

legislature were therefore compelled to postpone a compliance with the constitution. Imperious and uncontrollable necessity excused the omission, and on this alone they rested their justification. To prove the sincerity with which the plea was urged, they embraced with alacrity the first symptom which indicated a restoration of our currency to a sound and healthful state, to acquit themselves of their constitutional obligations. As early as 1785, even while the pressure occasioned by the revolutionary conflict, was still bearing heavily on the state, an act was passed to establish permanent salaries for the chancellor and judges. The duty with which the committee are charged having reference to the chancellor only, they shall confine their inquiries to the salary of that officer. The salary given to him by the act of 1785, ch. 27, was £650 per annum, which remained unchanged until the year 1792, when by chapter 76 of the acts passed at November session, it was increased to £950. It may be proper to mention, as connected with this subject, that in addition to the salary given to the chancellor by the act of 1785, which has been referred to, the sum of £200 was directed, by the act for the payment of the civil list, passed at the same session, to be paid to him as judge of the land office. From that time an allowance of £100 was annually made him in the same character, until the year 1792, when it was discontinued. The next provision which we find in relation to the chancellor's salary, is contained in the 71st chapter of the laws of 1797, which "in addition to the permanent salary fixed by law," gave him as chancellor and judge of the land office, the sum of \$455 57. At November session 1798, chapter 86, another law was passed on the subject. This is the last of the legislative acts, and it is under this that the chancellor's salary was paid from the year 1798 until 1825. It is entitled, A supplement to the act for establishing and securing the salary of the chancellor, and declares that the chancellor shall be entitled to receive for all duties and services whatever, prescribed or to be prescribed by law, an annual salary of £1275, current money, and no more, to be paid quarterly by the treasurer of the western shore. Both to this act and to that of 1797, there is a clause annexed, providing that they shall continue in force until the end of the next session of assembly which should happen after the 20th of October 1800. The act of 1798 was continued by successive legislatures until the end of December session 1824, when it was excepted by the house of delegates from the operation of the general continuing act. The act of 1797 was also included in the same exception. Such was the state of our laws in relation to the chancellor's salary at the close of the last session of the general assembly.

Your committee farther report—That on the 16th day of May 1825, being the first quarter day after the adjournment of the legislature, the chancellor drew an order on the treasurer for one fourth of the annual salary which had been granted by the act of 1798, and at the expiration of each of the two succeeding quarters that have since elapsed, he drew a similar order; each of these