

or the circulating medium of the country had no value; or a value continually fluctuating, and which it was impossible to ascertain, it would be impossible to fix and secure a salary of any value to any officer; since there was not any such *money or standard* by means of which any amount in value could be ascertained and secured. These propositions are self-evident.

The salaries of the chancellor and judges were not secured, as required by the Declaration of Rights, until the year 1785. The causes of their not being so constitutionally secured, before that period, were the fluctuation and depreciation of the circulating medium of the country; the actual poverty of the State; and the very greatly embarrassed condition of its finances. These facts shall be established; and it will then be shown, that the General Assembly, themselves, referred to those circumstances as the foundation of their reasons for not securing the salaries of the chancellor and judges, as they were required to do by the Declaration of Rights.

During the first nine years of the republic the salaries of the chancellor and judges were, none of them, ascertained and secured, according to the Declaration of Rights. They were all, alike, settled by annual appropriations, given at the pleasure of the legislature; at first, by mere resolutions; and then by the bill for the payment of the civil list; and their *amount* varied according to the opinions of the legislature, and the circumstances of the State. In the year 1777, soon after a chancellor was appointed, it was directed, that a yearly salary should be paid to him at the rate of *three hundred pounds* current money. For the year 1778 he was to receive a yearly salary of *seven hundred and fifty pounds* common money. It was declared, that for the year 1779 he should be allowed *twelve hundred and fifty pounds*. For the year 1780 it was determined, that a salary of *twelve thousand five hundred pounds* per annum should be allowed the chancellor. For the year 1781 his salary was fixed at *six hundred pounds*, to be paid in Spanish milled dollars at seven shillings and sixpence each, or in gold, or other silver in proportion, or *in bills of credit at the passing value*. The provision for the payment of judicial salaries, during each of these five first years, was made simply by a resolution passed at the last session of each previous year. As a compensation to the chancellor, for his services for the year 1782, he was to be paid *seven hundred and fifty pounds* in bills of credit of the last emission at par, or *in wheat*, at seven shillings and six-