

to be deprived of the convenience and benefits of this tribunal, placed in the hands of an efficient and competent officer in order to save the expense of the State to the amount of the salary of the Chancellor, either in whole or in part, is the only answer which ever has been, or which can be given to this inquiry, by those who have hitherto advocated the abolition of the Court, or the reduction of the salary of that officer.

And what would be the general result of this false economy? If you should establish for the Chancellor now appointed, the same salary which by the resolution of 1825 was given to the late Chancellor, by which his services would be secured, you would impose upon each Citizen of the State, for the purpose of sustaining a Court of admitted convenience and advantage to the people of the whole State, the intolerable burthen of a tax of the seven hundredth part of one per cent upon his assessable property.

Before passing from this subject there is one other consideration of so conclusive and commanding a character that I do not feel myself at liberty to withhold it. By the 36th Article of the Constitution, the Chancellor for the time being is made the keeper of the Great Seal, which the same article directs, should be affixed to all laws, commissions, grants and other public testimonials; and by the 57th article of the Constitution, it is directed that all civil commissions and grants shall be signed by the Governor and attested by the Chancellor, with the Seal of the State, annexed. The Great Seal then being confided to the keeping of the Chancellor by the Constitution, the Legislature do not possess the power to make a different disposition of it, except by an alteration of that instrument. It therefore follows that if an inadequate salary should be provided by you for this officer, that the Great Seal would remain vacant for at least twelve months, and that for that time no grant or civil commission could issue.

May it not also be apprehended that the laws which shall be passed by you, from which so much public good is anticipated, would be rendered nugatory, as they could not have the Great Seal of the State attached to them as the Constitution requires.

But when in addition to these views of the subject, you are reminded that the revenue which is now derived from this Court is equal to the expense of its administration; I am sure I shall not appeal without success to your wisdom and patriotism, in asking you to establish for this office such a salary as will secure to the State an honest, firm and able Chancellor.

Gentlemen, I cannot resist the inclination which impels me to advert to the practice, which has prevailed in the Legislature, of delaying its action upon the subjects of paramount importance, until the last hour of the session. Every observant Statesman will recognise in this practice the prominent cause of that legislation, which has resulted so perniciously to the State.

If you will take up the Statute Books for the past two years, and turn to the laws which have oppressed and weighed down the energies of your constituents, you will find that all of them were passed within three days of the adjournment of the Session, at which they were enacted.

With the assurance of entire confidence in your wisdom and patriotism, I must invite for the measures, to which I have referred, your early consideration and prompt action.

Permit me gentlemen, to say that I shall entertain for