

ances 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 committee \*in reporting a bill to alter and abolish a most important part of the Constitution; and also, in reporting a **599** 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 apprising 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.