

described him, also, as one "than whom no man was ever fonder of society, especially good company, or more discriminating in his selections."<sup>29</sup> And William Wirt, who in addition to his high intellectual powers, and legal attainments, and in spite of them, was gifted with a rare power of living joyously, and rejoiced in a fellow at it, wrote in a letter of June 24, 1828:<sup>30</sup>

The judges are, some of them, fine fellows. The Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, (Buchanan) has his room<sup>31</sup> separated from ours only by a narrow passage, and he comes in frequently to join us. He is as honest and noble spirited a fellow as ever lived—full of fine feeling, manly, frank and brave—and loves a laugh as much as you do. You would put him into convulsions if you were here.

Indeed, Judge Buchanan seems to have passed beyond some ordinary human limitations and to have become a hero to his valet, for there is an old story that when he was on a mission to England, in 1837, with George Peabody and General Thomas Emory of Queen Anne's County, to negotiate a sale of state bonds, he so impressed a valet provided for him that the man had the judge announced at a reception as "The Lord Chief Justice of Maryland", to the judge's embarrassment. In the bitterness of the litigation between the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, in 1831 and 1832, for the use of a strip of land along the Potomac River,<sup>32</sup> counsel for the railroad voiced among themselves a protest that their client had

29. Mason, *Life of McMahan*, 112.

30. Kennedy, II, 250.

31. In the City Hotel at Annapolis.

32. 4 Gill & Johnson, 1.