

LEGISLATURE INTERFERING WITH "DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS."—On the 25th of January Mr. Garter introduced a bill into the Senate for an Act amendatory of, and supplementary to, an Act for the government and protection of Indians, passed April 22, 1850. According to the Union's report the latter two sections of the bill provide as follows:

SEC. 3. Any white male person of more than fifteen years of age, habitually living with an Indian female; or sustaining illicit relations with such; or who shall marry such female shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, in any Court of competent jurisdiction, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment in the County Jail for not less than three or more than six months; or to be sentenced to both fine and imprisonment. All such marriages to be deemed unlawful, and hereby declared null and void.

SEC. 4. Any person having one-half or more of Indian blood to be deemed an Indian, within the provisions of this Act.

The object of this bill, so far as it goes to protect female Indians from prostitution is well enough, though it will no doubt be a "dead letter;" but we think the bill goes too far in its sumptuary restrictions in matrimonial alliances. We believe this is the first instance on record where a Legislature has attempted to coerce this measure, though it may be argued, that there is more necessity for it here than there ever was in the older States, from the fact that Indians are more degraded, and white men, as a general thing, less jealous of reputation. We do not approve of such alliance, neither do we think the Legislature should control any man's "love matters."

