

the conclusion that judges who wrote these opinions were men of good ability. That case of *Dowling v. Smith* was one of the most strongly contested cases the court of the fifties had before it, and was argued by four of the best lawyers the state had: Charles J. M. Gwinn, Jonathan Meredith, Reverdy Johnson and Charles F. Mayer. Again, in another important case, *Baltimore v. The State*, 15 Maryland Reports, 376, Judge LeGrand and Judge Tuck each filed an opinion; and other opinions of Judge LeGrand's to which reference may be made for an estimate of his work, are those in *Parkinson v. The State*, (dissenting), 14 Maryland Reports, 184, 201, and *Benson v. Ketchum*, 14 Maryland Reports, 331, 352. Not all of his opinions are of equal quality, perhaps, but they show knowledge of the law, strength of conviction, and a trained capacity for writing. Most of them show, also, a boiling down which manifests capacity or effort above the ordinary, perhaps both together, and, of course, it made the opinions clearer. And the tradition transmitted from those who knew him is that Judge LeGrand was, indeed, a judge above the ordinary. Reverdy Johnson, who was not given to uncritical eulogy, said at the memorial meeting in the Court of Appeals after Judge LeGrand's death, that he had won not only the confidence but the admiration of the bar. And Chief Judge McSherry, writing in 1904 of the past chief judges of the court, ranked him as one of the three best. It is reasonably certain that his continuation in office would have been approved generally if the rancors of the Civil War