

A pronounced change in the appearance of the court room was made in 1864 and 1865. Three successive legislative appropriations—acts of 1864 chapter 377, 1865 chapter 168, and 1865 chapter 182—placed nearly \$8000 at the disposal of the judges and the clerk of the court for repairing and refurnishing their rooms; and the continuous bench and the fittings as they appeared thenceforth down to 1903 were then installed.³ Contemporary reference to the change is meagre, and in the recollections of surviving men an unexpected difference as to the date of it has been encountered. The present court crier is firm in his belief that he worked on the steps of the old platform, preceding the installation of the continuous bench, as recently as 1872; but one octogenarian member of the bar reports that the connected bench was in the room when he first saw it in 1869, and another reports that when he left Annapolis for the Confederate Army early in the Civil War the platform and tables were in the room, and when he returned a few years after the war the connected bench was there. And as no other money sufficient for the purpose was ever appropriated to the court, the conclusion here adopted as to the time of the change seems unescapable. In addition to the bench, which was built along the southeast wall, across the two central windows of the room, there was a double wooden rail built to enclose the counsel table like a parenthesis, and the top of the rail supplemented the table as a place to rest books; and on the sides of the room were built high wooden cupboards

3. See illustration opposite page 170.