

S. Fosdick Esq

Sag Harbor Decr 18th 1840.

Dear Sir,

I ask leave to solicit your favor in the procurement of the appointment of Collector of this Port.

I do this without consultation with any friend or acquaintance ~~here~~, for my residence here has been too short to expect the countenance of strong partizans, who look upon an office but as the spoils of victory. Neither can I boast of any great services rendered to Genl. Harrison, nor promise any for the future. But I think that I come within the Jeffersonian rule he has taken to guide him, and am "capable honest and faithful."

Between this time and the 4th of March next you will meet the individuals herein after enumerated either in the street, or in your counting room, and can add any recommendation, or use any persuasion you may think proper. I think they all have a personal if not an intimate acquaintance with me, and your own standing in the community will be a guaranty of my fitness, and free from any knowledge of theirs.

The great distance at which they live will free them from fears of personal interest, or prejudice; and their personal and with many, intimate acquaintance with Genl. Harrison will give weight to their recommendation. It will cost you but a word to each, and I hope diffidence or distrust of success will not deter you. If you try I am sure I shall succeed, ^{and} in a matter of this kind more can be asked for a friend than for ones self. To offer you any promise of reward were to insult you, and I rely entirely on your friendship. It may interfere with your business, but

not more than a moment at a time. I can obtain the
 Co operation of Senator Calhoun I think, and the names
 of many influential members. The office is worth about
 \$800 per year. Others will perhaps apply, but I am as well
 qualified as they, as good a Republican as any, and need
 the office more. Partizan services are no merit, and I
 place my application solely upon the rule before mentioned
 fidelity, Capacity and integrity. Mr Chase I am confident
 will aid me in this matter, if you think it best to consult
 him. If you are unwilling to do any thing about it, please
 put this letter in the fire, and keep the secret. If we suc-
 ceed Col. Pennington I think will make the application.

- S. Fosdick
- S. P. Chase
- Jno P Yarnip
- Ambrose Dudley
- O. M. Spencer
- Henry C. Spencer
- J. C. Wright
- W. D. Gallagher
- R. Hodges
- A. N. Riddle
- Daniel Gaus
- Wm. A. A. Taylor
- Geo. J. Williamson
- V. Worthington
- B. Storer
- G. J. Fox
- C. K. Cole

- Daniel Wade
- Jno G. Vaughan
- Wm. Greene
- Wm. R. Foster
- R. A. Southgate
- Jas Southgate
- Wm. Southgate
- Richd Southgate
- Jas Taylor
- Edw. Woodruff
- J. J. Strait
- Wm. Johnson
- J. W. Thomas
- J. J. Conover
- A. Wright

I could mention the names of many others
 but they would be those of younger men who are
 not of much notoriety or influence. I must others
 of equal influence with those mentioned, for you
 to select.

A heading after the fashion will I think answer.

"We the undersigned believing Samuel L. Gardner late a Resident of the City of Cincinnati to be a good and true Republican of and bearing full faith and Confidence in his integrity Capacity and firmness. Do recommend him as a fit and proper person to be appointed to the Office of Collector of the Customs of the Port of Sag Harbor in the State of New York where he now resides" ...

This is the first Communication to you since my return to the East. and it depends upon you whether it is the last. I am secluded from the world and society, until next Spring, when I may venture forth to Washington. Your business and other calls upon your time require so much of your ^{attention} that any correspondence of a friendly character would be profitless and laborious. I fear, with me. In the list of names I have given, I have omitted two, which if offered you may accept, but I do not wish you to ask. You will not misunderstand me. All here are well. Please give my highest respects to your sister, and to your wife. My best love to your children. If you are so fortunate as to know Mr. Murr, please remember me to him, and add my most fervent wishes for his success. I find that I have omitted your brother, wife & children, whom for me you will please not forget. I hope I may one day visit Cincinnati again, and renew many pleasant acquaintances I formed while there, Winter has commenced in earnest, and for three months, I shall call myself a man of leisure. After that time I shall be very busily employed I hope. Please write me at your earliest convenience.

Yrs Respectfully
S. L. Gardner