

of very eminent abilities, except those who have been bred to the law, and they are, necessarily, too much engaged in private business to devote their talents wholly to the public.

May we not from this reflection enforce the necessity of founding colleges for the advancement of knowledge, and look forward to a period when gentlemen, without the aid of professional learning, will be found sufficient to conduct our public concerns.

On the same day a message was sent to the House of Delegates, by the Senate, suggesting the necessity of allowing fixed and permanent salaries to the Chancellor and Judges, as prescribed by the bill of rights.

Leave was given to bring in a bill for this purpose, which was done the next day.—On the 28th the subject was again taken into consideration and after several divisions on the sums, the following salaries were allowed: To the Chancellor £.650; Chief Judge of the General Court £.600; the other two Judges, each £.500; the Judges of the Court of Appeals, each £.200; the Judge of the Court of Admiralty £.250.—These salaries to be paid quarterly out of the supplies raised for every year until the Assembly should make further provision.—On the question for allowing £.400 to each of the Judges of the Court of Appeals, the votes were 52 against 2.—The bill after being gone through, was passed by 35 against 17.

In the progression of the bill an attempt was made to strike out a part which had been inserted in conformity to the bill of rights, as to the propriety of continuing those officers during good behaviour, and allowing them liberal and permanent salaries as a reasonable compensation for their services.—The clause was continued by 36 against 14.

A great diversity of opinion seems to have prevailed on this subject.—The public have generally thought the civil list too high, and attributed the weight of their burthens to that cause.

In conformity to those sentiments some members of the Assembly seem to have uniformly endeavoured to reduce it to the lowest standard, while others, sensible of the impossibility of having the public business properly conducted, without a sufficient allowance to the officers of government, have perhaps in the opinion of the people, verged to the contrary extreme.