

Now, I believe, that the more thoroughly they understand it, and the more they see and reflect upon our present law, the more strongly they will be in favor of this bill. It might, indeed, be a delightful sight to the eyes of the hon. Attorney General, to behold a provincial Lord going forth in a splendid equipage, and with a numerous retinue of proud and lazy and liveried menials, and to see ten or twenty miles square of fine land enclosed with a lofty wall, as his Lordship's park, and filled with man-traps and spring-guns. It might gratify the aristocratic tendencies of the honorable and learned gentleman to have a snug provincial code of game laws, under which the poor plebeian should be liable to be sent to Botany Bay, if he had the audacity to kill a partridge or a hare; but I believe when the people saw these effects of the law of primogeniture, they would not admire it, any more than they do at present. The truth is, there are one or two circumstances, which have prevented this law's being so unpopular heretofore, as it is likely to be in future. One of these is the practice of the government of giving a lot to each of the children of the U. E. Loyalists. This has defeated very generally the evils of the law. But this cause will soon cease, especially if the government continues to impose settlement duties and other burthens equal to the value of the land. There is another reason, peculiar to this country, why the law has not operated so grievously as it may be expected to do. Many persons are prevented from availing themselves of the law by the influence of public opinion. Many elder sons, who inherit their father's property, are induced, either by affection and conscience, or by the fear of public opinion, to divide the patrimony of their brothers and sisters.

I do not contend, Sir, that the law of primogeniture ought to be repealed in England. I am not