

decisions shall be renewed. I propose to put upon this court that which would become a part of its jurisdiction. It is an important matter which enters into the elements of a great city like Baltimore, whose limits are expanding with increasing prosperity. These cases occupy a large portion of the time of the court. Not speaking in the sense of a Prophet, and claiming no faculty of looking very far into the future, I say give us this district court, pass the bill which the Baltimore delegation here, speaking the voice of the united bar of Baltimore, whigs and Democrats, recommend, and at some not very remote session of the Legislature, you will find the wants of the metropolis of the State bringing her down here to speak for herself, with regard to the exercise of legislative power in the creation of another legal tribunal.

Before long, before 1853, you will find them coming here (I hope not in vain, and no appeal will be made in vain, if it is a just appeal and she will make no other,) begging for another court; not for Baltimore merely, but for all who have transactions with that city—for all those of this great confederacy, who, by trade and daily intercourse, have transactions with us, and to whom, upon every consideration, independent of the mere constitutional provision, we are bound to open wide the doors of the courts of Maryland justice. My own opinion, I do not suppose, will weigh one feather in the scale of the judgment of this House, and therefore I invoke the aid of the opinions, in writing as well as verbally, which have been communicated to distinguished gentlemen, differing with me on this subject. The superior court will be occupied all the time with the common law jurisdiction.

You will have, then, day by day, a court in every way qualified, if you have an energetic and laborious judge, to attend to the wants of the people, and to give the law which their voice calls upon him to administer. And what will the district court be doing? I scarcely open a daily paper of the city of Baltimore, in which I do not find notices of opening streets. There will be many controversies necessarily growing out of these. The eminent domain of the State will be brought into exercise, and damages will be given to me, and benefits to another. There must be some high tribunal to prevent the accumulation of these particular cases. In regard to questions of *mandamus quo warranto*; I know cases that are now sleeping the repose, I was going to say, of centuries.

I have merely to say, in conclusion, that I hope this will be regarded as a test question, and that the House will determine whether or not we are to incorporate the district with the superior court, to have two wards or three.

Mr. STEWART'S time here expired.

Mr. BOWIE. I am anxious to see all parts of the State of Maryland satisfied upon the subject of judicial reform. When I stated, upon a former occasion, that the people, in every portion of the State, desired some judicial reform, I did not mean to say that they desired merely a change in the mode of appointment, but that when they

were laboring under a press of business which had been accumulating for years in our courts, and when they found that under the present system it would never be disposed of, they desired an increase of judicial power, by increasing the number of the judicial districts. They cared nothing about having three judges in one district, provided the districts were smaller—one would have been enough.

So it was in the district of my friend from Baltimore county, which has been joined with Harford and Cecil counties. You have on the Eastern Shore four counties which you have put together into one judicial district. We ask you to separate the chancery jurisdiction from the common law, stating, upon the honor of men who knew it, and if we were allowed to go to our constituents, we too can get certificates as the gentlemen from Baltimore city have done, that under the present system we cannot get rid of the business which accumulates on the dockets. You have not only done us no good, but you have done us great injury. You have imposed additional labors upon us. This morning you abolished the Court of Chancery after the end of two years, and have thus thrown a flood of Chancery cases upon our courts. I say this, that in our judicial district we have now 3500 cases pending upon the dockets. How is this business ever to be disposed of? I am not disposed to be unjust. I wish to see even-handed justice dealt out to all portions of the State. I will go as far as any man to bring useful, practical reform to the people. I care nothing about expenses, for I think it is a foolish policy to look at cost when we wish to bring home the administration of public justice to the doors of citizens.

The gentlemen from Baltimore city have been found uniformly denying us that which we have asked. I have heard of various counties that will suffer under the system which these gentlemen helped to impose upon us. And yet these gentlemen want us to give them two judges with chancery powers. I say it is utterly impossible that the system we have adopted for the counties can ever dispose of the public business. I will not agree to give one portion of the State every thing they ask in the way of judicial reform, when that portion is not willing to yield one inch to the other portions of the State. If we are to suffer, let us suffer together, so that when we ask for judicial reform hereafter, there may be some other portions of the State willing to go in for another Convention, or to do something in alleviating the burdens imposed upon the people by this Convention, in the way of judicial reform. When we ask for bread you give us a stone.

Mr. B's time here expired.

Mr. JOHNSON. I agree in all that my friend from Prince George's has said. I voted for his earliest proposition, because I deemed it wise, though many thought it excessive. It brought justice to every county. It made our judges both Chancery and Common Law judges. I care not about expense, because the demands of life, are such that time to man is worth more than the money in suit. He desired to know what is his,