

Body, that the Constitution of Maryland, by the seventeenth section of its third Article, commanded that the Laws of the State should be Codified, and also, that law proceedings and conveyancing should be simplified; and that two distinct sets of Commissioners should be appointed by the Legislature to perform these two distinct works. The words of the Constitution are: "It shall be the duty of the Legislature, at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, to appoint two Commissioners, learned in the law, to revise and codify the Laws of the State—and it shall also be the duty of the Legislature to appoint one or more Commissioners, learned in the law, whose duty it shall be to revise, simplify and abridge the rules of practice, pleading, forms of conveyancing and proceedings of the courts of record of this State." In obedience to this command of the Constitution, the Legislature did appoint two sets of Commissioners by the following joint resolution: "That John V. L. McMahon and Otho Scott, be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to revise and codify the Laws of this State, and William Price, Samuel Tyler and Frederick Stone, be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to revise, simplify and abridge the rules of practice, pleadings, forms of conveyancing and proceedings of the courts of this State, subject to such regulations and requirements as may be prescribed by law." Mr. McMahon declined the appointment, and Mr. Hiram McCullough was appointed in his stead.

The Codifiers and Simplifiers, as they may for convenience be called, accepted the respective trusts, as defined in the resolution appointing them. At the session of 1854, the simplifiers reported to the General Assembly, a system of simplified pleading, and also, a system of simplified conveyancing. The General Assembly not having time at that session to act upon the subject, the Simplifiers reported their work to the General Assembly of 1856. That General Assembly appointed an able committee of lawyers to examine the simplified pleading and conveyancing, who, after a rigid examination of both works, section by section, in the presence of the Simplifiers, reported them both to the General Assembly; and, in order that the State might at once have the benefit of them, the General Assembly enacted them into law; and both works have been in successful operation for more than three years. It is, therefore, with surprise, that the undersigned finds that Messrs. Otho Scott and Hiram McCullough have materially altered both the simplified pleading and conveyancing, and inserted them in a volume reported by themselves to your Honorable Body, as "The Revised Laws of the State of Maryland."

It is too manifest to require discussion, that the Codifiers