

Call upon Gen Taylor - who invited them to a seat
on a sofa in the Green Room - when & where the
following conversation took place - it was commenced
by Col W. who remarked - "Mr President - we have been
informed that you are about to make the appointment
of Commissioner of the Genl Land office" Gen Taylor
replied "yes I am about to make that appointment"
Col W. replied "that we had called for the purpose of
saying - that Mr Lincoln of Ill is an applicant
for that Post - and has telegraphed - from Dayton
Ohio that he would be here as soon as possible -
and our object in calling - was to request that he
would put off making the appointment until
Mr Lincoln arrived - very well" said the President
"I will put off making the appointment until Mr
Lincoln arrives - at the same time I will telegraph
that I think Mr. Butterfield will be appointed."
This was quite a damper to both Messrs L & W -
and Col W. remarked - "I would not Mr President
that you wish to make that appointment which will
be satisfactory to the largest number of your friends
in our State" "yes" said the President "I should like to
make a popular appointment." Col W. replied
"as far as I know - I believe I am safe in saying

Gen. Gen. Land Off.

1849

The fact is historical - that down to the time of the
Nomination & Election of Mr Lincoln in 1860 - no citizen re-
siding in that portion of the great North West, comprising
the States of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas,
Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota & Kansas - had ever been
tenured a place by either party - on any ticket or a Candidate
even for the one tendered by Mr Fillmore to Mr Sate, of Mo. which was declined
for President or Vice President - nor a Cabinet office, nor a
foreign mission of the first class. This Commissioner ship
of the General Land office for many years, was as high as any citizen
of the North West could obtain. This was so and had been filled by
some of the most distinguished men in the West - by Judges
McLean & Hayward of Ohio, by Judges & State Whitecomb
and Huntington of Indiana - by Judge (afterwards Genl &
Senator) Shields, and was held when Genl Taylor came into
the Presidency by ^{of Ill} Henry Philip McYoung (who has been Senator
in Congress for six years) and when appointed was one of the Judges
of the Supreme Court of Ill. This office Mr Lincoln could have
had when President Taylor came into power. Indeed there was
a general expression among the Whig members of the Congress with
whom Mr Lincoln came - that he should be Commissioner of
the Genl Land office - but he would not consent to have his

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+ As the polished manner, splendid talents, and
 ite on the floor of the Senate of the U.S., as the
 successor of the lamented Douglas - would
 have made him an able and popular officer.

Shortly after which Mr Lincoln left for his home & subsequently became an applicant for the office himself - in the mean time Mr Brewster who had been generally recommended for the office of Solicitor of the Treasury - applied for the office of Commissioner of the Land Office and obtained a promise from ^{Hon Thomas}~~the Hon~~ ^{of Ohio}~~Mr~~ Evans (who had been appointed Secretary of the new Home or Interior Department) that he Mr B - should have the office at the end of fiscal quarter (30th June).

about the middle of Jan/49 - it being understood in &
about Washington ^{that} the President & Cabinet were about
to make the appointment of Commissioner, = two friends of
Mr. Lincoln ^{of Ills} - viz Josiah M. Lucas Esq & Col. A. G. Milcox

On the 9th day of August 1849 - Hon. Joseph G. Manigault
of Indiana ~~and the Hon.~~ was commissioned to be Governor
and the Hon. Abraham Lincoln was commissioned to be
Secretary of the Territory of Oregon. Which Offices they
severally both declined - it is believed however that Mr.
Lincoln was afterwards tendered the Governorship - but no
commission as no official evidence thereof can now
be found - this would seem to be more probable from
the fact - that no appointment was made until the
2^d of October when Maj. John P. Gaines of Kentucky
was commissioned as Governor - he thus however as it may
it only goes to show Mr. Lincoln's fixed determination
to retire to private life and calmly wait the action
of the "People".

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that a very large proportion of you friends in Ills
would decidedly prefer the appointment of Mr. Lincoln
to that of Mr. Butterfield - the President said "that
he could not but believe that Mr. B. was a highly
respectable man - judging from the testimonials
he Mr. B. had presented to him Col. W. V. Smith - none
more so as a Lawyer & a gentleman - But as a
popular man and a politician - we consider
Abraham Lincoln - head and shoulders above any
of us in Ills." Genl. Taylor with some warmth
remarked - "I had always intended to give the
Commissionership of the Genl. Land Office to Ills -
I have already given two appointments to that State,
the Marshall to the southern part of the State, the
District attorney - to the Center - and I think that
the Commissionership should go north" -
Col. W. remarked - "we thank you Mr. President
for granting our request and all we can say is
that when Mr. Lincoln arrives he must speak
for himself." Thus matters stood until Mr. Lin-
coln arrived - when Col. W. met him on getting out
of the Car - and informed him just ~~how~~ of the commis-
- sion he had had with Genl. Taylor - and told him
that perhaps he could get over the local ques.

tion - he must be beaten in his contest with Butterfield - Mr. Lincoln ^{ding} (sent his trunk by a Boy) went directly, on foot, in company with Martin P. Swart Esq & Col. W. to their Boarding house N. 44th St. and after washing - brushing off the dust of a long & speedy journey - and resting a while - he set himself to work to beat Butterfield, who together with his friends, ~~was~~ were very active in his behalf. That Mr. Lincoln was very anxious to succeed in his application is manifest from the following verbatim - copy of his plea - or letter - laid before the Cabinet giving his reasons - why - he should be appointed over Mr. B. - * (When inserted in mass - on the character & ability of the paper = by the Editor &c)

That anxious day soon arrived - the cabinet did not remain out until the cabinet adjourned - and adjourn until late in the afternoon, Mr. Swart came in while Mr. Lincoln was at dinner and putting his mouth down to Mr. Lincoln's ear - whispered - "Butterfield is appointed" - Mr. L. ate but a mouthfull or two more - dropped his knife and fork - and went up to his room - threw himself on the bed - and commenced telling stories & trying to sing &c to console himself under his defeat, - In writing to a friend soon after - at Springfield - he remarked - that "nothing

but Ewing's promise saved Butterfield" - a day or two after his defeat - while walking his room speaking on the subject of his pecuniary ^{as he stopped walking & looking up to the ceiling in his peculiar manner} circumstances he remarked to a friend "I am worth about three thousand dollars - I have a little property paid for and owe no debts - It is perhaps well that I did not get this appointment - I will go home and resume my practice at which I can make a living - and perhaps some day the People may be can use for me," He remained but a few days in Washington He called on Mr. Ewing at the department - a day or two after his defeat - for the purpose of withdrawing his paper, when Mr. E remarked that if he Mr. L. had have applied when the administration came in, that he Mr. L. should have had the office, Mr. L. replied that if Mr. E would recede that to writing he would be satisfied - whereupon ^{upon} Mr. E gave him a letter to that effect - when Mr. L. withdrew his papers - and soon after left W. never returning to the city again - until as President Elect he came in one morning - "in person" to almost every one in the City!