

sively on the resources of his genius. He chastened, improved and invigorated it by constant study, and laborious discipline." Pinkney, perhaps, carried his labor too far. He wrote,⁴¹ "There are those among my friends who wonder that I will go abroad, however honorable the service. They know not how I toil at the bar; they know not all my anxious days and sleepless nights; I must breathe awhile; the bow forever bent will break." And Wirt, who was a musician, said,⁴² "I am satisfied with being at concert pitch. Pinkney wanted to be an octave above it. Harper died of *angina pectoris*." And of Wirt himself we are told that he had a store of classical learning, and besides, occupied much of his leisure with theology and philosophy, and he was a hard worker. Latrobe says:⁴³

I was never satisfied that Mr. Wirt was a profound lawyer. But he was a most laborious one. The trouble he took in the preparation of his part of a case was wonderful. In the great case of the Canal and R. R. 4 Gill and J. 1, I was junior counsel with Mr. Taney and Reverdy Johnson, Mr. Wirt and Mr. Walter Jones on the other side. From the window of my room at Annapolis I could look into Mr. Wirt's room across the yard of the hotel, and at two o'clock in the morning I have seen him on a hot summer night, in his shirt sleeves, busily engaged in writing, where I had seen him at the same work since supper time. He had, when he spoke, not only written out his whole argument, but he had rewritten it, that he might improve and condense it. I know this was so for he showed me two manuscripts. * * * But it is an error to suppose, as I have heard it said, that he was not a fluent extemporaneous speaker.

41. Wheaton, 147.

42. Kennedy, II, 239.

43. Semmes, 201. Mr. Latrobe's recollections seem to be confused here; the Canal Company case was argued in December and January.