

The 31st section of the same Article, in relation to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore city, provides that the Judges thereof "shall each receive an annual salary of \$3,500, payable quarterly, which shall not be diminished during their term of office, but authority is hereby given to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to pay to each of said Judges an annual addition of \$500 to their respective salaries, provided that the same being once granted shall not be diminished nor increased during the continuance of said Judges in office."

These provisions, in our opinion, give the General Assembly the power to increase the salaries of the Judges above the sums mentioned in the Constitution, and such action can be validly taken in the form of a statute.

Under the Constitution adopted by the Convention of 1776, which was in force from November 11th, 1776, until June 4th, 1851, the amount of the salaries of the Judges was fixed by the Legislature.

The 30th section of the Bill of Rights provided "that salaries liberal but not profuse ought to be secured to the Chancellor and the Judges during the continuance of their commissions, in such manner and at such times as the Legislature shall hereafter direct upon consideration of the circumstances of this State."

Under the authority thus granted to the Legislature the salaries were provided in the method prescribed, which continued until the adoption of the Constitution of 1851.

By the 4th section of Article 4, of the Constitution of 1851 it was provided, "the salary of each of the Judges of the Court of Appeals shall be \$2,500 annually and shall not be increased nor diminished during their continuance in office." The same phraseology was used in regard to the Circuit Judges. (Article 4, section 9.)

The Constitution of 1864 prescribed that there should be no increase or diminution of the salaries paid to the Judges of the Circuit Courts, and did not contain any provision in this respect in regard to the salaries of the Judges of the Court of Appeals.