

P R E F A C E .

THE present volume concludes the series of Reports of the Decisions of the late Chancellor, the HON. JOHN JOHNSON. These four volumes embrace all the more important cases decided in the High Court of Chancery from the 21st of December, 1846, the date of the Chancellor's appointment, to the 10th of March, 1854, the period at which, by the provisions of the Constitution, his office terminated.

The Legislature of Maryland, at its recent session, acknowledged the high merits of this work in renewing the State subscription for one hundred and ninety copies of the fourth volume, by the passage of the following act :

“AN ACT, entitled an Act to complete the Reports of Maryland Chancery Decisions, heretofore purchased by order of the Legislature.

[Passed March 8th, 1854.]

“SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the State Librarian is hereby authorized to purchase one hundred and ninety copies of the fourth volume of the Maryland Chancery Decisions, published by James Wingate, to be distributed by said Librarian as the reports of the Court of Appeals are distributed.

“SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That said volume of Maryland Chancery Decisions shall not contain less than six hundred pages, and that the price to the State shall be five dollars per volume.

“SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That upon the presentation of the receipt of the State Librarian that said volumes have been delivered to the State