

vernment on the subject. I feel guilty, indeed, of a waste of time in arguing, at so much length, a question which, after all, can be decided summarily by an appeal to the heart of every man, or, at least, of every parent. Who can be found, that would look upon his children, and tell them, that he was determined, when he died, to turn them, as beggars, upon the world, in order that his eldest son might swagger in aristocratic pomp and haughtiness! No! Mr. Chairman, it is not necessary to argue the question of the law of primogeniture. It is a self-evident proposition, an instinctive truth, which cannot be made plainer by reasoning.

But the most grave, and formidable and vehement objections to this bill, have been founded on the assumption that its tendency would be hostile to our institutions.—These are serious objections certainly, if they are all well founded; and they are peculiarly formidable because they enlist the prejudices and strongest feeling of our hearts in their favor. I must, therefore, ask the indulgence of the committee, while I attempt to show you that this measure is not inconsistent with the safety of the government, or the stability of its institutions, but will be conducive to the welfare of the country. The effect of the law of primogeniture is to create a landed aristocracy, or in other words, to throw the land of the Province into the hands of a few persons, and to leave the great body of the people, without any permanent interest in the country. This bill will have a direct contrary tendency. It will promote an equal division of landed estates among the people of the Province. The question therefore, is, which of these effects is most favorable to the welfare of the country and the durability and strength of its institutions. The answer, it seems to me, is obvious; and may be found indeed, in our statute book. That an accumulation of landed estates in the hands of a few persons is a great evil, and is inconsistent with the policy of our government, is the fundamental principle,