

bear for promotion will be treated as an offence on the part of the employe. The exact phrasing of the minute adopted by the Treasury and Admiralty is that the attempt by a public officer to support his application by any solicitation on the part of members of Parliament will be treated as an admission on the part of such officer that his case is not good upon its merits.

Finally, Mr. Lowell believes that the character of the civil service has greatly aided in securing for Great Britain the comparative absence in political life not only of grosser forms of corruption, but also of pressure for patronage, and the insistence on private and local interests. He says: "At the head of the list may be placed the existence of a permanent civil service, covering not only the inferior and clerical positions, but also those which involve responsible work of a higher grade; in fact all the Government offices below the rank of a Minister. Every one of this great mass

of public servants retains his post without regard to a change of the party in power, and almost all vacancies that occur are filled without regard to political connections. In most of the departments, indeed, the holders of all but a few of the very highest positions in the permanent service are selected by open competitive examination, followed by promotion. Such a system, which constitutes, perhaps, the most essential difference between the English and American Governments, prevents the use of public offices as party spoils and keeps politics out of the civil service. It promotes businesslike consecutive administration, and renders possible party changes without dislocation of public functions. It leaves Ministers and representatives free to devote their attention to national questions, without being distracted by the need of satisfying a horde of applicants or rewarding faithful retainers; and it eliminates geographical considerations altogether. Only by taking appoint-

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