

mittee in reporting a bill to alter and abolish a most important part of the constitution; and, also, in reporting a bill for the purpose of *reducing* the Chancellor's salary below what had been constitutionally secured to the Chancellor for the time being, for the last two-and-thirty years. But so it was: this committee to whom the register's communication was referred, found it perfectly applicable to these subjects, and pregnant with both of those very important bills. And, accordingly, on the 21st of January, seemingly as a report in part, they introduced the bill proposing to abolish the office of Chancellor; and on the next day they made a further report, by presenting the bill, by which it was intended to assert and establish the right to cut down the Chancellor's salary at pleasure.

The first of these bills was expressed in these words: "An act to repeal all such parts of the constitution and form of government, as relate to the appointment of a Chancellor.—*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all those parts of the constitution and form of government, which require the appointment of a Chancellor be, and the same are hereby repealed." This is the whole of it. There was no clause directing the publication of it for the purpose of apprizing the people, that it was intended to take effect as an alteration of the constitution; without which it could never operate as such; and without which no bill intended as an alteration of the constitution had ever before been reported or passed.

It is no where said, or intimated, whether the ultimate object of this bill was to expunge from our code the whole of the principles of equity or not; or whether it was intended to have no separate court of chancery; or to have such courts, but no Chancellor; or where or how those powers and duties, now held and discharged by the Chancellor, were to be deposited and administered. The first sections of the act of 1804, chap. 55, framed the present six judicial districts; and then the same act declared that the General Court should be abolished. The act which destroyed the General Court began by providing *an ample substitute*. But by this act, for abolishing the office of Chancellor, there would have been an effectual pulling down; but no building up of any kind whatever.

On contemplating this short bill many inquiries suggest themselves; as, whether it would be expedient to eradicate from our code every principle of equity or not? whether, if those principles are to remain, they can be administered easier, more speedily, and