

a life tenure, were considered to be, as the phrase went, "contrary to the spirit of American institutions." In 1842 there were in commission twenty-one common law judges and a chancellor at an expense for their salaries of \$36,000 per annum. Governor Thomas in his message to the General Assembly in the same year declared that there was not a state in the whole Union, notwithstanding the fact that the population of several of the states was four times as great as that of Maryland, where the number of the law judges, and the amount of their salaries, were not less than those of Maryland. "Besides these objections," Governor Thomas continues, "another is that there are no effectual means provided for in the constitution to get rid of judges once commissioned as promptly as public interest may demand."

In 1844 the House of Delegates appointed a committee to take into consideration the advisability of reducing the expenses of the judicial system of the State, and of changing the tenure of office. In their report they showed that Maryland in 1840 paid for her judiciary the sum of \$41,500²⁵

²⁵ The State paid in 1840 in salaries the sum of \$36,100, as follows:

Chancellor	\$ 3,400
Twelve associate judges of county courts.....	16,800
Five chief judges	11,000
Chief judge of Court of Appeals.....	2,500
Chief judge of Baltimore City Criminal Court.....	2,400

\$36,100

In addition to the salaries thus paid from the treasury, the two associate judges of Baltimore City Court were paid by the city (\$1500 each).....

3,000

The judges of the sixth district (including Baltimore and Harford counties) received in addition to their salaries, in equal shares the amount of certain taxes on proceedings in the court, amounting to (\$800 each)

2,400

\$5,400

Making a total of\$41,500

See Report of Committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice, House Journal, March 5, 1844.