argument contended for is worth anything, it would have been as competent, under the Constitution of 1864, to have diminished as to have increased the salaries of the Judges of the Court of Appeals and Baltimore City Courts by Legislative act, and the Judges of said Courts would have been at the mercy of the Legislature.

Hence we conclude that the contention of the advocates and promoters of this bill is not warranted, and that it is incompetent for this Legislature to alter by increase or otherwise the salaries of the Judges. We know that the opinions of able lawyers have been furnished to the contrary, but they are not sitting in judgment in this case.

A majority of the Judiciary Committee however agree with them, and we can only dissent. There is one thing to be remarked, however, and that is the "Judges are not behind the bill as its promoters or advocates, and that can be said to their credit and honor."

This Legislature and the Governor are the final arbiters in this case, and therefore the necessity of being sure we are right. It can be said furthermore that the argument used that higher salaries are necessary to secure proper and qualified Judges is out of place, as the present salaries have secured since the adoption of the Constitution of 1867, as intelligent, learned, able, upright and independent Judiciary as is to be found in any State in the Union.

It must be remembered also that the cost of living is not higher, if so high as it was in 1867, when the Constitutional Convention, fresh from the people, fixed the rate of Judicial salaries.

It may also be truthfully said, that the incomes of most of the people of the State are rather diminished below than increased above the incomes of 1867. It may also be urged with some force, that as the present salaries were named and fixed by the people themselves, by their vote in adopting the present Constitution, it might be well to submit this question, by amendment of the Constitution, again to their vote, that they might have a voice in undoing their own solemn act.