

their being sent here. His mind had inclined to the positions assumed by the gentleman from Howard, (Mr. Merrick,) and the gentleman from Allegany, (Mr. Walsh.) He thought it was better that the justices of the Appeal Court should not sit in the seclusion of the chambers above and rust, but that they should go out on the circuits and mix with the people, and carry fresh to them the decisions of the Court of Appeals. He had not been struck with the force of the arguments on the other side. His mind strongly inclined him to this circuit system, but there was one doubt in regard to the practicability of it, and on the solution of that would depend his vote. The doubt with him was, whether the judges having circuit duties to perform and also to sit on the Orphans' Court bench, would have the time or be able to attend to their appellate duties. He submitted this question to the gentleman from Howard, and believing that he (Mr. P.) represented the majority of the Convention, upon the answer, he thought, would depend the success of the three-judge system.

Mr. Merrick believe that he spoke the voice of nine-tenths of those in favor of the three-judge system in saying that they proposed to retain the Orphans' Courts as at present constituted. He would say further that he came to the Convention the determined friend of the Orphans' Court system as now existing, and thought it would be a very unwise thing for the Convention to interfere with a system to which the people had been accustomed since 1777, and against which no complaint had been made or no voice sent up here for its abrogation. He believed it to be the best system that could be devised. In regard to the time, he thought that the appellate duties of the justices would not require their presence in Annapolis more than six months of the year, and this would leave two months each in the spring and fall for the circuit duties. As to the salaries, they were willing to place the salary of the appeal judges at \$4,000 and of the circuit judges at \$3,000.

They did not ask more of the Convention than this, and thought that their salaries were not more than sufficient to secure judges of talent and integrity. He had read a day or two since in one of the newspapers of the city of