

The chief objection to the new constitution was the change introduced in the organization of the judicial system of the State. The *Baltimore American* in an editorial of June 3, 1851, declared, that "there were many men in Maryland, who, if they approved of every feature in the constitution, save that which reorganized the judiciary, would vote against the constitution on account of that one insuperable objection."

Other objections to the adoption of the constitution were placed on less objectionable grounds. An attempt was made to show that there would be a period of four months of anarchy in the State, if the instrument was adopted. During these four months civil wrongs would go unredressed; debts uncollected, and crimes unpunished.

The constitution, if adopted, was to go into effect July 4. No election was to be held until November the 5th. Until the latter date, the new offices created by the new measure could not be put in operation, while the offices which were to be abolished were to be discontinued from the day of its adoption. The county courts, and the Baltimore City court were abolished. No specific provisions were made for the continuation of the jurisdiction of these courts until their successors could be established. The court of chancery, which was also abolished, was to continue by a specific provision until two years after the adoption of the constitution.<sup>9</sup> Those who opposed the adoption maintained that the same provision did not apply to the former courts.<sup>10</sup>

The framers of the constitution intended that the eighth section of Article 10 should bridge over the transition period. This section provided that the governor and all civil and military officers then holding commissions should continue in office until they were superseded by their successors. Whether the adoption of the constitution would

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<sup>9</sup> Constitution 1851, art. iv, sec. 22.

<sup>10</sup> *Baltimore American*, May 26, 1851.