

Faircliff

AL/1504

10, CHARLES ST,
BERKELEY SQUARE. W.

The Earl of Dalhousie presents
his compliments to the Editor,
and would beg the favour of
his publishing the enclosed
correspondence, a copy of which
has been addressed to the
Governor of each State.

London .

Feb: 23 / 83

AL/1505

10, CHARLES ST., BERKELEY SQUARE,
LONDON, W.

February 15th, 1883.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In the last Session of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, a Bill for legalizing Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister was defeated in the House of Lords by a majority of 132-128.

If I am rightly informed, these marriages have now for many years been legal in every part of the United States of America, and you have therefore had ample experience of their effect on social and domestic life, and can say from practical knowledge whether morality has suffered from the fact that in the State of ~~New York~~ Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister is permitted by law.

The opponents of the legalization of Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister in the United Kingdom are fond of referring to America as illustrating in a marked degree the baneful evils which it is alleged must follow if these marriages are recognized as legal.

In order to give your Excellency an example of the statements that are made, I enclose a letter quoted in an article which has recently appeared in one of our leading

periodicals, "The Church Quarterly Review," which is being extensively circulated. I am anxious to ascertain whether such assertions as those contained in this letter are generally supported by facts, or whether the writer has drawn his startling inferences from an isolated case.

May I ask that your Excellency will kindly honour me with such information as you can conveniently give as to how the law which permits Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister has worked in the State of ~~New York~~. My reason for making this request is, that I hope to introduce into the House of Lords again this year a Bill similar to the one which so nearly became law during the last Session of Parliament, and am naturally concerned to have all the knowledge of the practical working in America of a law similar to the one which I am anxious to persuade the Legislature to adopt in this country. I trust, therefore, your Excellency will forgive me for troubling you in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Your EXCELLENCY,

Very faithfully and obediently yours,

DALHOUSIE.

To His EXCELLENCY, the Governor of the
State of

Earl J

9064(6) (92)