

limited by the amount of capital which the corporation could obtain.

If its managers could secure sufficient means, they could buy up all the lands in the State and hold them in perpetuity, or at least create a powerful monopoly, which would be "odious, contrary to the spirit of free government and the principles of commerce, and ought not to be suffered." (Bill of Rights, Article 41.) And this monopoly would be entitled to "generally enjoy all such privileges and immunities, and exercise and have all such powers, rights and privileges as may be necessary and *useful* in reference to the object of their (its) incorporation," which is by said charter stated to be "the protection of the property of the citizens of Hagerstown from destruction by fire," although said charter does not, in return for the extraordinary and dangerous powers granted to said proposed corporation, require it to own a fire-engine or hose-carriage, or do any act for the accomplishment of that object.

This alone ought, I would respectfully suggest, to be sufficient to cause you to withdraw your approval of the bill.— But in addition to all this, the bill proposes to incorporate a "Hose Company," which is one of the kinds of Companies specified in section 14, of the Act of 1868, chapter 471, as proper to be incorporated under the provisions of that General Law. Such being the case, if a Hose Company or Companies, of the same general character, be incorporated by special Act of the Legislature, Article 3, section 48, of the Constitution declares such special Act to be void. I therefore return the bill without my approval.

JAMES BLACK GROOME.

Which was read.

The question then recurring (under the provisions of the Constitution, Article 2, section 17,) upon the reconsideration of the vote by which said bill had been passed,

The vote was reconsidered.

The question then recurring upon the passage of the bill,

The question being,

"Shall this bill pass, the objections of the Governor to the contrary, notwithstanding?"

The yeas and nays were called, (as required by Article 2, section 17, of the Constitution,) and appeared as follows:

AFFIRMATIVE—None.