

sion, which have been particularly spoken of, and which was contrary to all usage, and against advice, caused the loss of nearly the whole of last year's navigation of the 27½ miles of canal above dam No. 5, and of the upper country.

The third case of the removal of a superintendent of repairs is that of William P. Elgin who was upon the 2nd division, in whose stead was appointed Mr. O'Neill, formerly sheriff of Montgomery county.

I can say but little respecting this case, as the order for dismissal was passed on the 16th of last September, to take effect on the 1st of October, the day of my own dismissal,—since which I have not been upon the line of canal.

This dismissal and the two preceding it, and the consequent appointments were all made without consultation with, or advice from the chief engineer, who in former times was usually referred to in the appointment of such officers. In fact, though I was with the board for a short time on the day of Mr. Elgin's dismissal, I knew nothing of it until after their adjournment. The member of the board understood to be opposed to political proscription was not present.

During the last year, the first division of the canal, under the charge of a superintendent of repairs "politically friendly" to the President, (the only one of the old superintendents not dismissed, and a competent officer who has been in the service of the company, I think, upwards of eight years,) remained in its usual state of navigation, free from all but the short and occasional interruptions to which canals are subject; and such was the case, also, with Mr. Elgin's division, who was not dismissed until late in the season of navigation.

The President says in his report:—"To the valuable offices vacated, and not abolished, viz: commissioner, superintendents, chief clerk, treasurer, assistant clerk and rodmen, 8 in number, 4 friends and 4 political opponents of the President and Directors have been appointed."

This statement is a confused one. It does not cover the whole ground of removals, changes, and appointments since the change in the direction in June 1839, and is not even *literally* correct.

The four "political opponents" referred to, are, I presume, the commissioner, the chief clerk, the treasurer, and a rodman. The latter was appointed on the 14th of November last, and as I am informed, has since resigned. The treasurer was ap-