

—or the Commissionership of the Constabulary—or the post of Lord High Admiral, now held by that amiable man, Mr. Fortin? —for each of which offices Mr. Coffin is as far as the others equally well qualified.

Upon the subject of past services, too, pretensions of the kind set up by Mr. Coffin must be taken with a grain of salt. The first question is, or should, in every case, be one of qualification. Now, whatever may have been the offices filled by Mr. Coffin, it does not follow that he is entitled to reckon them as services; and he may nevertheless, also be quite incompetent, quite unfit for many other offices which are or which may sooner or later be vacant. Putting his claim upon that footing, too, is somewhat injudicious, at least until Colonel Hanson is provided for. Without disparagement to Mr. Coffin, he might, on that score, as well attempt to compete with Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons as with the distinguished veteran who has lately brought himself in print under the notice of the public. It does not follow, I say, because Mr. Coffin has held several offices, for which he may or may not have been qualified, that he should now obtain another office, for which, whatever may be his opinion of himself, he may be quite unfit. But let us presume to examine the foundation of his claim. Were the offices which he previously held forced upon him—and did he perform the duties gratuitously? From his present modest assurance and the pains he has taken to assure His Excellency, in particular, and the world at large, in general, of his meritorious services, it may be assumed that formerly as well as now he petitioned, memorialized, wrote, spoke, and curried favor by all the means in his power. It is to be presumed, also, that he took care to be well paid for what he did. Does Mr. Coffin mean to argue as follows?—Being an Advocate without practice and in want of an income, I sought, I prayed for and obtained place—consequently, I am now again entitled to place. I so obtained place and enjoyed the emoluments thereof. I was thus amply remunerated—consequently, I am entitled to other emoluments, to further remuneration. Mr. Coffin is, doubtless, a logician—if he does not mean that—what does he mean?