

given places that they could hardly be included in anything more than an unmeaning list of names, left "subsisting under naked nominations," unless the book should be expanded into a dictionary of biography—which is not in accordance with its purpose, and has probably been rendered unnecessary by the work of Conway W. Sams and Elihu Riley, "The Bench and Bar of Maryland." It may be thought, too, that some of the important contests before the court might well have been described, and there have been during the past century and a half a few cases which if adequately reproduced would have considerable dramatic interest for the profession; but they are few, and are scattered widely through the period, and none are taken up here, except incidentally, because they have not seemed to fit otherwise into a connected story of the history of the court. The development of the law through the decisions of the court has been suggested as a subject which the book might be enlarged to cover, but here again, that is a subject broader than has been undertaken so far, and its inclusion now would not only transform the work but would delay indefinitely the publication of any part of it. Indeed, some of the most interesting developments of the law, those during the provincial period, belong to a history of the Provincial Court and other trial courts of the period rather than to that of the Court of Appeals. There has been little previous investigation of the history of the court as distinguished from biographies of judges; the manuscript records, in which a large portion of the needed facts are to be found, have not been generally accessible, and until recently