

man and Grove, formerly members of the House of Delegates, and Mr. O'Neall formerly Sheriff of Montgomery county; all three are "politically friendly" to the President.

I will here state another fact in reference to the placing of Marylanders upon the work. Upon the line of unfinished canal when reducing the number of officers in September last, an assistant engineer, *born in the State*, of fully eight years service upon the canal, every way competent, efficient and faithful, and with a family, was dismissed upon one week's notice—when at the same time there was retained in service, one of less experience, not greater competence, *and who was not a citizen of the State*, until employed upon the canal about three years since. I have no way of accounting for the President's laying aside, in this case which occurred just preceding the last October election, as he had previously done in many other cases, the principles I had heard him profess, that he was desirous to give timely notice to the officers in case of dismissal to allow of their looking about for employment elsewhere, and to retain those with families rather than those without, and to have upon the work Marylanders in preference to those who were not—other than by stating the fact, that the retained officer was a "political friend," the other was not.

To return to the three dismissed superintendants. I have been acquainted with them for about ten years, throughout the whole period of their service, and can express with confidence the opinion, that no one of the three allowed party considerations to interfere with his duty, or to cause him to do any act tending, in the slightest degree, to embarrass the President or to prejudice the company's interests.

I will now speak of the circumstances attending these three dismissals in the order of their occurrence.

And first—as to the removal of Mr. Stone and appointment of Mr. Hellman as superintendent of the 4th division. This removal occurred, the committee will recollect, on the same day as that of Mr. Bryan, viz: on the 7th of May 1840.—at the first meeting of the board, a quorum being present, eleven months after the President's first election, from which were absent all three of the members understood to be opposed to political proscription,—and an account of which is not given in the extracts appended to the President's report. The President was informed by me soon after this removal that a gentleman of Cumberland, whose aid the President had sought in endeavoring to get a called session of the Legislature, declined