

when it was called up to a second reading; and, while on its passage, it was proposed to insert a clause continuing the act of 1798, ch. 86, which made provision for the payment of the Chancellor's salary; but the proposition was rejected, and the bill thus passed and sent to the Senate. This bill, proposing to continue or perpetuate each temporary act by name, requiring much consideration, and omitting all provision for the payment of the Chancellor's salary, *the general appropriation for which*, during the last twenty-four years had been continued or renewed by each continuing act, was, without hesitation, rejected by the Senate.

It appears, that, on the 14th day of December last, an order was passed by the House of Delegates, calling on the register in chancery, to report "at as early a period as possible, the number of cases remaining in said court undetermined, and the length of time they have remained there; also the number of cases in which the papers have been lost; and the number of decisions made within the two last years, ending on the first of November, 1824." This call was answered on the 20th of the same month. On the answer being read, it was immediately referred to the committee of grievances and courts of justice; which, it would seem, might have been considered the best and most correct disposition that could have been made of it: but, in a few hours after, that reference was reconsidered, and it was referred to a select committee.

In this place it will be necessary to remark, in order duly to appreciate what followed, that by the standing rules, and the long established usages of the House of Delegates, no member is allowed to introduce any bill, upon any subject whatever, without having first obtained leave; and the House having referred that leave to a committee to inquire, to digest the subject, and to report accordingly—and in cases when a petition or memorial is presented to the House, or a communication is made to it, such petition, memorial, or communication may be, and most usually is, as a matter of course, referred to a committee with leave to report by bill, or otherwise. But, in such case, the bill reported must have a direct, and immediate relation to the subject referred to the committee. These two are the only modes by which any bill can be brought into the house.

It does not appear, from the votes and proceedings, what the register did say to the House; but it is difficult to comprehend how any thing which he could have said, in answer to the questions the House had propounded to him, could warrant this special com-