

conventions, and the proceedings of the convention that framed the constitution, at the public expence, and subject to the disposal of the general assembly; and that the intendant of the revenue be directed to advance Mr. Green such a sum of money as he may think proper, to assist him in the execution of the work.”²

Samuel Chase withdrew from the undertaking because of other duties which occupied all of his energies. Alexander Contee Hanson, to whom fell the responsibility for preparing the compilation for the press, was ably fitted for that task. He was born at Annapolis on October 22, 1749, the son of John Hanson who was so prominent a figure in Maryland during the Revolution. He was educated at the college of Philadelphia and was probably admitted to the Maryland bar shortly before the Revolution. In August 1776, he was appointed assistant secretary to General Washington, but was forced to resign from this position because of ill health. On March 9, 1778, at the age of twenty-eight, he became an associate judge of the general court of Maryland. Shortly before he gave up this position he sentenced seven men to be hanged, drawn and quartered for plotting to release some British prisoners of war who were being held at Frederick.

Like his father, he took a great interest in the affairs of the State. In 1784 he wrote *Political Schemes and Calculations*³ in which he urged that the confused financial situation of Maryland be relieved by consolidating all state debts including the bills of credit into one account which would be equalized by the sale of the confiscated estates of the Tories and the annual revenue from taxes. He also suggested a land tax in addition to the five per cent duty on imports recommended by Congress in order to pay Maryland's share of the national debt. In concluding, he reminded those who protested against the cost of government that they spent more every year at the theatre than they paid in taxes for the salaries of the state officials. His *Considerations on the Proposed Removal of the Seat of Government*,⁴ printed in 1786, was a spirited defense of Annapolis as the state capital in preference to Baltimore. His most important political pamphlet was *Remarks on the Proposed Plan of a Federal Government*,⁵ printed in 1787. It does not, of course, rank with the *Federalist Papers* in the literature of the constitution but it contains a significant discussion of the salient points of the new plan of govern-

² Preface of *Laws of Maryland, made since M,DCC,LXIII*.

³ *Bibliography of Imprints*, 313.

⁴ *Bibliography of Imprints*, 400.

⁵ *Bibliography of Imprints*, 431.