self about it, and may possibly ask from Gen Smith friendship his influence with the administration. If I am not removed, I shall hold myself perfectly aloof from politics here and elsewhere, without a sacrifice of any principle. What turn matters may take hereafter I cannot foresee. I am a whig, but I am a [illegible] mean [illegible] [illegible] the first election for any thing. If as is possible, the old Union Whig party is dead, I am free to follow any banner I see fit, but I do not choose to commit myself in advance nor do I wish to make that any recommendation. But what I wish particularly to say is that feeling perfectly satisfied that I have no right to ask any favors, I do not wish any one as a mere matter of friendship to push his influence to retain me. The office is now worth 5000 $ a year, for the salary was raised to $3000 on Adair's account and the fees & commissions will probably amount to that in addition, the highest limit allowed. There will there fore be many applicants for it. If I can retain it without undue or unreasonable solicitation, well and good. If not, I shall blame no one, nor complain, but go my way rejoicing that it is no worse. So much for that.

Now as to yourself. I had a long conversation with Stoneman at San Fran. who told me more particularly than you did, the conduct of Mr Secretary Conrad & Gen. Scott to you. As to Conrad, I knew he was a blackguard from a letter he wrote Gov. Gaines in reply to one drafted by me at the time the troops were withdrawn from this country, but I did think better of Scott. I did not work for him at this election and should not even have voted had

Gen my respects to Gen Smith & remember me to any of my old friends