

less than two members, and the whole number of delegates never to exceed eighty.

In the Senate the method of federal representation was adopted; one senator from each county and the city of Baltimore elected by the people. This increased the representation of Baltimore City in the General Assembly from one-sixteenth to one-eighth of the total representation of the State.<sup>29</sup>

Among the reforms brought forward, that of the judicial system of the State held a prominent place. The judiciary had been but slightly changed since the framing of the original constitution. In 1776 a court of appeals was established, whose judgment was final in all cases of appeal from the county courts, and courts of chancery. Originally there was also a court of admiralty, which court was abolished at the time of the adoption of the United States Constitution in 1789. In 1804 the State was divided into six judicial districts. For each district three judges were appointed by the governor with the approval of the Senate.

Reform in the judiciary had been one of the prominent features of the earlier agitation of 1836; but no change was made at that time. The tenure during good behavior, and the appointing of the judges by the governor, together with the extraordinary expense attendant upon the administration of justice were the principal grounds of complaint. The annual cost incurred by the State for the maintenance of the judicial system in salaries alone exceeded by several thousand dollars that of many other states of the Union, far more populous and of much greater territorial extent.<sup>30</sup>

A reduction in the number of judges and a limitation on the income of county clerks, registers of wills, and other officers it was thought, would afford relief to the taxpayers of the State, and contribute toward payment of the

---

<sup>29</sup> See ch. iii, p. 75.

<sup>30</sup> See ch. i, p. 19.