

In addition to these arguments in favour of the bill, I must refer to authority of no mean weight in its support. I have already shewn the sense of the government to be on our side in the practice of grants to the children of U. E. Loyalists. I shall now fortify it by the favourable opinion of another branch of the Legislature. Some years ago, Sir, the Legislative Council passed a bill exactly similar, in its principle, to the one on the table before you. It originated in that House, and came from a gentleman of the highest consideration in it. It was unfortunately lost in this House, by the casting vote of the Speaker. No one has ever suspected that honorable House of too great a leaning towards popular institutions, or of not being sufficiently zealous in support of aristocratic principles and institutions. I think the attempts, therefore, unfair which have been made, to raise a hue-and-cry against this measure, as utterly subversive of our constitution. From such a charge I hope it has been vindicated by authority, as well as reason.

Nevertheless as an authority in favour of this bill, I must also notice the policy of the government of this province of giving small grants of land to emigrants and of encouraging them to resort to this country and obtain such grants. At the same time we know large grants are uniformly and very properly refused. Nothing can be more opposed to the project of building up a landed aristocracy in this province. In this respect the tendency of the bill is trifling compared with this practice.

The influence of the bill in promoting the welfare of the country may be inferred from its effect in favor of morality. I confess that it is my wish to see property pretty equally divided in this province, from a sincere conviction, that such a condition is most favorable of any to virtue and happiness. I would not, indeed, forbid the accumulation of property, but I would adopt such laws as have a gradual tendency, without interfering with the free acquirement or dis-