

rather disproportionately small achievement, said, in a criticism of the system in 1802:

But where are the Associates all this while, it may be asked? Mute as alabaster busts on each side of a clock over a chimney piece. The middle machine, it is true, tells the time, but it may tell it wrong. The silent figures though moulded into the human face divine, are yet insensible of its errors. \* \* \* But now the associates absolutely resign themselves and their consciences to the entire disposal of the Chief Justice. He is the Pope among the Cardinals. As in the Athanasian creed of the Trinity, although there are three persons, yet they make but one judge.<sup>51</sup>

In 1796, it seems, a proposal for the abandonment of the General Court was made in the General Assembly, but it failed. The members of the bar were attached to the court, and opposed the change; and to Pinkney it seemed a "very foolish affair."<sup>52</sup> But it was started on its way. The burden of attendance at each session added weight to the suggestion, once made. Waterway travel was slow; the roads were few, and hardly fit for any but horseback travel. Taney wrote that,<sup>53</sup>

it was exceedingly inconvenient to suitors who resided in the distant counties to attend it [the General Court], and the costs of bringing witnesses to Annapolis and Easton, and keeping them there sometimes for weeks together, was oppressive, and often ruinous to the parties. There were no railroads or steamboats at that time, and stages were almost in their infancy in Maryland; and such as had been established were as rough as a road wagon, and found only between the principal towns, and running then only once or twice a week. Almost everybody came on horseback to Annapolis, except those coming from

51. Memoir of John Leeds Bozman, Md. Hist. Soc. Fun. Publ. No. 26, 43.

52. Letter to Ninian Pinkney, July 21, 1801. Bishop Pinkney, Life of William Pinkney, 41.

53. Tyler, Memoir of Roger B. Taney, 57.