

continued in service. In discharge of that delicate duty, the undersigned, feels entirely confident that the board have done exact justice to all concerned, and have consulted, especially, the best interests of the State as a stockholder."

The President on different occasions stated to me that he was receiving letters from the upper country, making charges against certain officers of the company. Some of the assertions said to be contained in these letters I knew to be untrue, and I so stated to the President,—but which nevertheless I have heard subsequently repeated in the presence of members of the board,—and whenever such accusations (and they were invariably against those regarded as "politically opposed" to the President,) were preferred against any officer, he was always sooner or later dismissed, and without the board, so far as within my knowledge, first making themselves acquainted with the facts of the case. There was on one occasion a movement towards giving an accused officer an opportunity of defence. The accusation was forwarded to Washington by a person who signed himself as "Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee," &c. (himself a then recently appointed officer of the company, a member of the last House of Delegates,) when the letter was presented to the board on the 7th of last July, it was referred for an explanation to the officer accused, a director opposed to political proscription being at the board. Two days afterwards, before the letter enclosing the accusation, which was sent by mail, could reach that officer, he was dismissed and a "political friend" of the President (formerly a member of the House of Delegates) was appointed in his stead. And among the extracts appended to the President's report, professing to give the proceedings of the board upon removals and changes, the proceedings in this case are not to be found.

The President continues, "on the line of unfinished canal no person was removed from office to create a vacancy, except in the case of Mr. Bryan, who declined to give the bond which the regulations of the board make indispensable."

At the time of the second reduction of officers last winter,—after the action of the board on that reduction, and their adjournment, the President in my presence drew his pen over the name of an officer who had been for some years in service and inserted the name of another individual.

Again, when making the first reduction Daniel Logan, an assistant superintendent of masonry, was selected by me for dis-