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QUEEN'S COUNSEL.

THE Hon. S. C. Biggs, H. M. Howell, J. A. M. Aikins  
and John S. Ewart have been gazetted Queen's  
Counsel.

The practice of singling out, from time to time, certain barristers for invidious distinction, should have been abolished together with patents of monopoly—that is some centuries ago. When courtiers were paid for sycophancy by grants of lands, titles or special privileges, it was fitting that the king's favorites at the bar should have precedence over those who withstood his pretensions. And in the England of to-day, with its survival of patents of nobility and of enormous annuities paid to the wealthy inheritors of names, out of the contributions of the poor, the practice is still, if indefensible, at all events kept in countenance. But in Canada it is an anachronism, and (barring the presence of a few knights) is the only part, and the most obnoxious part, of a system wholly foreign to our institutions, manners and feelings.

There are two grounds upon which these patents of precedence are supposed to be granted—political services and professional merit. Of the two, we think the former the less objectionable. Let it be understood that during the tory reign the tory lawyers can, on application, obtain their