

During this period the court had to make few decisions which now seem momentous. The case of *Dulany v. Wells*, 3 Harris & McHenry, 20, on the right of British creditors to recover debts which had been confiscated by the state, was one of many similar cases throughout the thirteen new states, and aroused much feeling at the time. It was one of a group of cases carried through as a test for all, a celebrated cause which drew some of the best talent of the bar, and was argued with distinguished ability by four lawyers, three of whom, Thomas Jenings, William Cooke, and Philip Barton Key, are almost entirely forgotten. The fourth was Luther Martin. The case of *Calvert's Lessee v. Eden*, 2 H. & McH., 279, was another case of importance, and a great professional struggle. The question was one of title to the manor of Anne Arundel. And the papers of the case include an array of parchment deeds, seventeenth century patents, and the like, such as once made Sir Matthew Hale exclaim: "Noble evidence!" But however unimportant and lifeless they may now seem, some of the decisions touched on the quick at the time. Judge Rumsey, in a letter of November 27, 1800, to Judge Jones, on some of the retorts of the aggrieved, wrote, "Fool, knave, drunkard. May it please your honor to take your choice, the General (Mackall) may take the next election, and what you will leave will probably be intended to fit me."³⁶

No description of the Court of Appeals during the eighteenth century or during the first quarter of the nineteenth has been met with; we have no

36. Md. Hist. Mag. II, 253.