

the year 1660, to the year 1800, is known and appreciated by every judge and lawyer in the State.

The petitioner further states, that he prepared and published his work on the ejectment law of Maryland, called "McHenry on Ejectment," containing all the decisions of the Superior Courts in the State, having any relation to land titles and the location of lands, digested in the smallest compass, so as to make them of easy access to all, at a time, when they were known only to a few old professional men, and could only be obtained by long practice and a laborious search into records reaching back near two centuries, thus laying before the judiciary of this State, in one comprehensive view, the decisions and traditionary law of the State, from the earliest period of its judicial history, thereby ensuring consistency and uniformity in the future decisions of our Superior Courts, in the most important branches of our jurisprudence. That in editing and publishing both his work on ejectment, and the volumes of Maryland Reports, the petitioner incurred great expense and labor, and derived no pecuniary profit therefrom, as a compensation for the expenses of the publication, on account of the limited sale of both works.

The committee further report, that at December session 1823, the State of Maryland finding that the Messrs. Harris & Johnson, the successors of Messrs. Harris & McHenry as the publishers of the Maryland Reports, were deterred from further prosecuting their work, on account of the expenses of publication and the limited sale of the same, passed a resolution authorizing and requiring the Governor and Council to contract for two hundred copies of their reports at the usual price of legal publications. That since that time, the State has by virtue of said resolution, received two two hundred copies of each succeeding volume of the Maryland Reports, and has paid the price of five dollars per volume, making the sum of one thousand dollars paid by the State to the reporters for each successive volume published since the year 1823, up to the present time.

It appearing therefore by the language of the said resolution, that this advance of money on the part of the State for editing and publishing the reports of the Court of Appeals from the year 1823 up to the present time, was not only for the purpose of procuring a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the county courts, the judicial officers of the State, and to exchange for the judicial reports of other States, but that it was made also, for the purpose of encouraging and in fact procuring their publication, and compensating the reporters for the labor and expense of publishing such a work, as although absolutely necessary, could not and would not yield a sufficient recompense on account of its limited sale.

The committee therefore believe, that as Mr. McHenry edited and published the first three volumes of the Maryland Reports, at great expense and labour of his own, having derived no profit from the sale, and no compensation from the State, that there is