

ing and adorning, in contributing to the comfort of all, to the humble necessities of the poor, to the luxuries and tastes of the wealthy, was probably new to many of us ; and I think I may speak for others, as well as myself, in terms of grateful acknowledgment for instruction so pleasantly afforded.

Indeed, our acknowledgments to our SECRETARY must not be confined to this. We must all feel how materially, from our commencement, his management has contributed to whatever success has attended us, not only as regards the main objects of the Society, but by precision and accuracy in the smaller matters of detail, which are most essential, and form a very important ingredient in the constitution of a good Secretary. Ready, on a desperate emergency, to take the labour of an original paper, and, on all occasions, bringing to the discussion of all subjects, varied information, unostentatiously put forth and clearly and intelligibly expressed, I feel I am quite clear of the bounds of flattery—which would be equally distasteful to him as to me—when I say we have good reason to be grateful for his services, and proud to number him among our members.

The next paper in order was by the MASTER OF THE ROLLS, on the law of Primogeniture. As a very able history of that law, and the leading effects of it, especially in England, the opinion of its merit seemed unanimous : in which opinion I most heartily concur. It had, moreover, the merit of admitting of a difference of opinion on some of the doctrines contained in it, which led to a discussion as to the advantages which might arise from the existence of such a law in this Province. The question presents itself to me in this way : Would it have been desirable for a colony like this, at its first establishment, to have adopted this law as that by which real estate, not disposed of by will, should descend ? My own opinion certainly is, that it would not : though I fully admit the result of such law in England has been beneficial. The effect there has been the vesting of large properties in individuals, who, by their position and rank, are precluded from accumulating wealth by many of those pursuits by which others, unburdened by rank, are enabled to attain that object. The peerage of England could hardly exist, or, at all events, their existence would have but little weight, without this law ; and the nicely-adjusted equilibrium of the British constitution would be destroyed.

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