

The three Clerks of the Courts, in Baltimore City, divide the duties of the former two Clerks of the County and City Courts. Their bonds should be made to suit their present duties and responsibilities. In this connection, I most urgently recommend the adoption of an entirely different system, from that now in force, for the regulation of official bonds. In one case, (very recently closed, although of long standing,) the State lost upwards of ten thousand dollars, by the utter insolvency of a Collector of the direct taxes, *and all of his sureties*, excepting one. This one surety, alone, contributed, by the sale of his entire estate, to the payment of less than one-sixth of the whole amount due. The records of the Treasury will disclose to you other similar proofs of the inadequacy of the present regulation. It is not to be borne with, that, the taxes, wrung from the hard earnings of the people, shall thus be lost to their Treasury, through the defalcation of their Public Agents. Again, the bonds of the Officers of the new Treasury Department, should be approximated to the actual responsibilities of each current year. Not that, the penalty should cover the whole annual income of the Treasury; for, no such bond could, generally, be given. But, an estimate should be made of the cash receipts, periodically within their control, as the basis of their obligations. You are about organizing a new Treasury Department, which is to last for years; and, which is to receive, disburse and invest the vast and constantly increasing revenues, and sinking fund of the State. Hence, the policy of your legislation should be broad and prospective. Some provision should be made, for the ascertainment of the responsibility of sureties. The assessed value of a man's estate, is no true index of his real condition. His liabilities (of which he alone has full knowledge,) have much to do with the question of his solvency. Every practical man, in the community, is well acquainted with the exceedingly loose system, which now prevails in the approval of bonds; especially, in regard to the bonds of the ordinary Revenue Officers. I invoke your serious attention to this matter.

Article iv. Sec. 22, provides that, when a Circuit Judge, by reason of any interest, connection with either of the litigants, or former relations as counsel, is disqualified to sit in a cause, the parties may, by consent, appoint a proper person to try the same; or, any one of the Judges shall do so, when directed by law. Parties may not agree; and, hence, this contingency must be anticipated. Nearly one half of all the Circuit Judges, recently elected, have been hitherto, and until very lately, engaged, as counsel, in the trial or preparation of numerous cases, which are yet unfinished. Several of the Circuit Courts will shortly be in session; and it would, therefore, be well to enact the necessary law, as soon as possible. Similar difficulties, in regard to the Court of Appeals, have already been provided for, by the Constitution.

Doubts were raised as to my power to designate the Chief Justice of the State, in advance of the meeting of the Senate. I had