

posal of property, to counteract the approximation, which is always produced in society by other causes, towards an unequal division of it.

The present law is, in other respects, unfavourable to virtue and morality. It presents a temptation to roguery. The eldest son of an intestate father cannot retain the property which the law gives him, without violating good conscience and natural affection.

There are cases, perhaps, where the heir, in consideration of the patrimony which he inherits, assumes the support of the family. The other children will feel, however, that they are dependant. They will look upon him with envy, and will be jealous and distrustful of his kindness; and, on the other hand, will perhaps be regarded by him as a burthen. I think no parent would wish to leave his children in such a condition.

It is an object of great importance, in my opinion, to have laws that correspond with the circumstances and feelings of the people, and that give general satisfaction and contentment. I am anxious, Sir, to procure for this province such a code of laws, that we may be proud of them, and may be able, with truth and sincerity, to boast before the world, that we have the best laws, the most wise and just, and adapted to make us happy, of any country on the globe. But it is notorious, that the law of primogeniture is generally odious in the province. No one can wonder that it is so. Its principles are radically unjust. And it is opposed to the natural affections of the human heart, which constantly rise in rebellion against it.— You cannot legislate a man into a block. No laws you can pass will make him hate his children, though they may have the misfortune to be democratically born after their aristocratic elder brother. * Even the honorable and learned Attorney General admits the general sentiment of the people to be in favor of this measure. He accounts for it, to be sure, on the ground of their ignorance of its operation and ultimate effect.