

it was still true that most judges in the State were engaged in farming and were only partly dependent for their incomes upon the salaries of their offices. It will be observed that Judge Nicholson in the letter to President Jefferson just cited said the salary was totally inadequate to the service "when it is considered in connection with the place to which my residence is confined", that is, Baltimore. And Judge Ezekiel F. Chambers, a member of the court from 1834 to 1851, in speaking before the constitutional convention of 1851 of the burdens which the work at Annapolis brought upon the judges, included "the loss at home necessarily consequent on the neglect of private concerns and their mismanagement by agents." The amount of the official salary could not therefore be taken as the measure of the calibre of the men.

Chief Judge Buchanan, who sat on the court for thirty-eight years, and following Judge Chase was for twenty years the Chief, was himself a man who commanded respect, and even veneration for the court. To this his contemporaries bear witness with some little feeling. Judge John Thomson Mason, the second of that name, who sat on the court later, from 1851 to 1857, described him as "the model of grace and dignity, as well as of erudition and justice, before whom it is an honor to have practiced."<sup>27</sup> And John H. B. Latrobe, many years later,<sup>28</sup> referred to "that most estimable gentleman and able lawyer, Chief Justice John Buchanan." Judge Mason

27. Mason, *Life of McMahan*, 94.

28. John E. Semmes, *John H. B. Latrobe and his Times*, 213.