

cellor was appointed, his salary, by the act of 1798, ch. 86, then, at least, undeniably in force, was fixed at the sum of *thirty-four hundred* dollars per annum; and that the act of 1792, ch. 76, had, previously to the year 1798, fixed the Chancellor's salary at the sum of *twenty-five hundred and thirty-three* dollars and *thirty-three* cents; and, consequently, by the passage of this bill, the House of Delegates, *practically asserted the power*, at once, to *reduce* the Chancellor's salary below what had been secured to the several Chancellors during the continuance of their commissions for the last thirty-two years.

The Senate conceiving the *reduction* of the Chancellor's salary, in any form, to be a direct violation of the *thirtieth* article of the Declaration of Rights, took up this bill, on the 23d of the same month, and rejected it "*unanimously.*" Thus, at this late day of the session, this great constitutional question, relative to the *security* of judicial salaries, was, for the first time, fully and openly presented to the Assembly; and the two Houses were fairly at issue.

On the 25th day of February, the Delegates passed the civil list bill, in which they *reduced* the Chancellor's salary to *twenty-five hundred and thirty-four* dollars. This was rejected by the Senate on the *same ground* of its being an unconstitutional *reduction*. As has been stated, the long special continuing act, omitting to continue the *appropriation* for the payment of the Chancellor's salary, having been passed by the Delegates, and sent to the Senate on the 26th of February, the very last day of the session, was, by that body, read and rejected at once. On the same last day, the Delegates passed a resolution directing, that the Chancellor should be paid 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.*" This was a twofold reduction; it was *less* in amount than the existing salary, and *shorter* in time than during the continuance of his commission. It was doubly objectionable; and, was therefore rejected by the Senate without hesitation. The Delegates then, immediately introduced and passed a bill continuing all acts, in general terms, which would expire with that session, except the act of 1798, ch. 86, and also except the act of 1797, ch. 71; which bill the Senate, after much hesitation, consented to pass.

On the 26th of February, the Senate sent the following message to the delegates. "*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:—The Senate have again rejected the bill entitled, An act to pay the civil*