

who, it was supposed was going to obtain the office.<sup>30</sup> The evidence for this assertion does not appear in the debates of the convention. The office was abolished by a vote of 45 to 14. Mr. Chambers himself voted for its abolishment.<sup>31</sup>

The office of attorney-general was created by the constitution of 1776. The attorney-general was appointed by the governor, with a tenure of office during good behavior. The duties of the attorney-general were left undefined. In 1816 the legislature abolished this office.<sup>32</sup> But in the succeeding session, a law was passed re-establishing the office, and defining its duties. In 1821 the duties of attorney-general were further defined. He was required to prosecute and defend on the part of the State all cases wherein the State was interested. He was required to give legal advice whenever the General Assembly, or the governor required it. He had also authority to appoint deputies in each county and in Baltimore City to aid him in the execution of his duties. Neither the attorney-general, nor his deputies received a fixed salary, but were paid for their services in fees. These fees were paid by the county or city where the services were rendered.

The objections to the continuation of this office arose from the manner in which the attorney-general was appointed, the tenure of office, and the extensive patronage in appointing his deputies.

The method of paying the attorney-general, and his deputies in fees was also objected to on the ground of affording greater remuneration than was necessary. It was estimated that the fees of the attorney-general amounted to \$9000 per annum. In addition to this sum the State was paying on the average \$1700 yearly to others than the attorney-general and his deputies, for legal

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<sup>30</sup> Myers, *The Md. Const.* 1864, p. 72; *J. H. U. Studies*, vol. 19.

<sup>31</sup> *Debates*, vol. i, p. 549.

<sup>32</sup> Act 1816, ch. 247, confirmed by Act 1817, ch. 269.