

The salaries of the judges, in consequence of their great number, are necessarily so small, that no first-rate lawyer can afford to take the appointment. I know of several barristers, every way fitted to do honor to the bench, who have positively refused to accept office. Consequently these very important stations are filled by a totally different class of men—many of whom, undoubtedly, are very excellent persons, but some of them, likewise, are quite unsuited for such duties.

And another traveller in 1859²⁴ dwelt upon a want of dignity in American judges generally, and a lack of respect for them in the people. But to apply these descriptions to the Maryland judges of those times would be to run counter to all reports that have been found and all tradition. It will be recalled that Joseph Hopper Nicholson, in declining another position with a higher salary, wrote to the President in 1806 that the position of Chief Judge of a district was one of the most dignified stations under the government of his native state.²⁵ And as for a lack of dignity and absence of respect by the people, we have the testimony of Mr. Severn Teackle Wallis (1816-1894), one of the most brilliant of Maryland lawyers, a man of the most exacting standards of gentility and dignity, and one who had been familiar with the court from about 1840, that only one of the judges of that early period made upon him an impression of roughness and lack of proper judicial bearing, and the deficiencies in that one judge were attributed at the time to the existence of bad slavery conditions at his early home. The salary of the office was still small, \$2200 after 1806,²⁶ but

24. T. C. Grattan, *Civilized America*, London, 1859, I, 271.

25. *Supra*, page 107.

26. Acts 1805, Ch. 86.