

of February, 1825, was unjust, and prayed, that some provision should be made for allowing him the benefit of an appeal. It is in these respects only, that the two cases have a connexion and association with each other; and that the facts and circumstances of each should be recollected and taken together for the purpose of enabling the citizen to form a correct estimate of the value of those provisions of our Constitution which declare, "that the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of government, ought to be for ever separate and distinct from each other," and "that the independency and uprightness of Judges are essential to the impartial administration of justice, and a great security to the rights and liberties of the people."

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.

The Memorial of THEODORICK BLAND, Chancellor of Maryland respectfully represents.

That at the last Session of the General Assembly of Maryland, the House of Delegates asserted the right to reduce the salary of the Chancellor, either by a direct enactment, repealing all laws passed since the year 1785, which had made provision for its payment; or by refusing to continue the appropriation that had been made, from time to time, for that purpose during the last six and twenty years. This assertion of right, on the part of the House of Delegates, was opposed by the Senate, on the ground, that when the present Chancellor came into office, his salary having been ascertained by law, and secured to him, by the Declaration of Rights, during the continuance of his commission, the Legislature * 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. **597**

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.