

have virtue enough to prevent those feelings from having, towards any one, a very powerful effect, and, with regard to you, my heart very much deceives me if I shall not always act under the impression of those sentiments, which I expressed at the close of my last letter. . . .<sup>1</sup>

Cobbett's letter of March 9 is the last preserved in the Windham MSS., and it is probably the last that passed between them. When honest men fall out, rogues come by their own, and it is a pity that these two men, each with the interests of the country at heart, should have disagreed. At the time it was thought by many that the breach arose because Windham did not use his influence to secure the offer of some post for Cobbett, but this clearly was not the case.

When the Whigs, as they were called, came into power, and when Mr. Windham came to fill the high office of Secretary of State for the War and Colonial Departments, every one thought that *my turn* to get rich was come (Cobbett wrote in 1817). I was importuned by many persons *to take care of myself*, as they called it. But as soon as I found from him that he actually *was in place*, I told him, "Now, Sir, to make all smooth with regard to me, I beg you to be assured that it is my resolution to have no place, and not to touch one single farthing of the public money, in any shape whatever"; and justice to his memory demands that I should say that he, upon that occasion, told me that I never should forfeit any part of his esteem by opposing the Ministry; "no," said he, "not even by any censure that you may think it your duty to pass upon my own conduct."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Add. MSS. 37853, ff. 225-6.

<sup>2</sup> *Political Register*, January 1817. "A Letter to Old George Rose."  
VOL. I. X