

until another shall be appointed. The secretary, before he enters upon the business of his office, shall give bond, with sufficient sureties, in a reasonable sum, for the use of the state, for the punctual performance of his trust.

*County Treasurer, &c.*

The county treasurers, and registers of deeds, shall be elected by the inhabitants of the several towns in the several counties in the state, according to the method now practised, and the laws of the state.

*Provided, nevertheless,* The legislature shall have authority to alter the manner of certifying the votes, and the mode of electing those officers; but not so as to deprive the people of the right they now have of electing them.

And the legislature, on the application of the major part of the inhabitants of any county, shall have authority to divide the same into two districts for registering deeds, if to them it shall appear necessary; each district to elect a register of deeds: and before they enter upon the business of their office, shall be respectively sworn faithfully to discharge the duties thereof, and shall severally give bonds, with sufficient sureties, in a reasonable sum, for the use of the county, for the punctual performance of their respective trusts.

*Judiciary Power.*

The tenure that all commissioned officers shall have by law in their offices, shall be expressed in their respective commissions—all judicial officers, duly appointed, commissioned, and sworn, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, excepting those concerning whom there is a different provision made in this constitution; *Provided, nevertheless,* the governor, with consent of council, may remove them upon the address of both houses of the legislature.

Each branch of the legislature, as well as the governor and council, shall have authority to require the opinions of the justices of the superior court, upon important questions of law, and upon solemn occasions.

In order that the people may not suffer from the long continuance in place of any justice of the peace, who shall fail in discharging the important duties of his office with ability and fidelity, all commissions of justices of the peace shall become void at the expiration of five years from their respective dates; and upon the expiration of any commission, the same may, if necessary, be renewed, or another person appointed, as shall most conduce to the well being of the state.

All causes of marriage, divorce, and alimony, and all appeals from the respective judges of probate, shall be heard and tried by the superior court until the legislature shall by law make other provisions.

The general court are empowered to give to justices of the peace jurisdiction in civil causes, when the damages demanded shall not exceed *four pounds*, and the title of real estate is not concerned; but with right of appeal to either party, to some other court, so that a trial by jury in the last resort may be had.

No person shall hold the office of a judge in any court, or judge of probate, or sheriff of any county, after he has attained the age of seventy years.