

borhood of "the Point of Rocks," that an individual (naming him) who resided in the vicinity of that place, was to supercede Mr. O'Reilly as collector and lock-keeper in Georgetown. What gave rise to this report I do not know, but it was spoken of with much confidence, and I have heard Mr. O'Reilly say, that bets were offered upon his removal, and that he expected to be displaced. Mr. Thomas hinted at the removal of Mr. O'Reilly once or twice at meetings of the board before June 1840. After the election of a new board in June 1840, (at which not a single individual who was elected a director in June 1839 was re-elected,) this collector came to the canal office in Washington on several of the days on which the board met until the 9th day of July, on which day as I understand, I made a communication to O'Reilly, as I shall presently shew, that being the day on which I resigned the office of clerk, and when my successor was appointed. After the meetings of the board Mr. O'Reilly several times asked me who was dismissed, for he had an impression that the new board would accomplish what he supposed his old friends, who were left out of power, had prevented from being done. In reply to this question, which I presume he put as usual, I informed him that he was to be dismissed. I do not remember that I mentioned Mr. Thomas' name to him, or repeated one word that was said, nor do I recollect what it was that Mr. Thomas did say in the meeting. One thing I am sure of, that it was nothing affecting either his honesty or integrity; it was nothing to produce "suspicions," as the question is made to suppose, and I am inclined to think that it was nothing which might not, and ought not to have been said to himself. Whatever it was however, it brought me to the conclusion that O'Reilly was to be dismissed, judging as I did, from the manner in which other officers had been discarded without a solitary word of accusation being established against them. It was first by one little insinuation and then by another, and finally the end was accomplished, and in some instances to the serious injury of the company. Believing as I did that this officer was then about to be dismissed without an opportunity of knowing why, or of making a defence, I informed him what my belief was, affording him an opportunity of sustaining himself with the board. How then could the information given by me embarrass the directors? If Mr. O'Reilly had been guilty of any wrong, or was shewn to be incompetent, they would not hesitate to remove him, and if no cause existed