

corded facts. Scharf says⁴¹ that it was a severely dignified bench.

There was no special bar for the Court of Appeals in the eighteenth century, or before 1805. Its bar was that of the General Court and the Court of Chancery. Annapolis was still, until the last decade of the eighteenth century, the center of the bar of the state, but in the last decade Baltimore's rapid growth centered the chief work of the profession there, and a number of lawyers left Annapolis for it. More than half of the lawyers had left by 1790, says Scharf.⁴² But generally speaking, the lawyers from one part of the state or another who practiced in the General Court, were those who argued the cases in the Court of Appeals. Those who came from a distance helped to build up the custom of Mann's Hotel, later known as the City Hotel, on Conduit Street, in Annapolis, which was to become almost as important a center of the bench and bar of the Court of Appeals as the court room itself. The hotel was opened just prior to the Revolution, first in a two-story house which had been the residence of Lloyd Dulany, and later through buildings on Conduit Street, as far as the Duke of Gloucester Street. Mann was proprietor during the Revolution, and purveyed copiously for the official supper given upon General Washington's resignation of his commission as Commander-in-Chief.

A change in the court which probably seemed to contemporaries much more revolutionary than that which took place in 1776, came to pass in

41. Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*, I, 382.

42. *History of Baltimore City and County*, 708.