

or should read, Mr. Coffin's work. The few words prefixed were accordingly inserted in the *Chronicle* as a sort of whet, to stimulate the public appetite. For reasons, which Mr. Coffin will probably afford me an opportunity to state, I thus hoped to excite and predispose it to imbibe the intellectual food prepared by Mr. Coffin. He cannot be displeased with this humble effort, still less with the obvious intention. Be that as it may, having written, published, and widely circulated, in pamphlet form, a sort of autobiography; having thus, contrary to the practice of *great men*, challenged the opinion of his contemporaries and anticipated that of posterity, Mr. Coffin must be prepared for criticism. I must premise, however, that the practice of place-hunting, in so elaborate and importunate a manner, appears to me to be quite indefensible. The holder of every office possesses more or less power; and it is natural that he who stoops to obtain it should secure some sort of compensation—it may be by domineering over those subjected to his influence. Office-seeking, after the manner adopted by Mr. Coffin, cannot be agreeable, and he probably relies upon the future to make himself some amends. Then, when a man condescends to make interest with every one possessed of power or influence, he incurs obligations which, by necessary inference, he must desire to return. Some gentlemen who have lately acquired political importance of whom Mr. Coffin, the protégé of Lord Sydenham, has always been the antipodes, will no doubt have marvelled at finding themselves at this particular juncture the object of Mr. Coffin's tender solicitude,—*Mais nous avons changé tout ça!* There are means of obtaining place which are likely to affect the decisions and conduct of a public functionary; and, in the event of a contention between any one of those to whom he is indebted for office and any one of any other class, the impartiality of the incumbent may well be doubted. One can understand that the conviction of fitness, the general admission of desert should justify a claim to some particular office. But what does Mr. Coffin claim? Is it the reversion of the Bishopric of Quebec—of the Chief-Justiceship of the Queen's Bench—or the command of the Militia