

salary of *six hundred and fifty pounds* per annum during the continuance of his commission. The *appropriation*, or provision made for the payment of this salary is to be found in the third section of this act, and is expressed in these words; “the said salaries shall be paid quarterly, out of the supplies raised every year, *until the General Assembly shall make other provision for payment*; and the said salaries, for the ensuing year, shall be paid out of the arrearages of taxes due for the year seventeen hundred and eighty-five.” By the act of 1792, ch. 76, it was declared, “that the chancellor shall be entitled to receive, *for all duties and services whatever, prescribed, or to be prescribed by law*, an annual salary of nine hundred and fifty pounds current money, during the continuance of his commission, to be paid quarterly. By the four last sections of this act, an *appropriation* or provision was made for the payment of that salary out of a particular fund, to be raised by taxes on proceedings in chancery and the land office, and money arising from the sale of vacant land; which was to be specially set apart for that purpose. This appropriation, or special fund was temporary, and limited to *five* years, was continued, by the act of 1797, ch. 51, for *seven* years longer; and was then *virtually* applied to general purposes, by operation of the act of 1798, ch. 86, and *expressly* so applied by the acts of 1804, ch. 64 and 108. By a resolution passed at November session, 1796, an addition of *two hundred dollars* was made to the chancellor’s salary for the ensuing year.(t)

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(t) On running the eye over the acts and titles of acts passed by the General Assembly under the provincial government of Maryland, in Bacon’s revision, it cannot but strike the attention of every one how large a proportion of them, even those of the most important character, were limited in their operation to a specified period of time, and that too, of a very short duration. This temporary mode of legislation must have been attended with very considerable inconvenience. But it appears to have been resorted to by the colonists as the only means of defending their rights and interests against the undue exercise of the royal and proprietary prerogatives. It will be recollected, that any act, after it had been passed by the General Assembly, however beneficial or necessary to the people, might be annulled by being dissented from by the lord proprietary or by the king; and therefore, to keep the proprietary or the king within reach of the people and dependent upon them by rendering it necessary to convene their representatives at short intervals to reenact or continue laws necessary for the support of the government; (7 *Mass. His. Soci.* 129;) and to extract from the proprietary or king the assent to new laws which might be called for by the people, it was deemed expedient, by the General Assembly, to limit their legislative enactments to a very short duration. Indeed it is said, that some of the colonial General Assemblies, in order to preserve their independence of the king, had done almost every act of legislation, by votes or orders, even to the repealing the effects of acts, suspending establishments of pay, paying services, doing *chancery* and other judicatory business, &c. having their effect without being reduced to the form of