

doubt that plenty of gentlemen would take the office. And why? Because it opened the path to professional preferment. In regard to the onerous duties of this office, he asked if the incumbent of the position in 1864, (Mr. John L. Thomas,) had not found time to come down here and stay for four months as a member of the Constitutional Convention?

Mr. Brown thought that it seemed to be admitted by all that \$3,500 was not too much. He certainly knew that it was not. An important law officer of the State should certainly be able to live and support his family in a comfortable manner. He did not doubt that if the office was put up at auction, it would be taken for \$1,000, that ambitious young men who had no practice would be glad to take it, but they did not want men of this kind; they wanted men of ability, intelligence and character, men who would have weight with a jury.

Those who had experience in the Criminal Court would say that it required a man of the most enlarged experience and of the highest talent to meet the requirements of the position. It often happened that important cases had to be tried in a large city like Baltimore, where men of position and wealth would be on trial, where defaulting officers of banks and other institutions were on trial, who would be defended by the highest talent not only of the city but of the State, and no young, inexperienced man could be competent to prosecute such cases. He believed that there was but one dissenting voice in his delegation on this question, and the opinion was that \$3,500 was little enough. This matter concerned the city of Baltimore alone, and he thought the views of her representatives should be respected by the Convention.

Mr. Syester had never tried a case in the city of Baltimore, but if the case was as presented by the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr. Brown,) God help him from ever trying a case there. He had supposed the judges and juries of that city were like those of the rest of the State. If the judges and juries could not understand a case unless expounded to them by a learned lawyer, he pitied them, and was glad that it was not so in the counties.

Mr. Wethered said while the convention was fixing the question of salaries, they should adopt a fixed stand-