

of the land the property sold for seventy dollars, and the expenses were eight pence. So that the whole proceeds of sale & forty dollars besides out of the pocket of the child's friend, went to the maintenance of the law. This absurdity is owing to the egregious folly, of having in Chancery practice the same rules & ceremonies as proceedings in the same class of county cases which are merely administrative as in cases where one of hostile litigation. In England this evil has been corrected & we propose to remedy it by modes of proceeding in Chancery, by which cases merely administrative, will be distinguished from those of hostile litigation, with equal care in the titles to property, & at a little of the present expense. So that it may never be read of again that the wife of an Orphan Child's property shall be taken up by the law to which it looks for protection. But it is impossible to go into details. We therefore, assert in general terms, that an immense sum will be saved annually to the people by the work we have prepared & that the expense of an extra Session will be small in comparison with it.

The books of the law are filled with chapters of mere fables. Fictions, as unintelligible to the people as the commandments of a Sorcerer, constitute a large portion of its modes of procedure. It is said, that in the Custom houses of some countries, there is a Common Weaver who takes the paths that others do not take & his paths are deemed a law. His practice is not more preposterous, than the fictions in the action of ejectment, which the defendant is compelled to admit though he knows them to be utterly false. The most perplexing subtleties begin with the first step in a suit & continue to grow worse to the end. So that the most learned lawyers may fail in a suit suit because being caught in some cobweb of verbal subtlety & his client be mulcted in heavy costs, because his Attorney did not put certain cabalistic words into the writ or declaration. Is it not a reproach to the intelligence of the people of Maryland that the paths to justice should be built slippery, on purpose & be beset with ambushes & delusive devices? It is not possible under the simplified practice, that a just cause can fail for mere defect in form. We have eliminated out of law procedure, from the summons to the judgment all the dross of technical subtlety.

The administration of the law too is in a worse condition than it was before the changes made by the new Constitution. And without some remedy, it must become still worse. The Chancery practice must become a banister in its twenty-two different jurisdictions. There is now no jurisdiction to regulate by original & appellate jurisdiction, the practice of the whole State. The Court of Appeals will be utterly inadequate to regulate the Chancery practice merely through Appeals. It is all important, therefore, to the great branch of administrative justice, that a simple & cheap & a speed Chancery practice be devised & adopted as soon as possible for the use of the respective Courts.