

allowed to drop. I inquired what might be the meaning of this joke, and was asked in reply whether I had read the letters of Jesse Hoyt and others, edited by Mackenzie? I had, indeed, purchased the pamphlet alluded to, containing a selection from an immense mass (said to amount to twenty-five volumes) of the private and confidential correspondence of official men, left accidentally by them, on a change of administration, in the custom-house of New York. All these had been printed for the benefit of the public by their successors. The authenticity of the documents made known by this gentlemanlike stroke of party tactics, purporting to be penned by men who had filled high places in the State and Federal Governments, had been placed beyond a doubt; for the writers had attempted to obtain an injunction in the law courts to stop the publication, claiming the copyright of letters which they had written. Some time before this conversation, a merchant of Boston, who wished me to look only on the bright side of their institutions, and who was himself an optimist, had said to me, "Our politicians work in a glass hive, so that you always see the worst of them; whereas your public men can throw a decent veil of secrecy over much that may be selfish and sordid in the motives of their conduct. Hence the scandal of your court and cabinets is only divulged to posterity, a hundred years after the events, in private memoirs." Unfortunately for this theory, a glance at the Mackenzie letters was enough to teach me, that, if the American bees work in a glass hive, the glass is not quite so transparent as my friend would have led me to believe. The explanation of the satirical motion made in the House at Albany, then proceeded thus: "The patronage of the State of New York is enormous; the Governor alone has the appointment of two hundred and sixty civil officers, and the nomination of more than two thousand places is vested jointly in him and the senate. Some of these are for two, others for five years, and they are worth from two hundred to five thousand dollars a year. Among the posts most coveted, because the gains are sometimes very high, though fluctuating, are those of the inspectors, who set their mark or brand on barrels of exported goods, such as flour, tobacco, preserved pork, mackerel and other