

change was upon political grounds—as will be shown in the course of this reply.

The President next says: “A change has been made in the superintendant of the 2d, 3d and 4th divisions of the finished canal. One of them held when the change was made, the office of collector of toll and keeper of the inlet lock at Harper’s Ferry, which appointment he now holds.” I find upon referring to the extracts from the proceedings of the Board appended to the President’s report, that on the 16th of last September, when the superintendant referred to, Mr. Elgin, was dismissed—“It was ordered, that Wm. O’Neill be appointed superintendant of the 2nd division of the canal, from and after the first day of October next, in place of William S. Elgin, and that the President be authorised to appoint some one lock-keeper at lock No. , now kept by said Elgin.”

I will now return to the President’s remarks upon the change in three superintendants. He says: “No one of these superintendants was a citizen of Maryland, until they were employed on the canal. Marylanders were appointed in their stead. From the character of the times, it is right to add, that one of them was a political friend, and two of them were politically opposed to the undersigned,” &c.

The President is in error here in two particulars. First—there are four superintendants of repairs on the finished canal, only one of whom when the President came into office, was a “political friend” to him, and *he alone* of the four *has not been dismissed*. The persons alluded to, are John Y. Young retained, and Messrs. Stone, Rodgers and Elgin dismissed. Second—one of the dismissed superintendants, Mr. Stone, *was* a citizen of Maryland for seven or eight years *before* he was employed on the canal, having resided during that length of time in Montgomery county. I may add, that soon after entering the company’s service, in which he was for about eight years, Mr. Stone married in Washington county, and that he intends continuing his residence in the State. The other two superintendants were not citizens of Maryland until they were employed on the canal, but they had been in the State when dismissed about ten years. Both have had their families with them; one of them, Mr. Elgin, is from an adjoining county in Virginia, Loudon—the other, Mr. Rodgers, is, I think, from New York.

The three new superintendants of repairs are Messrs. Hil-