

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 This had been found an easy and safe mode of continuing all Acts of all descriptions, not intended to be repealed or made perpetual.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 recommitted; 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, *when it was called up to a second reading; and, while on

598 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 griev-

(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.