

to amount, *Communibus Annis*, to 700 L Sterling *per Annum*, the Salary formerly allowed by this Province, to an Agent used to be 100 L Sterling *per Annum*, but suppose this to be increased to 150 or 200 Sterling *per Annum*, there would then remain 500 or 600 Sterling *per Annum*, and in the whole three Years to 1500 or 1800 L Sterling, in their Hands or Power, which they might dispose of to such Uses and Purposes, as they should from time to time think Necessary; so that whether they applied it to the Use and Service of the Province, or to their own use (which they might judge Necessary) they could not be accountable for more than they might think fit to give their Agent: For if they should have been Questioned, upon laying their Account before the House of Delegates What they had done with the Money, they might truly say, that the Law was very Express, that they should have Liberty of Applying the Money to such Uses and Purposes as they *judged Necessary*, which they had accordingly done, and that They and none Others were the proper Judges of the *Necessity of such Uses and Purposes*: Besides, the Bill is so drawn in other Parts, which relates to the Accounting, that by no Rules of Construction, the Trustees could have been Answerable for that Money: But what we have said is sufficient for the present Purpose.

Hence you and the rest of the World may now Judge, Who acted with a proper Care in the Disposal of the Country's Money; You, who Voted so large a Sterling Sum as 500 or 600 *per Annum* for Three Years, to be disposed of by certain Persons called Trustees *as they should think fit*; or We, who neither then would or now will Concur in such a Vote; And it would have been more than probable, if that Bill had Passed into a Law, that the People would very soon have had Cause to Acknowledge, it could not have been more Inconvenient to commit this Trusteeship or Guardianship (if you would have it so) to any Gentleman in our House, than to some Persons out of it: And we wish that Opinion of Infallibility, you mention, was as far from your House as it is from ours.

However, we cannot be mistaken in this, that such a Bill is not to be found in any *English* Government; and which, if it had Passed into a Law, would have had the Effects we before mentioned, of establishing a new and dangerous Power amongst ourselves, making the whole Province ridiculous to our Neighbours, and the risque of Incurring his Majesty's Displeasure.

Your Message of the 6th Instant would not have been less Decent, if the extraordinary Threat of the People doing themselves Justice, had been omitted: Whatever you may be pleased to suggest to yourselves or others, we can never be so insensible of any Hardships or Difficulties the People of