

SUBSTANCE OF MR. BIDWELL'S SPEECH

On the second reading of his Intestate Estate Bill, in the Session of 1832.

Mr. Chairman,—The merits of this bill have, heretofore, been discussed so frequently and so fully, that it is not likely any arguments will be offered to the committee, which they have not heard and considered before; at least I do not pretend, that I can make any observations, which, by their novelty, will reward your attention. I was willing, therefore, that the vote should be taken, without any thing being said by me, except the few remarks which I made when I moved for the adoption of the preamble; for I have not been disposed, on the present occasion or any other, as the house will bear me witness, to consume time by an unnecessary debate. At the same time, sir, I was sincere when I declared, that, although I would not provoke discussion, I was not afraid of it, but was prepared and willing to argue the subject, as fully as any of the adversaries of the measure could desire. And, indeed, when I consider that it is strenuously resisted by men of great power, influence and talents, and that its success against such strong and formidable opposition must depend on the force of public opinion, which can only be formed and kept alive and strengthened by such clear explanations and such plain reasons as will remove prejudices and convince the understanding, I am not sorry, that the speeches of the hon. and learned Attorney General, and Solicitor General compel me to repeat, at length, the arguments in favour of the bill, for which I shall make no other excuse, however tedious they may seem to those, who have heard them before, than the necessity of defending the bill which has been imposed on me by the eloquent invective of my learned friend against it. The hon. and