

throughout the first half of the century, except for an addition of \$300. to that of the chief judge in 1834,<sup>21</sup> and with time the position came to be regarded more and more as a low-salaried one, and one which demanded more and more sacrifice of a lawyer starting in it.

The judges of that era made an able court, and, in the estimation of the bar, gave it a high position in the country. This is evidenced by a frequency of citation of their decisions in earlier text books and decisions of other courts, after 1847, when the first digest of Maryland decisions was published,<sup>22</sup> and by statements of lawyers from other states which have been transmitted to us. But an even better measure of the value of these judges lies in the tradition of high character and purpose on the bench and general respect for the office which have lasted to this day, and have done much to keep up the quality of judges and the satisfaction of the people with the justice administered by them, even through times when judges elsewhere in the country have not had such entire approval. The judges of whom we now speak were not only lawyers of ability; they were leading men of their time, of a character that comported with the judicial function, and highly respected for it. If it was not they who founded the tradition, and gained this respect for the office, at least they confirmed and strengthened it, and so passed it on. A European writer on life in America in 1829<sup>23</sup> said:

21. Act 1834, ch. 220.

22. William Henry Norris, George William Brown, and Frederick W. Brune, Jr., *Digest of Maryland Decisions*, Baltimore, 1847.

23. Capt. Basil Hall, *Travels in North America in the years 1827 and 1828*. Edinburgh, 1829, II, 429.