

effects in this as well as in other respects, we can avail ourselves of the experience of other countries, where the measure has long been in practice, and upon this ground we are enabled, with just confidence, to declare that there is no foundation for these fears, and that on the contrary, notwithstanding the equalizing effect of such a law, there is a constant tendency to an accumulation of property, and an aristocracy of wealth. If, for instance, we look to the United States, where they have long tried such law and where by the way a man would certainly be thought insane who should propose to repeal the law and substitute for it the principle of primogeniture we do not find lands subdivided into trifling estates as our objectors predict will be the consequence of this bill. On the contrary notwithstanding the equalizing tendency of their republican institutions as well as of this law there is quite as great an inclination to an accumulation of property as is compatible with the virtue and welfare and happiness of the country. The other clauses of the bill provide for the registry of the decree of the court; for a simple and easy appeal to the Court of King's Bench; and for a mutual contribution from the heirs for the payment of any debt of the intestate which may be discovered after a partition shall be made—The two last provisions are analogous to the present law regulating the distribution of personal property. The authority given by the last clause to one heir to sue his coheir, for a ratable contribution of any debt of the intestate which he may be compelled to pay, cannot lead to frequent law suits as has sometimes been objected; for the instances will be extremely rare, where any one will be so dishonest, obstinate and foolish as to refuse the payment of his share, especially when there is such an express authority for its recovery. Such, Mr. Chairman, is the bill; and I hope it will appear to be not quite such a monster as it has sometimes been represented. In my description of it, I have been led incidentally and inadvertently into some remarks which are an anticipation