

rules, and that if thereupon any proceedings or discussion have taken place, I am precluded at present from unfolding them. Nevertheless, sir, such is my desire to manifest my respectful consideration of the House of Delegates, who, in their appropriate sphere of action, represent the people of Maryland, whom I serve, in mine, and to whom as my lawful constituents, I will ever bow with reverence, I will not withhold my knowledge of "the circumstances," so far as I am at liberty to state them, under which the Senate confirmed the nomination of General Wool of New York, as a Brigadier General. I will relate them as succinctly as possible, lest I should trouble the House of Delegates with a too tedious detail of particulars, with which, as public men, most of them are probably familiar; for, they consist in well known facts and plain constitutional provisions, to which all, who desire it, may readily refer. They will afford, I humbly hope, to the members of the House of Delegates, the means of an ample apology to their own immediate constituents, for desisting from any further prosecution of a fruitless design to draw from the Senate of the United States their *reasons* for having overlooked the pretensions of any individual, howsoever distinguished or wheresoever born, to an office under the General Government, to which the President, in the exercise of his unquestionable power and discretion, has not deemed it his duty to *nominate* him. I am, sir, further induced to go through this brief process for the purpose of disabusing the public mind of the effect of intimations and doubtful queries about some supposed dereliction of duty on the part of the Maryland Senators, which, not being defined or specially charged against them, cannot be at this time more effectually dissipated.

Upon the death of our late distinguished and lamented commander in chief, Maj. Gen. Macomb, it was very soon known that General Winfield Scott would be called to succeed him. He was accordingly nominated to the Senate, and by it promptly confirmed. Upon this appointment being made, it devolved on the President to choose a Brigadier for the Army. General Wool being then a Colonel, and Inspector General in active service, and a Brigadier General, by brevet, was nominated by the President and deliberately confirmed by the Senate to fill the vacant post. There was, at that time, a long line of *Colonels* in the service alike holding the *brevet* distinction of Brigadier. The distinguished Jessup held the rank also of a Major General, *by brevet*. Amongst these officers of the Army, General Atkinson and General Brady were *senior* to all in rank.

I shall not attempt to compare or treat of the relative merits or qualifications of these gallant men, who have received the full mede of honor from their grateful country. General Nathan Towson, a native of Maryland, was, I believe, as brave a soldier as any in the late war with Great Britain. He was repeatedly distinguished and honored, during his service,—as others of his compatriots were,—with promotions by brevet, for conduct of gallant and noble daring, in the face of the enemy; and, in 1834,