

in Europe. The ordinary revolutions of war and Government easily dry up the sources of the wealth which arises from commerce only. That which arises from the more solid improvements of agriculture is much more durable, and cannot be destroyed, but by those violent convulsions occasioned by the depredations of hostile and barbarous nations for a century together; such as happened for a century before and after the fall of the Roman Empire, in the western provinces of Europe."

This extract shows how important it is that the landed property should generally be divided amongst the inhabitants of the country. In these new countries, people are more inclined and accustomed to rove, than in old countries. It is peculiarly easy to leave this Province, and there are many temptations to do it. But persons who own land are less likely to remove, even for a season, than others. Besides, such persons are induced by their necessities, or convenience, or pride, or humour, to expend a part of the money, gained by their industry and labour, on their land. This is so much added to the fixed and permanent wealth of the country, which cannot be lost or withdrawn. A general division of the landed property is on this account preferable to an accumulation of it in the hands of a few. The supposed tendency of the bill to produce such an effect is, therefore, a recommendation in its favour. The evils of an accumulation of landed property and of the unequal division of it among the inhabitants of a country are described in a just and forcible manner by Sir William Blackstone in his celebrated Commentaries. On that account & because he was the advocate or rather apologist of the law of Primogeniture, I shall read the passage; although I do not admit the truth of his opinion, that the right of disposing of the property by will prevents the evils of the laws of primogeniture. He says that "the ancient law of the Athenians directed that the estate of the deceased should always descend to his children: or, on failure of lineal descendants, should go to the collateral relations: which had an admirable effect in keeping up equality and preventing the accumulation of estates. But when Solon made a slight alteration, by permitting them (though only on