

or would not create an "interregnum" of four to six months in the administration of justice was a debatable question. The omission of a definite provision for the continuation of the courts until their successors could be established, shows the inability of the majority of the framers of the constitution to do the task assigned them.

A contributor to the *Baltimore American* from Cumberland, Md., states that he observed a group of citizens on the street discussing the constitution. "One said that it had cost the State \$183,000, which, according to the best calculation he could make, was a little more than \$1.50 per word, which, considering the quality of the goods, made it about the hardest bargain of modern times."¹¹

Other motives than the merit of the constitution influenced many to vote for its adoption. Its rejection would have again placed the fundamental law of the State in the power of the General Assembly. Governor Lowe in his inaugural address, January 6, 1851, referring to the convention then in session said, "Even should no practical reforms result from the labors of the present convention, still I regard the value of the principle, now established, so great in view of the possible future, as to hold the expense, inconveniences, and even total failure of this first attempt, however deplorable, to be entirely of subordinate importance. While, therefore, the people yearn for the enjoyment of those salutary reforms, which right, justice, and good policy call for; and although they should possibly be doomed to meet with a total or partial disappointment of their reasonable hopes, they cannot forget to console themselves with the knowledge that the great battle, in fact was fought and won, when the legislature after a steady resistance of twenty years, finally promulgated, and Maryland by an almost unanimous vote ratified the doctrine, that the people are not enchained by the fifty-ninth article of the constitution."¹² This is the entering wedge to the future. This is the key to the treas-

¹¹ *Baltimore American*, June 2, 1851.

¹² See ch. i, p. 10.