

But the circumstances of the time when this law began to operate in England, and the mode in which it has operated there, seem to me entirely different from the circumstances under which it would have been introduced here, and the effect which would have been the natural result of such circumstances. In the early ages of English history, land was the principal, if not the only certain and permanent investment of wealth. There were then no opportunities of making fortunes by professional talent or commercial industry, nor were there safe government securities or trading companies, which, in later times, have offered the means of gaining wealth, and of making it secure and profitable when gained. Moreover, in England the original tenure of land under the feudal system, by gradual changes and modifications, terminated in that, which seems to me the only mode in which a large landholder can become a man of great wealth and influence, viz., the system of landlord and tenant. At the first settlement of England—if I may be allowed so to call the result of the Norman Conquest—land was more valuable and available than any other property. The law of primogeniture and the law of entail retained that property in individual possessors from generation to generation, and, as by advancement in science and art and education and knowledge, other sources of wealth were opened to mankind, the value of land was often materially increased, or, at all events, preserved its comparative value, and hence a race of wealthy and influential landholders, founded in olden times, are spread over all parts of the country, partaking in their character of the stability of that which has made them what they are, and forming the ballast of the state. Now, that the colonial vessel might sail more steadily, were she provided with some such secure ballast, may be admitted; but, in my opinion, it must be looked for from some other source than in land entailed on eldest sons. The circumstances existing at the first establishment of this Province seem to me to be the very reverse of those of England, when this arrangement became her law. At the first settlement of a colony, land is the least valuable description of property; all but worthless, at the first; and, except in particular and very limited situations, not likely to increase in value very rapidly; whereas, trade, commerce, professional and mechanical skill, hold out at once a ready path to comparative wealth and