

The Committee file herewith the written opinions of S. Teackle Wallis, Bernard Carter, Attorney-General Poe, John K. Cowen, Charles Marshall, E. J. D. Cross and the Committee of the Bar Association of Baltimore city, which are summarized in this report.

JOHN S. WIRT,
JAMES P. GORTER,
JOHN G. ROGERS,

Majority of Committee on Judicial Proceedings.

215 ST. PAUL STREET,

Baltimore, Feb'y 28th, 1892.

Hon. James P. Gorter, Senate of Maryland :

DEAR SIR:—You are quite right in your impression that I gave an opinion some years ago in favor of the right of the Legislature, under the Constitution, to increase the salaries of the Judges during their term of service. I am unable to find a copy of it on my regular file of opinions, and infer that I must have sent it in the shape of a letter to the person who requested me to give it. Who that was, I do not remember. Probably some friend in the Legislature at the time. I do recollect, however, that I examined the question with a great deal of care, and was entirely satisfied with the conclusion at which I arrived, and the more so, because it was concurred in, to my knowledge, by the late Mr. Steele, and to the best of my belief, by other prominent counsel in the city, who were consulted at the same time. Upon examining the question anew, I see no reason for changing my opinion. I am not well enough, at this moment, to give you my views with any fullness, but I will indicate them briefly with pleasure.

Almost all the questions of difficulty arising under our present Constitution, grow out of the fact that the instrument was not revised with sufficient care as a whole, after it had been adopted in separate parts. If this had been done, the apparent discrepancies and inconsistencies which it exhibits would have been removed, as it is very obvious that they could not have been intended to exist. We all know how much the perfection of the Constitution of the United States, as an entire instrument, is due to the ability and care with which, at the last moment, the duties of the "Committee on Style and Revision" were discharged.