

of which the same committee made a further report to the House, specifying sundry articles as being, in their opinion, "proper objects of taxation for establishing *permanent funds*, for the payment of moneys that become due on the civil list." But on the second reading of this report, the laying of taxes on the proceedings in courts of law and equity, which was considered as the most productive of the ways and means for raising the proposed fund, was rejected; and the aggregate of the residue not being sufficient for the payment of the civil list, the whole project failed. Hence, owing *solely* to the declared *inability* to provide funds, the judicial salaries were again settled for the current year and no longer.

At the next session leave was given, in the House of Delegates, to bring in a bill to establish a *permanent fund* for the payment of salaries to the chancellor and judges, *during the continuance of their commissions*; and a bill was accordingly reported to the House; but it seems to have been virtually superseded or negatived by the civil list bill, in which, as reported, the salaries of the chancellor and judges were to have been secured to them, "*during the continuance of their commissions*;" but, those words were stricken out on the second reading, by a majority of only *one* vote, and the bill was thus passed, bestowing the judicial salaries "for the current year only." At this session the propriety of giving to judicial salaries the requisite constitutional security had been introduced and pressed upon the attention of the General Assembly by the Intendant of the Revenue in the conclusion of his report, in which he says, "Permit an old servant to recommend to your most serious consideration, the increasing of the chancellor's and the judges of the General Court's salaries. Their present allowance will not support them, whilst provisions and other necessaries continue at their present prices. Your lives, liberties and properties, depend much more upon the abilities and integrity of gentlemen who fill these judicatories than perhaps at first view may be imagined. *These officers ought to be put above want, and whatever is given ought to be absolute, and without control, and not be obliged to look up annually to the legislative body for their next year's support.* The increase I would recommend would be £150 to each, amounting in the whole to only £600; a small tax upon law proceedings would bring in much more than this sum to the treasury."

At the session of the General Assembly held in November, 1785, there were convened, as our statute book will show, the most