

*ment, no influence over them would be more dangerous than that of the legislature, arising from the hope of increasing, or the apprehension of decreasing salaries; an influence of this kind would have a tendency to introduce the greatest evil in government, an accumulation and union in the same persons, of the legislative and judicial powers, so wisely and expressly proscribed by our Constitution.*

*“The perplexities and confusion of the times may apologize in some degree, for past inadvertency; for we are convinced, a deliberate violation of the Declaration of Rights was never intended by the legislature in any point, much less in one so essential. However, as the enemy hath some time since changed an offensive into a defensive war on this continent, as now a regular and effectual administration of law and justice hath taken place amongst us, it is become the duty of the General Assembly to establish permanent salaries, and to secure a punctual and full payment of them to the judges.*

*“We therefore deem it both expedient and necessary that a bill, distinct from the civil list bill, should originate in your House for that purpose; such a bill will meet with our ready concurrence; 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 honours, 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 honours. By a rule of this House, before any person is named to any office or appointment, to which any salary or allowance is annexed, the allowance or 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*