

fame, professional fame, that is, for popular fame or notoriety lies, of course, in a direction away from judicial objectives, and is rather to be mistrusted if gained in court work alone; it is likely to be the mark of a judicial vice. But there is a professional recognition of purely judicial ability which has sometimes spread beyond state borders elsewhere, and little of such outside recognition has come to judges of Maryland courts; none have the celebrity of Story, Kent, Shaw, or a few others. The fact, however, is consistent with actual existence of ability on the local bench equal to that possessed by some at least of the judges who have gained wider celebrity. A difference in fame may be due in some instances to a difference in the conspicuousness of the position of one judge and the other. Joseph Hopper Nicholson was once thought likely to receive an appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States,¹⁵ and that would have brought lasting eminence to a man who now, without the accident of the appointment, is among the forgotten. So with Chief Judge Alvey¹⁶ of a generation or two ago; except in the traditions of his local bars he has naturally passed out of notice, yet it appears that only the vexation of a disappointed litigant prevented his abilities from being brought to the attention of the whole country on the Supreme Court. It is easily possible that superior local talent should be overlooked, even at home. The late Mr. Arthur George Brown, of the Baltimore bar, told a story that during the sittings of the

15. *Supra*, page 105.

16. *Supra*, page 180.