

as well as unjust law, to the eldest son, who, in many cases, is comfortably provided for before his father's death. In this country, the operation of the law of primogeniture appears to me peculiarly unjust, because in many cases all the children contribute by their labour and exertions to the improvement and value of the landed property, which nevertheless, entirely descends to the eldest son alone. They are therefore deprived not only of a fair share of their father's property, but also of their own earnings. The injustice of the law seems tacitly and virtually recognized in the statute for the distribution of personal property, and in the law regulating the succession to real estate, where the heirs are all females. In both these cases the property is equally divided amongst the children. In these cases there are no artificial reasons, derived from the policy of the feudal system, to control the distribution and descent of the property. Justice, common sense, and natural affection only have been consulted. The result shows how little they are regarded in the law of primogeniture. To prove the injustice of that law, and to evince the justice and wisdom of the principle of this bill, and how much it is adapted to the circumstances and feelings of this country, I can refer to very high authority, which is nothing less than the practice of the government of this Province. I believe, indeed, the practice, to which I refer, has the higher authority of the sanction of His Majesty's government in England. I allude to the regulation adopted by His Majesty, George the Third, as a gracious mark of his royal favour to those whom he delighted to honour, for their devoted attachment to his Person and government, by which each of the sons and daughters of a U. E. Loyalist is entitled to a free grant of two hundred acres of land. If the law of primogeniture were wise, or just, or politic, in this Province, this Royal bounty ought to be confined to the eldest son. This regulation, therefore, is really a practical and forcible declaration of the opinion of the go-