

as an independent proposition, they would spurn. This subject had never been agitated before the people, and if it had been made an issue in the call for this Convention, that call would not have received 100 votes in Washington county. Could any member of this Convention put his hand on his heart and say he would decide in favor of this measure if he was acting as chancellor; and could he excuse himself on this plea if called to account by his constituents? This Convention was not in any position to go into this question.

The bold and wicked proposition was made to surrender this work, which had cost the State \$8,000,000 and almost bankrupted it. Is there any gentleman here who will say that no agents to manage this work can be found in the State of Maryland? The history of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal has, from its inception to the present day, been one of miscalculation and disappointment. It is the cry that has always hung around the company that it is a failure, and this accounts for the complaints, for all this hue and cry.

He admitted that there had been mismanagement, but was that any justification for giving it away, not to our own people, but to outsiders? Should they experiment with a great work like this? They should hesitate before acknowledging our own inability and the necessity of selecting foreign agents to manage our own affairs. These trustees were not a part of our people; they were not subject to our jurisdiction. They might pervert the canal from its proper uses and to the injury of the State, and being neither amenable to public opinion here or to our jurisdiction, there would be no way of reaching them. Is there any court in the State of Maryland, that could take cognizance of any mismanagement? Then we would have bound ourselves hand and foot, and be handed over to the mercies of those outside of our own limits.

Mr. A. continued his argument at considerable length against the propriety and justice of the measure.

Mr. Dobbin said he had spent twenty years in close connection with a canal, twelve years as president and eight as director and counsel, in which position he still remained. Whenever the people of a State sovereignty ap-