

of decisions of the older court. The official reporting of decisions, directed by the new constitution, was to begin only with cases heard by the new judges, and on May 10, 1852, therefore, the court gave Mrs. Gill, widow of the clerk, permission to use the opinions of the court and other proceedings in order to finish her husband's reports. And for the actual work she employed Oliver Miller, who was to become one of the ablest and best known of the judges, but who was then a young man of twenty-eight years, and had been only two years at the bar. The General Assembly took up the constitutional provision for official reports at its session of 1852, and by an act, chapter 55 of that year, created the office of State Reporter, to be filled by appointment by the judges for terms of four years. It directed that the reports should contain at least six hundred pages, corresponding in size, form, quality of materials and quantity of matter per page with the fourteenth volume of New Hampshire reports, published in 1851, and that their style should be "Maryland Reports." In compliance with the act, the court appointed Alexander Contee Magruder, a judge of the court from 1844 to 1851, to be the first State Reporter. Judge Magruder died in the following February, 1853, after having prepared the material for 1 and 2 Maryland Reports; and then the court appointed Oliver Miller to the position.

Two changes on the bench occurred during the first ten years. Judge Mason resigned his office in 1857, and James Lawrence Bartol, then of Baltimore County, was first appointed, and later elected, to the position of judge from the first dis-