

places the power of such nomination in certain persons to be appointed by the house of delegates; and to be called trustees, but also gives to such trustees the sole authority of paying such agent; so that if this bill should be passed into a law, such an agent could not be so properly stiled the agent of the Province, as the minister of the trustees; for he must depend on their sole will and pleasure for his being and continuance in the agency, and on their generosity for his pay.

Contemporary Printed Pamphlet Md.Hist.Soc.

As to the trustees, the very nature of their power would change their name, or title of trustees, into that of guardians, and what relative term would best suit not only the legislative power, but the whole Province, to answer that of guardian, we shall not presume to mention; but there might be reason to wish (if such a bill should ever be a law) that the conduct of such trustees, represented by their minister at the court of Great-Britain, (as you are pleased to express yourselves in your message) with that fund, might not deserve a worse character, and more to the reproach of their constituents, and danger of the whole Province, than that of guardianship. p. 37

Although a prettier scheme for power and profit, in our little world of politics, could scarce be thought of, yet, far be it from us to imagine that any persons, either in or out of your house, had any share in this admirable project with a view of being trustees. Should this ingenious contrivance ever take effect, the trustees might play the game into each other's hands, and represent each other in England: the authority which they would gain by their minister's complaints in England, against whatever person or thing they pleased, might very soon become terrible and dangerous to every person they should be pleased to think and stigmatize as delinquents or malignants in this Province: and when, after glutting their vanity with a dictatorial power, and, under pretence of necessary uses and purposes, filling their pockets with money, they should perceive an approaching period to their greatness of authority and gain they might, by their minister's consent, employ their power, and the money entrusted with them, to their own private advantage, and the very great prejudice of this Province: instances of this kind have not been wanting in America. We could suggest many other reasons against this bill, but, we doubt not, what we have already said, will be sufficient to convince you of the necessity and justice of our resolution not to pass it; and we are so little apprehensive of what the world can say to our disadvantage in this particular, that we shall think it an honour done us to have it known, by printing the bill with this message: "That this House, with a firmness becoming an Upper House of Assembly, rejected a bill, which not only was big with the most dangerous consequences to every individual person in the Province, and would render the government contemptible in the eyes of our neighbours, but also might draw a p. 38