

The changes on the bench, as time went on, may be seen conveniently in a list of judges appended to this book, and the facts need not all be repeated. After 1820, Chief Judge Chase was compelled by frail health to be absent from sessions with increasing frequency, and he finally resigned in 1824, thus bringing to an end a career of thirty-five years on the bench of Maryland, for twenty-five of those in chief judicial position. Judge Chase was seventy-six years old when he resigned. There was then no legal limit upon the age of judges.²⁰ Judge John Buchanan was appointed Chief Judge of the court to succeed Judge Chase. After 1824 there were few changes before the sweeping one under the new constitution of 1851. Between 1824 and 1844 there were only two: Judge Richard Tilghman Earle resigned in 1834 because of ill health, and Judge William Bond Martin died in 1835; and they were succeeded by Judges Chambers and Spence, respectively. The Court of Appeals, therefore, seemed for a long time almost as if permanently settled in Chief Judge Buchanan, and Judges Earle, Martin, Stephen, Archer and Dorsey with Chambers and Spence as additions; and these names appear on the opening pages of a long row of Maryland reports. And from this long continuation of the one group of men in office the state may have derived an advantage in addition to that from the accumulation of experience in the work; the salaries of the judges remained at the same figure

20. Later in the same year Judge Chase was put at the head of the committee which went to meet Gen. Lafayette at the Prince George's County border, and escort him to Annapolis. Gen. Lafayette greeted him as an old Annapolis acquaintance.