

They have in June last, when they knew, (as well as they could know any fact of future, but certain occurrence,) that the canal would be completed and go into operation last autumn; they have appointed as the directors of the canal company, (who are in point of fact nothing more nor less than the agents or guardians of the rights and interests of the State,) six persons, which number constitutes the board of directors, two of whom reside in the cities heretofore embraced by the District of Columbia, neither of which cities now own one dollar of stock in the canal company, one in Allegany county, one in Washington and one in Frederick county, each of the two latter residing about six or eight miles from the canal, and one in the city of Baltimore, for some years engaged in the coal business, but now, as I am informed, engaged as superintendants to erect a monument at Cumberland, in Allegany county, to commemorate the glorious event of the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. Thus five-sixths of this board of directors, if they have any interest in the places in which they reside (which no body can doubt) have interests of great importance, directly antagonistic to those of the State; and they would be immensely benefited, if the State were not to receive one dollar from the tolls of the canal, its only source of income. Nay, the District cities, Allegany county, and those parts of Washington and Frederick counties, lying in the vicinity of the canal, would derive incalculable benefits, if the canal were a public highway, free of all tolls. And it would not be represented for the first time, if in the town or city of Cumberland, as a commentary, by a distinguished citizen of that place, upon a remark, as to what the State would receive from the tolls on the canal: "why the State does not expect to receive any thing, does it?" And this, too, from one who ought to understand the opinions and expectations of the people of Allegany, upon the subject. For such an appointment of directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, if all other reasons were wanting, I think there is sufficient cause for withdrawing these appointments from the present State's agents. For any act of similar indiscretion or error of judgment, any prudent judiciary principal would discharge his agent, however confiding he might be in the purity of his intentions.

But there is another ground why, in his opinion, the change ought to be made. Three out of five of the State's agents from their localities are so identified with the interests of the canal and the district cities, that he had no hope that an election of canal directors of a different character would ever be made by them. The long intercourse, association, sympathies and concert of action between these agents and directors, leaves no room to hope for a change in the directors of the canal company, but by a change of the board of appointment. In this belief he was the more firmly convinced, by the effort of his friend to explain the grounds of the election complained of, in which he stated that one of the

directors, who resided in Alexandria, had been of immense importance to the board, and probably that the canal would never have been completed, but for his aid in suggesting the mode and means by which money could be borrowed, where otherwise, perhaps it could not have been obtained. If directors are to be sought amongst those only who were instrumental or useful in the construction or completion of the canal, there is no reason to hope, without a change in the present State's agents, for the appointment of such a board of directors, as the interests or the State imperatively demand, should be invested with the control of the destinies of the canal company. But ought any such reason, since the completion of the canal, to influence the agents of the State of Maryland, in the appointment of a director? He thought not. Living in one of the district cities, he made no sacrifices for the benefit of the State, or even of the company, but acting for his own advantage and that of his fellow citizens of the district, to them he must look for his reward, not to the State of Maryland.

It is, however, said that the Legislature is the proper tribunal to apply the corrective, it is for them to appoint other State agents. There was no hope of relief from that source. The agents were elected by the concurrent vote of both branches of the General Assembly, and if they differed in political sentiments, as most probably they would do, such a change was out of the question; and even if the two branches were both of the whig party, he should regard it as an effort of a wild and inexperienced politician, where defeat in the House of Delegates was morally certain. Look at the high characters and great political influence of the State's agents, and the directors of the canal company, three of each of which are now members of this Convention, and ask yourselves if for one moment you can be induced to believe that the majority of the whigs of the House of Delegates, could be prevailed upon to turn out office, "at a single dash," nine of their most influential and active whig friends backed as they would be, by such a numerous and indefatigable band of adherents as would rally around them. And this too, according to the political system of the present day, must be the act of a party caucus. He who has served in the Legislature, and has faith enough to believe in the success of such an effort, will never find his credulity too heavily taxed. He had served in the General Assembly, about four years from the city of Baltimore, and several years from Anne Arundel, his native county, would as soon believe that we were about to catch larks by the sky's falling.

He wished it to be distinctly understood, that he meant not, either in what he had said or might hereafter say, to impute to the State's agents, or the directors of the canal company, the slightest intentional departure from the highest sense of honor, morality or duty; personally and by reputation he knew them all too well for a moment to harbor such a suspicion. But he knew they were not superhuman, or exempt from the influence of preconceived prejudices of interest, of