

tions; but subsequent to that change in the direction, and within the year prior to his appointment as chief engineer, he became a very active partizan,—was at the head of, and addressed political meetings, mainly attended by persons and laborers from the line of canal,—and associated with his subordinate officers, was a member of political committees, whose effort was to secure, by means of a thorough and extended organization of the laborers upon the canal, their united strength in favor of the party “politically friendly” to the President of the company. And it was under his countenance, and it is well understood to have been with his active co-operation and assistance, laborers were sent off from the canal a distance of seventy miles to Frederick to be naturalized, to be in time for the last fall election.

As was to have been expected from the course pursued by the individual in question, and other officers of the company, the line of canal became the theatre of excitement and of angry feeling between the opposing parties, and for the first time since the commencement of the work the feeling was abroad, through the representations of officers of the company, that the interests of the work were identified with, and were dependent upon the success of one of the great political parties of the country.

As already stated my successor came into office seven days before the last October election, and on the day of that election the new chief engineer of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was an objector for the party “politically friendly” to the President at the Orleans polls in Allegany county, a few rods only from the line of canal, where many of the laborers attended and voted.

The particulars which I have given of the President’s movements between the 16th and 26th of September, (of which, of course, I was not an eye witness,) and these relating to the course of the present chief engineer, before and subsequent to his appointment are, in my opinion and belief, correct. I doubt if there be an inaccuracy in one single particular, if there be, it must be in some matter unimportant as regards the facts of which I have endeavored to place the committee in possession.

The President goes on to say in his report, in respect to the reduction of officers, that the Directors “were obliged to perform an unpleasant duty, in selecting those who were to be