

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 honours, 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 honours 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 and judges ought to be secured, and that the legislature *could not constitutionally diminish or withhold them at pleasure*. But the Delegates, it seems, could not be persuaded, that the State then had it in its power, or could raise the funds to secure those salaries as required by the Constitution. These messages need no comment. Yet it will be well to recollect, that some of those, who approved those messages, had been themselves distinguished members of that convention which framed the Constitution.

At the November session of 1783, this subject was again taken up, and a committee appointed by the House of Delegates ; *“ to consider what arrangements might be necessary and proper with regard to the civil establishment ; who reported, “ that the chancellor, the judges, and other officers on the civil establishment holding commissions during good behaviour, ought to be rendered independent by having salaries annexed to continue during their continuance in office,”* which report was concurred with. In consequence