

The Court of Appeals of Maryland hold their summer term at Annapolis in June and July. The members of the bar from various parts of the State assemble here at this session, and are generally lodged in one hotel. When Mr. Wirt was Attorney General he regularly attended this court.<sup>50</sup> He and Mr. Meredith<sup>51</sup> usually occupied a large comfortable chamber in the hotel in common, when the house was too much crowded to allow them separate apartments. In that day, Annapolis had not fully advanced to that stage in modern progress, which made the traveller always sure of a single bedded room,—even in this the chief tavern of the city. Most of the rooms of this house were still arranged in the old fashion,—very large, with several windows in each room, and these generally without shutters. Each chamber furnished accommodation for a little squad of legislators in winter, and of lawyers in the summer.

The weather, during the sitting of the court, was often very hot. The bench and bar made a mess who dined together; and it was usual after dinner, when the allowance of champagne was exhausted, to spend an hour in the evening *siesta*. Sometimes, instead of sleeping, several gathered together in one room, and amused themselves in that easy and sportive story-telling diversion, which is characteristic of the leisure of the profession. Wirt's and Meredith's room was apt to be the resort of a little "college of wit-crackers" at these times. Not unfrequently, two or three might be seen stretched on one of the beds, with their feet set up against each bed post, whilst Wirt in a loose, light wrapper, either walked the room or sat in the breeze of the window, indulging in all kinds of waggery. \* \* \* As the sun went down, his thoughts were directed to a swimming party in the Severn, which was a favorite recreation after a hot day. "The hour is come"—I have heard him say: "Let us be off

50. He was admitted in 1821.

51. Jonathan Meredith, of Baltimore—"who to the manner of a man of the world joined the knowledge which placed him high in the ranks of his profession; remarkable for careful preparation and studied delivery, few men addressed the bench, who received more careful attention. When he had completed the investigation of a case, it could fairly be assumed that nothing more was to be found in the books regarding it." Semmes, 206.

"He is a very pleasant and a very good fellow; or, as he says, while he is throwing himself down on his bed to take an afternoon's nap, 'a safe companion and an easy friend.'" Wirt to William Pope, June 24, 1828. Kennedy, II, 249.