

confined entirely to appellate work, a proposal which in its essentials was later adopted. The objections made were heard continually during the next twenty-four years.

In 1836 the reforming spirit produced a remodelling of much of the governmental system in the state; the Governor's Council was abolished, and all appointments by the Governor were thereafter to be ratified by the Senate; but there was no other change in the method of filling offices as it had previously existed. At each succeeding session of the General Assembly, however, demands for further reforms came up for discussion, and governors in their messages repeatedly urged the calling of a constitutional convention. There was strong opposition to a convention, but this had nothing to do with the suggestions of changes in the judicial system; it arose chiefly from a fear in some counties of a reapportionment of representation in the Legislature according to the distribution of population as it then existed.²⁹ The demands for changes in the judicial system did not follow any such line of division; there were Democrats in all parts of the state advocating the election of judicial officers, for definite terms of years, and also advocating a reduction in some way of the expenses of maintaining the system. The state was in financial difficulties from debts incurred in the promotion of internal improvements. In 1842, Gov-

29. The redistribution of representation to accord with the distribution of population had naturally been a subject of contention since the shifting of population in the state began about the beginning of the nineteenth century, and as the disparity of representation to population increased, so the contention increased. Scharf, *History of Baltimore County and City*, 118 to 123.