

which their imagination can devise, and the best method of dividing the state into districts, would not be productive of any essential benefit, so long as the present mode of doing chancery business prevails. Your committee believe, that all the complaints against the chancery establishment of this state, have arisen out of the delays, perplexities, and consequent expences, attendant upon chancery suits.

To establish district chancery courts, which shall be subject to these evils, will, in the opinion of your committee, only serve to multiply them. As there are no defects, which in the present state of chancery practice belong to the high court of chancery, that would not be visited upon district chancery courts, were they substituted in its stead, so in the opinion of your committee, there are no benefits likely to be enjoyed under the latter system, which are not enjoyed under the former. The only benefit that suggests itself to us, is that of having equity brought nearer to the doors of every individual. But the state of Maryland is so small, that equity administered at its capitol, is brought home almost to every individual, with the exception, indeed, of those who reside in the extremes of the state; and for the benefit of these, as well as of all others who choose to take advantage of them, equitable jurisdiction is given to the different county courts throughout Maryland. Your committee consider, that the establishment of district chancery courts, so far from being productive of additional good, would be the source of additional evil. In the room of one chancellor, you would receive half a dozen, each bringing into this court all the cumbersome machinery that belongs to the present high court of chancery. The expence of supporting them, would be six times greater than that attendant on the support of the high court of chancery. This would lead to additional burdens, by way of taxation on the people, who would, for all these reasons, be as eager for abolishing district chancery courts, after they should have been established, as the legislature could possibly have been for their establishment. Your committee, therefore, deem it inexpedient to substitute district chancery courts in the room of the present high court of chancery, and pray to be discharged from the further consideration of this subject. All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order,

ISAAC HINES, Clk.

Mr. Merrick obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, A supplement to an act, entitled, An act to amend and reduce into one system the laws to direct descents. Ordered, That Messrs. Merrick, Eccleston and Perry, report the same. Mr. Merrick reports said bill.

Mr. Estep from the committee of claims delivers the following report:

The committee of claims, to whom has been referred the memorial of John K. B. Emory, late treasurer of the eastern shore, have had the same under consideration, and believing the facts therein to be true, and the prayer thereof reasonable and just, beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to John K.