

ould decline the offer of the place of clerk. The President then said that he did not know what to do—that he had applied to several of his friends in Frederick, (and I think that he applied in Baltimore also,) and that none of them would accept the office. He then in presence of that gentleman appealed to me to know if I could recommend a gentleman competent and willing to accept the office, adding that one condition only he would make, and that was, that he must be a political friend, because he was not willing that any other should open his letters. I replied by saying, that until he came into the service of the company, we never had any thing to do with politics, and that the clerk, in the absence of the President, always opened his letters, when addressed officially. I concluded by saying, that I could not recommend such a man.

In the month of January, 1840, when a *reduction* was made in the corps of engineers, the President insisted that Daniel Logan should be appointed a superintendant, assigning as a cause, that he was his political friend. Another was dismissed, and Logan was appointed.

On the 7th of July, 1840, a letter was received from an individual in Williamsport, an officer of the company, who styled himself "Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of the District of Williamsport," containing the affidavit of another individual, relative to the conduct of Mr. Rodgers, then superintendant of the 3rd division of the canal. When the affidavit was about to be read to the Board, the President objected, saying that it was a trifling matter of complaint against one of the officers of the company, which had better be postponed for business of more importance. One of the directors insisted upon knowing the particulars, and after an explanation of the subject, an order was made to refer the papers to Mr. Rodgers for a report thereon. On the next day I forwarded the papers to Mr. Rodgers, at Williamsport, by mail, according to the order, and on the following day, at an adjourned meeting of the Board, (the gentleman being absent who had insisted that action should be taken on the case, and before the papers could have reached Mr. Rodgers,) he was dismissed from the service of the company, and Mr. John D. Grove was appointed in his place. I suppose it will not be questioned that political opinions were made a test in this case.

Many other dismissals and appointments were made which were, in my belief, for political effect, none of which can be