

had not the constitutional power to reduce that salary in any manner whatever, during that period. In consequence of which controversy between the two branches of the legislature, the Chancellor has been totally deprived, since the close of the last session, of the salary which had been thus ascertained and secured to him during the continuance of his commission.

But, however ruinous this controversy may have been, and may still be to the Chancellor individually; yet, when contemplated in all its bearings, his fate becomes a matter of comparatively minor consideration. There are matters involved in it, vitally affecting the constitution, and the safeguards of the people's rights, of infinitely greater moment than the mere personal wrongs of the Chancellor. Its great importance seems to require, and will certainly excuse the giving of a condensed account of its origin, progress and termination.

It had been the uniform practice of the General Assembly, for about twenty years past to pass a bill at each session, by which it was enacted, in general terms, that all acts which would then expire should be continued over to the next session. This had been found an easy and safe mode of continuing all acts of all descriptions, not intended to be repealed or made perpetual. But, at the last session, the subject was taken up with more apparent care, by a bill which proposed to review, and to continue or perpetuate each temporary act by name. On the 9th day of December, 1824, soon after the commencement of the session, it was moved in the House of Delegates, that a committee should be appointed to inquire what laws would expire with that session; (a) and a committee was accordingly appointed; who on the 14th of the same month reported a bill, which, on the 17th, was ordered to a second reading; that is, to be put upon its passage, on the 17th of the next month. But, on the same day, this bill, instead of being suffered to lie over to the appointed time, was re-committed; and did not again make its appearance in the house until the 8th of February following. After which, it was suffered to lie upon the table unnoticed until the very last day of the session,

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(a) It may be well here, once for all, to remark, that it has been deemed unnecessary to make any special reference to the journals of either house for what, as in this instance, is stated in this memorial to have been done by the House of Delegates, or by the Senate; because the date given in the text will, in every instance, be found to be of itself a sufficient reference, as all the movements of the two houses are placed upon their respective journals in chronological order.