

influence. The colonial merchant, with a capital of £5000, can trade with the same advantages as his English brother. Guided by the same commercial principles, by the same rules of arithmetic, equal skill and prudence will produce equal results. But the same equality cannot exist between the owner of five thousand acres of our land and the English landholders of the same extent. The former may, by his own labour, provide for all his wants, and bring up his family in respectability and comfort ; but the latter, without any labour of his own, receives probably a rental of as many pounds, and may, in another sphere, employ his talents for his own benefit or the benefit of others. In England, the race between the landholders and holders of other descriptions of property, has been substantially in favor of the former : in a recently-settled colony, like this, it must be against them.

I have treated this subject in a political point of view ; but, were it the proper occasion, I should be prepared to contend that in other views, social and moral, such an arrangement is not adapted to the circumstances of a colony like this. I make but one more observation : I doubt if such a system would be palatable to the people of this country. There is nothing in our law to prevent any one from leaving the whole of his land to his eldest son, in exclusion of his other children ; and yet how rarely, if ever, do we find an instance of such a disposition by will. In perhaps the majority of cases, we find landowners dying intestate, and leaving the disposition of their land to the Provincial law of inheritance, from which the inference is fairly deducible, that such disposition is to them, at least, satisfactory. The law of primogeniture is, in itself, a departure from natural and parental justice, warranted only where public benefit is likely to be produced ; but not warranted in a country like this, where, in my opinion, no good, public or private, would be the result.

I now come to the paper read by Mr. TAYLOR, entitled, "On the effect of credulity in retarding the progress of knowledge." This paper opened a new field of thought and discussion. It was the first subject which led us into the region of metaphysical science—one which, though, perhaps, not to be esteemed so all-important as it was years ago, when practical physical science was cultivated with comparatively little energy—must ever be considered of much value though its

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