

ing the Provincial Parliament and defining its powers, although the principle of equal partibility of intestate real estate was then incorporated in the law of the Province. In fact, the law of primogeniture would not this day have been in force here, if our own Legislature had not inadvertently, as I suppose, introduced it by a general adoption of the laws of England.

I am not sanguine of the immediate success of this measure. It is opposed with great warmth by men of influence and talent. Some of them are exceedingly haughty and tenacious of their own opinions, and not accustomed or disposed to concede one jot or tittle to the sentiments or feelings of others. They will, of course, resist it, with all their might. Under these circumstances, its success must depend on public opinion. Upon this account I am not sorry that the honorable and learned crown lawyers oppose it with all their eloquence and ingenuity, though, on other accounts, I wish these powerful auxiliaries were enlisted in its favor. They have provoked discussion which will be useful. I am persuaded it will confirm and strengthen the public opinion, which I know prevails in its favor, and which will finally force this measure, not only through this house, but also thro' the other branch of the Legislature. For, Sir, it is not possible for a few men, however great they may be in their own estimation, long to resist the reasonable, and well ascertained wishes of the community. Even the Grand Signior has to yield to public opinion. It is only because a full discussion of the subject, embracing, certainly on my part, little that is original or novel, and much that has been often repeated, will remove prejudices, and produce conviction in honest minds, and thus have an important influence upon public opinion, that I have made such a long speech, which has not exhausted your patience more than it has my strength.