
Federal Appointments.

The general dissatisfaction which has been excited by the appointment of Lieut. Beale as Chief of the Indian Commissioners, induces us to make the subject a leading one in to-day's consideration. We are not personally acquainted with the individual who has been placed in so important a position. As a gentleman we know nothing of him that would make such an appointment a matter of prejudice against the administration, or the Whigs of California. Indeed, his having occupied an official place for some time in the U. S. Navy, is a very good guarantee that he has high claims in this respect. But as a Whig we cannot avoid coming to this conclusion in reference to him:—That he has used his position in the navy of our country as a justifiable and natural excuse for being essentially nothing in political or party tenets. That he felt himself related to the country as a positive agent so far as a general interest in the welfare of the government was concerned, but entirely neutral so far as party was regarded. We have been informed by a friend of his, that he had avowed himself a few years since as a no party man, although he supposed he was a Democrat, or would be placed with that party if he were compelled to decide upon his position. His course while he was in this country, was one which has induced the almost universal impression that he is a democrat, and whilst that impression exists, the Whigs of California will not, cannot feel grateful towards an appointment of

pression exists, the Whigs of California will not, cannot feel grateful towards an appointment of such a nature, when the competitors in the premises were legitimate Californians, citizens of our State who were matured by age and experience, who were probably much more competent to discharge the duties of such an office, who were permanently identified with our State, who have for a long time had houses and families amongst us demanding their support and protection, and who were presented to the administration not as *quasi* Whigs, but as the active, generous, and faithful supporters of the party.

But in addition to the foregoing reasons, which are justly assigned for meeting the appointment with disapprobation, is another strong and general one, in the conjectural unfitness of the gentleman for the office to which he has been appointed. It is not to be expected that Lieut. Beale or any other navy officer can be well qualified for such a position. If he has properly attended to his duties as a naval officer, he has not been in a situation in which he could make himself practically acquainted with the matters that are involved in the control and management of the mountain Indians of California. Any man who has observed the character of naval officers must know that as a general thing they have very little of that practical knowledge which is so essential to the general management of affairs upon terra firma. Especially are they generally ignorant of the character and habits of the "red men of the

Especially are they generally ignorant of the character and habits of the "red men of the forest." Hence, as a general thing, it would be about as proper to select a Lieutenant of the army to discharge the duties of a Commodore, as to appoint a Lieutenant of the navy as a Superintendent of a Board of Indian Commissioners. But the appointment has been made, and although inexpedient and we believe totally impracticable, yet we do not believe in censuring or reproaching the administration, unless it be fully shown that it is at fault.

We have had the assurance of Mr. Fillmore, that he desired to respond to the general wants of California through the Whig party, but that it was almost impossible for him to determine upon our matters, in consequence of the information he received. We can appreciate his position. On the one side he has a shrewd politician, matured and disciplined in stratagetical operations, by long employment in the rank and land speculations of Western States, who is using his senatorial position to thrust upon California a body of federal officers, who will turn out to be, if he succeeds, nothing more nor less than a party of Democrats in disguise. On the other side, he has a mixture of information that would bring old Barnum back to museum operations, could he obtain the whole of it for public exhibition.

In no country in the whole world, was there ever seen such a mixture of application for official position; such a general accommodation to an indiscriminate endorsement of every aspirant for office; such an elasticity of that prin-

ficial position; such a general accommodation to an indiscriminate endorsement of every aspirant for office; such an elasticity of that virtue which recommends one day and condemns the next; such a combination of remonstrance and supersedure of approval, or such a liberal investment of application capital in the general lottery of chances.

To-day, a man applies for one office; to-morrow he hears of another, and agreeably to the economy of a good navigator, he spreads a sheet to catch that breeze; the next day he hears of a third chance, and he whistles his endorsers into renewed usefulness, and on the next day, although there is no evidence of a fresh vacancy, yet he thinks it judicious, as his three applications are of a specific nature, that he should send on a fourth, upon that general principle of luck that brings up an occasional "eagle bird by chance."

In the face and eyes of such difficulties, we are very reluctant to draw the line of condemnation around the acts of our present Chief Magistrate. We think it time for improvement, but we are well convinced that the improvement could very consistently commence at home. When there is little less of inconsistency in recommendation—when the compound of official aspiration is composed of compatibles, instead of the heterogeneous ingredients of which it has thus far been formed, then there may be more consistency and appropriateness in the appointment of federal officials of California. Until then, we do not anticipate any radical change.

DAILY UNION

O, TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 4, 1852.
