

when added to the time he may have practised law, shall not be equal to eight years.

§ 23. The judges of the circuit court shall, after their first term, hold their office for the term of six years from the day of their election. They shall be commissioned by the governor, and continue in office until their successors be qualified, but shall be removable from office in the same manner as the judges of the court of appeals; and the removal of a judge from his district shall vacate his office.

§ 24. The general assembly, if they deem it necessary, may establish one additional district every four years, but the judicial districts shall not exceed sixteen, until the population of this state shall exceed one million five hundred thousand.

§ 25. The judges of the circuit courts, shall, at stated times, receive for their services an adequate compensation, to be fixed by law, which shall be equal and uniform throughout the state, and which shall not be diminished during the time for which they were elected.

§ 26. If a vacancy shall occur in the office of judge of the circuit court, the governor shall issue a writ of election to fill such vacancy, for the residue of the term: *Provided*, that if the unexpired term be less than one year, the governor shall appoint a judge to fill such vacancy.

§ 27. The judicial districts of this state shall not be changed, except at the first session after an enumeration, unless when a new district may be established.

§ 28. The general assembly shall provide by law for holding circuit courts, when, from any cause, the judge shall fail to attend, or, if in attendance, cannot properly preside.

CONCERNING COUNTY COURTS.

§ 29. A county court shall be established in each county now existing, or which may hereafter be erected within this commonwealth, to consist of a presiding judge, and two associate judges, any two of whom shall constitute a court for the transaction of business: *Provided*, the general assembly may at any time abolish the office of the associate judges, whenever it shall be deemed expedient; in which event they may associate with said court any or all of the justices of the peace for the transaction of business.

§ 30. The judges of the county court shall be elected by the qualified voters in each county, for the term of four years, and shall continue in office until their successors be duly qualified, and shall receive such compensation for their services as may be provided by law.

§ 31. The first election of county court judges shall take place at the same time of the election of judges of the circuit court. The presiding judge, first elected, shall hold his office until the first Monday in August, 1854. The associate judges shall hold their offices until the first Monday in August, 1852, and until their successors be qualified; and afterwards elections shall be held on the first Mondays in August, in the years in which vacancies regularly occur.