

been heavily taxed to support this odious and unnatural principle of primogeniture. The present condition of England, however, so far as we can judge from the accounts which we receive, affords an argument in favor of any thing rather than the law of primogeniture. Its tendency to produce an unequal division of property, is dreadfully exhibited. Its effects are, an aristocracy with the incomes of Kings, and a peasantry reduced to pauperism, and the great mass of the population without any deep and permanent interest in the maintenance of order and peace, and full of discontent. If you have a landed aristocracy, you must have a population that really have no deep or permanent interest in the peace of the country or the stability of existing institutions. It is of little consequence then, whether they remain or remove. Whatever wealth they possess being moveable, they can transport it to other countries, if they please. They have very little, therefore, staked on the maintenance of peace or the permanence of our institutions. Many of them, perhaps, have an interest in fomenting disorders and convulsions, in which they will lose nothing and have a chance to gain something. But, if the landed property of the country is pretty equally divided amongst its inhabitants, you increase the number of those who have property in the country, which they cannot remove, and an interest, therefore, in remaining here, and in preserving peace and order, and in resisting foreign attacks or internal commotions, which may endanger the institutions of the country. I recollect that when this bill was under discussion last year, I referred to the conduct of the French people during their revolution, in illustration of this sentiment. The history of a nation cannot present to us a greater contrast, than we find between the excesses and the diabolical brutality and fury of their first revolution, & their moderation and magnanimity during the last. I have no doubt that various causes contribute to produce such a wonderful improvement in their conduct

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