

form or expense, if, in their opinion, such change would tend in the slightest degree, to lessen the efficiency of that system.

In discharge of the duty imposed upon them, by the several orders of the House of Delegates, the committee proceeded to enquire,

1st. Whether it would be "expedient to reduce the salaries of the judges of the county courts?"

2nd. "Whether a more efficient system for the administration of justice can be adopted, and whether this important result, can be achieved at a greatly diminished cost to the treasury?"

1st. As to the enquiry whether the salaries paid to the present judges, should not be reduced. The highest salary paid to the judges from the State treasury, is that allowed to the Chief Justice, \$2,500. With this exception, and that of the judges in the sixth district, the salaries paid to the Chief Judges are \$2,200, and to the Associates, \$1,400. In the sixth district, these salaries have been increased by certain taxes upon proceedings in the courts, to the amount of about \$800, additional to each judge.

Are the salaries thus allowed too high? Ought they to be reduced? The committee think not.

In organizing the judicial department, the great object should be to secure the services of able and upright judges. To attain this object, reasonable, if not liberal salaries, must be given. Lawyers of ability, could seldom be induced to abandon a lucrative practice, for the honor of a seat upon the bench, when the acceptance of that honor, would not afford them the means of an easy and comfortable support. This was the view held by those patriot statesmen who framed our Constitution, when they declared that "salaries *liberal* but not profuse, ought to be secured to the Chancellor, and the Judges, during the continuance of their commissions."

If we are permitted to institute the comparison, it will be found that Maryland is paying lower salaries to her judges than those allowed by many of her sister States of the Union.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, receives a salary of \$3,500; the Associates \$3,000. The judges of the High Court of Errors and Appeals of Mississippi, receive salaries of \$3,000. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, receives \$3,666 67; the Associates \$2,400. The Justices of the Supreme Court of New York, receive \$3,000. The Judges of the "Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas" of South Carolina, receive each, salaries varying from \$3,000 to \$3,500. While the Judges of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, receive salaries of \$5,000.

We think it will appear from this statement, that if the judiciary system of Maryland is more expensive than that of many other States, it cannot be attributed to the circumstance that she pays more liberal salaries to her judges.

The committee, for the reasons before stated, and for others which might be added, do not think that a reduction of the salaries