

counsel after my decision has been pronounced; and therefore it has been entirely out of my power to give even the usual skeleton of the argument of solicitors; many of which have been distinguished by great ability; and from most of which I have derived much instruction. To make up in some degree for this defect, I have taken pains so to digest the pleadings, and to state the circumstances, as to present a full view of all the points which had been, or could have been made in the case; and to render the decisions as useful as possible. I have revised the reasons for them all, and have so recast and enlarged some as to comprehend all the points which apparently might have been made. In each case I have given references to all the authorities deemed pertinent and within my reach; and have also inserted, from the records, by way of notes, short reports of a number of cases decided by my predecessors.

Although *The Chancellor's Case* cannot, in any way, be considered as a controversy which had been adjudicated upon by the Court of Chancery, it is nevertheless a determination of the General Assembly in relation to the sole Judge of that tribunal which involved the examination and discussion of subjects of the most interesting nature; and is a decision of the legislative department upon a question of constitutional law of the most vital importance to the Chancellor in particular, and to the judicial department in general. It therefore appeared to have a most undeniable claim to go before the public in a permanent form as an associate with the decisions of that Chancellor whose constitutional securities had been so severely questioned.

The discharge of my official duties has heretofore left me so little time to turn my attention to any thing else, that the preparation of this first volume of Reports has been much longer delayed than I had calculated upon. It is now however submitted to the candor of a generous and enlightened profession.

THEODORICK BLAND.

Annapolis, December, 1835.