

It is very plain to me that the whole of the apparent difficulty which has arisen in the present case was accidental, and would have been removed if the work of revising had been done with sufficient particularity.

Article 3, of the Constitution is dedicated to the "Legislative Department." Its 35th section contains the following clause: "Nor shall the salary or compensation of any public officer be *increased* or *diminished* during his term of office." Article 15 is headed "Miscellaneous." Its 1st section winds up with the following language: "No person holding any office created by or existing under this Constitution or Laws of the State, or holding any appointment under any Court in this State, shall receive more than \$3,000 a year, as a compensation for the discharge of his official duties, except in cases specially provided in this Constitution." The language used in the two sections which I have quoted is, of course, broad enough, standing alone, to preclude the Legislature from increasing the salary of the Judges during their term of office, and their receiving more than \$3,000, unless otherwise specially provided. As the salary of the Associate Judges of the Circuit Court, as assigned in the 24th section of Article 4, is only \$2,800 per annum, the clause which has been just cited, from Article 15, if it applied to those Judges, would prevent an increase of their salary beyond \$3,000 even if the general power to increase should be found to exist. Manifestly, therefore, that power does not exist, unless expressly given or to be found elsewhere, conclusively implied in the Constitution. As we are all, of course, aware, the Judiciary Department is secured and provided for in a separate Article (Art. 4). By the 24th section of that Article, the salary of each Judge is fixed, and it is provided that it "shall not be *diminished* during his continuance in office." Section 31st of the same Article provides for the salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Bench in Baltimore city, to each of whom it allows an annual salary of \$3,500, which shall not be *diminished* during their term of office." It will be observed that both of these last mentioned provisions differ entirely in their language from that of section 35 of Article 3, already quoted. While the latter