

judges were proprietors of considerable farm lands, Judge Archer's in Harford County, and Judge Dorsey's in the region of the Patapsco River above Ellicott City, where he lived. Judge Dorsey to the end of his connection with the Court of Appeals rode to and from Annapolis on horseback.

In estimating the work of the court, of course, that of the bar must be considered; and here the old court was especially strong—strong in its bar. It had a bar not only of conspicuously able men, but, it must be remembered, of men who made a life work of the study and presentation of questions for decision, and were ranked in the world according to their skill and effectiveness in it. They not only prepared their cases; the leading ones among them prepared and cultivated themselves for the work. William Pinkney, we are told, during all his life studied the law and drilled himself in the English language and literature, with the strictest method and the most resolute perseverance.³⁸ And even during his diplomatic service in England, he continued his studies. His success at the bar, says one of his biographers,³⁹ “was as much the effect of extraordinary diligence and labor as of his genius and rare endowments of mind. * * * He was never satisfied with investigating his causes, and took infinite pains in exploring their facts and circumstances, and all the technical learning connected with them.” “He did not rely”, says Justice Story,⁴⁰ “exclu-

38. Henry Wheaton, *Life of William Pinkney*, 136.

39. *Ibid*, 142.

40. *Miscellaneous Writings*, 795.