

The Bladensburg run, before we came to the bridge, was happily in no one place above the horses' bellies,—As we passed thro', the driver pointed out to us the spot, right under our wheels, where all the stage horses last year were drowned, but then he consoled us by showing the tree, on which all the passengers but one, were saved. * * * We arriv'd safe at our first stage, Ross's, having gone at a rate rather exceeding two miles and a half per hour.⁵⁵

In 1801, discussion of abolition of the court became lively, and Pinkney wrote from London of his "unalterable conviction that this was no party question, but such a one as every honest man, a friend to the prosperity of Maryland, and to the purity of justice, cannot fail to oppose." "No man would lament more sincerely than I should do," he said, "the destruction of what I consider the fairest ornaments of our judicial system."⁵⁶ In 1803, a bill providing for the abolition of the court passed one house of the Assembly. And the eighth article of the charges in the impeachment of Judge Samuel Chase, then of the United States Supreme Court, was that while sitting on circuit in Baltimore in May, 1803, he exhorted the grand jury to use their endeavors to prevent the passage of the law. There was a majority of four against Judge Chase on that article. Finally in 1804, the necessary constitutional amendment was launched. Under the constitution of 1776, article 59, amendments were to be made by bills passed by one General Assembly, published three months before a new election, and confirmed by the next General Assembly, newly elected. Accordingly, the House of Delegates, on

55. A. J. Beveridge, *Life of John Marshall, III*, 5 note.

56. Bishop Pinkney, *Life of William Pinkney*, 41.