

with an ability to win popularity,¹ and in 1839, when twenty-five years old, he had been elected a member of the House of Delegates. He had been re-elected in 1840 and in 1841; and in 1841 had been made Speaker of the House. He had not had much practice in the law as yet, and when in 1844, at the age of thirty, he had been appointed by Governor Francis Thomas to fill a vacancy on the bench of the sixth district, including Baltimore, the appointment had been severely condemned by the bar and the newspapers. Unknown to the bar, however, LeGrand had been laboring hard to equip himself as a lawyer, and, as it proved, laboring to good advantage. Reverdy Johnson, at a memorial meeting after Judge LeGrand's death, said:

He was at the time of his being appointed Associate Justice so young and so inexperienced that his nomination took the profession by surprise and filled most of them with solicitude. In this apprehension I have some pride in remembering that I did not participate. My acquaintance with him, though not then of an intimate character, was, however, such as fitted me, I thought, to estimate his qualification for that highest of all functions, the function of a judge. To me his talents were apparent; his love of professional distinction ardent; his capability of study great, and his perceptive faculties so quick and generally so accurate, his bearing so polite and courteous, that I entertained no doubt of his rapid and complete success. His career, even at the first term of his Court, fully justified the expectations and hopes of his friends.

There is repeated mention in newspapers and elsewhere during years following of the surprise of the bar at the training and ability exhibited at once by the new judge, and exhibited to the bar at large for the first time. The Baltimore

1. Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County, 718.