

provided, that the salaries of the Judges be liberal, compared with the present exigencies of the State; for what might now be esteemed liberal under those exigencies, may not appear so hereafter, when, from a happy change of circumstances, the resources of the people shall be greater than at present. In this point of view, we consider the salaries settled on the Judges by the present bill, as sufficiently liberal.

“If on a revision of the subjects of this message, your ideas should coincide with ours, as to the quantum of the salaries proposed by us to be altered, and settled annually on all the other civil officers of government, except the Judges, a bill originated by you for that purpose will have our ready assent.”

To this message from the Senate, the Delegates on the 12th of January, 1783, sent the following answer: “May it please your honors, We cannot but consider the bill for the payment of the civil list as a money bill, and therefore subject to no amendment by your honors. By a rule of this House, before any person is named to any office or appointment, to which any salary or allowances is annexed, the allowance of salary is first ascertained. The reason of this provision is obvious, to prevent any opinion that the salary is given to the person and not to the office, and the choice of the officer removes all suspicion of partiality or prejudice. We

640 *do not think the salaries allowed by our bill profuse or extravagant, and we cannot go into a reconsideration of them without departing from our rule, and subjecting ourselves to a censure we would wish to avoid.

“We agree with your honors, that the salaries to the Chancellor and Judges ought not to be settled by an annual regulation, but ought to be secured to them during the continuance of their commissions; and, as soon as we can furnish a permanent and perpetual fund out of which their salaries can be paid, we will send you a distinct bill for that purpose, and we hope this will be in our power before the expiration of the year; we have returned your honors the bill, and hope it will meet your assent.”

In reply to which the Senate, on the 14th of the same month, sent to the Delegates the following message: “Gentlemen, We have reconsidered and sent you the civil list bill with our assent; you have laid us under the disagreeable necessity either of lengthening the session for some days, at a time when every gentleman expects to rise, or assenting to what we do not approve; we must therefore declare to you, that we shall hereafter adhere closely to our propositions, and have only at this time assented to the bill to prevent the further continuance of the session, or the confusion which would arise from leaving the civil officers without any provision.”

From these messages it clearly appears, that both branches of the General Assembly agreed, that the salaries of the Chancellor