

Lord Campbell when Lord Chancellor, appointed Colin Blackburn to be a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, although he was of opposite politics, and only known to the Chancellor by his professional reputation. And on the 3rd July 1865, the Attorney General (afterwards Lord Chancellor Selborne), stated in the House of Commons that Lord Chancellor Westbury had exercised his judicial patronage without regard to the interests of party, and that he had selected a political opponent (Mr. Montague Smith, a Conservative member of the House of Commons) to fill the last vacancy on the Bench, and another Conservative gentleman to be Chief Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy, because he considered them to be the most qualified persons for the said offices. In the appointment of County Court judges, he had also striven to select men for their merit and qualifications, without regard to personal or party considerations."

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We notice a statement in one of the Toronto daily papers that the City Council adopted a suggestion (made, it is said, by the City Solicitor, but in reality by an alderman) to submit to Chief Justice Meredith a draft of a city charter which the Council proposes to apply for to the Provincial Legislature. We are sure no solicitor ever made any such suggestion, and are equally sure that the suggestion was without the knowledge or consent of the learned Chief Justice. The wish was probably father to the thought, as there is no better authority on municipal law; but of course he could give no counsel in the matter, for the manifest reason, even if none other, that in the natural order of things the time might come when he would be called upon to place a judicial construction on his own handiwork.

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It might be well if the practice adopted by some County Judges of explaining to the assessors their duties under the Assessment Act were more general. We know that some do this but others do not. They are, of course, the best judges as to the necessity in their own counties, but a reminder might not be out of place at this time. We notice that the County Judge of Lambton has called the attention of the assessors there to what he states to be a common belief that they need only assess up to say seventy-