

pointed on the same day in November, and from his own declarations, is holding his office, temporarily, intending shortly to resign. The commissioner received his appointment less than three months ago,—Mr. Matthews the “political friend” of the President, who was appointed commissioner in May last upon the removal of a “political opponent,” having resigned. The chief clerk, a family connection, of the President, was appointed after the latter had stated to myself and others, that he had been endeavouring to find a “political friend” for that situation,—but had been entirely unsuccessful. It was very desirable to him, he said, to have a “political friend” in that office. — Only one of these four, viz: the latter, received his appointment *before* November last. As for the commissioner, whose office is at Cumberland,—and the treasurer and chief clerk who are in the canal office at Frederick.—their duties do not call them to the line of canal.

On the other hand, *all* the superintendents of repairs on the finished canal are ‘political friends’ of the President. Through these superintendents all disbursements for repairs and improvements are made, and by them are hired, paid, and dismissed *all the labourers* required for such purposes. They likewise, hitherto, as is proper, have usually had, in effect, the appointment and dismissal of the lock keepers, through their nominations and representations to the board. So that in fact, the whole 185 miles of finished canal is, at present, *exclusively* under the control and management, in every respect, of the “political friends” of the President, there being not one single “political opponent” in an office that has the slightest influence or control over the *lock keepers and laborers* in the employ of the company.

So again—the 50 miles of unfinished canal is, in effect, wholly under the direction of officers “politically friendly” to the President, there being but a single exception of a “political opponent” in a position of any influence, and that is a subordinate one; I refer to one of the assistant engineer’s, who resides on the Virginia side of the Potomac, and has a vote in that State; but who, notwithstanding, is *no politician*, never having to my knowledge in the eight years and upwards of his service taken part in the elections, unless, perhaps, he may have, occasionally voted.

The whole line therefore from Georgetown to Cumberland, with the single exception just referred to, is in the hands of