

gan and the other alleged conspirators, thus vindicating the grand principles of constitutional liberty. Did anyone believe that if those judges of the Supreme Court had been elected for a term of years, which was then drawing to a close, and were eligible for re-election, that they would have had the manliness, the integrity and the nerve to vindicate those great principles?

The bench of Maryland had been noted for its purity—there scarcely had been a stain on it in the past. But under the present system, what was the case? There were men on the bench now whom report said—he would not say dishonored—but whom report said, displayed the partisan on the bench. If report speaks correctly, there are men on the bench in Maryland who do dishonor to it; and why do they do it? Do they not do it to court party influence? If those men felt secure in their positions, if they did not know that their reign was drawing to a close, perhaps they would be more impartial. They were pandering to party, hoping that when they go out of office they will receive some other. He hoped that ten years nor fifteen years would not be adopted, but that the term of good behavior would prevail. The community from which he came were in favor of this. The taxpayers did not consider the cost; what they desired was an independent judiciary, and he hoped that this report would be adopted.

Mr. McKaig spoke briefly in favor of the report.

Mr. Archer said in offering this amendment he had been actuated by the intention of interfering as little as possible with the system to which the people had become accustomed. The people for fifteen years had been accustomed to a tenure for a term of years, and he did not think it proper to uproot prejudices and customs of so long standing. The committee propose a most radical change, and one for which he did not think the people were prepared. We had lived under this life-tenure principle, which was imported from England, for many years, and the people had become tired of it. He was not at all satisfied that the abuses in the judiciary which were complained of were the result of the elective system. He thought the people were more apt to secure good judges than the executive. The gentlemen who favored this long