

ancestor's seal, expressly binding the heir. This is the very spirit of the feudal system, and I cannot say that it is more unnatural or unreasonable or unjust, than the law of primogeniture. But the British Parliament did not think it so very important to build up a landed aristocracy in the Colonies, as to continue here this immunity of lands from the payment of debts. They have modified the law in England in other respects, in order to accommodate it to the spirit of the age. When a man dies, owning lands, during the life of another who survives him, his estate even in England is divided like goods and chattels. Now, this is in fact an abolition, in such cases of the law of primogeniture, and an adoption of the very principle of this bill; for at common law, such an estate would descend to the heir at law, like other landed property, and this modification is the effect of an express purpose. By a still more modern innovation, which the British Parliament has urged upon the law of real property, the land of deceased widows are subjected to process from courts of inquiry for the payment of the debts. All these modifications have a tendency to reduce to an inglorious equality with goods and chattels, and to emancipate them from the unnatural rules of the feudal system. This is the only one, I believe, of the five British North American Provinces, where the law of primogeniture prevails. And there is no disposition to adopt it in any of the other colonies, when they are enabled by experience to judge of the practical effect of another system; but on the contrary, there is a strong repugnance to its introduction. There is a part of Lower Canada, where it has lately been introduced by the British Parliament, as their court of appeals have determined and it gives great dissatisfaction. I will read to you the remarks of Mr. Peck, a lawyer and a member of the House of Assembly. He is speaking of the English mode of conveyance, and their laws of success-