

were submitted by the Legislature to the Judges of the Court of Appeals, who recently have unanimously decided the same in favor of the rights of your Memorialists as will appear by a copy of their opinion herewith exhibited.

Your Memorialists respectfully state that they are advised that the effect of this opinion of the judges of the Court of Appeals, is to determine that your Memorialists are entitled to the continuance of the annuity of the seventeen hundred and fifty pounds, and to the arrearages of that annuity from the time that the same or any part thereof, has been from them withheld.

Your Memorialists further respectfully state that they are advised that they have a legal remedy to enforce the payment of the said annuity and arrearages, but that they owe it to themselves as a Corporation, holding high and responsible trusts for the benefit of the State and the public, and to the State as one of the parties to this contract, to pray that the General Assembly will relieve them from this unwilling duty.

The course taken by the Legislature at its last session, in submitting these questions for the opinion of the highest judicial tribunal of the State, indicates that no reluctance on the part of the State can exist to give effect to these opinions when pronounced.

These opinions, now for the first time, announce that the Acts of Assembly complained of are unconstitutional, and in violation of a contract made by the State with its citizens for the performance of which the faith of the State was formerly pledged.

Your Memorialists do, therefore, confidently trust that the General Assembly, acting under the solemn sanctions of that Constitution, will be most ready to conform to its obligations and to redress the wrongs committed by its violation; they do, therefore, most respectfully pray that the General Assembly may pass a law for the adjustment and settlement of their claim, and that the same, together with the annuity secured by their Charter may be paid to them in such manner as the wisdom of the Legislature may prescribe and the ends of justice may require, &c.

THOMAS G. PRATT,  
FRANK H. STOCKETT,  
A. RANDALL,

Committee of St. John's College.

Annapolis, 10th January, 1860.