

difficulty; but the truth is, the Board for several months before my dismissal, took upon themselves the performance of duties that appertained to the office of Chief Engineer,—thereby seriously weakening his authority and efficiency.

In closing this answer, I repeat the assertion, that no papers have been withheld *of the least service* in making the present estimate—as the general estimate of December, 1839, contains all the details of quantities of the several sections, locks, culverts, &c. upon which are based the results. Some of the incidental work only is spoken of generally in that estimate, and for the reason that the details were not supplied from all the divisions in consequence of an understanding to that effect between myself and the officers in charge of those divisions.

In preparing the papers to be placed in possession of the company, I have been aided by another late officer of the company, whose time, at my request, has been devoted in part to that object.

The charge of abstraction coming from the individual in question, where his *recent conduct* has been witnessed, is entirely harmless—the motives and purposes which in this matter have actuated him, rest with himself.

*Interrogatory.*—Look at that portion of the report of the President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, in reply to an order of the House of Delegates at the present session, requiring him to state “what removals and changes, if any, had been made during the year 1840, in the officers of said company, and the causes of the removals and changes;” and state what changes and removals have been made within your knowledge, the causes for the same as far as they are known to you, whether removals were made to create vacancies, and how far the interests of the company were consulted thereby, and also state what effect the political action of the substituted officers had upon the progress of the work? State likewise the difference between the qualifications and political influence of the officers displayed upon the line by the appointments made before and subsequent to the 10th of June, 1839?

*Answer.*—The President commences that portion of his report referred to in this interrogatory by saying: “In the preceding will be found, I believe, a full and very particular reply to the order of the House of Delegates of the 30th of December, except that part which calls upon the President and Directors to state “what removals and changes, if any, have been