

cellor his present salary; and that the whole of the temporary laws of our State, some of which \*are of a highly important character, shall be set afloat, because your wishes in regard **603** to the Chancellor's salary cannot be gratified; we must lament that you have adopted what to us seems an extraordinary principle, that the wheels of government shall stand still for the sake of a single individual. It seems to us to amount to a declaration, that you are determined not to concur with us in doing acts which both of us admit to be right and proper, because of a difference of opinion as to other acts of a wholly different character; we cannot be deterred from doing what we believe to be right, lest injurious consequences might result from it. With us, the rule has been adopted and adhered to in this instance, that we must pursue the right, so far as we can ascertain it, and if pernicious consequences flow from it, we must leave it to the people of this State to determine whether it is the consequence of our acts, or of your opposition to them. We therefore again return to you the general continuing Act, in the hope that you will reconsider and pass it in its original form with its excepting clauses."

Late in the evening of the same day, the last one of the session, the Senate assented to the general continuing Act in the form in which it had been sent to them by the delegates, with the following message explanatory of their considerations and motives. "*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates*—The Senate have again received the bill entitled an Act to continue in force the Acts of Assembly which would expire with the present session, and also your accompanying message. The sentiments of the Senate have undergone no change in regard to the subject in controversy between your honorable body and themselves, but actuated alone by a desire to terminate the session, which has been already too long protracted, they have passed the said bill; content to leave the decision of the question to the people of Maryland."

The delegates, as will be seen by their vote of the 21st of February, passing the bill to reduce the Chancellor's salary to twenty-two hundred dollars, could not have rested their pretensions upon any distinction between the Act of 1798 and 1792; or upon any notion about the temporary nature of the one Act, and the permanent character of the other; because, the salary awarded to the Chancellor, by that vote, was much less than had been allowed to him by either of those Acts. And the resolution which they passed and offered to the Senate for fixing the Chancellor's salary at "the sum of twenty-five hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents and one-third of a cent, as a compensation for his services during \* the present year;" without any reference to any antecedent law, clearly shows, that they held the Chan- **604** cellor's salary to be reducible at their pleasure.