

posed upon them, will end there. The injured citizen may complain, but he can do no more than complain; he will be without redress,

The salary claimed by the present chancellor is a debt due to him from the State. The law of 1798 has ascertained its *amount*, and the Declaration of Rights has declared it shall be *secured* to him; and further, that it shall be *secured* to him *during the continuance of his commission*. It is a debt due to him from the State, and continually growing due to him, during that period of time—and the State is as much bound to pay that debt, in one form or other, as it can be bound to pay any debt whatever. The State cannot now be sued; nor could its property, like that of a tardy or a fraudulent debtor, at any time be taken and sold to pay its debts. The legislature have the strength, the physical power to disregard the constitution; to wrong an individual; to refuse to appropriate money to pay a debt; to refuse to make provision for the payment of a salary. But, to do so is contrary to, and a violation of their *moral*, their *religious*, and their *constitutional* obligation.

Each legislator has, like every other citizen, a deep interest in the preservation of the constitution in all its perfection and integrity. Institutions, that cease to command respect, are soon treated with contempt, and become exposed to the assaults of every rude intruder—one violation sanctions another; and every breach, however small, weakens the political edifice; one constitutional pillar after another may be loosened from its base until all are tumbled into ruins. That which is now the case of the chancellor may soon become the case of every judge in the State. From one department ruin may be visited upon another, until all the divisions of the government are removed, and every check and balance, intended to guard and protect the rights of persons and of property, against the wayward and inordinate passions and designs of the few, shall be wholly destroyed.

The House of Delegates are the peculiar guardians of the treasury of the State. They alone appoint the treasurer, who holds his office at their pleasure. Hence it is obvious, that any person or officer, whom they may order their treasurer not to pay, will not be paid; no matter who he may be, or what may be the merits of his claim. In such case, the Delegates need not resort to any expedient or indirect movement to attain their object. It is only necessary, that they should boldly and firmly give the order: and, if their treasurer hesitates, the same majority who gave the order, can at once remove him and appoint a more subservient