

immaterial. After the Reformation (about 1550) a fundamental change took place in the church laws of the country. King Christian III's Church Ordinance of 1537 came into force here, and in 1564 Althingi imposed very severe penalties for adultery and incest. In 1587 a new law was issued on matters relating to marriage; and, finally, in 1622 king Christian V's Church Ordinance of 1607 was adopted here, with the consequence that bishop Árni Thorláksson's church laws were for the most part abolished.

In 1683 king Christian V issued his code of laws for Denmark, and in 1687 another for Norway. Neither of these codes was intended to apply in Iceland, and in 1688 the King issued an order to the effect that a new code of laws should be compiled for Iceland, and so far as possible adapted from his Norwegian code. This, however, never came to anything, for, though the king repeated this order many times during the eighteenth century, no code was ever issued. Yet these fruitless attempts on the part of the king to have a code of laws compiled for Iceland had very serious consequences for Icelandic law, for in 1732, when the King repeated his order that an Icelandic code should be prepared, he commanded that king Christian V's Norwegian code should apply to and have force in Iceland and be followed in the administration of justice. This authorization of the Norwegian code in Iceland was probably meant as a provisional arrangement only, pending the preparation of a code for Iceland. But though this Icelandic code was never introduced as law in the island, the legislature continued to authorize here whole sections both of Norwegian and Danish laws; thus in 1734 the provisions of the Norwegian code respecting larceny and manslaughter were introduced as law here; in 1769 the sections treating of inheritance and the settlement of estates; and finally, in 1786, the sections respecting bills of exchange. Certain sections of Christian V's Danish code of laws were also introduced, as e. g., in 1831, the provisions respecting the age of majority, and, finally, in 1838, the entire Danish criminal law was adopted. In all these instances it was considered sufficient by the legislator to refer in the most general terms to the provisions that were to be introduced, without ever enumerating them. This unfortunate mode of legislation caused the greatest legal incertitude. *Jónsbók* gradually lost its authority, and the legislation as now conducted, the influence of the Danish supreme court as a court of last resort in Icelandic cases, and the fact that Icelanders now began to study law at the university of Copen-