

shall not be diminished during his continuance in office. He shall reside in or near the county town, and shall hold two common law terms in each and every year, at such times and places as may be prescribed by law, and attend at the court house of said county as often as the Legislature may prescribe by law for the transaction and dispatch of judicial business."

Mr. CRISFIELD moved to amend the ninth section by striking out in the first line thereof, after the words "there shall be," to the end of the section, and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "A division of this State into eight judicial districts in manner and form the following, to wit: St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's counties shall be the first district; Anne Arundel, Howard, Calvert and Montgomery counties shall be the second district; Frederick and Carroll counties shall be the third district; Washington and Allegany counties shall be the fourth district; Baltimore city shall be the fifth district; Baltimore, Harford and Cecil counties shall be the sixth district; Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Caroline counties shall be the seventh district; and Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester counties the eighth district; and there shall be elected as hereinafter directed, one person having the qualifications hereinafter prescribed, for each of the said judicial districts, except the fifth, to be judge thereof; the said judges shall be styled district judges, and shall respectively hold a term of their courts at least twice in each year, or oftener if required by law, in each county composing their respective districts, and the said courts shall be called district courts for counties in which it may be held, and shall have, hold and exercise, in the several counties of this State, all and every the powers, authorities and jurisdictions which the county courts of this State now have, hold and exercise, or which shall hereafter be prescribed by laws, made pursuant to this Constitution; and the said judges in their respective districts, shall have, use and exercise all the powers, authorities, and jurisdictions which the Chancellor of Maryland, as a judge in equity, now has, uses and exercises; and the said judges shall also be judges of the Orphans' courts of the several counties composing their respective districts, and shall have, hold and exercise all and every the powers, authorities and jurisdiction which the Orphans' courts of this State now have, hold and exercise, or which may hereafter be conferred by law.

Sec. 10. The judges of the several judicial districts shall be citizens of the United States, and shall have resided five years in this State, and two years in the judicial district for which they may be respectively elected, next before the time of election, and shall reside therein while they continue to act as judges; they shall be selected from among those who, having the other qualifications herein prescribed, are most distinguished for integrity, wisdom and sound legal knowledge, and elected by the qualified voters of the said districts, and shall hold for the term of ten years, or until they shall have attained the age of seventy years, removable

for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law, or by the Governor, upon the address of the General Assembly; provided, that two-thirds of the members of each House shall concur in such address; and the said judges shall each receive a salary of twenty-five hundred dollars per annum, and the same shall not be diminished during the time of their continuance in office, and no judge of any court in this State who has a salary fixed by law, shall receive any perquisite, fee or reward, in addition thereto, for the performance of any judicial duty."

Mr. CRISFIELD said, if this amendment is adopted by the Convention, it will be seen that no provision is made for Baltimore city. My mode of providing for that city is to make it a single judicial district. I would not divide and distribute out the jurisdiction of that city as the committee have done; not that I disapprove of that distribution, but simply because the distribution, according to my view, cannot be made without a danger of conflict between these various tribunals. If this amendment prevails, therefore, I shall propose that in the city of Baltimore, instead of having several courts with distinct jurisdictions, to have one court, composed of a sufficient number of judges to perform all the judicial duties required in that city. My scheme is to appoint four judges, who may sit separately or together, as the exigencies of the business may require, giving the legislature the power to increase the number of judges in that judicial district, if it shall so happen that the exigencies of the business shall require a greater amount of judicial labor. I make this explanation to show what is my design, if the Convention show an inclination to adopt this plan.

The distinguishing feature between this proposition which I have now presented for the consideration of the Convention, and the proposition which has been presented by the committee, is this, the committee propose that for each county in the state there shall be a judge: I propose, on the other hand, that the state shall be divided into judicial districts, and that there shall be a judge for each district. Will the counties provide sufficient employment for a judge? If not, then will the districts I have laid out, present too much employment for them? The system proposed by the committee will cost, according to their estimate, \$60,000. We are to have, as part of that system, twenty-one local judges, judges of counties, at a salary of \$2,000 each, which will amount to \$42,000. I propose, on the other hand, by the scheme I have presented, to accomplish the same judicial service with seven judges, with salaries of \$2,500 each, making a cost for the whole of this part of the system, of \$17,500. The question arises—Is the plan which I have proposed, capable of performing the duty?

After the independence of the Judge is secured, the next requisite is to adopt such a system as will secure a competent judge, a man acquainted with business, and possessing all the moral, intellectual and physical qualities, for the place. If it can be shown that a judge appointed for a single county, would be employed but a small portion of his time, it follows, as a matter of course, that