

work of the judges of the Court of Appeals. Appointments of judges as well as of other officers had been made on the basis of their political affiliations since the beginning of the century, and there had been complaints of selections in a few individual cases; but popular election would not alter these conditions, and so far as the manner of choosing judges was concerned, the demand made was for new rights rather than for remedies of any existing evils. A remedy was sought, however, for what was considered the excessive expense of the judicial system, and there was a demand, also, for distinct judges for the trial courts and the appellate court. As early as 1827, E. H. C. Wilson, a candidate for election to the Legislature from Somerset County, published in the Maryland Gazette, (May 10, 1827), a letter to the People of Maryland beginning, "That the Judiciary of Maryland is the most extravagant of any State in the old thirteen States, will be apparent from comparison." And of the Court of Appeals he wrote,

It is not so distinct as it ought to be. All legal writers concur in the opinion that our tribunals can not be maintained too distinct. The judge who hears the issue tried below has no business to be at the Court of Appeals. Judges are but men after all; they are as averse to exertion as other men. All persons who have witnessed the influence and power of association will bear me out in the proposition that all men are inclined to take the opinion of a man whom we have known and tried to be a man of erudition, based on integrity, sooner than undergo the labor of investigation.

And the writer proposed having a single trial judge for each district or circuit of county courts, and a Court of Appeals of three judges