

The Criminal law too, is as known out of judicial cognizance as to leave it to the judgment of juries in twenty two different jurisdictions, with judges in these different jurisdictions entertaining the most variant notions in regard to the authority of the Court in Criminal trials. The whole Criminal law, is in a most dilapidated condition. This is a grievous evil felt over the whole State & calls aloud for immediate amendment.

Now, the Constitution has entrusted us with the preparations of remedies for these evils. We have prepared them, after examining all attainable rights on the subject; & we cannot doubt, that they will be effectual in correcting many evils in the administration of Justice.

And it ought not to be overlooked that the young lawyers of Maryland are entirely in the dark as to what practice they shall study. We often hear their complaints. As recognized officers of the law, these young men have a right to the new practice as soon as it can be put into their hands. Without it, they cannot qualify themselves for their profession. The chief glory of Maryland is her able bar. From Colonial times, Maryland has been the Mother of lawyers, of whom any County would be proud. And now while this noble race of lawyers are seen in our Courts will any branch of the Government hold back that aid from those who are to occupy their places which will prevent them from reaching the full stature of their predecessors? After the Code & Digest had been prepared under Custis and he directed the Institutes to be prepared for the Students of the law, to facilitate their studies in a profession so necessary to the administration of Justice.

Maryland is creeping on behind, most of the Countries of the civilized world, in the work of law reform. There is not a Country in Europe, including Russia, & Turkey, which has not made improvements in large portions of their law. In England most of the reforms, to which the Constitution was directed us, have been already completed. The Queen in her opening speech to Parliament two years ago said, "God recent measures of legal reform have proved highly beneficial, & the success which has attended them will encourage you to proceed with further amendments." At the session of Parliament in October last, she said, "I rejoice to perceive that amendments in the administration of the law have continued to occupy your attention; & I anticipate great benefit, from the improvements you have made in the forms of procedure in the Superior Courts of Common law." The reform in England has been brought about, by comparison of lawyers, just as it is attempted here. Is it not a reproach to Maryland, that she should be still using the forms of procedure,