitated to take a step that might be construed as an affront to either of these bodies. Difficulty was also encountered in the marriage laws of Nova Scotia, which existed by an imperial act and which it was not in the power of the dominion government to amend. Finally, after great tribulation, the bill worked its way through the house and into the statutes of the country in 1882. That there has been any harm done as a result, there is no evidence to show.

WHERE CANADA LED.

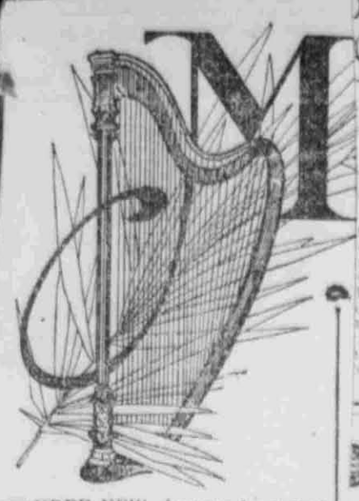
Last year an act was passed by the British parliament recognizing the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister made in Canada or any other British possession that has removed the prohibition. Before this measure became law the children of such unions, while under no disabilities in the colonies, were considered illegitimate in England. Its passage made the path smooth for the act which has just been placed on the statute books.—Mail and Empire.

CONFERENCE PAMPHLET

Now Ready for Delivery

The entire proceedings of the semi-annual conference held in the Tabernacle and Assembly hall Oct. 4, 5, and 6, 1907 is now printed. This is a work that should be in the home of every member of the Church as it contains verbatim reports of all the discourses. Send in your order now as the edition is limited.

Postpaid to any address, 25c.
DESERET NEWS BOOK STORE,
6 Main Street.



THREE NEW choruses for ladies' voices (in three parts) have just been issued from the Deseret News presses. They are composed by Prof. Evan Stephens and made both easy and effective, so as to meet the wants of Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement association choruses as trios. One of the compositions is a good Christmas song, and will be taken up by the tabernacle choir at once. The author has copies on sale.

Prof. Stephens will also take up F. ... Richards' song, "The Guiding