

learned Attorney General has, in fact, left me no alternative. He declares, that, in his opinion, this measure is not understood by the people. If they were as enlightened as the learned gentleman, they, would not, as he thinks, favour it. Now, although I do not agree with him in his opinion of their ignorance, but, on the contrary, believe that they understand the operation of the bill and can judge, as well as he can, whether it will suit them, yet I will admit that there may be persons who have wrong notions about it. These persons however in my opinion are found amongst its opponents, and it is because they have wrong notions that they are found in that class. At all events, as it is important that such mistakes should be corrected, and as I am anxious to remove every pretence for the opinion of the Attorney General, to which I have adverted, I shall give a description of the bill. It may, in the first place, be observed that it does not interfere with the right which men possess of disposing of their property by will; of course it does not restrain the power of entailment. Whether it be consistent with sound policy to permit property to be locked up for many generations, by entailments, is a question which is not raised by this measure, and which I shall not now agitate; for the bill does not at all affect such a power. It applies only in those cases where no devise of the property has been made. In those cases it establishes a more just and equitable rule of succession, than exists under our present law. We have now the English system of descents. This was not, originally, the law of this Province, but was introduced by our general adoption of the English laws.—The law was previously in force here, which now prevails in Lower Canada, and which is very similar in principle to this bill; so that, in fact, this measure is not an innovation but rather a restoration of a former law. Indeed, Sir Wm Blackstone, and other eminent sages of the English law are of opinion that a law, like this bill, existed in England in those